



CHARLOTTE GRAY

# MURDERED MIDAS

A MILLIONAIRE, HIS GOLD MINE,  
AND A STRANGE DEATH ON  
AN ISLAND PARADISE



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Photograph on p. 1: Tough-Oakes Mine, MUSEUM OF NORTHERN HISTORY.  
Photograph on p. 77: British Colonial Hotel, Nassau, ALAMY. Photograph on  
p. 165: Supreme Court Building, Nassau, THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

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## TIMELINE



- 1874 Harry Oakes is born in Sangerville, Maine
- 1890s Oakes attends Foxcroft Academy, and then Bowdoin College, in Maine
- 1897 News of a huge gold strike in northern Canada reaches the Eastern Seaboard; Oakes joins the Klondike gold rush
- 1902 Construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway (T&NO) begins, opening up Northern Ontario
- 1903 Huge veins of silver are discovered at T&NO Mile 103, triggering the Cobalt silver rush
- 1908 Cobalt produces 9 percent of the world's silver
- 1909 Massive gold strike at Porcupine Lake jump-starts a new gold rush
- 1911 Oakes arrives in Swastika, Ontario
- 1912 Oakes, the Tough brothers, and Bill Wright stake claims around Kirkland Lake
- 1914 Oakes fails to sell stock in Lake Shore Mines Ltd.
- 1916 Oakes strikes the richest vein of gold ore ever seen in Canada and finds American investors
- 1918 Lake Shore Mines pays its first dividend
- 1923 Oakes marries Eunice McIntyre
- 1924 Nancy Oakes is born
- 1924 Oakes buys the Schoellkopf mansion in Niagara Falls, remodels it, and renames it Oak Hall
- 1927 Sydney Oakes is born

- 1929 Shirley Lewis Oakes is born
- 1930 William Pitt Oakes is born
- 1932 Harry Phillip Oakes is born
- 1934 Canadian government imposes a new tax on gold, as well as a reduction in the depletion allowance on gold stock earnings
- 1934 Oakes moves out of Canada and settles in the Bahamas
- 1934 Lake Shore gold output peaks
- 1935 Death of Gertrude Oakes at sea
- 1938 Prime Minister King visits Nassau and deplors its moral and political corruption
- 1939 Harry Oakes receives a baronetcy from King George VI for “public and philanthropic service”
- 1940 Duke of Windsor arrives in the Bahamas as governor of the colony
- 1942 Rage over inadequate wages sparks the Burma Road Riot in Nassau
- 1942 Nancy Oakes marries Alfred de Marigny, two days after her eighteenth birthday
- 1943 Sir Harry Oakes is battered to death. De Marigny is tried on a charge of murder and is acquitted, but is deported from the Bahamas
- 1947 UK Colonial Office decides not to reopen its investigation, although an internal report concludes that de Marigny is probably guilty
- 1959 Geoffrey Bocca publishes the first book on the case: *The Life and Death of Sir Harry Oakes*
- 1964 Harold Christie is knighted for services to the Bahamas
- 1964 The Bahamas achieve self-government
- 1972 Duke of Windsor dies in Paris
- 1973 The Bahamas achieve full independence within the Commonwealth
- 1973 Sir Harold Christie dies in Germany
- 1981 Lady Oakes dies in Nassau

