

<i>Useful Slavery Dates</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>
<i>Caribbean Merchant Seamen lost in WWII</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>
<i>Panamanian Cousins</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>I search Essequibo</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>Victoria Family History Conference</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>



The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

# Connections

## Useful Slavery Dates

By Pat Stafford

“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.

### Mission Statement

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

**Slavery.** In 1636 it was proclaimed by the Governor, Henry Hawley, that all Black people and Amerindians brought to Barbados would be enslaved for life unless other arrangements had been made.

**Manumission.** A legal process whereby an enslaved person could be set free. This could be achieved by an agreement to pay a fee between the individual and the slave owner, or by a will or deed of gift. From 1739, because some slave owners were found to be manumitting those who could no longer work and therefore releasing themselves from responsibility for the person's maintenance, a fee of £50 had to be paid to the Parish Vestry so the newly freed person could be paid a pension. Between 1808 and 1816 this fee was increased to £300 for men and £200 for women, but then returned to £50, partly because so many manumissions were enacted during this period in London where no fees were payable. Some manumission records can be found at the Archives.

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade to British Colonies was abolished by an Act of 1807, although slave owners still moved their own slaves and traded enslaved people around the Caribbean.

Slave Registers. From 1817 to 1834, registers were kept of all enslaved people in Barbados. Returns were made in 1817, 1820, 1823, 1826, 1829, 1832 and 1834. These can be found online at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

Emancipation. An Act of 1833 abolished Slavery in the British Colonies from 1 August 1834. Slave owners were compensated for the loss of human “property.” Details of slave owners' compensation can be found online at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>. The newly freed people got nothing except the right to their own bodies. What's more, between 1834 and 1838, they were bound as Apprentice Labourers. This meant that unless under the age of six, they had to give a certain amount of free labour to their former employers, although they were to be paid for working in their free time.

Other Jurisdictions. Slavery was finally abolished in the French Caribbean islands in 1848. (It has been abolished during the revolutionary period but re-instated by Napoleon.) It was completely abolished in the United States in 1865 and in Brazil in 1886.

# Caribbean Merchant Seaman Lost in World War II

by James Baker

The work I do in relation to the Merchant Navy is out of respect for Leonard Hinds (my grandfather).

## The Database

The database I have created lists Caribbean seaman lost as a result of Direct Enemy Action in World War 2. 334 men are listed, 318 have last known address and 178 have next of kin. This information has never been brought together before, even using the records to trace individuals is difficult because the records are badly recorded.

Some detail for researchers. Rolls of honour for war dead are recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWG) and their records are from Government records which show 26,543 British Merchant Navy men dying as a result of Direct Enemy Action in WW2. They did not show figures by nation and therefore previously we could not show how many Caribbean men died. CWG do not show place of birth, therefore many on the new database may not be recorded back home as war dead, and families may never have been told.

The records I have used were not available until 1954 (look on Ancestry for UK Merchant Seaman's Deaths at Sea 1939-1953) and are the first to show place of birth and POW status.

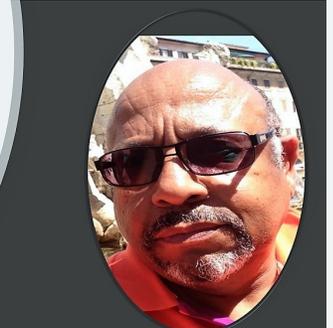
Much has been said about Caribbean men that served in the uniformed services but consider these brief facts:

- Merchant seaman death-rate was 47% in 1941;
- When the ship sank the wages stopped, even if you survived;
- Only those that died as a result of Direct Enemy Action were honoured. Illness, ship board or loading accidents or friendly fire deaths were ignored, unlike the uniformed services.
- More Empire seamen were the subject of forced repatriation after both World Wars than arrived as part of the Windrush generation.
- It is not possible to create a WW1 database because the British Government allegedly destroyed the records.

I hope the database will be useful to researchers and family members, and that Governments will revisit their honours lists.



Leonard Hinds



Jamie Baker

## Jamie Baker Bio

I am the consequence of a Bajan teenager's decision to leave the island, earn money and see the world. Leonard Hinds, my grandfather, was born in 1887 and left the Island at the age of 16 to become a Merchant Seaman. He was to settle in Barry in South Wales and now I am related to 48 local families that have a kinship relationship to him. His son Darwin was the first Black Councillor in Wales in 1958 and his daughter the first Black woman Councillor in 1974. It is because of him that I started to look at the experience of Merchant seaman and that has resulted in me leading 4 Heritage Projects in the UK.

