

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**Name of collection:**

Bahama Islands Collection, 1781; 1809

**Location:**

Misc. mss. boxes "B"

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**Size of collection:**

1 folder (3 items)

**N.U.C.M.C. number:**

RLIN id:

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**Sources of information on collection:**

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**Source of collection:**

Purchased for the Society by a member, 1912, from the Arthur H. Clark Company

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**Collection description:**

The Bahama Islands are a group of about 700 islands or rocky islets which lie northeast of Cuba and east of the coast of Florida. The islands were colonized by Great Britain in 1629 and became independent in 1973, though they are still a member of the Commonwealth.

These documents are representations to the Crown concerning charges brought against Montfort Browne, Governor of the Bahamas, by the Lieutenant Governor, John Gambier [erroneously referred to as James Gambier in one document], and five members of the King's Council. The charges relate to Browne's conduct during the American Revolution.

Both reports, that of the Lord Commissioners for Trade and Plantations of 29 January 1781, and that of the Lords of the Committee of Council, for hearing of Appeals, Complaints, etc., from the Plantations, of 15 February 1781, supported Governor Browne and recommended his reinstatement. Both reports also suggested to the Crown the removal of Lieutenant Governor Gambier and reprimands to his five Council supporters and reinstatement of two Council supporters of Governor Browne.

There is also an 1809 notarized statement of an American ship master whose vessel landed at New Providence.

8 June 1973  
revised 29 April 1999

LIST OF WRITERS FOR THE BAHAMA ISLANDS COLLECTION

Great Britain. Lord Commissioners for  
Trade and Plantations.

Great Britain. Lords of the Committee  
of Council, for hearing of Appeals,  
Complaints, etc., from the Plantations.