Pitcairn Island has always attracted interest far disproportionate to its size. Settled in 1789 by the Bounty mutineers, Pitcairn has a history far better chronicled than that of most Pacific islands. The 2004 sexual assault trials on the island spurred much academic writing about the island and Britain’s oversight of its last Pacific colony. Legal materials on the island are widely scattered in government reports, books by visitors, journals, and archives. This article describes those sources and identifies others that need to be investigated. The article also provides guidance for beginning legal research on other Pacific island jurisdictions.

Although Pitcairn Island has a long bibliography of writings, much of it simply recycles what has come before. The legal side of its story received little notice until 2004, when the sexual assault trials of seven men (including the mayor) made headlines around the world. The only existing legal bibliography, published before the trials, is one and one-third pages long. Sources of the island’s legal history are scattered around the globe. While the footnotes to my own articles will help those who follow me, an article annotating the sources will be useful to other researchers. I also offer guidance for those researching other Pacific jurisdictions.

Background

The mutineers of the Bounty settled on Pitcairn in 1790. (There had been Polynesians on the island, but they were gone by 1767, when the island was first sighted by Englishmen.) The account of William Bligh, captain of the Bounty, was the first of many books about the mutiny. The one by Sir John Barrow, the chief

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1. While it is popularly known as Pitcairn Island, the jurisdiction’s formal name is the Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, see Pitcairn Is. Const. art. 61 (“Pitcairn” means Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands.”), and its postage stamps, introduced in 1941, have always read “Pitcairn Islands”; see Vernon N. Kisling, Jr., Pitcairn Islands Specialized Stamp Catalog (3d ed. 2010). Of the quartet, only Pitcairn Island is inhabited.
3. William Bligh, A Narrative of the Mutiny on Board His Majesty’s Ship Bounty and the Subsequent Voyage of Part of the Crew, in the Ship’s Boat, from Tofoa, One of the Friendly Islands, to Timor, a Dutch Settlement in the East Indies (1790), reprinted in William Bligh &
administrative officer of the Admiralty—who had access to official papers—is the cornerstone of all later works. The well-illustrated exhibition catalog for the bicentennial commemoration at the National Maritime Museum is an excellent introduction to the subject. The best modern account is by Caroline Alexander. There is also a recent book-length bibliography on the mutiny. Primary source material on the courts-martial resulting from the mutiny can be found in several volumes.

 Most books on Pitcairn look only at the early days of settlement, but a scholarly, more comprehensive book was recently written by Robert W. Kirk. Another book with a good account of the island in the twentieth century is by Spencer Murray, but it is difficult to obtain. An Ohio lawyer, David Silverman, lived on the island in the 1960s and wrote a valuable history and sociology. Sven Wahlroos compiled an extremely useful dictionary of all people and things about the mutiny and the island, and the entries are available online.

 For decades before the sexual assault trials, Britain had neglected law and order on the island, providing neither police nor courts. In 2004, seven men—out of a population of a few dozen—were charged with sixty-four counts under Britain’s Sexual Offenses Act, 1956. The investigation and trials took place under the intense, critical gaze of the press, and the proceedings produced a tremendous

Edward Christian, The Bounty Mutiny 1 (2001). This was published immediately after his return in 1790. Two years later Bligh published a full account of the voyage, including events before the mutiny, in William Bligh, A Voyage to the South Sea, Undertaken by Command of His Majesty for the Purpose of Conveying the Bread-fruit Tree to the West Indies in His Majesty’s Ship the Bounty, Commanded by Lieutenant William Bligh, Including an Account of the Mutiny on Board Said Ship, and the Subsequent Voyage of Part of the Crew, in the Ship’s Boat, from Tofoa, One of the Friendly Islands, to Timor, a Dutch Settlement in the East Indies (1792), reprinted in William Bligh et al., A Book of the “Bounty” (George Mackaness ed., 1938).


