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TURKS ISLAND LANDFALL A History of the Turks and Caicos Islands

H. E. Sadler

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Today the relatively 'undiscovered' Islands of the Turks & Caicos, with their tranquil landscapes, crystal waters and unhurried pace belie a past rich in excitement and activity which rivals that of some of their better-known West Indian neighbours. "Turks Islands Landfall", by H.E. Sadler is the only documented history of these Islands and represents years of research and study. It presents compelling evidence that it was Turks Islands, and not the Bahamas, where the Lucayan Indians first greeted the famous navigator, Christopher Columbus, when he made his landfall in 1492. Sadler brings together extensive material on the Colony's development as the salt resort of the adventurous Bermudian mariners, its checkered past as a haven for pirates and pivotal role in the European struggle for supremacy in the West Indies in the 17th and 18th centuries. The book traces the uncertain and whimsical turns of the salt trade, the mainstay of the Turks Islands' economy for over three centuries, which created fortunes for some, and ruin for others; while seafaring, wrecking and transplanted American Loyalists fashioned the destiny of the Caicos Islands. It describes the tragic bounty of shipwrecks, tells of treasures - lost and found - amongst the breathtaking reefs in these waters, where the only ship from the "Age of Discovery" has been found, and the most famous Spanish treasure galleon successfully salvaged. In short and readable capsules, Sadler's "Landfall and History" throws much light on the past adventures and adversities which have marked the Islands and have now swept this tiny outpost of the British Empire into the Twentieth Century. For students of history, residents and visitors to the Islands, this work is a revealing and authoritative account of the Turks & Caicos Islands from the earliest times to the present and an indispensable tool for further study or research on these Islands.

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