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The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

Connections

THE BARBADIAN NEWSPAPER

"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."



"The Barbadian" newspaper has been successfully digitised and made available online. "The Barbadian", was published bi-weekly between the years 1822 and 1861, with most editions consisting of four pages. This newspaper, like the Barbados Mercury and Bridgetown Gazette, contains a wealth of information about life in 19th century Barbados. This includes personalities, commerce, governance, socio-economic conditions, race, religion, politics, entertainment, education, etc.

The online version of this newspaper provides another re- source for persons involved in genealogical research. The newspaper contains names of political figures of the time, estate owners or persons seeking to sell estates and goods, names and relatives of runaways and references to wills, births, marriages, travel, and deaths.

The online version of this newspaper can be accessed via the link:

<https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1251>

The online availability of this

INDENTURED SERVANTS & 'POOR WHITES' - By Lynda Lewis

In the Barbados historical context, an indentured servant was someone who emigrated after signing an agreement to serve a planter in the colonies for a period of 5-7 years. Their passage would be paid and they would be maintained at the expense of the planter. When the contract ended, they were supposed to be paid 10 pounds sterling or the equivalent in sugar or a piece of land. In addition to those indentured, there were those exiled and banished.

Here is a brief overview based on my family tree research. Much is known about the rich West Indian planter class and I will not dwell on them. Among the thousands who came from the British Isles there were also many who were transported by force or coercion. There developed different classes of white people. The rich elite planter class; a subset of whites who were small land owners and skilled artisans; and at the bottom were what came to be referred to as 'poor whites'. While these could be found in all parishes there was a "tendency for them to occupy the marginal, low rainfall areas of St Lucy, St Andrew, St Joseph, St John, St Philip and Christ Church" (Karl Watson – Walk and Nyam Buckras)

Following Emancipation, the 'Poor Whites' world collapsed. This period was disastrous for them and they sank to even lower levels of poverty. Previously, many poor whites had lived rent free on plantations as a seventeenth century law had required one white person to be resident to every ten black people, and these whites were seen as an important element to support the Militia, which was disbanded for a system of Stipendary Magistrates. They became squatters with no claim to the land they attempted to farm and some were ejected for non-payment of rent. Seamstresses were no longer required to sew garments for the enslaved or the plantation owners. They became subsistence farmers on poor soil in lots of 1-2 acres. Many suffered from poor health and lack of energy and could not compete in the job market. (A study found later that many suffered from hookworm in addition to poor nutrition). There were many deaths in the Cholera epidemic of 1854.

In 1859, in a dispatch by Governor Hinds to London he states. "The Act of Emancipation which proved such a boon to the African race has utterly ruined the poor whites...they have only been prevented from starving by the extension of liberal aid from the Parish." Some emigration from Barbados to other islands was eventually allowed.

Who made up the two lower classes of white people? There were those seeking to make a better life for themselves and those who were banished or exiled from Britain. Those of us who descended from them face many roadblocks trying to identify our ancestors. Trying to identify a name among the limited lists available is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. I will try to list some of the resources I have used, but so far I have not yet made a confirmed link.

The British Archives holds all state papers and other information, but it is time consuming and costly. However, one can try researching *Assizes: English: Key for Criminal trials 1559-1971*. Or after 1718, try *Old Bailey and Central Criminal Court: Criminal Court*, for those sent for 7 years.

Many books feature transcriptions of various lists/documents. The authors whose books I have reviewed are: David Dobson; John Camden Hotten; James Brandow and Peter Wilson Coldham. A Google search will list all the books they wrote. Many are in the Shilstone Memorial Library at the Barbados Museum, the National Library Service and the Barbados Archives.

Then there is the "Virtual Jamestown" website – this site is for the USA, but Barbados-bound persons can be found. Once on the site do a 'Barbados'

search in the field 'Servant's Destination'. The information given includes servant name, place of origin, occupation, destination, ship name, date of indenture, gender, agent's name, agent's place of origin and occupation. Not all fields are filled in. The site features registers for Bristol, Middlesex, London I and II.

You should also review historical data on wars and battles in England, Scotland and Ireland. While these will not list names of those exiled, they do provide approximate dates and occasionally, a link that proves useful.

In David Dobson's book *Barbados –Scotland links 1627-1877* he mentions that Scottish indentured servants were in constant demand as shown in petitions to the Privy Council. "This demand was partly satisfied through involuntary transportation of prisoners of war and felons cleared from the jails of Scotland." He mentions battles Preston (1648), Dunbar (1650), Worcester (1651) when Cromwell sent prisoners to the Americas and Barbados. There was also the Jacobite Rebellion in 1715 and 1745. (E.g. those transported after Battle of Culloden) He also mentioned that some sailed directly from Scotland, England, Ireland and even Holland.

