

# RENEGADE CANE RUM

## HOPE (MENERÉ/MUNRO'S LITTLE BACOLET) ESTATE ST ANDREW

HISTORICAL PROFILE BY JOHN ANGUS MARTIN

In 1875, three contiguous properties (Meneré/Furnillier's Bacolet/Munro's Little Bacolet, Hooke's Bacolet/Munro's Bacolet, and Chateau Gay/Mount Fan) were purchased and renamed Hope Estate, creating one of the largest estates on the island, with two sugar works (see Figure 2). The three plots referenced by Renegade Rum as Hope Sites 1, 2 and 3 derive from two different historical plantations. The two lower plots (Hope Site 1, 2) derive from the Meneré Sugar Estate, while the upper plot (Hope Site 3) derive from Munro's Bacolet Sugar Estate (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Google maps showing the Hope Sites 1, 2, and 3 (from bottom to top)

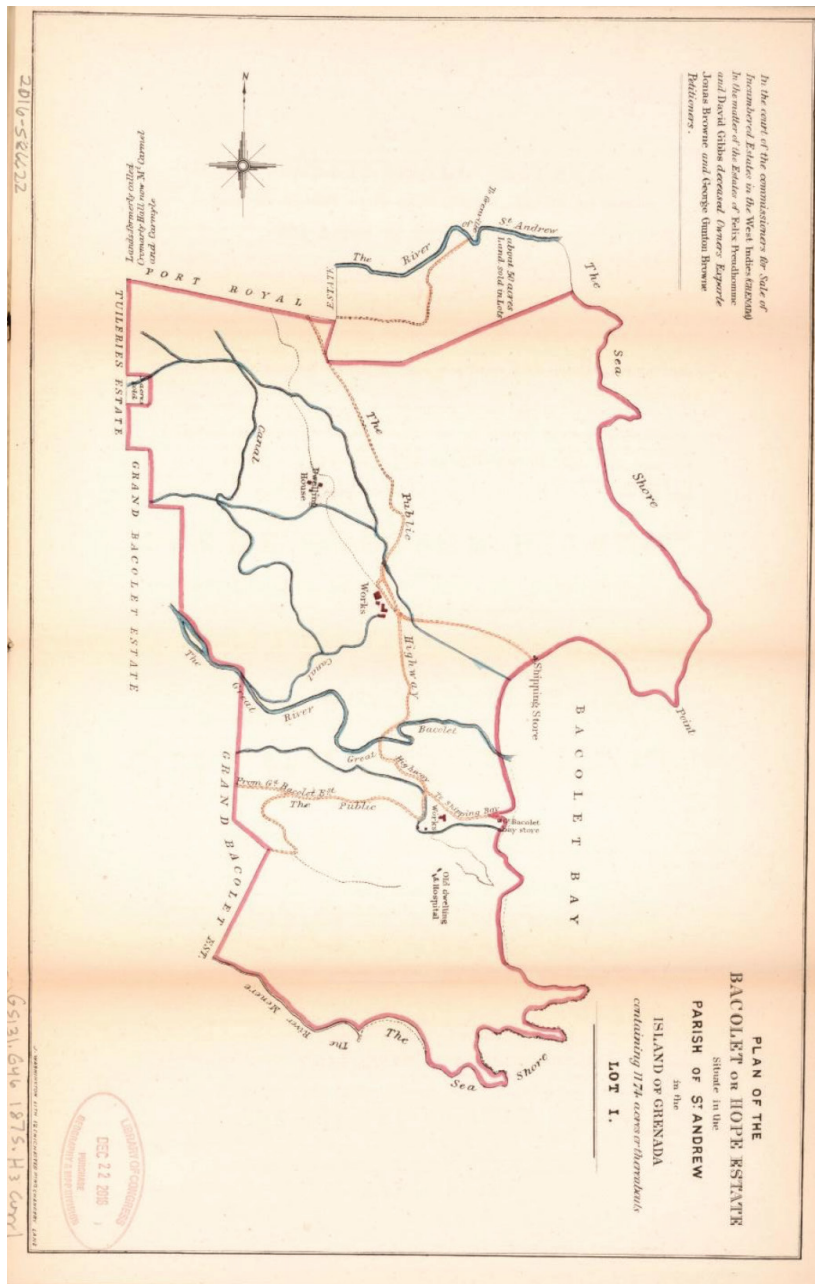


Figure 2: 1,174 acres Hope or Bacolet Estate, 1875 (courtesy of the Library of Congress)

As the two larger sites were part of the historical Meneré/Furnillier's Bacolet/Munro's Little Bacolet, I will provide historical information for that property then for Hope Estate after 1875.

