

Papers of Nathaniel Bayly, West Indian plantation owner

This document describes a collection of records held by NatWest Group Archives, including details of their background; publications relating to them; summary of the contents of the collection; and information about related records held in other archives.

collection reference	CU/127/
background history	Nathaniel Bayly (1726-98) was born in England to a family of colonial plantation owners. He spent his youth and early adulthood in Jamaica. He returned to England in 1759, married Elizabeth Ingram in 1767 and (after her death) Sophia Magdalena Lamack in 1773, by whom he had six legitimate children: Charles Nathaniel (who married Lady Sarah Villiers, daughter of 4th Earl of Jersey); Charlotte; Diana; Sophia; Wentworth; and Anna. He also fathered two illegitimate children: Nathaniel Bayly Williams (who became his estate manager in Jamaica) and Eliza Street. Bayly was active in the often turbulent politics of the Jamaican Assembly in the 1750s. After his return to England he was MP for Abingdon (1770-4) and for Westbury (1774-9), speaking often in the Commons on the detrimental effect of the Government's American policy upon the West Indies slave labour colonies. When his brother Zachary died in 1769, Bayly inherited four Jamaican slave labour estates (Trinity, Tryall, Brimmer Hall and Bayly's Vale), and managed these from Britain until 1779 when 'affairs of consequence' compelled him to resign his Parliamentary seat and return to Jamaica. These affairs included a long and acrimonious dispute over the administration of Zachary Bayly's will with another beneficiary, Bryan Edwards (1743-1800), nephew to both Zachary and Nathaniel. Nathaniel Bayly died in Jamaica in October 1798, shortly after the marriage of his daughter Charlotte to Job Matthew Raikes (1767-1833), partner in the London bank Raikes & Co and a relative of the Currie family which owned another bank, Curries & Co. Raikes became one of four executors of Bayly's will (along with Wentworth Bayly, David Shaw and Nathaniel Bayly Williams), and a trustee of his estate (along with Bayly's nephew Nathaniel Barton). These records came to be part of the Curries & Co collection of NatWest Group Archives as personal papers of Job Matthew Raikes.
our archive holdings	• will of Nathaniel Bayly and related papers 1798-9 • dependencies book re estate accounts incl inventory of land and enslaved people 1798-1804 • letterbooks of Job Matthew Raikes as executor 1799-1827 • correspondence re management of estate, Jamaican plantations and the enslaved people who worked there 1784-1828 (index and select transcriptions available) • estate accounts 1780-1809
archives held elsewhere	The National Archives: Papers and letters re Bayly v. Edwards, including deeds and accounts relating to the Jamaican rum, sugar and pimento trade 1759-1804 (Ref: C107/68).