8. E.g., William Bligh & Edward Christian, The Bounty Mutiny (2001); The Court-Martial of the “Bounty” Mutineers (Owen Rutter ed., 1931); Peter Heywood & Nessy Heywood, Innocent on the Bounty: The Court-Martial and Pardon of Midshipman Peter Heywood, in Letters (Donald A. Maxton & Rolf E. Du Rietz eds., 2013); Edward Taggart, A Memoir of the Late Captain Peter Heywood: With Extracts from His Diaries and Correspondence (1832).


amount of law-making and literature. Other legal documents concerning the island are detailed below, beginning with primary sources.

**Primary Sources**

§5 This section discusses the sources for the laws of the island: the constitution, the laws, publication of the laws, case law, and international agreements.

**Constitution**

§6 Queen Elizabeth II approved a constitution for Pitcairn on February 10, 2010, by an order-in-council.\(^\text{15}\) The constitution appears as an appendix to that order, which was issued by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office as a separate pamphlet. The order was also reprinted in the British government’s *Statutory Instruments* compilation for 2010 and in the official Pitcairn statute book, described in the next section. The constitution became effective March 4, 2010, by a proclamation issued by the governor.\(^\text{16}\)

§7 Three law review articles discuss the constitution. One looks at British efforts to frame a new basic law.\(^\text{17}\) Another provides a brief introduction to the constitution.\(^\text{18}\) A recent article of mine examines the constitution in depth, describes the democracy deficit on Pitcairn, and discusses how legislation in Pitcairn compares with that of other British colonies.\(^\text{19}\)

§8 The previous basic law of the island was a 1970 order-in-council and instructions issued by the queen to the governor.\(^\text{20}\) From 1952 to 1970 Pitcairn was administered by a governor based in Fiji, who looked after both islands. When Fiji gained its independence in 1970, a separate order for Pitcairn was issued. The 1970 order was twice amended—in 2000 and 2002—to alter the judiciary.\(^\text{21}\)

§9 The 1970 order superseded a 1952 order-in-council.\(^\text{22}\) A minor amendment to the 1952 order was made in 1963 to reflect the possibility of a regency.\(^\text{23}\) The 1952 order was necessitated by the Western Pacific High Commissioner’s removal from Fiji to Honiara in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate\(^\text{24}\) after a court found


\(^{24}\) Dupont, supra note 2, at 1183.
that the High Commissioner had no authority to make regulations for the islands.\footnote{In re McCoy, W. Pac. High Comm’n Review No. 41 of 1951 (Fiji Sup. Ct., July 14, 1951) (Vaughn, C.J., in chambers). This decision is in the Privy Council Record, described at the text accompanying infra note 46.}
The 1952 order made Pitcairn a distinct colony with its own administration.

¶10 The Western Pacific High Commissioner, based in Suva, Fiji, had administered Pitcairn and other far-flung islands from 1898 to 1952.\footnote{See generally W. Ross Johnston, Sovereignty and Protection: A Study of British Jurisdictional Imperialism in the Late Nineteenth Century (1973); DeRyck Scarr, Fragments of Empire: A History of the Western Pacific High Commission, 1877–1914 (1967); U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Western Pacific High Commission: Selected Documents (2002).} In the mid-nineteenth century, Pacific natives were being pressed into slavery in South America and Australia,\footnote{See, e.g., William T. Wawn, The South Sea Islanders and the Queensland Labour Trade (1893).} and establishment of the High Commission was intended to combat the slavers.\footnote{E.g., Communications of Importance Respecting Outrages Committed on Natives of the South Sea Islands, 1873, [C. (2d series) 244], in 50 P.P. (1873) 51. “P.P.” is Parliamentary Papers and the number in parentheses is the year of the parliamentary session. See also Stephen E. Young, “By Command of Her Majesty”: An Introduction to the Command Papers of the United Kingdom, 92 Law Libr. J. 81 (2000).}
Joseph Chamberlain, the British colonial secretary, in 1898 placed Pitcairn under the High Commissioner to facilitate a murder trial.\footnote{Instructions to the High Commissioner, Western Pacific, 1898 Fiji Royal Gazette 215, reprinted in R. v. Seven Named Accused, [2004] PNSC 1, 127 I.L.R. 232, ¶109 (Pitcairn Is. Sup. Ct.). The instruction appeared in the Fiji Royal Gazette because the High Commissioner did not then have his own gazette.}

\textbf{Post-1952 Laws}

¶11 Pitcairn laws are called ordinances and are promulgated by the governor. There is no legislature on the island, and the governor has sole power to make laws. The Island Council has limited power to pass regulations, which would be called local by-laws in Britain.