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF HOPE/ MENERE ESTATE/COMMUNITY

**1649** On 18 March the French, under Governor du Parquet of Martinique, established a settlement in Grenada.

**1690:** Cassé recorded as officer of the militia and churchwarden.

**1721:** Le Sieur Henry Cassé listed as owning three concessions, one at Riviere St Jean, and 15 enslaved.

**1725:** “These maroon negroes previously contented themselves with marauding homes during the night to steal food for their subsistence: they then stole sheep, calves, cows, and bulls; seeing that this succeeded so well for them, it got into their heads to surprise some townspeople on the heights; this... Finally, having raised the mask, they were, on April 5th [1725] of the preceding year, at 9 o'clock in the morning, at the home of Miss Cassé, also of the Cabesterre, whose husband had not yet returned from a voyage to France, when, armed with rifles, pistols, and sabers, they set fire to the house, the kitchen, and the henhouse, without allowing the said young woman to take the least item that there had been in the house, and during the inferno, they fired more than thirty rifle and pistol shots; and Petit-Jean killed in the savanna all the game and wildfowl that he could; they only retired after having seen all the buildings and what was in ashes; and while a detachment coming in aid had almost arrived, then they left, beating a drum, without the detachment being able to catch any of them, no matter with what care they took.”

**17??:** Marie Françoise de La Touche-Limousiniere married Fournillier. : 112.4 quarres Meneré sugar estate owned by Fournillier.

**17??:** Death of Fournillier.

**1747:** Marie Françoise de La Touche-Limousiniere (Vve Fournillier) married Henri Robert Cassé (with children: Jean Henri Robert, Eulalie, Marie Luce Robert, Rose Clotilde, Pierre Henri).

**1748:** Le Romain's “Plan du Grand Bacolet scitué a la capsterre de l'isle de la Grenade pres la Grand Marquis” identifies Meneré as Grand Bacolet.



Figure 3: "Plan du Grand Bacolet scitué a la capsterre de l'isle de la Grenade pres la Grand Marquis," 1748 (courtesy BnF)

**175?**: 112.4 quarres Meneré Sugar Estate transferred from Cassé to Peter Fournellier.

**1763**: 359 acres (112.4/76 quarres in canes) Meneré Sugar Estate (#82 on Pinel's map) with over 40 enslaved owned by Peter Fournellier on the rights of Henry Cassé.



Figure 4: Meneré Sugar Estate (No. 82), 1763

**1765:** Peter Fournellier signed oath of allegiance to the British king under Grand Marquis where his estate was located.

**1767:** Indenture between Peter and Marie Fournillier and Andre Antoine (details of loan unknown).

**1772:** 400 acres Bacolet Sugar Estate with 121 enslaved valued at £29,071 5s.

- Bacolet mortgaged by Peter and Marie Fournillier to Peter Thellusson/ John Cossart for £12,855.
- Mortgage provides a list of the names of the 121 enslaved attached to the estate.
- Fournillier is described as “of the District and Parish of Grenada but now residing in London Esquire.”

**1785:** Death of Peter Fournillier by 1785.

- The estate’s debt was £17,451 4s 4d.
- The estate had only 33 enslaved – Gilbert, Narcisse, Arthur,\* Boby, Thomas, Cominan, Jean Marie,\* Bagdy, Antoine,\* Rock, Lazare, Phillippe, Honnore, L’Amoure,\* L’Adorneur,\* Andre,\* L’Cueille,\* Cesar, Balthazard, Boscan,\* Vincent, Heliene, Victoire, Agua,\* Bessy,\* Sinque, Angelique, Thereze, Charlotte, Vieille Madelaine Petite Catherine,\* Petite Jeanne Rose, and Adelaide. \* Not on the 1772 list of enslaved.

**1787:** Articles of Agreement between Marie Fournillier and Peter Thellusson/John Cossart regarding loans (25 May 1787).

**1790:** In July, 19 Negro houses on the estate were burnt; Negro houses on two other estates were also burnt within a few days of each other. (St George’s Chronicle, 16July1790)

... using every effort to increase their naval force.

It is remarkable that several fires (three we are informed) have happened in the Negro houses in different estates to windward, within a few days of each other. On Madame Fournellier’s nineteen houses were burnt; and on Grand Bacolet nearly as many.