## CAST OF CHARACTERS



SIR HARRY OAKES, owner of Lake Shore Mines and multimillionaire

EUNICE MYRTLE, Lady Oakes, née McIntyre

NANCY OAKES, Sir Harry's eldest child and third wife of Alfred de Marigny

SYDNEY OAKES, heir to the Oakes baronetcy

SHIRLEY LEWIS OAKES

WILLIAM PITT OAKES

HARRY PHILLIP OAKES

COUNT MARIE ALFRED FOUQUEREAUX DE MARIGNY, husband of Nancy Oakes

RUTH FAHNESTOCK, de Marigny's second wife

GEORGES DE VISDELOU-GUIMBEAU, de Marigny's cousin and best friend

### MAINE

WILLIAM AND EDITH OAKES, Harry's parents

LOUIS OAKES, Harry's elder brother

GERTRUDE, JESSIE, AND MYRTICE OAKES, Harry's sisters

JOHN CLAIR MINOT, Harry's classmate at Bowdoin College

GEORGE BABSON, husband of Jessie Oakes

DR. EUGENE WHITTREDGE, Dover-Foxcroft dentist

### KIRKLAND LAKE

WILLIAM (BILL) WRIGHT, British butcher turned prospector

JIMMY DOIG, owner of the Swastika general store

TOM, GEORGE, BOB, AND JACK TOUGH, railway workers turned prospectors

ROZA BROWN, early resident of Kirkland Lake and friend of Harry Oakes

ERNE MARTIN, Harry Oakes's first employee

CHARLIE CHOW, hotel owner

JAMES MCRAE, Canadian prospector and editor of the *Northern Miner*

ARNOLD HOFFMAN, American prospector and author

ALBERT WENDE, manager of the Wright-Hargreaves mine

DAVID FREEMAN-MITFORD, BARON REDESDALE, British landowner and prospector

JOSEPH BURR TYRRELL, geologist, dinosaur bone discoverer, and mining investor

## **FLORIDA**

WALTER FOSKETT, lawyer

## **LONDON**

SIR JOSEPH DUVEEN, British art dealer

LORD LUKE OF PAVENHAM, the "Bovril King" and fundraiser for London hospitals

SIR JOSEPH BALL, former MI5 officer and Conservative Party operator

GEORGE, DUKE OF KENT, younger brother of Edward VIII and Nazi sympathizer

## **NASSAU**

HAROLD CHRISTIE, founder of H. G. Christie Real Estate, Nassau

FRANK CHRISTIE, Harold's brother

AXEL WENNER-GREN, Swedish industrialist, multimillionaire, and Nazi sympathizer

ROSITA FORBES, British travel writer

DUKE OF WINDSOR, governor of the Bahamas (1940-45), and the DUCHESS OF WINDSOR

LESLIE HEAPE, colonial secretary of the Bahamas (1940-43) and acting governor during the governor's absence

SIR WILLIAM MURPHY, governor of the Bahamas (1945-50)

**SIR HARRY'S DINNER GUESTS**

CHARLES HUBBARD, retired Woolworth executive

MRS. DULCIBEL "EFFIE" HENNEAGE, wife of a British Army Officer

**DE MARIGNY'S DINNER GUESTS**

ALFRED CERETTA, American engineer

DOROTHY CLARKE, wife of a Royal Air Force officer

JEAN AINSLIE, wife of a Royal Air Force officer

BETTY ROBERTS, girlfriend of Georges de Visdelou-Guimbeau

**BAHAMAS POLICE AND PROMINENT RESIDENTS**

COLONEL R. A. ERSKINE-LINDOP, commissioner of the Bahamas Police Force

MAJOR HERBERT PEMBERTON, deputy commissioner of the Bahamas Police Force

LIEUTENANT JOHN DOUGLAS, Bahamas Police Force

CAPTAIN EDWARD SEARS, Bahamas Police Force

NEWELL KELLY, Oakes's business manager

MADELINE GALE KELLY, American singer, wife of Newell Kelly

DR. HUGH QUACKENBUSH, local physician

DR. LAWRENCE FITZMAURICE, acting chief medical officer of the Bahamas

DR. ULRICH ERNST OBERWARTH, medical officer at Nassau jail

ÉTIENNE DUPUCH, owner and editor of *Nassau Daily Tribune*

EUGENE DUPUCH, *Nassau Daily Tribune* reporter and Étienne's son

**AMERICAN POLICE AND EXPERTS**

CAPTAIN EDWARD MELCHEN, chief of the homicide bureau, Miami Police Department

CAPTAIN JAMES BARKER, Supervisor of the Laboratories of the Miami Police Department

FRANK CONWAY, retired fingerprint expert, New York Police Department

CAPTAIN MAURICE O'NEIL, supervisor of the New Orleans Police Department's Bureau of Identification