¶12 An official edition of the Pitcairn laws was published in 2010, compiled by Paul Julian Treadwell.\footnote{Gov’t of Pitcairn, supra note 16.}
Treadwell, a New Zealand barrister, served as the Legal Adviser to the governor of Pitcairn. I know of no library that owns Treadwell’s volume in print, but it can be downloaded as a PDF or ordered from the Pitcairn government’s web site.\footnote{Gov’t of Pitcairn, Laws of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, http://government.pn/Laws/index.php (last visited Apr. 5, 2014).}
The regulations adopted by the Island Council appear in chapter 11 of Treadwell’s book.
¶13 That volume supersedes the 1984 edition of the laws, which WorldCat indicates no American library owns. It replaced the 1971 edition compiled by Donald A. McLaughlin, an Australian lawyer in the British colonial service in Fiji who was Treadwell’s predecessor as Legal Adviser. The Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, and Pacific Union College own copies of McLaughlin’s work as do libraries overseas.

¶14 The 2011 and 1972 volumes have tables that list all the laws enacted for Pitcairn since 1952, when the government was put on a new footing. Those tables include ordinances that have been repealed or are no longer effective, such as the Marriage Validation (Pitcairn) Ordinance of 1953, which affirmed the validity of marriages solemnized on the island when a marriage law was not in place. The Law Library Microfilm Consortium has copies of slip ordinances going back to 1968. The University of Hawaii and the New York Public Library have paper copies of some ordinances. Pacific Union College also has slip copies of many of them. Recent ordinances appear on the Pitcairn government’s web site. There is no compilation of the session laws.

Pre-1952 Laws

¶15 In 1941, the Western Pacific High Commissioner enacted a code of laws. The text was printed in the Western Pacific High Commission Gazette and issued as a booklet by the Fiji government’s official printer. The 1941 laws were drafted by Henry Evans “Harry” Maude, a colonial service officer who went on to become a distinguished historian of the Pacific. Maude consulted with the islanders in the drafting, and every adult Pitcairner signed the resulting code. Maude’s starting point in drafting was a code proposed by James Scott Neill, a lawyer and colonial officer in Tonga who visited Pitcairn in 1936.

35. Dupont, supra note 2, at 1207. The film number is LLMC 97-495. As of April 2014, the Consortium has not digitized this film as part of its online collection.
36. Dupont, supra note 2, at 1207.
39. The original copy of the laws, signed by the islanders, is in H.E. Maude’s papers and reprinted in the Privy Council Record, described at the text accompanying infra note 46.
¶16 The previous code was written in 1904 by R.T. Simons, the British consul at Tahiti and the Deputy Western Pacific High Commissioner overseeing Pitcairn.\(^{41}\) That code replaced one written in 1893 by Captain Eustace Rooke of H.M.S. Champion. Neither of these codes was officially published in any source I have been able to locate. But both were transcribed from the originals in Pitcairn’s official register by the American ethnologist Harry L. Shapiro and published in his 1936 study of Pitcairn.\(^{42}\)

¶17 The previous code, as it existed in 1884, was transcribed by a visiting naval officer and published in a command paper.\(^{43}\) A transcription of the laws as they stood in 1878 was made by Algernon F.R. de Horsey, the commander-in-chief of the Royal Navy’s Pacific Station, and published in a report issued by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office.\(^{44}\)

