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The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

Connections



“A forum for family researchers in Barbados and the diaspora to stay connected through news, articles, tips and tricks.”

BGG Objectives

- Encourage and promote family research.
- Foster communication, cooperation, mentorship.
- Educational talks, discussions and workshops.
- Share resources.
- Develop presentation skills.
- Advocacy in family research.
- Provide encouragement and support to young people in researching their family history.

New Executive of BGG 2019

NAME	ROLE
Harriet Pierce	Facilitator
Dr. Patricia Stafford	Deputy Facilitator
Vacant	Secretary
Nicholas Mayers	Information Officer & Editor
Angela Skeete	Education Officer
Lynda Lewis	Floor Member
Betty St John	Floor Member

OPEN SESSION

November 2018



November 2018 Group Meeting

Mission Statement

“To inspire and encourage Barbadian-related family history research and to foster the development of individual and shared identities.”



GROUP MEETING

**MARCH 21ST— DR. NANCY JACOBS
“USING A WILL AS A RESEARCH TOOL”**



CLUSTER / COLLATERAL / FAN RESEARCH - to find Ancestors

By Lynda Lewis

Whatever name you use, the technique is the same for finding that elusive ancestor or breaking through the 'wall'. This technique tracks down ancestors laterally through the people they interacted with regularly. The first thing to do is to take a step back and take a different approach.

Gather all of the information you can on your ancestor. Then you 'Fan Out' in the people you research. You research anyone you know who might have been associated with them – siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, other lines, people who lived in nearby areas or may have been in same military service or attended school with them. People did not live in a vacuum, they went to school, church, work, parties etc.

Perhaps in researching these people you may find mention of your ancestor. They may have married a sibling or witnessed a will etc. This research may reveal

patterns e.g. same names, physical traits, occupations and even military service. Often ancestors travelled and migrated together or settled in the same areas as previous family members. Remember that 'Uncle' or 'Aunt' may not be blood related. Research the communities in which ancestors lived. Investigate neighbours and business owners.

This technique can help you: go back another generation; know more about an ancestor's family; solve mysteries of kinship & identity; find a migration pattern or track lost family; confirm which ancestor of the same name a records belongs to.

Cluster / Collateral / Fan Research will test your logic and genealogical skills to the fullest, but often yields clues to follow or actual results. Your detective and historical skills can yield amazing finds. Be patient, enjoy and good luck on your journey.

USING GOOGLE FOR GENEALOGY SEARCHES

- Although Google searches many countries, the Google search engine tends to run searches in your country. E.g. google.com is USA. It is best to use the Google search in the country that may contain the ancestral record. If you are in USA but wish to search UK – type in Google UK and use the UK Google website address for the search.
- Use the 'Advanced Search' page for best results.
- Use Genealogy Search Engine for online historical newspaper archives. Genealogyintime.com
- Google Books – millions of historic books.
- Google Maps – for an address.
- Google Images
- Google News – for current news.
- In Advanced Search
 - ◇ When searching for names use the field 'exact word or phrase'. Try spelling variations, also variations like John Smith; Smith John. Search with and without middle names.
 - ◇ Use 'numbers ranging from' for date ranges.
 - ◇ To narrow your search to specific town, country, state, use 'any of these words'
 - ◇ To exclude certain records from coming up enter the area / name in 'none of these records'.

Google can be a useful tool to aid in your family tree research. Many articles are available online to assist you in using Google and other sites.

Happy Searching.

AFRICAN SLAVE CHANT / SLAVE SONG— from Barbados

Shared by Roger Gibbs

Hi Lynda,

By all means share. The song was first brought to attention by Prof. Jerome Handler back in the 70s. It's surprising to me the Barbadian public is not better acquainted with the work and its significance. Hopefully the UNESCO designation will help change this.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/full-list-of-registered-heritage/registered-heritage-page-1/>

In November, 2017 UNESCO's Memory of the World - a repository of globally significant documents and artifacts - added this rare handwritten manuscript to its register. It is the oldest known song sung in English in the New World by enslaved Africans. It was from Barbados in the mid-1770s. It was documented by Dr. William Dickson, then Secretary to the Governor Edward Hay. On his return to England he had his friend and musician Granville Sharp, a prominent abolitionist, write down the music. It became part of the wealthy Lloyd-Baker family papers through the marriage of Sharp's niece. This priceless Barbadian artifact sits in the Gloucestershire Archives, U.K. under an agreement with the Lloyd-Baker family estate. If you wish to hear what it sounds like go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdFrNPY1lw>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/news/international-recognition-for-a-gem-in-our-collections-1/>

by G. S.
An African Song or Chant, - taken down in Notes from the information of Dr. Wm Dickson, who lived several years in the West Indies, & was Secretary to a Governor of Barbadoes. A Single Negro (while at Work with the rest of the Gang) leads the Song, and the others join in Chorus at the end of every verse. (Generally in a minor key - suppose E, with minor 3^d.)

