

Alexander James Brymer

PMG 1860 Aug 1 to 1867/8

The first official Colonial appointment to the office.

Prior to be appointed Chief Clerk in the Post office (reporting to O'Connor Morris) he was employed in the Receiver General's Office.

The background to his nomination for the Chief Clerk's position can be read in the National Archives correspondence ([view here](#))

Gleaner 26 Nov 1910 By Astley Clerk

OUR FIRST P.M.

Alexander James Brymer was born in London. He used means at his disposal to visit the West Indies, and came to Jamaica, when liking the island, he decided on settling, and started business in Port Antonio, where he also held various positions, such as Justice of the Peace. Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court, Vice Consul of the United States and Deputy Judge and Advocate in the militia. He subsequently joined the Public Service and was Chief Clerk in the Post Office, succeeding Mr. O'Connor Morris as Postmaster for Jamaica, in 1860. Mr. Brymer's appointment is thus chronicled in the "Gazette," of Aug 2, 1860:

Government Notice No. 3,
Gov. Sec. Office,
August 1, 1860

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Alexander James Brymer, Esq., to be Postmaster for Jamaica—under and in accordance with the provisions of an Act, passed in the 23rd year of Her Majesty's reign, Session III., Chapter I., entitled "An Act to provide for the management of the Post Office Department, in this island."

By Command.
HUGH W. AUSTIN,
Gov. sec.

He was noted for his kindly, genial disposition, and earned for himself the name of Poor Man's Friend, his advice, and even his purse, being at all times available for those in need of either.

He was evidently one who was interested in his work for the "Falmouth Post, March 6, 1863, thus speaks of him: "Mr. Brymer, who as Postmaster General of Jamaica has on all occasions done everything for the accommodation of the public."



MR. BRYMER, FIRST P.M. FOR JAMAICA

Postmasters of Jamaica.

Gleaner 11 Sept 1868

Sir,—The friends and acquaintances of this good man, Alexander J. Brymer have been invited to attend the interment of his remains. Let us hope the great benefits the whole Island obtained, and now enjoy from his exertions will not be forgotten, but let us pray that his Excellency the Governor will continue his small pension to his family.

Everyone must remember with what difficulty and doubt the Island Government takeover the Post Office Department from the British Government, and it was generally known that there had been a large annual loss sustained.

By the good management of this good man, with the assistance of the other officers, this was changed to a continued increasing surplus, while the rates were reduced and the facilities greatly increased, and these have led to the establishment of the present excellent Institution, which is now an honour to the country, and in which more business is done in a day, than was formerly done in a week, granting the public continued increasing facilities, and continued increase in the Revenue.

The family of a man to whom all this is due should not be allowed to suffer, but a grateful country should in some way shew them this gratitude due to their father.