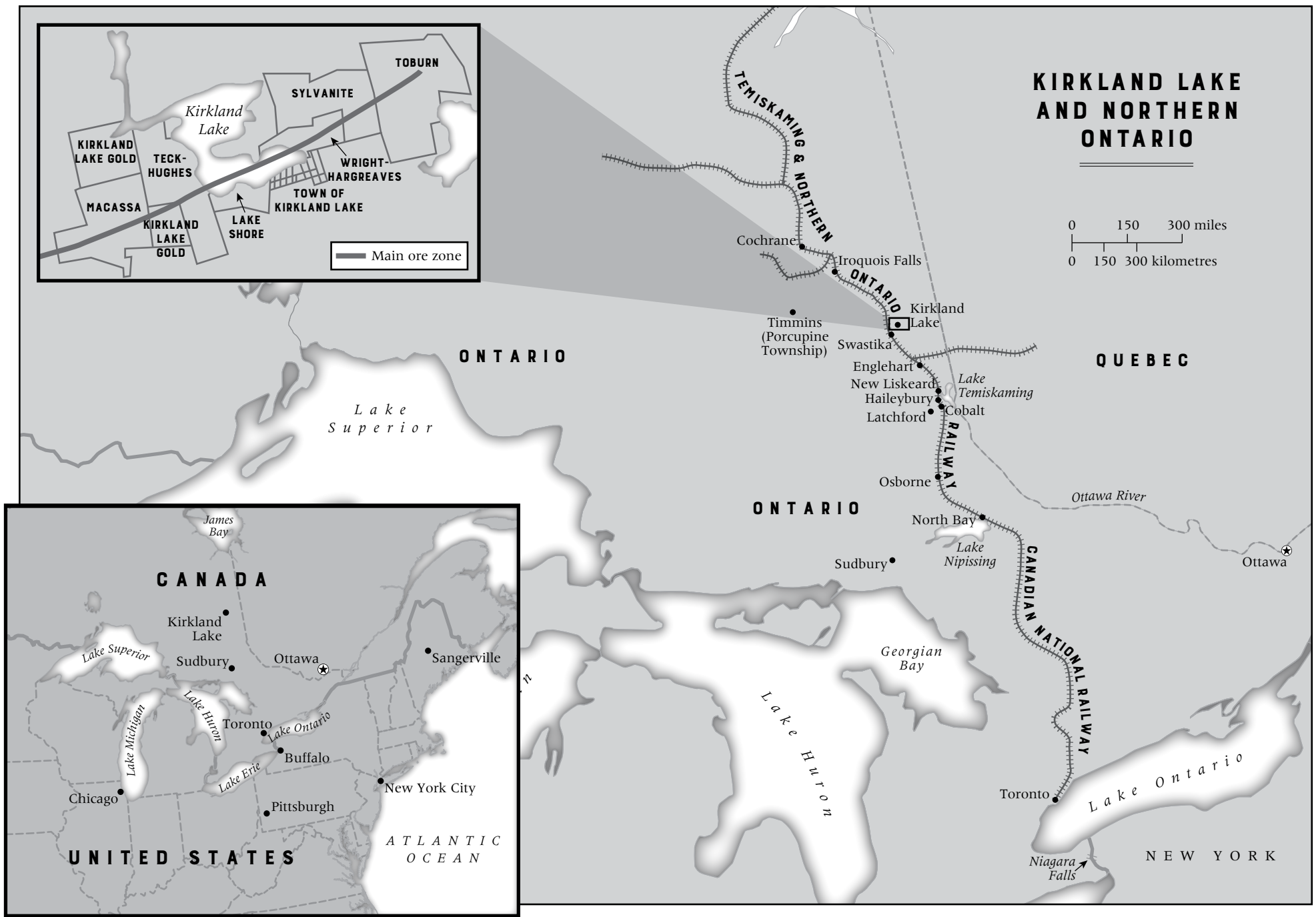
**COURT OFFICIALS**

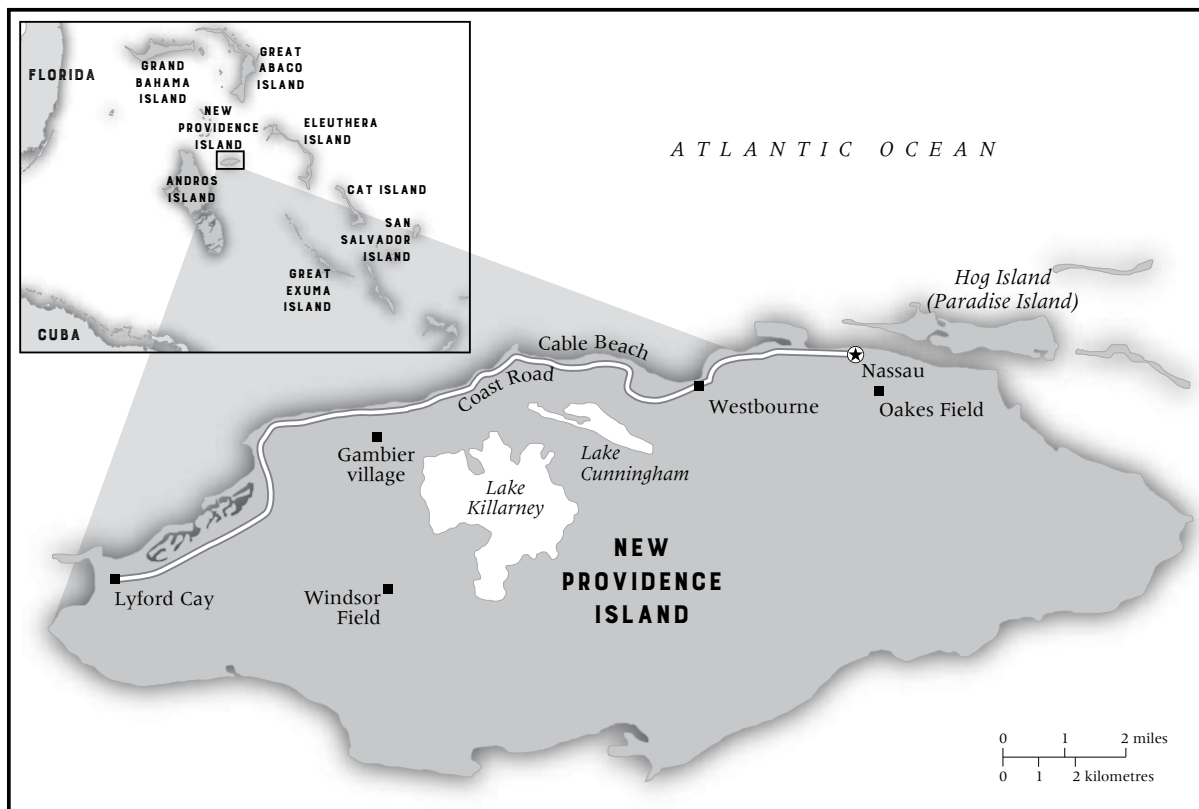
SIR OSCAR BEDFORD DALY, Chief Justice of the Bahamas  
THE HONOURABLE ERIC HALLINAN, Attorney General  
THE HONOURABLE ALFRED ADDERLY, junior lawyer for the prosecution  
THE HONOURABLE GODFREY HIGGS, lawyer for the defence  
ERNEST CALLENDER, junior lawyer for the defence  
JAMES SANDS, foreman of the jury

**WITNESSES AND REPORTERS**

RAYMOND C. SCHINDLER, private detective  
ERLE STANLEY GARDNER, reporter for the Hearst newspaper chain and  
creator of Perry Mason  
RUTH REYNOLDS, reporter for the *New York Sunday News*  
PROFESSOR LEONARDE KEELER, inventor of a lie-detector apparatus







# THE BAHAMAS

# THE MURDER SCENE AT WESTBOURNE

