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The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

Connections



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"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."

Report on the Barbados Family History Project

The Barbados Family History Project was launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sport, the Hon. Stephen Lashley, on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

The Minister in his remarks, inter alia, noted the importance of the project in helping to establish our identity, as well as in creating a narrative about the success of Barbadian families, in spite of the great challenges faced. He also indicated that family history research is not only for seniors, but must embrace the youth. He called for collaboration with the Barbados Tourism Product Authority and the Barbados Department of Archives, which are both involved in an initiative to develop genealogy tourism.

The Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Ms. Alissandra Cummins, reminded the audience of the pioneering genealogical work done by Eustace M. Shilstone, which led to the establishment of a Department of Historical and Genealogical Research at the Society in 1935. She stated that the Barbados Genealogical Group, through its programmes of public education and information, is building upon the foundation laid by Shilstone, as it aims to empower and encourage all Barbadians to delve into their own family histories.

Mr. Martin Cox, the project's coordinating sub-committee chairman, recalled the origins of the idea for such a project and linked it to the important anniversaries which have shaped family history in Barbados. These anniversaries are the 400th anniversary of the landing of the English settlers at what is now Holetown, St. James on February 17, 1627; the 200th year after the emancipation of enslaved persons under the age of six on August 1, 2034; and on August 1, 2038, the 200th anniversary of the end of the Apprenticeship System and the ushering in of full emancipation. He called on persons who have in their possession records that may help in family research, such as plantation records, to deposit them with the Department of Archives.

The "Let's Talk" sessions took place as planned on June 17th and 24th and on July 1st during Crop Over Craftworks at the Museum.

The first workshop, held at the Museum on Saturday, July 15th, was attended by several persons who participated in the "Let's Talk" sessions.

I wish to thank all those members who supported the activities by attending, sharing their knowledge, information and experience with those seeking guidance and for contributing in any other way.

Martin Cox, Chairman, Sub-Committee

Celebrating Family

by Rev. Buddy Larrier

On September 22, 1955 Barbados was struck by a category 4 hurricane. Hurricane Janet claimed the lives of about 38 persons. Hundreds were injured and thousands made homeless. Two fishermen from the fishing community of Oistins, Mr. Barton Husbands and Mr. Darnell "Sonny" Larrier were lost at sea.

Mrs. Minnie Larrier the wife of Darnell was left to raise eleven children, nine of whom were Darnell's children. The Barbados Government being mindful of the many challenges faced by the Larrier and other families who had suffered great loss, established a social fund to help all the children under the age of 16 years of age. Six of Mrs. Larrier's children benefited from this fund, they were provided with apprenticeship training in a trade of their choice after primary school. In addition, a philanthropist assisted the family by offering to pay the passage to England of the eldest child, with a proviso that she work and help her siblings. By the 1970s all, but one, of the siblings had immigrated to England, Canada and the USA.

On July 2, 1978 the Larrier family held its first reunion to bring the siblings together for the first time since 1955 and to thank Barbadians. Two brothers were not present. Their second international reunion was held on July 2, 1986, the ten siblings alive were present.



Larrier Family Reunion 2012

Family Quest to Guyana

by Margaret Belgrave

My Joseph surname has always been a source of curiosity in Barbados. One of my grandfathers was from then British Guiana, but never returned to live there. I always longed to find my Guyanese relatives. In 1993, I finally visited Guyana with a friend. Her mom helped me to track down a long-lost cousin with whom I corresponded as a teenager, but had never met.

After a frustrating search of McDoom Village, we were finally directed to the correct house. When we spoke to some young people in the yard of the property, they could not believe that the old lady's prediction had come true. Apparently, she often spoke of her relatives in Barbados who would come to find her. She was 92 years old, and there I was!

Aunty Frasier herself did not believe it at first, and had to be persuaded to open her door! When she did, I was astounded. There before me stood my grandfather wearing a flowered house dress and head-tie! The resemblance was amazing. I explained who I was, and we fell into each other's arms. Aunty Frasier repeatedly said: "I knew it. I told them someone will come from Barbados."

We chatted for a while, and she spoke of family details in Barbados which I knew very well. Then, I had to leave since my friends were waiting, but I promised to return. I cried uncontrollably all the way back to Vreed-en-Hoop.



Upcoming Activities

Genealogy Group Meetings

20 Sept - Open Session

16 Nov - DNA Testing

Family History Project

"Let's Talk"

TBA

"Workshops"

TBA



The Phoenix Rises: A Series

David O'Carroll has been researching his ancestors for over thirty years. But identifying their names and dates was not enough: he wanted to know more about the lives they had led. He found enough about his Barbadian roots to write an article in last year's BMHS journal. His methodical research has been more than matched by chance findings and researching less obvious sources. In this series we follow his footsteps, starting here in Barbados.