These Projects are all about the men who were civilians, whose lack of a uniform has meant that their place in Britain's survival has meant that they have never received the attention it deserves. I am 'retired' officially but have been a Chief Executive of numerous national and international charities, the first Black Councillor on Southampton City Council and an adviser to the Government, amongst other things. Now I spend my time lifting rocks that history may be uncomfortable about.

Despite the fact that merchant seaman men from the British Empire had a death rate 15% greater than the armed forces in both Wars, there is no official record that shows how many from each country died, they are all recorded as British. Which is why I created the Caribbean database, a database of all Arab men that died on the ships in WW2 and am now finishing a database of all Welsh born and Welsh resident seaman that died in WW2. Even worse their families back home were not told they had died

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Baker has donated a copy of the database to the Barbados Museum's Shilstone Library. The Database shows name, age, date died, job, birthplace, address, ship and next of kin. It shows men from other islands that died while living in Barbados & vice versa. Persons may search the ship's name online to see who may have served with their lost relative.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### GENEALOGY GROUP MEETINGS

May 16th *East Indian/Barbadian Connection*

July 19th *Archiving Oral History Collections, Exploring Legal & Ethical Issues*

September 19th *Genes and Health*

November 15th *Open Session*

### FILM SCREENING

June 1st *Data Mining the Deceased*

### BUS TOUR

June 30th *Touring parish of St. George with lunch stop at Gun Hill Signal Station. 9.30am - 4.30pm.*

(Contact Harriet Pierce at Barbados Museum to book / details)

# Panamanian Cousins By Martin Cox

Hinds Family of Mt. Brevitor Welcomes Panamanian Cousins.

The descendants of John Hinds (1848-1923) and Catherine Ann Johnson (1854-1923) and John Hinds and Jane Worrell (1848-1928) welcomed to Barbados their Panamanian born cousins, brothers Carl and Eduardo Sainten. Carl's wife, Carina accompanied them. They are the grandsons of Newton FitzAugustus Hinds (1888-1980), a son of John Hinds and Catherine Ann Johnson, who migrated to Panama in 1911. A welcoming luncheon was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at the home of Ervine Bishop, a granddaughter of James Hinds (1877-1961), a son of John and Catherine Ann. Most of the persons attending the luncheon were the grandchildren of the children of John Hinds from two of his reputed three spouses.

Carl, Carina and Eduardo were on a Caribbean cruise and the ship stopped at Barbados on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Carl, a medical doctor, is a retired captain of the US Navy having spent 30 years in that branch of the US military. Eduardo is an environmental scientist in Florida. They are the sons of Newton's daughter, Floretta Hinds de Sainten. Newton's other child was Horace Hinds. The visiting party was taken on a tour of their grandfather's ancestral village, Mt. Brevitor and visited All Saints' Church, where their grandfather was baptized. They were able to identify the graves of some of their relatives. The party was accompanied by cousins Martin Cox and Ruall Harris, grandsons of Beresford 'Berry' Hinds (1882-1957), a son of John Hinds and Catherine Ann Johnson.

This happy event was the result of Carl and Martin taking the Ancestry DNA test. When Martin received his tests results in March of

2017, Carl was at the top of the list of persons for whom he was a match. Martin recognized the names Catherine Johnson and Newton Hinds included in the ancestral information Carl had given. Contact was established between Carl and Martin and it led to this event.

Carl also had the opportunity to meet with some of his cousins, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Beresford Hinds based in New York, when he attended an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for one of them, Sheila Harris Carvalho. He also met a Trinidadian cousin, Nichelle Hinds, who was visiting her cousin Sheila. Nichelle is a great granddaughter of Albert Hinds (1875-1937), a son of John Hinds from Jane Worrell.

Carl and Eduardo have commented:

- their grandfather worked for the Panama Canal company for 44 years, retiring as an oiler in 1959. He died in 1980 never having returned to Barbados and is buried in Corazal Cemetery of the former Canal Zone, Panama. Most of his offspring now reside in the USA.

- at last re-establishment of our ties with our Barbadian relatives, after a long- time search, is a major accomplishment and an exciting milestone to be remembered for the rest of our lives.

- thanks to Martin, Ruall, Ervine and all the rest of the family members for the warm welcome received at the luncheon, this past December, 2017. We look forward to continuing an active relationship from now on. Now, we have returned home! Thank God!

