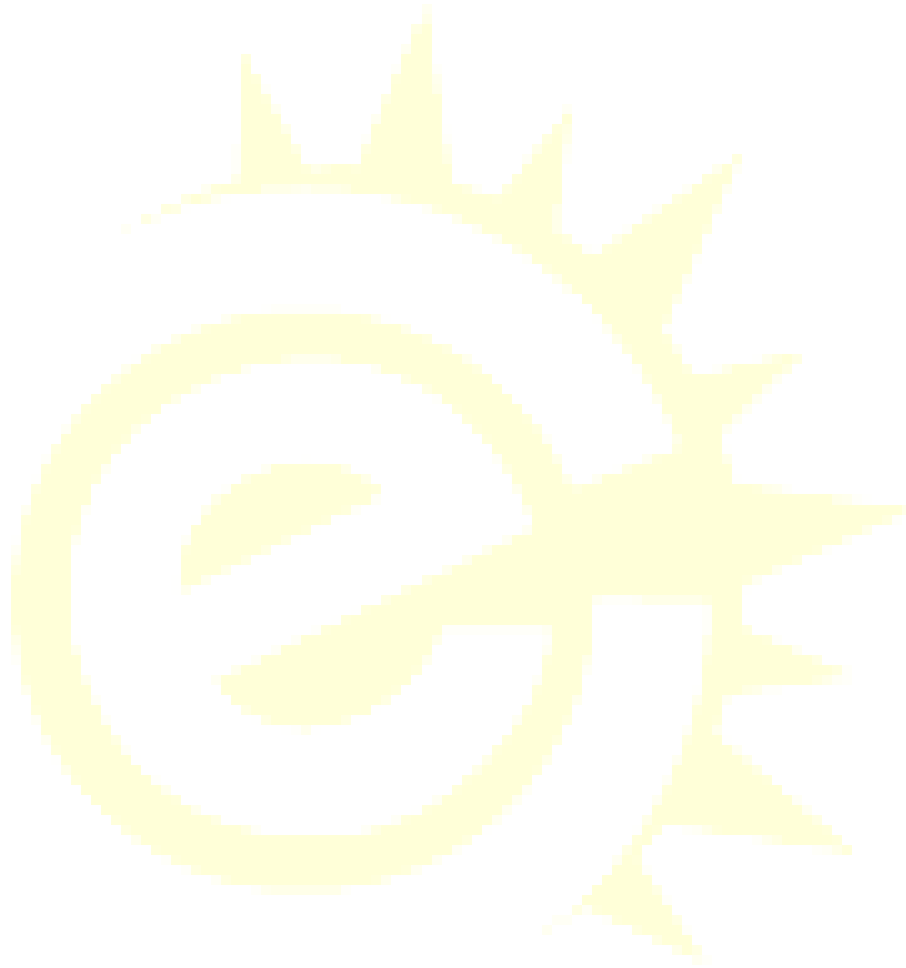
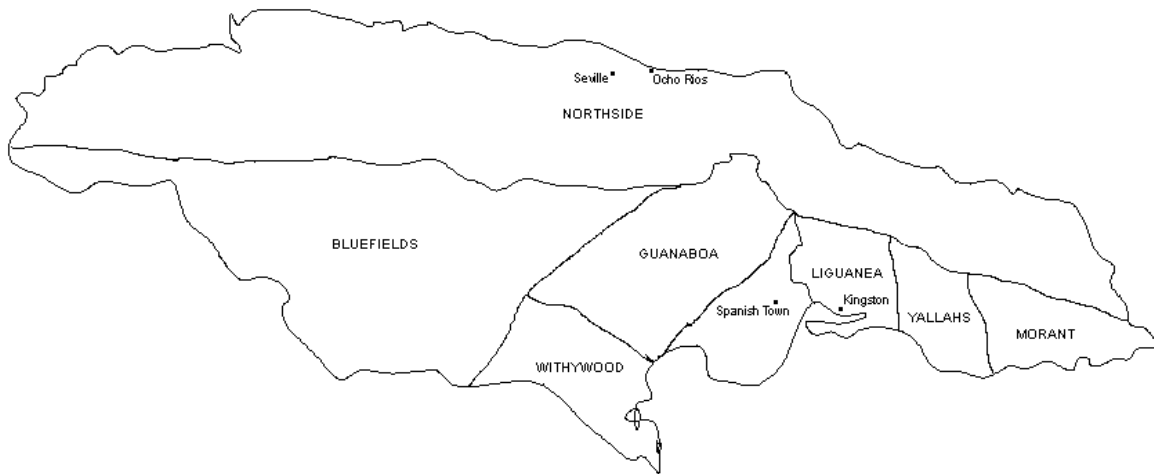


Jamaica's Counties and Parishes

Objective: Compare parish boundaries on a current map of Jamaica with older maps (1700s - 1800s).

