

A Brief History of the Enslaver Harriott Family, St Elizabeth, Jamaica

Following the British invasion of Jamaica in 1655, vast amounts of land was allocated to British settlers throughout the 1700s to create lucrative sugar plantations. Records obtained by Dr Deborah Gabriel during a visit to the Jamaica Archives and Records Department in January 2025, detail land allocated to the enslaver Harriott family as follows:

NAME	DATE	AMOUNT OF LAND	PLACE	JARD REF NO.
John Harriott	10 September 1707	500 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 135
John Harriott	17 February 1718	300 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 216
William Harriott	21 March 1729	300 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 12
William Harriott	27 July 1739	80 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 177
John Harriott	22 August 1749	45 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 3
John Harriott	1 September 1766	150 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 119
John Harriott	19 May 1769	130 acres	Westmoreland	Folio 42
George Harriott	12 November 1787	300 acres	St Elizabeth	Folio 12

John Harriott (1680-1720) was the first Harriott to be allocated land in St Elizabeth. This land, plantations and slaves passed down the generations. The John Harriott (1803-?) that was the enslaver of Jenny Harriott, was his great, great grandson. Following the Slave Trade Act of 1807, slave registers were kept from 1817 to 1832. John Harriott (1803-?) was under 18 when he first acquired slaves, so guardians were appointed to sign the slave register. The spreadsheet below details the Return of Slaves for John Harriott (1803-?) from 1817 to 1832. Records show that he received £96, 6 shillings and 4 pence on 7th December 1835 [1] for 6 slaves which includes Jenny Harriott, as evidenced in the Return of Slaves for 1832.

[1] **'Jamaica St Elizabeth 254'**, *Legacies of British Slavery database*, <http://wwwdepts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/23206> [accessed 19th January 2025]. ([h p://wwwdepts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/23206](http://wwwdepts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/23206))

Enslaver Harriott Compensation Claims in Jamaica

AWARDEE	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Eliza Harriott	£129 OS 3D (6 enslaved)	Kingston 2553
Elizabeth Doig Harriott	£119 5S 1D (5 enslaved)	Manchester 101
George Harriott	£173 5S 0D (9 enslaved)	Kingston 1211
George Harriott	£82 10S 1D (5 enslaved)	Kingston 1796
George Harriott	£283 17S 4D (11 enslaved)	Manchester 260
George Harriott	£70 14S 4D (3 enslaved)	Manchester 261
George Harriott	£226 4S 9D (13 enslaved)	Manchester 387
George Harriott	£26 12S 2D (1 enslaved)	Kingston 2619
George Harriott	£58 12S 6D (3 enslaved)	Kingston 2271
Hannah S Harriott	£2138 11S 1D (97 enslaved)	St Elizabeth 335
James Gordon Harriott	£134 10S 0D (11 enslaved)	Manchester 33
John Harriott	£96 6S 4D (6 enslaved)	St Elizabeth 254
Susannah Harriott	£58 10S 6D (4 enslaved)	St Elizabeth 816
Rev William Harriott/Charlotte Pengelley nee	£5928 15S 9D (320 enslaved)	St Elizabeth 360 (Mexico Estate)
Harriott - claim disputed		

Source: *Legacies of British Slavery database*, <http://www.depts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/23206> [accessed 19th January 2025]. (h p://www.depts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/23206)

Historical Currency Conversion Report

This report provides an analysis of a historical monetary amount from 1835 and its approximate equivalent in modern UK currency.

Original Amount:
£9520, 131 shillings, and 50 pence

Converted into decimal pounds:
£9,526.76

Historical Context:
In 1835, the United Kingdom operated under the pre-decimal monetary system. The value of money was significantly higher due to lower wages and prices. Such a sum would have represented substantial wealth, potentially equivalent to land ownership or a large estate.

Modern Equivalent:
Using long-term inflation estimates, this amount is approximately equivalent to between £1.0 million and £1.2 million in 2026.

