

= Gilbert Thomas Carter =

Sir Gilbert Thomas Carter KCMG (14 January 1848 ? 18 January 1927) was an administrative officer in the Royal Navy and a colonial official for the British Empire .

Starting as a Collector of Customs for the Gold Coast , he then became a Treasurer of the Gold Coast and the Gambia . Moving on to colonial administration , he started as the Administrator for the Gambia , where he dealt with the aggression of the native king of Gambia .

His next post was as Governor for the Lagos Colony where he negotiated treaties with the local chiefs which protected Christian missionaries and ending human sacrifices . He later served as the Governor for The Bahamas and Barbados and finally as the Governor for Trinidad and Tobago .

= = Early life and Naval career = =

Carter was born in Topsham , Devon in 1848 . He was the only son of Commander Thomas Gilbert Carter (R.N.) . He was educated at the Royal Hospital School in Greenwich . Carter joined the Royal Navy in 1864 , serving as an Assistant Clerk on the HMS Frederick William , being transferred in 1866 to HMS Malacca . On 5 July 1866 , Carter was promoted to Clerk , while still serving on HMS Malacca . Between 1867 and 1869 , he served on a variety of ships as a clerk , until 1 December 1869 (while serving on HMS Pembroke) , when he was promoted to Assistant Paymaster (being added to the Navy List) .

Following a posting to HMS Royal Adelaide for the first 9 months of 1870 , Carter 's final posting was to the Colonial steamer Sherbro from August 1870 . During his time on the Sherbro , he was involved with the Third Anglo ? Ashanto War on the Gold Coast . When Elmina was sold to the British by the Dutch Government , he was a commissioner , responsible for valuing the stores and ordnance left behind by the Dutch . He married Susan Laura Hocker in 1874 (later having 3 sons and 2 daughters ? his son Humphrey was Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden) . He retired from the Navy on 21 July 1875 .

= = Leeward Islands , the Gold Coast and the Gambia = =

Carter became the private secretary to Sir George Berkeley , Governor of the Leeward Islands , in 1875 . In August 1879 , he was appointed Collector of Customs and Treasurer of the Gold Coast , an appointment he kept until 1882 . From 1882 until December 1888 , Carter administered the Settlement on the Gambia as a Treasurer and Postmaster . From 1886 , he was acting Administrator of the Colony of the Gambia , and on 1 December 1888 he was appointed Administrator on that colony 's separation from Sierra Leone . While working in the Gambia , he was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) on 1 January 1890 .

In 1891 , the native King of Gambia had been organising abusive acts towards the British colonists . Carter (from his official residence in Bathurst) sent an envoy with a message that if the abuses continued , " he might expect a visit of a disciplinary nature from the marine forces of the Queen of England . " The King sent the envoy back mutilated , with a message : " This is the King 's answer . " In response , Carter sent three British gunboats to avenge the outrage upon the envoy .

= = Lagos (Nigeria) = =

Carter was appointed Governor and Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Colony of Lagos on 3 February 1891 . Carter ordered an attack on the Ijebu " in the interest of civilization " in 1892 . Afterwards , he continued to justify this attack as a war to end slavery and promote civilization .

Carter travelled to various parts of Yorubaland , accompanied by soldiers , in an attempt to demonstrate the might of the British . Carter was not well received at Oyo , and the Egba chiefs advised him not to interfere with slavery , while the Ibadan chiefs said they were afraid that their slaves would " assert their freedom by running to the Resident " ? and they refused to sign a treaty with Carter that would impose a Resident on the city .

However , in January 1893 the Egba chiefs signed a Treaty of Independence with the British Government . It was agreed that freedom of trade between the Egba Nation and Lagos was to be guaranteed by the British Government , in return for which no road would be closed without the approval of the Governor . They further agreed that complete protection and " every assistance and encouragement " would be afforded to all Christian ministers . The Crown agreed that " no annexation on any portion of Egba Nation shall be made by her Majesty 's Government without the consent of the lawful authorities of the nation , no aggressive action shall be taken against the said nation and its independence shall be fully recognized . " The Egba chiefs further promised to abolish human sacrifices .

He was promoted Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) on 3 June 1893 , " in recognition of his services in conducting a mission to the Yoruba country which resulted in the negotiation of important treaties and brought to an end a long @-@ standing war . "

Carter was given Ife works of art in 1896 by the recently crowned King of Ife , Adelekan , in the hopes that a decision in his favour would be made about the resettlement of Modakeke residents outside the city . These works (including three known as the Ife marbles) , were sent by Carter to Europe .

= = Later life , retirement and death = =

Carter was transferred to Bahamas as Governor and Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief in 1898 , and after a temporary transfer to Trinidad , in July 1904 he was transferred to the Barbados as Governor and Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief .

Carter met Gertrude Codman Parker (born 6 February 1875) in the spring of 1903 when she was travelling in the Bahamas with her parents . She became his second wife on 25 August 1903 , when they were married in the Church of the Advent in Boston .

Carter continued working in senior colonial positions ? being appointed the Governor and Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Island of Barbados and its Dependencies in 1904 , and as Administrator of the Government of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago , and its Dependencies in the absence of the Governor from 1907 until 1910 , whereupon he retired .

In 1919 , he changed his surname to Gilbert @-@ Carter . In the early 1920s , he moved back to Barbados , and lived at Ilaro Court , which had been designed and built by Lady Gilbert Carter . He died there on 18 January 1927 . When his will was probated on 22 March of that year , the total value of his effects was £ 6859 9s 11d .