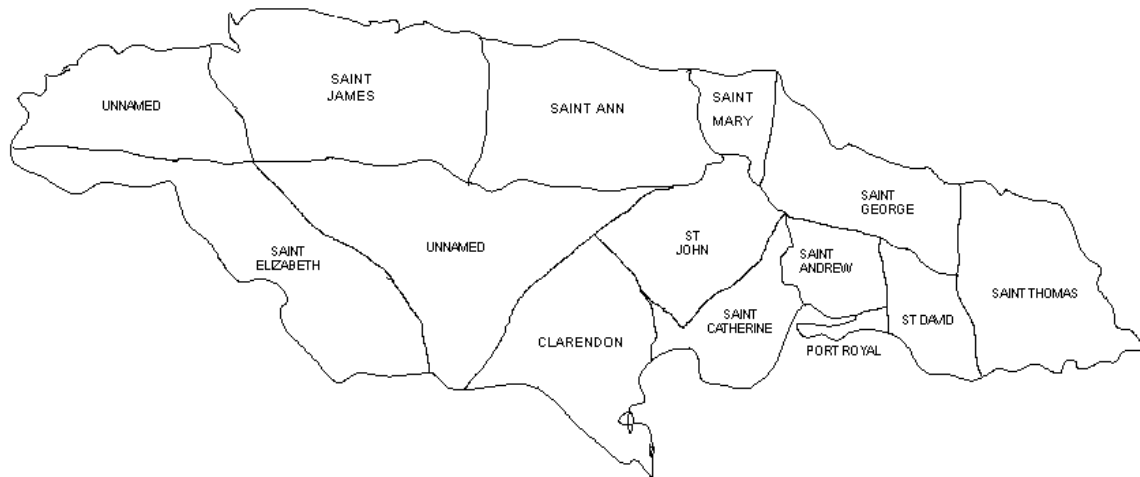


Jamaica 1572



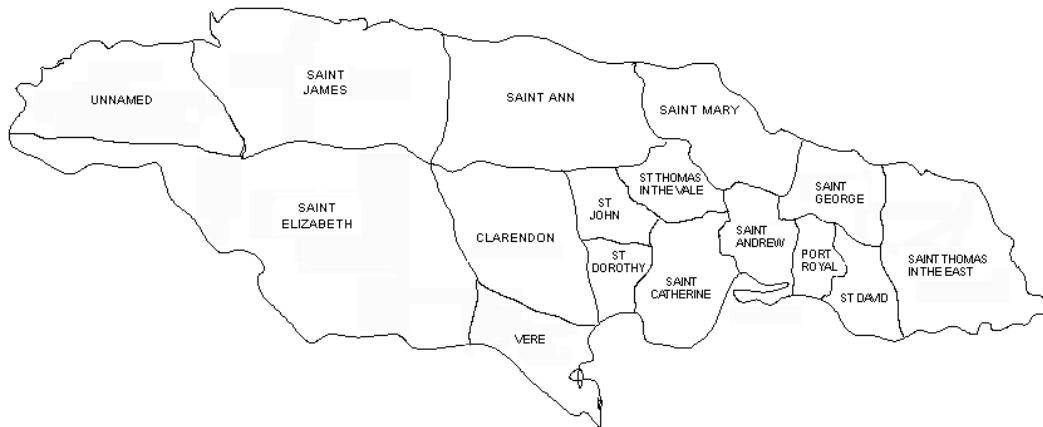
Long before there were parishes, the island of Jamaica looked roughly like this map. **Yallahs** and **Morant** were names of large Spanish ranches. Remember that before 1655 it was the Spaniards who were in control. **Guanaboa** was a *taino* name. Liguanea is also of *taino* origin and is still used to refer to lower St. Andrew. During the period 1510 – 1535 the capital of the island was **Seville**.