¶18 Royal Navy officers were the source of most Pitcairn laws in the nineteenth century. Admiral Fairfax Moresby in 1853 proposed amendments to the laws, which the islanders accepted. Those were amendments to the code that Captain Russell Elliott of H.M.S. Fly had drafted in 1838. Neither was officially published. Elliott’s laws were printed in a mid-nineteenth century book by Walter Brodie, an American who was stranded on the island and was able to copy the original during his stay.\(^{45}\) Both Elliott and Moresby’s laws are in the Privy Council Record, an online collection of documents containing legal documents and “a variety of 19th and 20th century accounts of visits to Pitcairn by various persons, correspondence and other relevant historical documentation.”\(^{46}\) Maude called Elliott’s code Pitcairn’s first constitution.\(^{47}\)

Official Gazette

¶19 The Pitcairn government does not have an official gazette or a systematic publication of official documents. The island does have a monthly newsletter, the Pitcairn Miscellany, mainly circulated to overseas supporters of the island.\(^{48}\) It publishes the fact that new laws have been promulgated but does not publish their texts.\(^{49}\) Pacific Union College has a collection of the Miscellany. The Western Pacific High Commission Gazette once published notices related to Pitcairn.\(^{50}\) While some

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43. U.K. Colonial Office, Correspondence Relating to the Condition of the Pitcairn Islanders, 1899, [C. (2d series) 9148], in 59 P.P. (1899) 563.


45. See Walter Brodie, Pitcairn’s Island and the Islanders in 1850, at 84–91 (3d ed. 1851).


49. E.g., 25 Pitcairn Miscellany, Nov. 1983, at 4 (Pitcairn Is.).

50. E.g., Closed Districts (Pitcairn Group) Regulation No. 3 of 1938 (W. Pac. High Comm’n), brought into force by W. Pac. High Comm’n Proclamation No. 5 of 1938, 1938 W. Pac. High Comm’n Gazette 44. See also Dupont, supra note 2, at 1186 (stating that the High Commission Gazette was published from 1914 to 1967).
libraries, such as those at the Ohio State University and the University of Iowa, own issues of the *Gazette* after it resumed publication following World War II, the libraries at the University of Hawaii and Harvard appear to be the only American ones owning full runs of the *Gazette* from its inception in 1914. I have not been able to examine the pre-war issues of the *Gazette* and their indexes to discover what else related to Pitcairn lies in those pages.

**Case Law**

¶20 The Pitcairn judiciary consists of the Magistrate’s Court, the Lands Court, the Supreme Court (the general jurisdiction trial court), and the Court of Appeal.\(^51\) New Zealand judges serve in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal and a Pitcairner is the Island Magistrate. A final appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London is possible. Because of questions about the validity of the appointments of the judges of the Court of Appeal, a further order-in-council confirming the appointments was issued in 2012.\(^52\)

¶21 There are only six published decisions relating to Pitcairn, and all arise out of the 2004 prosecutions. An attempt to stop the trials from taking place was rejected by the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Privy Council.\(^53\) All the defendants were convicted, and those convictions were affirmed by the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council.\(^54\) An eighty-page decision on human rights and constitutional questions in a new, unrelated prosecution was handed down in October 2012 and affirmed in April 2013.\(^55\)

**International Agreements**

¶22 A handful of international agreements specifically concern Pitcairn. France and Britain have delineated their maritime boundaries between French Polynesia and Pitcairn.\(^56\) In 2002, Britain and New Zealand concluded a treaty to allow the

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51. Pitcairn Is. Const. art. 43(1) (creating Court of Appeal and Supreme Court); Judicature (Courts) Ordinance, sec. 2 (Pitcairn Is.) (creating Magistrate’s Court), codified in Laws of Pitcairn, supra note 16, ch. 2; Lands Court Ordinance, sec. 3 (Pitcairn Is.) (creating Lands Court), codified in Laws of Pitcairn, supra note 16, ch. 15.


Pitcairn courts to sit in New Zealand, necessitating legislation in New Zealand to become effective.

**Secondary Sources**

[23] This section discusses secondary sources: official accounts of the island, general law review articles, legal histories, material on the 2004 trials, the United Nations, and libraries and archives holding material.

