



# BAHAMIAN FRAGMENTS

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE HISTORY OF

## THE BAHAMAS

## Historical Sources for Grand Bahama

Dedicated to my wife Peg, and to Dr.  
Gail Saunders...



- [Grand Bahama in 1858](#) from Thos. Chapman Harvey, Esq. *Official Reports of the Out Islands of the Bahamas.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1887](#) from L. D. Powles *The Land of the Pink Pearl or Recollections of Life in the Bahamas.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1891](#) from Stark's *History and Guide to the Bahama Islands.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1917](#) from Amelia Defries *In a Forgotten Colony*
- [Grand Bahama in 1924](#) from *The Tribune Handbook*
- [Grand Bahama in 1926](#) from Mary Mosley *The Bahamas*

There is few places where history buffs can find less to occupy themselves with than in Grand Bahama. There are perhaps ample resources dealing with the original Lucayan inhabitants, but that is not history in the strict sense, but rather prehistory, and the proper domain of the archaeologist and anthropologist. What history there is has been ably covered by Peter Barratt in his *Grand Bahama* (Newton Abbott, Devon, 1972; second ed., London, 1982). But once Mr. Barratt's excellent work has been finished, there may be a lingering curiosity about some of the intriguing references that he cites. This page is intended to assuage that to some extent.

Searching for *any* Bahamian history on the Internet, let alone Grand Bahamian history, returns only brief and repetitive synopses which scarcely do justice to the subject. All of the wonderful work of Gail Saunders and Michael Craton has apparently made no impact on cyberspace.

A proper rejoinder might be that Grand Bahama is the perfect place for historians to get away from it all, and we should be grateful for a respite from documents and sources. Yet even in repose (as in Mr. McCutcheon's little cartoon in our header), the historically-minded find a bit of pleasure in the obscure reference, the odd footnote.

Since the sources for Bahamian history are not always easily found, I will be taking the liberty of putting a few things on-line that may interest the curious and serve as a stopgap for the historically-minded vacationer. Ms Defries' chapters are particularly interesting as she captures the innate piety and graciousness of the old Grand Bahamians very well. I have added backslashes (/) where there were page breaks in the original, and have broken the paragraphs up rather arbitrarily to make it easier to read long pages. Footnotes are in brackets in the text.

Jim Baker

(No longer at German Holiday Park #1

- we have sold our property, and plan to eventually turn all of this Grand Bahama material over to another website)

[jabezcorner.com](http://jabezcorner.com)

*Handbook.*

- [Grand Bahama in 1931](#) from *Nassau and the Treasure Islands of the Bahamas*
- [Grand Bahama in 1934](#) from Maj. H. M. Bell *Bahamas: Isles of June*
- [The Bahamas in 1964](#) from Benedict Thielen *The Bahamas-Golden Archipelago*
- [Grand Bahama in 1967](#) *Moral Panic, Gambling, and the Good Life*
- [Grand Bahama in 1970](#) *Boom Town in the Bahamas*
- [Commissioner's Reports 1908-1965](#) Reports by the Colonial Commissioner
- [Freeport in the Sixties](#) : Maps and Images from Freeport's Beginnings
- [An Informal History of the GBPA](#): Background of Freeport's corporate past
- [Resorts of Yesteryear](#) : Departed Hotels from Freeport's past
- [Accommodations 1964/67 :](#) Prices to be nostalgic about

(Since this page was composed, at least one other truly informative web site on Grand Bahama that does not simply reproduce the usual abbreviated information has been made available by [M. Timothy O'Keefe](#))

As an update to the "Informal History of the GBPA", here is a link to a recent development in the company's progress by [Peter Jensen](#) , of *World Business Journal*.

### [Map of Grand Bahama - 1926](#)

### [Map of the Bahamas - 1885](#)

Beyond Grand Bahama:

[The Articles and Orders of the Eleutherian Adventurers \(1647\)](#)

[Re-Capturing the Bahamas Islands \(1783\)](#)

[General Description of the City of Nassau &c. ca. 1870](#) (large pdf file)

[Edith Blake "In the Bahamas" \(1888\)](#)

[Nassau...The Sanitorium of the Western Hemisphere \(Murray Ferris & Co.1877\)](#) (even larger pdf file)

[Church, William. "A Midwinter Resort" \(Century Magazine, February, 1887\)](#) (pdf file)

[Dr. Timothy McCartney. Ten, Ten the Bible, Ten.](#) (Nassau, 1976)