Jamaica 1655-1675



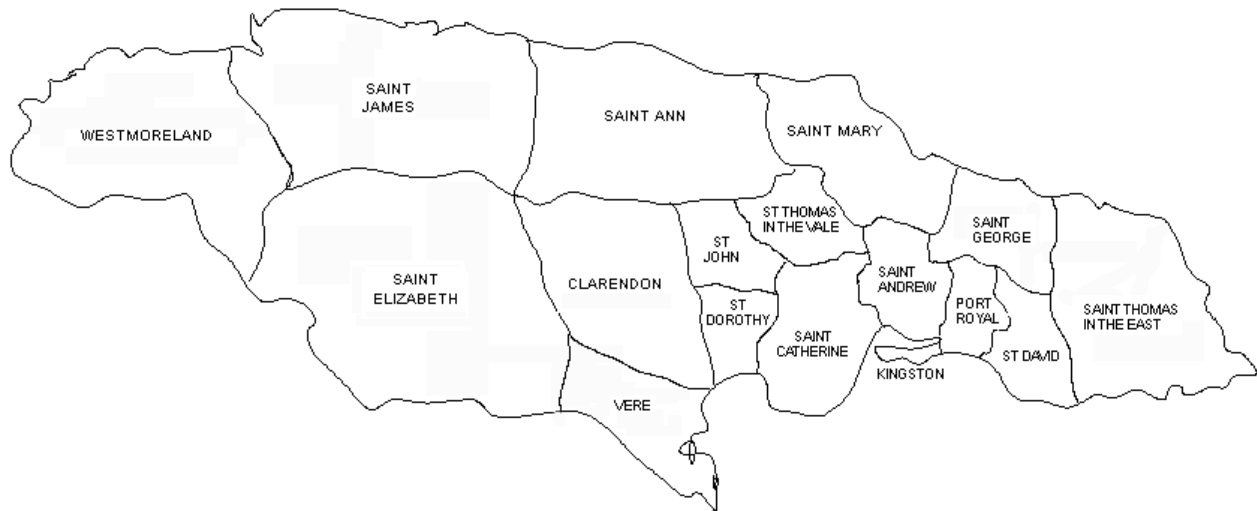
After the English took over the island in 1655, they brought their own system of administration. The island was then divided into **parishes** and most places from then became "St. This" and "St. That." At first, there were only seven parishes. These were **Clarendon, St. John's, St. Andrew's, St. Katherine's, Port Royal, St. David's and St. Thomas in the East**. These parishes were named after governors or important persons or places in Britain. Between 1655 and 1675 there were 14 parishes all together. During this period Port Royal was a parish.

Jamaica 1675-1692



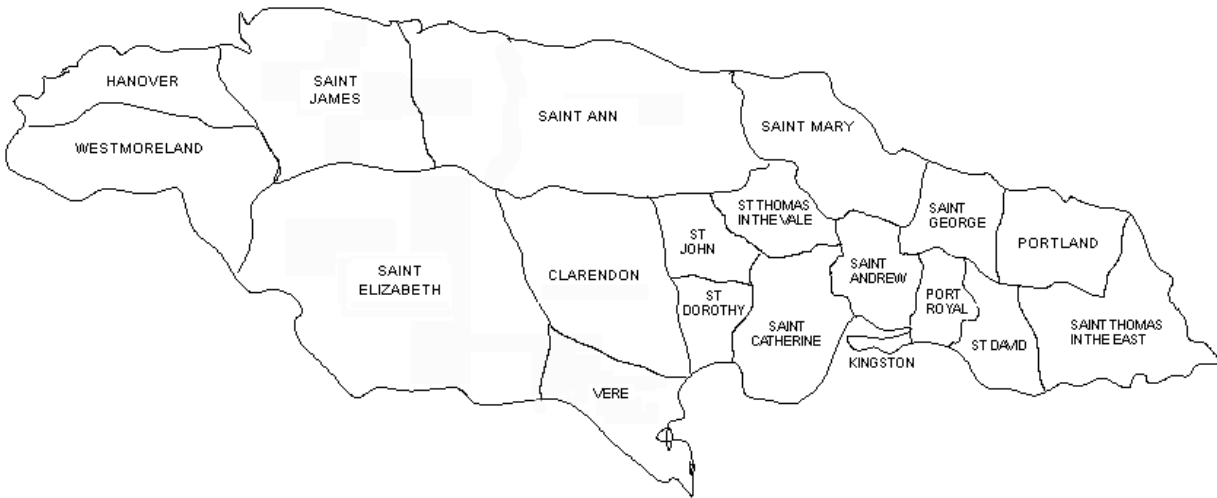
Between **1675 and 1692**, there were 16 parishes. The area we know as St. Thomas and Port Royal - today formed one parish – **St. Thomas in the East**. While what we know today as Manchester and Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth was one parish – **St. Elizabeth**. During this period there were parishes known as **St. Thomas in the Vale, St. John, St. Dorothy and St. George**. The area known as Hanover today and a part of Westmoreland made up an unnamed parish.

