

ABSTRACT

The Relationship between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, 1863-2005

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One of the most controversial subjects within the Cayman Islands is her relationship with Jamaica. This research examines the relationship between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica during the period 1863 to 2005. That relationship was formalised in 1863 when the Imperial Parliament of Britain passed a law making the Cayman Islands a dependency of Jamaica. But in 1962, the Cayman Islands were politically separated from Jamaica and, in 2005, both territories implemented visa regulations on nationals traveling between them. The study aims to show that there is a close historical connection between these two territories which spans several dimensions such as administration, the economy, culture and labour. That relationship was expressed through various types of assistance, particularly in time of shortage or distress. Even after political separation in 1962, the relationship was not totally ruptured. The dissertation also argues that there were times when nationalistic tensions sought to disrupt the relationship. The research draws primarily on primary sources such as colonial correspondence, colonial reports, letters, oral interviews and newspapers. This dissertation uses a dependency model as a theoretical framework to explain the nature of this relationship and how this has impacted on Cayman's development.

Keywords: Cayman Islands; Dependency; Federation; Jamaica; West Indies