

in this issue >>>

*About the Genealogy Group
Barbados Family History Project
From Our Collection
Tings Bout Hey
What's in A Name?*



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.

Director's Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome this latest initiative of the Barbados Genealogy Group. The Group was launched in 2014 to provide a vehicle to support and promote family history research in Barbados. Genealogical research, however, has a long tradition here at the BMHS. As early as 1935, a Department of Historical and Genealogical Research was established to formalise the work of Eustace Maxwell Shilstone. Until his death in 1969, Shilstone interrogated the local records and provided many clients with information on their Barbadian ancestors.

public, I encourage you to take full advantage of the Group's activities, and always bear in mind that every family has a history that deserves to be researched, documented and shared. Only by knowing ourselves, can we know and understand others.

The Barbados Genealogy Group, through its programmes of public education and information, has built upon the foundation laid by Shilstone. The Group aims to empower and encourage all Barbadians to delve into their own family histories. Such an exercise, not only provides the groundings that locates a family within the tapestry of Barbadian society, but contributes a microcosmic view to what we know as Barbadian history.



Alissandra Cummins

Director, Barbados Museum

I therefore wish to congratulate the Group and admonish it to continue to carry forth Shilstone's legacy. To the



About the Genealogy Group

“A meeting place for family researchers to share ideas, problems & solutions”

Launched on 20 March 2014, the Barbados Genealogy Group was envisaged as a support mechanism for persons interested in family research irrespective of their level of expertise. The group is a special interest group of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. As such, it reports to the Society’s Council and Management through the Librarian, who acts as facilitator for the Group.

The activities of the Group are planned and implemented by a planning Committee in consultation with the members of the group and the BMHS.

Membership: Open to the public. However, to fully benefit from Group Membership, persons are encouraged to become members of the BMHS and to complete a skills audit form.

Benefits: Access to Ancestry.com; Networking among family researchers; training and educational opportunities; sharing research and feedback; enhanced historical knowledge through tours, talks, and other activities.

The group meets every other month on alternate Wednesdays or Thursdays at 6pm at the Barbados Museum. Interesting speakers and topics are highlighted.



Members of the Genealogy Group at its launch in 2014.

Mission Statement >>>

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



Members of the Group in discussion.

From our Collection >>>

Shilstone Memorial Library

Did you know that school magazines are a valuable resource for family research? Among other information, you may find the period your ancestor attended or taught at the particular school, academic and extra-curricular activities, as well as achievements realised after leaving the school.

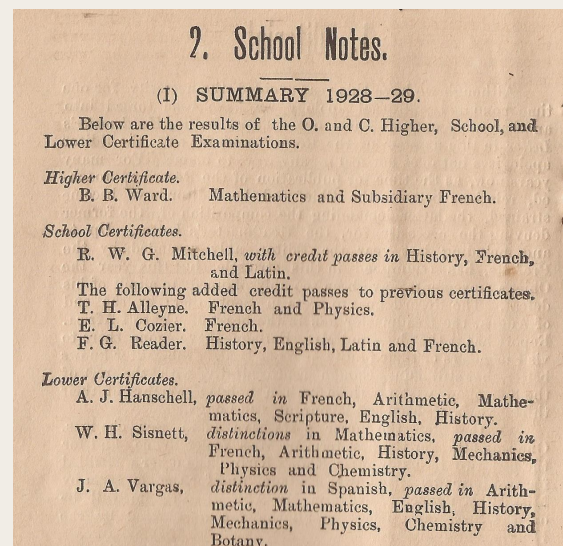
Visit the Shilstone Memorial Library and peruse magazines for the following schools:

- Combermere
- The Lodge School
- Queen’s College
- Harrison College

Did You Know?

There are 7 Rock Halls in Barbados.

Can you place all of them?



The Barbados Family History Project

“Connecting Generations. Connecting Families”



The Barbados Family History Project, which was conceptualised by Martin Cox, is aimed at encouraging Barbadians, both at home and in the diaspora, to research and document their family history. By so doing, they will connect to past generations, identify family linkages and provide the foundation for future generations. The project would tell the story of everyday people who contributed to the building of Barbados, while promoting genealogy as an aspect of heritage tourism.