Jamaica 1703 – 1772



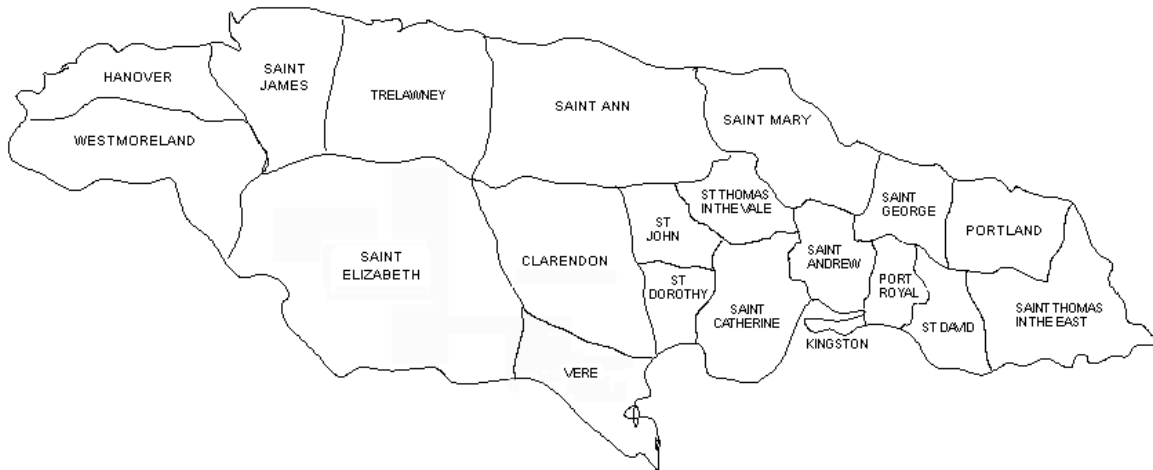
During the period 1703 – 1772 there were 17 parishes.

Jamaica 1723-1769

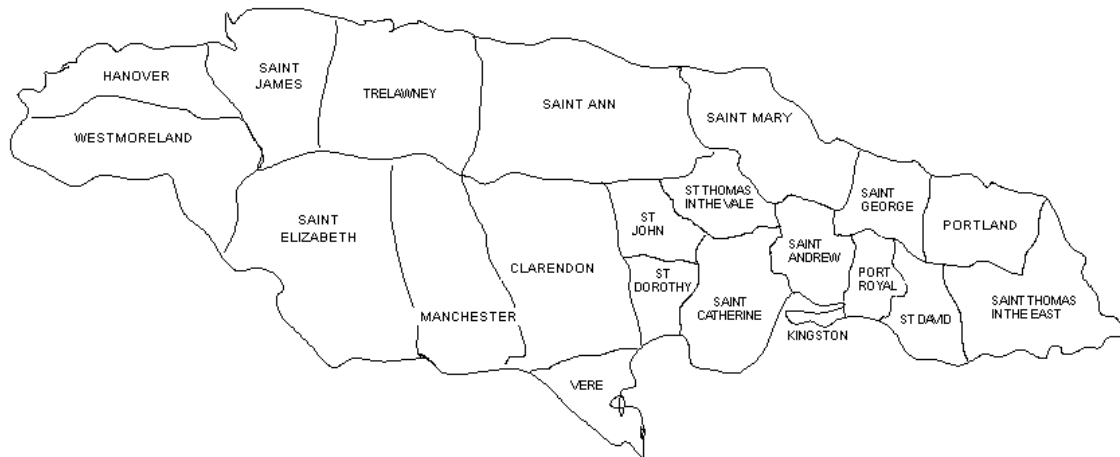


The Duke of Portland became Governor in 1722 and Portland parish was created from St. George and St. Thomas in the East. Hanover separated from Westmoreland. In 1758 the island's parishes were divided into three counties – **Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey.**