// A correspondent observes that the first fire is

Figure 5: Newspaper article on the fires on Meneré Sugar Estate, 1790

**1791:** Indenture between Marie Fourniller and Peter Thellusson/John Cossart (8/9 Apl 1791).

**1797:** James Mays recorded as the manager of Bacolet in July.

- Death of Peter Thellusson, who in his will “left the bulk of his fortune in trust to the three eldest male descendants of his three sons where the fortune was to accumulate until the death of the last male grandson, leading to decades of legal challenge.”

**1801:** Meneré Sugar Estate listed as #88 on Gavin Smith’s map.

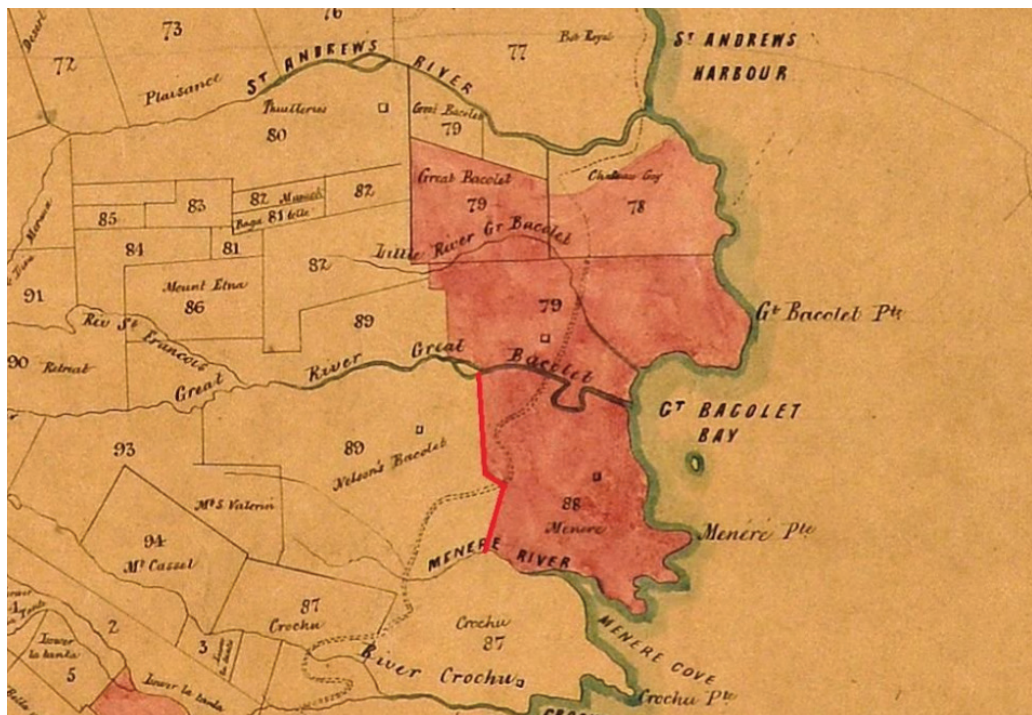


Figure 6: Meneré Sugar Estate (No. 88), 1801

**1805:** 384 acres Meneré Sugar Estate with Watermill owned by the Heirs of Fourniller.

**1808:** Death of Peter Isaac Thellusson, 1st Baron Rendlesham, eldest son of Peter Thellusson sr /Ann nee Woodford.

**1811:** Death of George Woodford Thellusson.

**1812:** Dent recorded as manager at Bacolet from at least 1812-16.

- It was “estimated that the 382 acres of Bacolet comprised 100 acres of cane land and 20 acres of enslaved African provision grounds with the remaining 262 acres, roughly two-thirds of the property left uncultivated.”
- Of the 42 enslaved remaining on the estate, “many of whom from Infy [infirmity] Age or Sickness were Incapable of Work”/9 mules.

**1814:** “Chancery report described Bacolet as ‘of excellt [sic] quality and admirably calculd [sic] for the Cultivn [sic] of Cane, but that great pt of it is lyg waste there not being sufft Stock to Cultivate the same’. Here again we see replicated the planter view of enslaved Africans as ‘stock.’”

- Report concluded that Bacolet “might be cultivd to consble [considerable] advantage and... might be made to Yield a consble excess beyond its annl Expenditure to go in liquidatg of the sd Mortgage debt provided the Number of Slaves & Cattle were Increased,” the works repaired and new buildings added.
- “Estimates for reconstitution of the plantation, calculating around £6000 was required for purchases of additional enslaved Africans and about £1000 for repairs.”

**1816:** Bacolet managed by George Gun Munro.

- The Chancery Court found that £83,286 was owed on the property, thus recommending no further investment in Bacolet.