St Peter's Parish Anglican Church; Barbados. Eduardo, Martin, Carina & Ruall 12/04/2017



Barbados reunion: Carl, Eduardo, Martin Cox (yellow shirt) and Ruall Harris just behind Martin right shoulder (our point of contact and escort/host).



## I Search The Essequibo and Demerary Gazette Pt. 3 by David O'Carroll

Having learnt from my visit to the Shilstone Library that Henry Beckles Gall may have lived some time in British Guiana I used several of the genealogical listing services to find out how to go about family research in Guyana. The consensus seemed to be "don't bother" as the records were poor and not easily accessible; even if you visited this country.

But some determined work had been done by two Dutch family history researchers in putting together information from the local newspapers and providing an extensive index. Using the search box on the internet I quickly discovered that Henry Beckles Gall had pursued a varied career in Demerara; first as a merchant in partnership with Mr Lewis, a Barbadian; then slowly, after the break up of the partnership, he started to import medicines as well as foodstuffs; he soon styled himself as an apothecary and ended up being appointed as a government medical

officer - all without any formal qualification. Such were the times. I later found out that his sister had married a Mr Burrell who had consulted Henry about relief for toothache. I found out later that this Mr Burrell turned out to have a small archive of personal papers, that threw some light on the Galls, which were kept at an American university. So this HB Gall was the father of the Henry Beckles Gall founding member of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society.

The newspaper advertisements gave me the location of his shop in Georgetown, Demerara and an insight into his frustration in getting his customers to pay their accounts. He gave discounts for cash purchases. The newspapers also included an advertisement in 1816 giving notice that his two sons William and Henry Beckles were to leave the colony (no destination was given but they turned up in Barbados). They were aged 13 and 12.

And then I found a record of the announcement of HB Gall senior's death at sea in the online version of *Caribbeana* - no details, just the date - 1819. The brothers were now orphans in Barbados.

To be continued.

# Victoria Family History Conference 2018

British Columbia, Canada

By Jim Webster

"I know what I'm doing this weekend", I exclaimed to no one in particular. There it was, jumping out at me, the Victoria Family History Conference, happening in just three days. As we waited for our ferry to Mill Bay, I quickly read through the article's hi-lites: a keynote speaker, genealogy displays and a full day of seminars and, the clincher, it was free.

We've known the basics of the Webster family history, in Barbados, for years thanks to research done 20 - 30 years ago by Gerald and Gordon Webster (two volumes at the Shilstone Memorial Library) but I didn't have a lot of details on the people themselves other than birth, marriage, and death dates plus snippets of stories gathered through the years. I've been trying to fill in the holes. Who were these ancestors of mine and how did they manage to live in Barbados for almost 300 plus years so far under the radar?

Maybe this conference could give me some direction and make sense of it all. Later that evening, I registered online to find that many of the sessions were already full. Luckily, I was able to get into four that suited my situation; how to get organized and how to take my family story.

## Organizing Your Family History in Order to Stay Sane: Mary Kozy

I've boxes of files, old photos, old maps, 50 family links, all the apps but I seem to still be spinning my wheels.

- ◇ You've got to adopt a cataloguing system; by folders, a spreadsheet or a combination of both
- ◇ Give everything a number then record it with details and where it is filed
- ◇ Declutter

## Family Storytelling 101 - Karen Inkster Vance

- ◇ We aren't going to always find that one big WOW story or event, and that's ok
- ◇ Often the story is about your journey.
- ◇ Have a quest? What mystery are you trying to solve
- ◇ Pull research from many sources: oral history, interviews, photos, online, letters, newspapers
- Tie in historical events

## Create Your Own Book - David Bly

- ◇ With programs such as Blurb, producing a book is easier and more cost effective than ever. You can produce one or a hundred.
- ◇ EBooks are a great way to start and can be done for under \$10 US.

## Put Your new Knowledge to Work - me

- ◇ If you get a chance to attend a genealogy conference, grab it Put your skills to work 'write' away
- ◇ I came home and wrote and published a short ebook in three hours (not a Pulitzer novel but I learnt some new skills and discovered it could be done)
- ◇ I organized two folders on my computer - ok, it's a start
- Enjoy the journey. Now back to my story...

Victoria Family History Conference 2018  
<http://victoriafhc.org/index.html>

## Recent BGG Presentations



Role of Heraldic Art & Genealogy



An African-American's Journey to Connect with his Bajan Roots

### 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 Coordinators
Penny Hynam	Floor Member

The Barbados Museum & 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](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb)