On the *HistoryIreland.com* website it is stated that from the "1630's official accounts record the arrival of Irish in the Caribbean many of them kidnapped by gangs operating in the vicinity of principal ports in Munster." The journey took a couple of months and those who survived found living and working conditions on the plantations extremely harsh. "After 7 years a handful did acquire small landholdings. None are known to have returned to Ireland". Transportation resumed in 1649 after the storming of Drogheda. Those at the Garrison were sent to Barbados. "Over the coming years, thousands of military persons were sold in perpetuity to plantation owners. The war had created a large number of widows and orphans, many destitute and homeless." Thousands of these were shipped across the Atlantic.

Many Scots seeking a better economic life travelled voluntarily to the West Indies between 1750-1800. Ships left from Leith and Glasgow.

Finally, searching Immigrant Ships List and others are sometimes useful.

Websites which may be useful are:

[Openlibrary.org](http://openlibrary.org) (Open Library)

[Books.google.com](http://books.google.com) (Google Books)

[Gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org) (Project Gutenberg)

[Archive.org](http://archive.org) (Internet Archive)

[Loc.gov](http://loc.gov) (Library of Congress)

Website: http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/search_indentures.html

I hope I have assisted in some small way to help you locate material. Good luck with your research.

IS YOUR SURNAME BRATHWAITE?

By Dr. Patricia Stafford

Because Barbados was a plantation society with practically all of the African descended people brought to the island in slavery, most of our surnames originated in Britain, the country of the early settlers. The major ports the ships left were in the south of England, Bristol, London and before the ships became too large, Kings Lynn, so many names came from the hinterlands of those cities. We do have names from other areas, some obviously Scottish, such as McClean, and others less obviously Scottish like Armstrong and Elliott, cattle reiver families from the borders between Scotland and England. Other names are from Wales and Ireland, but Brathwaite, one of the most common names in the island originates from the north of England with a particularly interesting story. There were several small ports in the north of England, now mostly forgotten after the growth of Liverpool in the 18th century; not totally forgotten in Barbados however, as by the Careenage in Bridgetown lays Lancaster Lane, running parallel to Liverpool Lane. The town of Lancaster in England stands on the River Lune and until the estuary silted up in the 1800s, the town regularly traded with the West Indies. It is probably from here that Myles Brathwaite, the first known settler of that name, whose will was written in 1664, sailed to Barbados.

Why is Brathwaite different? Because the name is made up of two words of the old Norse language. Most English names derive from Anglo Saxon or Norman roots, as the country was conquered by those people, but there are pockets of place names in areas where the Vikings made their home. The Vikings are famous, of course for their long ships with which they sailed across the oceans and set up settlements in the Mediterranean, Normandy in France and to Greenland. They also sailed to Ireland and founded the City of Dublin, but were pushed out by the surrounding people. So they set off across the Irish Sea in the 10th century and settled in the area which is now north Lancashire and Cumbria. And in Cumbria there is still a village called Braithwaite. The spelling of the name seems to have changed in England rather than here as David Mills, in his book *The Place Names of Lancashire*, (1976) tells us the name comes from "Brath, the broad river," (Old Norse) breiðr, and Thwaite, a "clearing by a meadow," (ON) Þ veit. So, if your name is Brathwaite, your name tells us that someone in your distant past may have had a connection to a person who lived in a clearing by a meadow with a broad river!

ORIGIN OF ENGLISH SURNAMES

English surnames originated from various cultural influences. Some of them have their roots in Viking, Nordic, Scandinavian, German and French countries. Others were inspired by religion, familial lines, nature, occupations, physical characteristics, etc. Some English names were derived from person's job, trade or position in society. Smith, Taylor and Wright are a few examples.

Names that end in "man" or "er" signal that they are derived from trade names. For example, a fowler was a person who caught birds. A waterman was a person who rowed a boat or a barge. A wheeler was another name for a wheelwright, while a hooper was someone who made hoops for barrels. A sawyer was a man who sawed logs. A turner was a man who turned wood on a lathe and made things like wooden bowls. Farmer might seem obvious but is derived from fermier who, in the Middle Ages, was a tax collector. A chapman was a person who sold goods in the markets or was a shop-keeper. Brewster meant a person who was a brewer while Baxter meant a baker. Spooner was a man who made spoons; walker was a person who used their feet to pound wool; barker was a man who dealt in bark for tanning leather. A fletcher was a man who made the shafts for arrows and attached the flights.