**Officials’ Published Accounts**

[24] Several accounts by visiting naval officers and public officials were published in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. David Scott, the first governor of Pitcairn to visit the island, includes several pages about his 1973 trip to Pitcairn in his memoir. James Scott Neill also discussed his time on Pitcairn in 1936 in his memoir.

[25] Neill’s official report, along with that of Dr. Duncan Cook—who was assigned to review the medical condition of the population—was issued by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. So were the reports by Henry Guy Pilling, assistant to the High Commissioner, who visited for six hours in 1929, and High Commissioner Cedric Rodwell, who visited for seven hours in 1921. R.T. Simons’s scathing account of the islanders was laid before Parliament after his 1904 visit.

[26] In the nineteenth century, several collections of official letters were laid before Parliament. Some were general reports, and others concerned the relocation of the Pitcairn population to Norfolk Island in 1857. Two reports by visiting naval...
officers were printed—those of Captain Bouverie Clark of H.M.S. *Sappho*, who visited in 1882, and that of Admiral de Horsey, who visited in 1878.65

**Legal Histories**

¶ 27 A short account is in Jerry Dupont’s bibliography, *The Common Law Abroad*.66 Another is in Kenneth O. Roberts-Wray’s magisterial 1966 work on British colonial law.67 Roberts-Wray, a Colonial Office lawyer, was fascinated by the island and had H.E. Maude review the Pitcairn portion of the book before publication. The successor to Roberts-Wray is 2011’s *British Overseas Territories Law*, written by two Foreign and Commonwealth Office lawyers; it has a chapter on Pitcairn and each of the remaining British colonies.68

¶ 28 Donald A. McLoughlin, who served as legal adviser to the governor of Pitcairn, published a two-part legal history in *Transactions and Proceedings of the Fiji Society*, which appeared in 1969 and 1971.69 A version of these articles was included as a preface to the 1974 official edition of Pitcairn laws.70 The Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College posts the unpaginated text on its web site.71 McLoughlin’s account was strengthened by his access to papers in the official archives in Fiji (more on that below). Andrew Lewis, a professor of comparative legal history at University College London, wrote a chapter on the legal history in a recent book on Pitcairn.72 I wrote two articles that expanded on the story and brought it to the present.73

¶ 29 A few older works have brief accounts of Pitcairn. The book *South Pacific Islands Legal Systems* is a survey of the laws of the titular jurisdictions. Its Pitcairn chapter is obsolete, considering the vast changes in Pitcairn law since the book was

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66. **Dupont**, *supra* note 2, at 1205.
published in 1993. Dupont’s book lists a number of nineteenth century surveys of world law that briefly mention Pitcairn, but none of them are particularly helpful.

Law Reviews

Prior to my own articles, there were only two American law review articles on Pitcairn. Dan T. Coenen of the University of Georgia Law School reflected on the enactment of the American constitution with events on Pitcairn. Joseph Bockrath of the Louisiana State University Law Center looked at the islands of Pitcairn and Tristan da Cunha by comparing them to fictional islands such as that in William Golding’s Lord of the Flies. And Curtis E. Pew, now a professor at Hofstra University, wrote an article on the mutiny.

Material on the 2004 Cases

The bulk of writing on Pitcairn laws and courts concerns the 2004 trials. Two books discuss those trials. An excellent popular account was written by British journalist Kathy Marks, who was on Pitcairn to cover the trials for London’s Independent. Besides her book and newspaper articles, Marks recently published an article questioning why nobody stopped the attacks. The other was a collection of academic papers published by the Oxford University Press. That volume has been reviewed in Scots, Kiwi, American, and English law reviews.

