

## Getting to know Jamaica's National Heroes

Jamaica's National Heroes dared to challenge the institution of colonialism and in so doing changed the course of Jamaica's history giving social and political freedom to its people. Today, the statues of Jamaica's seven National Heroes stand in proud acknowledgment, in the National Heroes Park in Kingston where they are viewed with inspiring pride, unforgettable symbols of Jamaica's enduring strength.

When Alexander Bustamante began to make his presence felt in Jamaica, the country was still a Crown Colony. Under this system, the Governor had, the right to veto at all times, which he very often exercised against the wishes of the majority. [Read more ... Sir Alexander Bustamante](#)

Marcus Mosiah Garvey: Jamaica's first National Hero was born in St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann, on August 17, 1887. In his youth Garvey migrated to Kingston, where he worked as a printer and later published a small paper "The Watchman". [Read more... Marcus Garvey](#)

Norman Washington Manley was born at Roxborough, Manchester, on July 4, 1893. He was a brilliant scholar and athlete, soldier (First World War) and lawyer. He identified himself with the cause of the workers at the time of the labour troubles of 1938 and donated time and advocacy to the cause. [Read more... Norman Manley](#)

Paul Bogle, it is believed, was born free about 1822. He was a deacon of the Native Baptist Church in Stony Gut, a few miles north of Morant Bay, and was eligible to vote at a time when there were only 104 voters in the parish of St. Thomas. [Read more... Paul Bogle](#)

George William Gordon. Poverty and injustice in the society and lack of public confidence in the central authority, urged Bogle to lead a protest march to the Morant Bay courthouse on October 11, 1865. [Read more... George William Gordon](#)

Samuel Sharpe was the main instigator of the 1831 Slave Rebellion, which began on the Kensington Estate in St. James and which was largely instrumental in bringing about the abolition of slavery. [Read more... Samuel Sharpe](#)

Nanny was a leader of the Maroons at the beginning of the 18th century. She was known by both the Maroons and the British settlers as an outstanding military leader who became, in her lifetime and after, a symbol of unity and strength for her people during times of crisis. [Read more... Nanny of the Maroons](#)