Study guide 3

Why did the British come to British Honduras?

- The Spanish were getting precious metals: gold, silver, bronze etc.
- The word was spread in Europe; So the British came here to thief from the Spanish Ships
- 1st reason was for greed; to thief from Spanish Ships
- They settled in 1638: Peter Wallace/ Beliz “muddy waters”
- Scottish, British, Dutch etc. Pirates
- Boucan: the process of curing strips of meat over a smoky fire.
- 2nd reason: the Spanish were driven away from their first location at Laguna de Terminos Mexico

Why they stayed?

- 1st reason: It was an ideal position for them to thief from the ships: Spanish ships could not pursue their attackers beyond the reef.
- 1670 treaty of Madrid outlawed piracy: The British would criminalize piracy! Spanish allowed the British to stay in the West indies
- 2nd reason; so the baymen turned to logwood! Palo de tinte or palo de Campeche.
- The heart of the logwood was used to manufacture: black, blue, purple, gray, red, and green dyes.
- High demand for dye in Europe, due to the “Dandy” or pimps
- Treaty of Paris: Gave the British rights to cut and load logwood! Spain was the owner of the land.
- Treaty of Versailles; British were allowed to cut and load logwood within the areas of the Hondo River and the Belize River.

Decline of Logwood

- During the 1700’s: Logwood declined: artificial dye was being produced in Asia; Logwood became unprofitable
- Mahogany: It is hard reddish-brown timber from a tropical tree, used for high-quality furniture.
- How it grows: Scattered in the wilderness! Camps needed to be created!

Rise of Mahogany

- Why Mahogany rose? Due to an increase in demand for Mahogany; In Ship building industry and Furniture industry in Europe.
- Effects on the society: baymen took larger plats of land, Increase in slave labor: skilled slave labor
  -Foreостocracy: 10 to 20 persons owned almost all of the territory that was British Honduras (1800’s); Controlled politics; Controlled the economy.
- Convention of London1786: British Allowed to cut and load logwood and Mahogany; Boundaries: Rio hondo to Sibun River.

Baymens Society: Drunkards; “Party heads”; No rules/no boundaries

- Described as “ a rude, drunken crew, some which have been pirates, and most of them sailors; their chief delight is in drinking.. Rum punch is their general drink, at which they will sit several days”
- Why they needed laws? Reckless exploitation of natural resources; group of self-centered, ill-mannered and lawless exploiters; “ the settlement was in a state of utmost disorder and confusion”.
- Government: A body/organization that has the authority to make and the power to enforce laws within a state/country.
- 1st system of government: CUSTOMS OF THE BAY! Admiral sir William Burnaby; rewrote he customs of the bay; Reinforced public meetings; Prohibit stealing and swearing; Election of magistrates (capital was St. George’s Caye); Taxes were imposed (Burnaby’s code 1765)
- Burnaby’s code: Magistrates presided over laws; No police to enforce laws
- Public meetings: Meetings with the baymen; Superintendent was the overseer

Why the Spanish attacked the British:

- The British were occupying land that Spanish had title to (de jure)
- The resources from Spanish territory were being stolen and given to the British territory
- On several occasions Spain and England had wars
- The Baymen ran away but came back

Cay Casina 1695:
- The governor of Yucatan: sent an army to remove the baymen
- “remove the enemy pirates at the site of casinas, where they had infested the waters”
- Baymen were driven away but as the Spanish left they came back

Overland attack 1730 fleeing to Misquito Coast:
- Governor of Yucatan: Antonio de Figueroa y silva launched a surprise attack overland
- Huts and loads of “Palo de tinte” were burnt
- Baymen who escaped fled to the Misquito Coast
- The governor of Yucatan died of fever that is the reasons the Spanish did not stay

Attack on St. George’s Caye 1779:
- Spain entered the American war for independence against England
- Spaniards captured 140 Baymen with 250 slaves
- Captives were transported to Bacalar, marched to Merida and then Campeche, to be taken to Cuba.
- British war ships recaptured St. George’s Caye in 1782

- Treaty of Versailles: Peace between Spain and England; Public meetings were held at the mouth of the Belize river.

The battle of St. George’s Caye
- Convention of London: Borders were given to cut and load mahogany and logwood; Hondo River to the Sibun River; The settlers did not respect this treaty; Colonel Despard was removed from the settlements.

- Expansion of the settlement: Population expanded: more slaves were needed for the mahogany camps.
  - People from the Misquito coast populated the area as well
  - Spain and France started to wage war against England in 1796

- Course of the war: Spanish decided to attack; the British sent a warship Merlin

- How the British won? 1. Barrow and Moss were excellent leaders at war 2. Baymen were fighting for their lives. 3. Spies provided them with valuable information 4. Spanish forces did not know the coastal zones 5. Spanish forces were devastated by diseases