Law professors in New Zealand and Britain have written a number of articles on the trials. The first appeared when the charges were laid and discussed

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75. DUPONT, supra note 2, at 1206.
the new court system, how the men could be tried, and the issues of human rights laws.\textsuperscript{83} Anthony Angelo, a law professor at Victoria University of Wellington, is the dean of South Pacific legal studies. He wrote several articles on the Pitcairn trials. The first, written with Andrew Townend, suggested that restorative justice was a better solution than criminal prosecutions.\textsuperscript{84} Angelo and Fran Wright—now with Australia’s University of New England—looked forward in 2004 to the trials and what they would mean for the island’s future.\textsuperscript{85} Angelo and Wright then examined a 2003 ordinance enacted by the governor of Pitcairn to remove the mayor of the island, one of the men charged, and argued it was an illegal bill of attainder.\textsuperscript{86} They followed up on the trials and appeals with articles in 2005 and 2006.\textsuperscript{87}

\textsuperscript{83} After the convictions were upheld by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in July 2006, Wright analyzed that decision.\textsuperscript{88} She also examined the due process problems posed by the trials.\textsuperscript{89} So did Stephen George, a law professor at University College London.\textsuperscript{90} Helen Power, of the law school at Wales’s University of Glamorgan, looked at publication of the law the men were convicted of violating and their knowledge of the wrongness of their acts.\textsuperscript{91} In its law review, University College London published a series of articles that focused on the promulgation of British law on the island, what the law is on Pitcairn, the legality of the British administration of Pitcairn, and the rule of law and Pitcairn.\textsuperscript{92} A few pages of an article by Margaret Briggs of the University of Otago addressed the last topic.\textsuperscript{93} Denise Lum examined the prosecutions in light of “cultural practices.”\textsuperscript{94}

\textsuperscript{84} Sue Farran of the University of Dundee has written four articles. The first focused on the due process issues of the trials.\textsuperscript{95} The second looked at how the courts addressed a challenge to Britain’s sovereignty over the island that was asserted during the trials.\textsuperscript{96} The third evaluated the establishment of the Pitcairn

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{93} Margaret Briggs, \textit{Relocating Officially Induced Error: Fitting the Remedy to the Wrong}, 38 COMMON L. WORLD REV. 1, 19–21 (2009).
judiciary in light of European human rights law. And the last further explored the nature of British dominion over Pitcairn and compared it to the court decisions over the Crown’s exile of the native population of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

United Nations

¶35 Because of its status as a non-self-governing territory, Pitcairn is monitored by the United Nations. This is generally done through the General Assembly’s Decolonization Committee, which issues an annual report on the island, usually in the first quarter of the year. The report is followed by a resolution in the General Assembly. These documents dating back about twenty years can be found on the U.N.’s documents web site. In the 1970s, the United Nations pushed for the independence of the island, a topic addressed in an excellent law review article by Robert E. Gorelick. Details on the Decolonization Committee’s interest in Pitcairn can be found in its reports to the General Assembly.

103. E.g., Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, at 101–04, 112,
examination of Pitcairn’s international status was made by Maria Amaomo of the University of Otago, who lived on Pitcairn for two years.104

Libraries and Archives

¶36 The largest collection of materials on Pitcairn is in Napa County, California, at the Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College in Angwin.105 Pacific Union is a Seventh-Day Adventist school. The Pitcairners converted to the Adventist faith in the 1880s, and the church has strong ties to the island. The college’s holdings include the collection of attorney and author David Silverman.106

¶37 The papers of the Western Pacific High Commission are now at the University of Auckland.107 They originally were in the Western Pacific Archives in Suva, Fiji, but in 1978 the British government closed the archives and removed the papers to England; they returned to the region in 2007.108 Searching the “Manuscripts and Archives” catalog of the University of Auckland’s library for “WPHC” will produce PDFs of the typescript inventories.109 Record Groups 23 and 25 contain the primary collections of Pitcairn material.

