

Hercules Ross was born on the 4th of July 1745 to John Ross “ Officer of Excise” in Johnshaven Benholm , and his second wife Elizabeth Fullerton In 1761 (age 16 years) he travelled to Jamaica where over time he worked as a Naval clerk , became owner of a General Merchant”s store , and two Trading sloops, Captain of Malitia ,A.D.C to a Major General ,J.P. for Kingston and owner of the 200 acre Bushy Estate . Captain Horatio Nelson was nursed back to health from a Fever at Bushy Park .From then onwards Ross and Nelson became close friends and corresponded regularly. The Nelson/Ross letters are in the archives of the Royal Naval Museum and appear in a full collection of Nelson”s correspondence published by Chatam Publishing , but are spread out through seven volumes.

During the War with America , Ross became a Prize Agent for Jamaica taking a cut of the prize money for captured vessels and running his own privateers.

During his time in Jamaica , Ross had three sons and two daughters by Elizabeth Foord .(Foord is a surname with links to Bristol).

Hercules Ross provided well for his children and their mother when he returned to Britain .

(See Elizabeth Foord died in Jamaica in 1817 .)