Some surnames were derived from a certain geographical location or feature. Green or Greene was someone who lived by the village green. Shaw meant a wood. Therefore, Bradshaw meant a broad wood. Thorpe was a Danish word meaning a hamlet dependent on a larger settlement nearby. Wick was a specialized farm.

Some/Other surnames were derived from physical description. A pollard was a bald man. A longman was a tall man.

Some surnames are derived from nicknames of persons who, for example, might be arrogant such as king, prince, or bishop.

An 's' at the end of a personal name meant 'son of'. (example, Andrews, Williams). Davies and Davis means son of David.

Fitz also means 'son of'.

'cock' mean a young man. Example, Wilcock, Hitchcock with Hitch being a nick name for Richard.

The meaning of other British surnames are as follows:

A franklin was a well-to-do farmer who owned his own land.

Spencer was a man who distributed to stores.

Reeve was an important official in a Medieval village, either bailiff or steward.

Bailey was a bailiff.

Marshall was a person responsible for seating arrangements.

Kitchener was a person who washed up.

Warner was a person who looked after rabbit warrens.

Coward derived from cowherd.

Webb was another word for weaver; a Webster was a female weaver.

Todd either derived from someone who hunted foxes or someone who was cunning.

Bragg is derived from a word meaning bold or daring.

Moody comes from the old word 'modig' which means bold.

Tait(t) meant cheerful.

Black or Blake referred to a person with dark hair.

Reid, and Reed meant red or redhead.

Lewis – famous warrior. Close cousins to French name Louis and German named Ludwig.

Clarke is English derived meaning clerk, cleric, or scribe.

(source: <http://www.localhistories.org/surnames.html>)

Sir Paul Altman

<<https://youtu.be/h8TvY0z0bic>>

Prof. Pedro Welch

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqGHjAswizA&t=21s>>

Mr. Sabir Nakhuda

Pt. 1: <<https://youtu.be/tlS5Y0uFXxE>>

Pt. 2 <<https://youtu.be/EP2KzHwd1LA>>

From 25 to 27th February 2021 FamilySearch.org will be hosting the world's largest family celebration event online. This free event will allow participants to be involved in learning sessions, hear uplifting messages from celebrity

keynote speakers, and allow persons to engage in hands-on activities. Interested persons are required to register online. More information about this event can be obtained from the website:

<https://www.rootstech.org/>.

Plantations

E L T S A C W E N A T C N E D R A G E N A C E C
J N V F D M B I N W I C H E L T E N H A M P W A
C T F R E X Q S R Z B D K X F Q B L D D K X L G
W J C A F N E T T X K E S W U X I I K L E Z G J
L P R N V A A H J T E N L K N O K P X O N X C U
M G I C C T B L G Z E G E L N G Z S Z I D I S N
O R A I I E U N Y R M A G C E F K A E C A F Z G
Y T I A A L H A R D J K A S T O V O H L L I A W
O H J D S A G A N J N S C D N A L E P O H L A W
B V H S G D W C F Q T A W J X V A A B M N O P T
R N X T X E C J W L U M S R B U H L N H B W P U
B C O T J N W Q E L L P A S H F O R D S E E L K
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A W G F R N R W Y R U B D L O R J X J T H J A O

- Alleynedale Applewhaites Ashford Bayleys Belle Bloomsbury Boarded Hall Cane Garden
Castle Grant Cheltenham Drax Hall Endeavour Francia Guinea Haggatts Heywoods Hopeland
Kendal Lion Castle Lower Estate Newcastle Oldbury Ridgeway Rock Dundo Sandy Lane
Strong Hope Union Upton Vacluse Walkes Spring Warrens

UPCOMING EVENTS ON ZOOM

November 19th @
2:00 PM

Muslims of CARICOM
Part 3 by Sabir Nakhuda

Submission of articles for our upcoming newsletter are welcomed and can be sent via email to

library@barbmuse.org.bb

Executive of the BGG >>>

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Nicholas Mayers	Information Officer & Editor
Angela Skeete	Education Officer
Betty St. John	Floor Member
Lynda Lewis	Floor Member

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society was established in 1933 by an Act of Parliament. It is housed in historic 19th century buildings which were originally constructed and used as the military prison of St. Ann's Garrison.

The Shilstone Memorial Library is a research library. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9am – 4pm. By appointment only.

Contact Harriet Pierce, Librarian for further information.

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

Phone: 1 246 538 0201