I had not paid much attention to my mother's side of the family until she and her sister had to apply for British nationality in 1986. They had both been born in Dominica and grew up in Barbados. The British Nationality Act required proof of British ancestry and neither of them really knew much about their grandfather, Arthur Beckles Gall, other than his birthdate and name. However, they knew that his father was Henry Beckles Gall; that he had lived at Dalkeith off Beckles Road; and he had been involved in the setting up of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society. On writing to the Secretary of the Society they found that the history of the Society had been written and

published and contained a picture of Henry Beckles Gall and a comment that it was understood that he was an Englishman. Armed with this information they were able to satisfy the UK authorities that they should keep their British nationality and passports. With this information I completed the Gall family tree starting with Henry Beckles Gall with a birthdate of 1804 in England. But this information was wrong, as I found out twenty years later. (to be continued).

From our Collection >>>

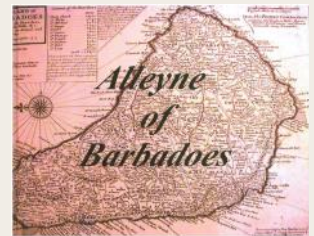


Shilstone Memorial Library

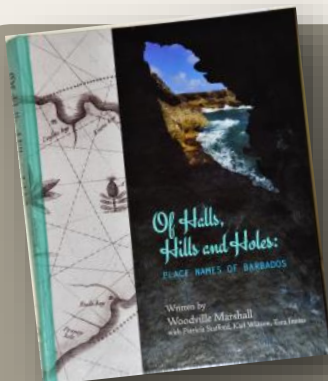
Dale Alleyne is the son of Campbell Gay Alleyne and the grandson of Dr. Francis Alleyne of Bush Hall, St. Michael. He was born and raised in Trinidad. He later immigrated to Canada where he studied Mechanical Engineering. Dale had a long career with Shell Canada and then retired to Victoria BC, where he lives .

Back in 1996 while going through the drawers in my dad's desk, I discovered two things. A map of Barbados by M. Moll done in 1717 which showed a number of properties owned by the Alleyne family, and a photocopy of Louise Allen's 'Alleyne of Barbados' from the BMHS Journal, which documents the family from 1600 to about 1930. These two things piqued my interest and started me on a quest to learn something more about this great family, of which I was a small part.

After 20 years of research, I have now discovered many new branches of the family as well as a number of interesting facts and stories about various family members, even ties to Royalty. I felt that all of the family, especially the younger ones, should know what I had discovered about their family. A cousin showed me a book that a member of the Farmer family had written about his family, and this gave me the idea to compile the book. After about eighteen months of writing, the first edition has now been printed.



Alleynes of Barbados

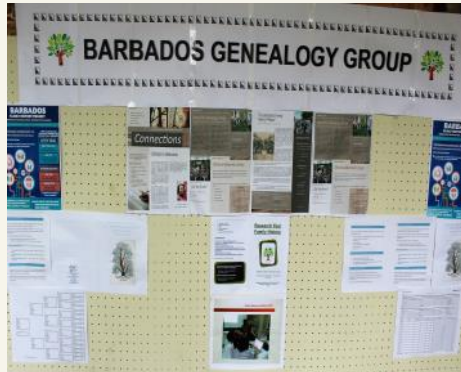


Printed in 2016, this book is the result of 10 years of research . The project was challenging with literature on names to be reviewed, methodological issues examined and diverse materials consulted. It is written by Prof. Woodville Marshall with Patricia Stafford, Karl Watson, Tara Inniss and many other who gave assistance. The book is dedicated to the memory of Ronald Gordon Hughes.

The place names are presented by parish. The chapter on each parish begins with a brief history of the parish, copies of parish maps followed by the place names and a brief description of each name. The book can be viewed in the Shilstone Memorial Library or bought from the Barbados Museum Bookshop.

Barbados Family History Project Launch





“Let’s Talk”



The Dash Family Reunion

The Introduction of Leon Dash to the Genealogy Group on July 6, 2017 - by Thomas St. John



The Dash Family legacy in Barbados began on 17th Feb 1627, when Humphry Dash, born in 1610 in South England, stepped off the ship “William and John” with William Arnold at Holetown. Thereby making the Dashes one of the original settlers families of Barbados. One of Humphry’s descendants, Budding Dash, had two sons , Nicodemus and William Benjamin Dash, who are the great great grandfathers of Leon Dash our speaker today and myself. Leon has been interviewing various family members over the years, finding the nuances that make up the richness of our family today. One outstanding point has been the striving for excellence in education over many Dash generations, as reflected in our speaker.

