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Bermuda Atlas & Gazetteer



Synopsis

Bermuda's hills, bays, beaches and lanes often commemorate local families, house names and other landmarks. Some place names derive from events in the island's history and others are just plain funny. Over in Hamilton Parish Fractious Street memorialises a cantankerous horse, Stardust Drive honours a beloved pet dog and Tumkins Lane, in Pembroke, sounds suspiciously like a cat. Warwick's Hightime Drive chronicles the dilemma of a young couple expecting a child who decided just before the baby's birth that it was 'high time' to get married! A joyous and uplifting name is Amen Corner; that colourful Warwick title is drawn from the old Methodist Chapel built there between 1825 and 1827 by slaves and free black citizens of Bermuda in the group's spare hours. Although burdened by back-breaking labour, the congregation's melodious songs of praise were heard through the night, inspiring the name. Thus did many of Bermuda's place names arise, yet the titling and mapping of the island's byways, hills, dales, points and bays goes on. Each succeeding generation has the chance to preserve, change or add new ones, drawing inspiration from newly-established surnames, from events historic and commonplace, and from its own inventiveness. The resulting legacy is an ongoing cultural chronicle preserving the comedies and tragedies of everyday life, the folklore of the island's people, and the marriages, deaths and even murders of those who call Bermuda home. The Bermuda Atlas and Gazetteer attempts to record them all, offering over four hundred pages of historical text, sixteen new colour maps of the island and fifty original watercolours by West Indian artist Luca Gasperi into the bargain. Royal Gazette editor David L. White said of the Bermuda Atlas: "Perhaps the most important and enjoyable Bermudian book since William Zuill's Bermuda Journey".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

". . . This is destined to become the Bermudaphile's bible. At 400 big pages, it is an exhaustive - but happily, not remotely exhausting - look at the source of every place name in Bermuda, pinpointed in sixteen fold-out maps, and illustrated by almost fifty original watercolours . . . Indeed, it might possibly be the last word in terms of comprehensiveness and accuracy, but the Bermuda Atlas & Gazetteer is also a surprisingly lively read as well as a joy to behold". -- Charles Barclay, Bermuda Magazine, Spring 1998". . . a wealth of previously unpublished historical information about the Island . . . the book should also prove a big help to anyone trying to follow their family tree or other genealogical roots". -- Rosemary Jones, Bermudian Magazine, March 1997". . . fit for Royalty . . . an incredible reference book all about Bermuda, organised by parish, offering over 400 pages of historical text with beautiful watercolours and humorous little Gombey rhymes". -- Beverley Causey-Smith, The Royal Gazette, December 1999". . . one of the most fascinating books yet written about the islands of Bermuda . . . more than worth its price for the sheer wealth of highly entertaining information presented in an outstandingly handsome volume". -- Pat Calnan, The Royal Gazette, November, 1997

Among the locales I claim as home, Bermuda is my first love. My attachment began in childhood when lulled to sleep, night after night, by the lapping waters of Stovell's Bay or, after hours of exploration, when resting with my 'mates' atop the grim rusting guns of St. David's Battery. The island and I forged our greatest bond, however, at Ferry Reach where I found myself - time and again - gazing seaward from behind the solid walls of my beloved Martello Tower, lost yet in dreams . . . Near there is a hill where oft-forgotten soldiers sleep, their graves covered by carpets of dry brown grass, over which a willowing haze of fennel bends. This, their final resting place, is brooded over - yea, guarded - by a high stark cross, surrounded by a wall of crumbling stones. This book was undertaken for them, and for the countless others in the rich human tapestry, stretching back through the mists of time, that we can neither touch nor feel but, through the love of our heritage, through the travails and triumphs of our commonweal, and from the thoughtful study of both, may only dare to believe we know.

BERMUDA ATLAS AND GAZETTEER
Paradise lost, paradise found, In pages that are bound. A timeless treasure of pictures and words, If you've never seen, nor heard The Siren's song like those

who've been. You'll want to return again and again.-----

1962 Thoughts of the past come back To a place called "Cotton Patch", It's not here in Tennessee,
But somewhere far across the sea. A pale green house high on a hill, I wonder if it sits there still,
Surrounded by banana trees And childhood memories. Salt spray on shutters in a storm, A pony to
ride in the neighbor's barn, White steps on our roof to catch the rain, I wonder if it's still the same.
Caves to hide in and rocks to climb, Out all day, never mind the time, Easter lilies grown to sell, But
we didn't have to pay for the smell, Or the view-- Every day was something new. Gnarled cedars on
a sandy path-- I think I found it on a map In the BERMUDA ATLAS AND GAZETTEER, A book to
ponder year after year, To find the places I have seen, Long ago and in my dreams. Jane Barcroft
Forgy 9/6/00

As a first-time visitor to Bermuda, I was looking for a comprehensive book to learn about the island's history and culture. I was struck by this sophisticated volume - it stood out among the others for its beautiful look and feel, more like a fine 19th century guide for the well-heeled traveler. I found the watercolors alluring and then, as I scouted Bermuda, I realized that the artist had painted with such sensitivity and grace that he captured the real beauty of his chosen sites. For instance, the magnificent painting of the cave in Tom Moore's Jungle is exactly as the mystical and enchanted grotto appears in real life. Yet the artist's style still adds something magical that photographs or other mediums could not match. The book is also a joy to read as well as behold. The author's writing style, while factual, is easy to read and the entries include interesting folklore and anecdotes about all the places of Bermuda. The book is at once a valuable reference volume, an atlas with sixteen fold-out maps, and a beautiful collection of exquisite watercolors. Although it is pricey, the Bermuda Atlas is well worth the money spent as the ultimate souvenir of the island.

An atlas usually provides a singular function: helping you find somewhere on the globe. The "Bermuda Atlas and Gazetteer" is SO much more with its insightful examination of practically every street, path, hill, island, rock and all things named on the beautiful islands of Bermuda. Upon closer inspection, you realize that everything has a story, and Mr. Blagg has uncovered some tremendous history in this text. As a resident of Bermuda, I find it an invaluable aid in learning more about my home. If I were a visitor to these islands of paradise, I would find this book to be the most tasteful souvenir or gift. T-shirts just don't cut it. (Well done, Dan. I'm proud of you.)

A beautifully designed and thoughtful book. The watercolors evoke the pink gentile Bermuda I

visited as a child. This book is a must for any history and nautical buff who wants to learn of the origins of the island,as well as shipping and sailing lore.400 pages of comprehensive, thorough, detailed information about this corner of paradise on earth

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