Jamaica 1770-1813

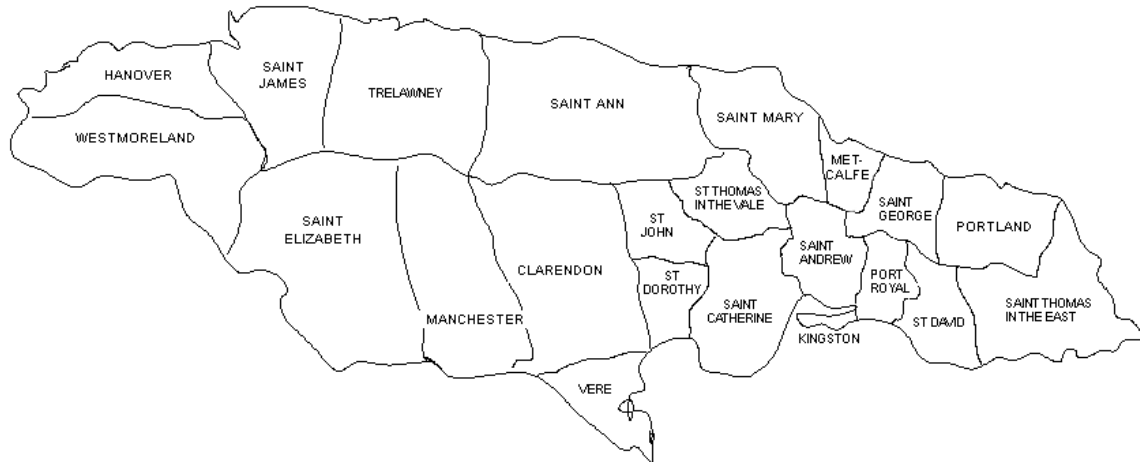


Jamaica 1814-1840



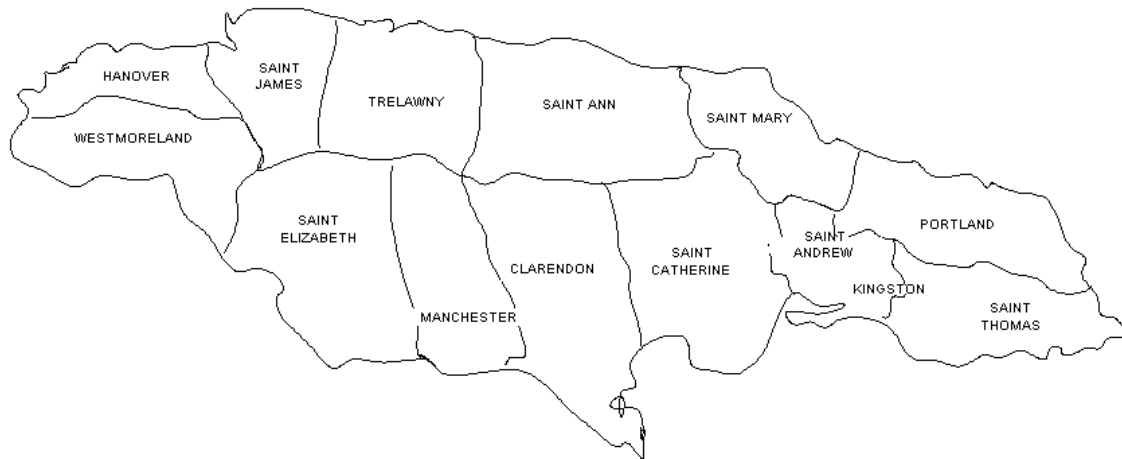
Between 1814 and 1840, one other new parish, **Manchester** was created bringing the total to 21.

Jamaica 1841-1865



In 1839, Sir Charles Metcalfe became governor of Jamaica. Just before he left office in 1842, Metcalfe parish was created from St. George and St Mary.

Jamaica 1866-Present



In **1867** eight parishes were eliminated. Some parishes were merged into others. Vere was merged into Clarendon. St. David was merged into St. Thomas in the East. St. Catherine grew dramatically by absorbing St. Dorothy, St. John and St. Thomas in the Vale. St. George was merged into Portland. Most of Port Royal was absorbed by St. Andrew and a smaller portion became part of Kingston parish. **Metcalfe** was merged into St. Mary. This merger of parishes resulted into the Fourteen Parishes that we know today.