

ABSTRACT

An Exploration into the Emergence of Leonard P. Howell and Early Rastafari During the Critical Years of the Anti-Colonial Struggles in Jamaica from 1933 to 1938.

Louis Earl Anthony Moyston

The study explores the emergence of Leonard P. Howell and early Rastafari in the anti-colonial political struggles in Jamaica from 1933 to 1938. It pays careful attention to the nature of Howell's major activities and interactions; the characteristics of his political qualities; and the significance, in terms of anti-colonial politics, of his arrest and trial. The January 6, 1938 resistance by cane cutters and loaders at Serge Island offers great opportunities in identifying the overwhelming political awareness and organisational influence of Howell. The study captures the setting in its original sites. It notes the critical intervention of the returned immigrants of the 1930s in the years leading up to 1938. This study is rooted in major scholarly studies on the Rastafarian movement from 1955 to 2003. These works are organised by the disciplines of the authors: sociology, anthropology, history and theory and politics.

The historical studies were critical in identifying major gaps in previous studies for a new study on the topic grounded in empirical data. The thesis utilizes qualitative methodology which permits the use of archival documents exploring speeches, letters, and newspaper articles related to the time and events. The thematic approach guided the organisation of data making them amenable to analysis and discussion. From these themes, results are extracted and refined into the major findings illustrating the importance of Howell's encounters in illuminating his anti-colonial and anti-imperialist political qualities. Howell the returned resident was a formidable anti-colonial fighter. The study aims to inspire deeper exploration into the history of the 1930s and the philosophical and theological aspects of Rastafari.

Keywords: Louis Earl Anthony Moyston; Leonard P. Howell; Serge Island; Rastafari; anti-colonial struggle.