The idea for such a project originated in the discussions surrounding the activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Barbados’ independence. The project was endorsed by the 50th Anniversary of Independence Coordinating Committee but the launch did not take place in 2016 as was envisaged. Nevertheless, it will be launched in June, which is dedicated to

the celebration of heritage since researching and documenting one’s family history is tantamount to recording and celebrating one’s heritage.

The idea for the project was also influenced by upcoming anniversaries of very important events in Barbados’ history. February 17, 2027 will be the 400th anniversary of the landing of the English at Holetown, St. James on February 17, 1627. August 1, 2034 will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the full emancipation of the enslaved population under the age of six on August 1, 1834. Finally, August 1, 2038 will be the 200th anniversary of the end of the apprenticeship system and the beginning of the full emancipation in Barbados. These events had a profound impact on Barbadian society and family history.

The project is being executed by the Barbados Genealogy Group. The planning committee, chaired by Ms. Harriet Pierce, has overall responsibility for the project, but has established a sub-committee, chaired by Mr. Martin Cox, to coordinate and execute the activities to be undertaken.

The scope of the project includes the planning and execution of the following activities:

- A public awareness campaign across all media.
- Workshops to train and empower persons desirous of researching their family histories.

Family Research 101 >>>

1. Start with what you know and work backwards.
2. Ask questions.
3. Collect family names, dates of birth, marriage and death.
4. Take notes.
5. Meet other family researchers, discuss and share information.
6. Check out Web resources:
www.familysearch.org
www.ancestry.com
www.myheritage.com
7. Visit local libraries and the Archives



Upcoming Activities

Genealogy Group Meetings

6 July - Searching for Ancestors:
Everyone can do this—Leon Dash

20 Sept - To be announced

16 Nov - To be announced

Family History Project

“Let’s Talk”

17 June 4 pm- 6 pm
Barbados Museum

24 June 4 pm- 6 pm
Barbados Museum

1 July 10 am - 5 pm
Barbados Museum

“Workshops”

15 July 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Barbados Museum

16 August 7 pm - 9 pm
Black Rock Cultural Centre

Listen out for more workshops!

What's in a name?

HYNAM by Penelope Hynam

The **HYNAM** family of Barbados has always been puzzled by the fact that they were so few other HYNAMS around the world. Wherever we visited we always eagerly checked the phone books but there were **none**, none in New York, Paris, Toronto, Chicago or Vancouver etc., but lots of **HYMANs** everywhere, an old and very common Jewish family name. It wasn't until my father, Charles A. Hynam checked the London phone book in the 1950's did he discover a whole bunch of Hynams.....including another Charles A. Hynam. It's a long story how they finally got together, but my mother remembers going out into the country by train to meet the family, and was startled to see that the young woman coming to meet them looked exactly like me!

They had the English family tree from the early 1700's up to the 1930's. The name mystery was solved: they were descended from Dutch Huguenots who fled persecution to England. They ascertained that one family's Dutch name of **HEJNAM** was misspelled as **HYNAM** in the migration, and many descendants of that one family flourished and multiplied in England. They also emigrated to the West Indies and Australia, where there are many listings of Hynams, especially in Brisbane. All this from one official who misspelled a Dutch name. Now we know that we are directly linked to the many Hynams around the world, even those in Russia (but that's another story!).



Executive of the BGG >>>

NAME	ROLE
Harriet Pierce	Facilitator
Dr. Patricia Stafford	Deputy Facilitator
Marie-Claire Lyder	Secretary
Lynda Lewis	Information Officer & Editor
Angela Skeete	Education Officer
Francine Bradshaw & Betty St. John	Event Coordinator
Penny Hynam	Floor Member

Tings 'Bout Hey >>>

OUR PARISHES

Kayla and Kevin are back from school. Let us listen in on their conversation with their mother:

Kevin & Kayla: Good evening, Mummy!

Mummy: Good evening. What exciting news do you twins have for me today?

Kevin: Well we learnt that long ago, Barbados had only 6 parishes ...

Kayla: ... that was back in 1629.

Mummy: How did they decide on the names?

Kayla: They were named after the first 6 churches set up by the English settlers

Mummy: Interesting! What were their names?

Kevin: St Lucy, St James, Christ Church, St Michael, St Thomas, St Peter.

Kayla: They created the other 5 later, so now we have 11.

Mummy: Well you teach me something new every day. Now I have something for you. Next time we'll talk about the choice of letters to identify the parishes on vehicle license plates

by Janice Mayers

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