Definitions starting with B

Bahamas

[see the usage note] n. the Bahama Islands (considered to lie outside the West Indies by most Bahamians): 1976 The way of life in America, the West Indies, and the Bahamas (Eneas 24).

◊ The most likely source is "Spanish ... baja mar, shallow sea" (Albury 1975:1). Bethel (1978:1) to the contrary, there is no Lucayan source Buhama in Craton 1962:39, who in fact traces the name to that given by the Spanish in Ponce de Leon's 1513 voyage (p. 43). The earliest English uses include Bohomo Islands on a 1661 document (Miller 1945:43). Current Spanish has both las Lucayas and Bahamas (Alvarez Nazario 1977:18). cf. LUCAYA(s)

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