¶38 The British National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) at Kew Gardens, London, contains a great deal of material on Pitcairn and has a comprehensive online catalog.110 Most records are found in the record groups for the Colonial Office (department code CO), Foreign Office (FO), and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). For example, class CO 84, which refers to legislation of Fiji, also contains material on the laws of Pitcairn.
¶39 The papers of H.E. Maude contain material on Pitcairn and many other Pacific islands.\textsuperscript{111} They are at the University of Adelaide Library in South Australia, which has indexes online.\textsuperscript{112}

¶40 Documents from the Western Pacific Archives, the British National Archives at Kew Gardens, and other collections were presented to the courts during the 2004 trials, “the whole history of the government of the island since it was occupied in 1790 having been investigated” by the police and lawyers.\textsuperscript{113} An electronic copy of the record was given to me by Professor Stephen Guest. I deposited copies, minus certain information identifying the rape victims, in the Pitcairn Islands Study Center; the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan; and the Pacific Collection of the Thomas Hale Hamilton Library of the University of Hawaii, which has placed the collection on the Internet on its “eVols” system under the title “Privy Council Record.”\textsuperscript{114} The library at Lincoln’s Inn in London has a hard copy of this document.

For Future Pacific Research

¶41 The legal systems of Pacific Islands often still rely on colonial laws.\textsuperscript{115} There are several general bibliographies on the Pacific that are useful as a place to begin research.\textsuperscript{116} Jennifer Corrin and Don Paterson’s survey of Pacific law is an excellent starting point.\textsuperscript{117} Jacqueline D. Elliott, librarian for the High Court of Australia (now retired), compiled a monumental legal bibliography of Pacific jurisdictions.\textsuperscript{118}

¶42 Among the small Pacific states, Britain exercised colonial power over Fiji, Kiribati (the former Gilbert Islands), Nauru, Tuvalu (the former Ellice Islands), the Solomon Islands, and—in a condominium with France—Vanuatu (the former New Hebrides Islands). Thus their histories overlap Pitcairn’s. Research on these jurisdictions—and those with a British lineage such as New Guinea and Samoa—should start with Jerry Dupont’s legal bibliography \textit{The Common Law Abroad},

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\bibitem{114} eVols, supra note 46.


\bibitem{117} Jennifer Corrin & Don Paterson, \textit{Introduction to South Pacific Law} (2d ed. 2007).


\end{thebibliography}
which is an excellent guide to legal material on all former British jurisdictions and has a chapter on the Western Pacific High Commission.119 Researchers of those islands will turn to some of the same sources and archives cited previously.120 Other archives worth exploring are the Australian Archives in Canberra121 and the New Zealand Archives.122 The microfilms of the Australian Joint Copying Project, which copied documents in British archives about Australia and the Pacific Islands, should also be consulted.123 The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau at the Australian National University has filmed and made available many documents.124 Because the Royal Navy acted as a Pacific policeman, its records should be examined.125 The University of Hawaii holds a huge trove of Pacific material, including the archives of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific, which was administered by the United States under the auspices of the United Nations.126

¶43 The Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute, run by the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, has a good collection of constitutions, laws, and cases on all Pacific jurisdictions.127 The school’s library has also scanned a number of the British legal instruments that governed the Pacific and placed them online.128 They also operate the Pacific Law Journal Index, which is a searchable bibliography of Pacific legal topics.129

119. DUPONT, supra note 2, at 1181–87.
¶44 The East-West Center in Honolulu monitors news throughout the Pacific, and its online Pacific Islands Report has a deep archive of stories. Examination of the Journal of Pacific History—particularly its annual bibliographies of Pacific publications—and Pacific Islands Monthly—which ceased publication in 2000—will prove profitable for nearly all research projects. So will examination of the collections of resources digitized by the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand, which include decades of newspaper articles.

Conclusion

¶45 Pitcairn has an unusually well-documented past for the Pacific. This article is intended to give researchers of Pitcairn a start and suggest areas for further exploration. The collections in Napa, Canberra, Auckland, Honolulu, and London are all promising and need to be closely examined. Collections of Seventh-Day Adventist sources may also prove fruitful for researching Pitcairn. A thorough examination of the Western Pacific High Commission Gazette also needs to be made. I hope future explorers profit from my map of the known world and someday fill in the blank spots on the charts.

132. See, e.g., Dennis Steley, A Note on Seventh-Day Adventist Sources for the Pacific, 23 J. PAC. HIST. 102 (1988).