Massa buy me he won't kill a me Oh - Massa buy me he won't kill a me Oh Massa
buy me he won't kill a me Oh for he kill me he ship me regulaw
Chorus of Labouring Negroes as they proceed in their work
a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a
NB a is sounded by them like the french ai or English a

For I live with a bad man oh la - for I live with a bad man Obudda^x - Uo
For I live with a bad man oh la - for I would go to the River side Regulaw[⊕]
Chorus a a a a a a a a O U⁻

Notes
+ For is an abbreviation of Before, meaning - Before I would live, or rather than live for
x Obudda signifies destruction; from the Hebrew. a bad (he destroyed) & a badon (a name of the Devil in Holy scripture) the Destroyer, & from thence the English word bad
⊕ - Regulaw - seems to mean - to be sold, or merchandise, and may be derived from the Hebrew word recal (רעל) - which is a Merchant, or Merchandise

Powers of Attorney are often neglected in ancestral searches, possibly because the most common powers relate to the protection of property by a third party in the absence of the owner. If you are fortunate to descend from the property owning classes and tracing connections abroad, a power such as this, written by Thomas Alleyne in 1782 would give a useful clue,

RB7/43/40 1782. Thomas Alleyne of Braintree in the county of Suffolk in the Massachusetts appoints Sir John Gay Alleyne and Thomas Abel Alleyne, to "recover any sums of money goods wares or merchandize stock produce or effects whatsoever...."

Equally if your ancestor was a merchant, a power such as this by William Williams written 14 April 1808, may not only give clues as to what he may have been trading, but also about family connections and the sort of property he owned,

RB7/52/67. I William Williams of the parish of St Michael...merchant, appoint in my place and stead...my wife Lydia Williams and my friends ... all of the island, esquires... to take care of my sugar works plantation and all my land, slaves and hereditaments and all my property in this island and to employ Managers, Overseers and other Servants and to remove them... to sell and dispose of in this island and to ship off ... any part of the sugar and rum or other the crops and produce of my plantation...

A third type of power can be a virtual job description,

"John Sober of the parish of St Peter,... being about to depart the Island ...authorize and appoint in my place and stead the Honorable Sir John Gay Alleyne Bart of the parish of St Peter William Bishop of the parish of St

Lucy and Mr Michael Nihell ... and also to take possession cultivate manure use occupy and employ all lands slaves and tenements to me belonging... to sell on this island and to ship off and consign to merchants in the city of London or elsewhere ... for sale in foreign parts ... all or part of my sugars rum or other produce of my estate or ship off any refractory or runaway slaves now belonging or which shall anytime belong to me ... And represent my person in Court ... in any suit action or appeal ... to appoint one or more Attorneys under them...

If you are not descended from a wealthy family, it can still be useful to check the powers index RB8. Some years ago I was looking for the woman who wrote the power below. She did not appear in the wills index, the land transfers index or the church records, as she was neither born, married or buried in Barbados,

4 August 1825. RB7/58/60. I Statira Beckles now residing with John Grant Wilton Esquire in the county of Surrey Spinster ... do ... appoint my mother Jane Beckles ... to be my true and lawful attorney ...to ask demand and receive of and from Thomas Craigg ...Wine Merchant all such sum and sums of money that shall justly and lawfully be owed and owing to me from him, and upon non payment thereof the said Thomas Craigg his Executors administrators and Goods for me and in my name to destrain sue arrest imprison implead and prosecute for the same and upon such suit to proceed to judgment & execution ...

We are left wondering whether Statira got her money or did Thomas Craigg land in prison!

Interesting article to read.

<https://thefamilycurator.com/how-to-preserve-and-test-old-letters-for-grandmas-dna/>



The Barbados Museum and Historical Society was established in 1933 by an Act of Parliament. It is housed in historic buildings which were originally used as the military prison of St. Ann's Garrison.

The Shilstone Memorial Library is a research library. It is open Monday to Friday and every 2nd and 4th Saturday 9am – 1pm.

Contact Harriet Pierce, Librarian for further information.

Address: St Ann's Garrison, St Michael, Barbados.

Phone: 1 246 538 0201

Email: library@barbmuse.org.bb



November 2018 Group Meeting