**1817:** 35 enslaved on Fournillier’s Bacolet estate “Belonging to/in the lawful possession of George Gun Munro agent for the representatives of Peter Thelluson, decd.”

*A List of Slaves belonging to & in the Lawful Possession of George Gun Munro Agent for the Representatives of Peter Thelluson deceased and now in the Fournillier's Estate, in the Parish of St. Andrew April 30<sup>th</sup> 1817*

No	Name	Sex	Complexion	Age	Mark
	<i>Male Slaves</i>				
	Nicholas	Black	Yellow	25 Years	No Mark
	Saint	♂	Black	20	♂
	Joseph	♂	♂	22	♂
	Thomas	Black	♂	18	♂
	Charles	♂	♂	11	♂
	William	♂	♂	22	♂
	Joseph	♂	♂	15	♂
	Charles	♂	♂	20	♂
	Thomas	♂	Black	18	♂
	George	♂	♂	14	♂
	Joseph	Black	♂	18	♂
	Thomas	Black	♂	14	♂
	Thomas	♂	♂	1	♂
	Charles	♂	♂	1	♂

*Remarks:*  
 Has a Tropical appearance  
 No Mark  
 Right arm disformed & marked at elbow  
 No Mark  
 Has a Tropical appearance  
 No Mark  
 No Mark  
 No Mark

Figure 7: Slave register for the Fournillier’s Estate, 1817

**1819:** 34 (2d) enslaved/11 mules produced 64,679 pounds muscavado sugar/4,613 gallons rum (Fournillier’s Bacolet estate).

**1820:** Bacolet estate sold to William Le Blanc for just £3000.

- 34 (20 Females/14 Males) enslaved on Fournillier’s Bacolet Estate “Belonging to/in the lawful possession of George Gun Munro, attorney of the Representatives of Peter Thelluson, decd and now in the possession of George Gun Munro, attorney of William LeBlanc,” trustee.

- 23 (6F/17M) enslaved removed from Ronde Island to Fournillier's Bacolet Estate "Belonging to/in the lawful possession of George Gun Munro, attorney of John McConnell, formerly attached to Isle Rhonde."
- Robert McQueen recorded as manager of "F. Bacolet" in correspondence concerning the complaint by apprentice Henry on being beaten excessively.

**1821:** 60 (37F/23M) enslaved on the Fournillier's Bacolet Estate "in the lawful possession of George Gun Munro formerly attorney and now Trustee of John McConnell lately attached to the Isle Rhonde and now work upon Fournillier's Bacolet Estate..."

- "Accounts of the consignee of the rents profits and produce of the estates of the late Peter Thellusson's relating to the Bacolet estate in Grenada."

**1823:** Zero enslaved on Fournillier's Bacolet Estate as the 33 enslaved were "Transferred to George Gun Munro's Little Bacolet Estate" (31Dec1823).

**1824:** 384 acres Menéré sugar estate with Watermill owned by George Gun Munro.

**1829:** Death of the Hon. George Gun Munro.

**1832:** 163 (90F/73M) enslaved on the Little Bacolet Estate "In possession of Lewis Hoyes, attorney of Henry Davidson and Aeneas Barkly, proprietors."

**1875:** Grenada, particulars of valuable Sugar Estate known as "The Bacolet" or "Hope" Estate, in the Parish of Saint Andrew... which will be sold by auction, in four lots... by Commissioners for Sale of Incumbered Estates in the West Indies, at the Sale Room of the Commissioners (see URL below).

- "In the matter of the Estates of Felix Preudhomme and David Gibbs (deceased), owners. Ex parte Jonas Browne and George Gunton Browne, petitioners."
- "Plan of the Bacolet or Hope Estate situate in the Parish of St. Andrew in the Island of Grenada containing 1,174 acres or thereabouts" (see Figure 2 above).
- 1,174 acres Bacolet Estate (#s70/71/72/73/82 on Pinel's map) or (#s78/79/88 on Gavin Smith's map: Great Bacolet/Munro's Bacolet, Chateau Gay/Hope, and Meneré/Munro's Little Bacolet).

**1876:** 1,174 acres Bacolet/Hope Estate with 1 horse/11 mules/2 asses/55 cattle produced 250 hogsheds sugar worth 2000.

- "Has steam works in addition to water power."

**2014:** Article on film director Steve McQueen and connections to Bacolet Estate, possibly through an overseer/manager Robert McQueen who came from Scotland and worked on the estate in the 1820s and may have fathered mixed-raced child(ren).



## REFERENCES