

Arch/BioAnth Lunch Talk

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 12-1pm

Join us via Zoom (Link will be provided in email reminder)

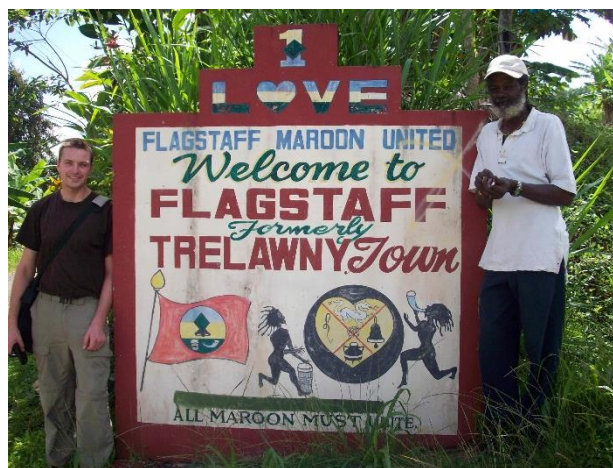
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The Battle of Dragoon Hole:

Imagined Histories, Mythical Memories, and Folk Archaeologies

The Second Maroon War erupted in Jamaica in 1795 when the British colonial government invaded the semi-autonomous community of Trelawny Town with a column of cavalry or “dragoons,” militia, and volunteers. Self-emancipated Africans known as Maroons founded Trelawny Town during the First Maroon War, around the mid-18th century. The first major battle in the Second Maroon War, which occurred at a site locally referred to today as Dragoon Hole, was an unequivocal and undisputed tactical victory for the Maroons. Throughout the 19th century, this battle was a favorite topic for British colonial historians and it has remained popular in local oral traditions to this day. Colonial historians imagined narratives about the Second Maroon War that were influenced by imperial politics. In contrast, the development of mythologized legends about Dragoon Hole, which were shaped through generations of social interactions within a sacred and archaeologically abundant landscape, promoted solidarity within a multi-ethnic and marginalized community. Drawing on historical, ethnographic, and archaeological evidence, I outline historiographies of both the written and oral traditions.



David A. Ingleman is an anthropology doctoral candidate at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is a historical anthropologist and archaeologist with diverse research and teaching interests in anthropology. He has previously worked in North America, the Caribbean, and Oceania. His dissertation combines historical and archaeological research, including morphological and stable isotope analyses of animal remains, to understand multispecies sociality in the 19th-century Hawaiian kingdom.