Leon is currently a Swanlund Chair Professor at the University of Illinois, College of Media Journalism department and a true educator. Among his many accolades is a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism, service in the Peace Corps in Africa, as well as serving as the Washington Post West Africa Bureau Chief.

This month the Dash Family are celebrating, with a reunion here in Barbados. Leon is participating in these celebrations, but took time out from the reunion to speak to members of the Barbados Genealogy Group. His talk, “Searching for Ancestors any one can do this,” emphasized the art of interviewing family members and others who could provide relevant information . He provided anecdotal references to the development of the Dash Family tree and some of the stories he has compiled over many years.

In making the Dash family reunion a reality, one such family member to whom credit must be given is Mabel Moore Cadogan (Aunt May). She is the grand daughter of Nicodemus Dash and sister to Cuthbert Moore. She was a major source of information and the family matriarch who could provide information about the Dash family members who immigrated to America. She herself migrated in 1914, via Panama. She was one of the early planners of the first Dash family Reunion. We must also give credit to Trixie Dash, daughter to Laurie Dash, who has contributed greatly to the development of the Dash Family Tree. Reunion revelry of some 75+ Dash family members from around the world gathered here in Barbados for a week of celebrations, reconnections with long lost relatives, meetings, dinners and entertainment. They visited old family homes and lands where their ancestors once lived and owned, one noted place was in Sweet Bottom, now called Sweet Vale, the church where they worshipped, and the cemetery at St. Augustine, St. George, where many are buried.

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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*"The Library is free to
members of the BMHS.*

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Locals and Residents

\$20.00 BDS

Visitors \$20.00 USD

April 8th & 22nd

May 13th & 25th

June 10th & 24th

July 15th & 29th

August 12th & 26th

September 9th & 23rd

October 14th & 28th

November 11th & 25th



What's in a name?

PROVERBS by Kay Blades

We have always been told that the surname Proverbs started in Barbados. The story which has been recounted many times is of two brothers, who, on their way to Barbados in the 17th century, decided to change their name and that the name would be chosen by opening a Bible randomly. Luckily, I have been told, it opened in the book of Proverbs and not Deuteronomy. Supposedly, the story was written in the Bible for posterity, but it was destroyed in a house fire. It is alleged that one of the brothers decided to return to Europe and that is how the earliest Proverbs family ended up in Britain, working in the coalmines in Wednesbury, The Black Country. I have not found the name among early land owners in Barbados, but by the 1679/80 census Thomas and John Proverbe were recorded in St. Philip. The earliest recorded baptism in Barbados of a Proverb was for Mary Proverb baptized in April of 1653 in St. Philip, the daughter of John Proverbs.



Challenges to Research - by Nicholas Mayers >>>

There are many challenges which will emerge while conducting genealogy research. One of the most common nearly everyone will face is the change in the name of an individual. This is inevitable with married women adopting their husband's surname upon marriage. However, there are cases of persons unofficially changing their surname during their lifetime.

This practice is evident among children of unmarried parents who, would be registered in the baptism records with their mother's surname, but who later adopted another surname, usually their father's. This is evident in burial or marriage records.

Another challenge as it relates to name change, is the practice of persons changing their first name either by adopting another first name and dropping their given first name or using their given name as their middle name while adopting another first name. Both of these practices can lead to dead ends and frustration during the research process. However, they are methods which can be used to overcome these changes.

These methods usually depend either upon the information available in burial records and continuity in place of abode or whether the

person being researched had siblings. Depending on the time period, mainly during the early 20th century, the burial record may contain the name of the deceased mother. If the name of the person's mother is recorded and they resided in a particular district for most of their lives, including from the time of birth, persons can subtract the person's age from the year of death/burial and, using a two to five year span margin of error, go through baptism records of a church near the person's place of abode seeking to find the mother's name under the category "Parent Name." The website www.familysearch.org can also be used to search for baptism records, which may contain the mother's name under the category "Parent."

If these methods are unsuccessful, researchers may try to use the first method in tracing the parents of an ancestor and place of abode through the person's siblings.

Various challenges may be encountered on the road of genealogical research, but there are methods which can be used to overcome these challenges.

QUIZ Answer 7 Rock Halls

St Peter, St Lucy, St Philip, St George, St Andrew, St Thomas, Christ Church.

New QUIZ

What is a Chapel of Ease?

Which was the first Chapel of Ease?

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

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