



The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

Connections



MORDICHIM

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

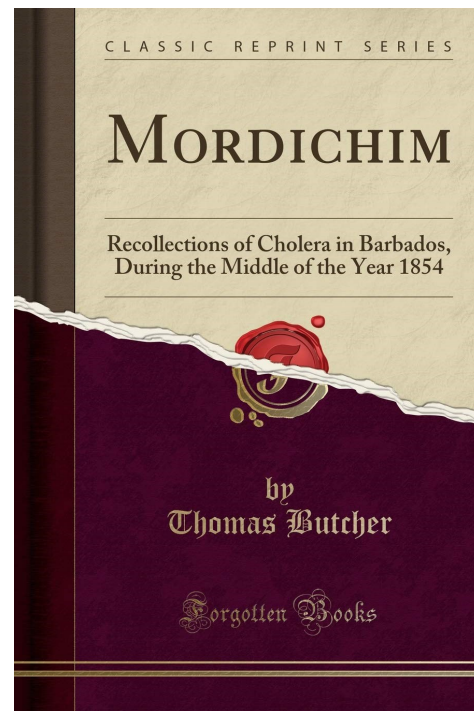
BGG Objectives

- 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.”

As the coronavirus continues to affect the world, many Barbadians, both young and old, say that they have never experienced a pandemic like this before. HIV/AIDS emerged in the 1980s and has since reached pandemic proportions. However, the last pandemic which could be compared to Covid-19 is the Spanish Flu which occurred between 1918 and 1920. There is little to no account of how this disease affected Barbados. There is however an account of an epidemic that occurred in Barbados in the 19th century. The book “*Mordichim*”, written by a Rev. Thomas Butcher, provides an account of the Cholera Epidemic which plagued the island between May and November of 1854 and claimed the lives of around 20,000 Barbadians. In the book, Rev. Butcher gave a short history of the disease and the methods used to combat it. He also described the outbreak in the city and rural areas, how bodies were discovered and buried and identified burial grounds. He also examined its effect on the country.



who passed from this disease or a section specifically dedicated to cholera deaths.

Church burial records and newspapers for the year 1854 record cholera as the cause of death of various individuals. “The Barbadian” newspaper contains death notices for elite members of society who died of the disease. Some church burial records either have cholera written beneath the name of individuals

The book “*Mordichim*” is available on the following website:

<https://archive.org/details/mordichimrecolle00butc/page/n9/mode/2up>

IS YOUR NAME MACLEAN/MCLEAN/MCCLEAN?

by Dr. Patricia Stafford

Although there were people in the island of this name from the 1600s, according to the Hughes/Queree papers, there were no major McLean planters before the 1800s, suggesting that most McLeans, although some may have been enslaved, did not take their name from plantation owners.

As most are aware, the name comes from Scotland. Scotland and England remained two separate countries until James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne in 1603, and the countries retained two separate parliamentary systems until the two Kingdoms joined under the Acts of Union of 1707. Apart from a few adventurous McLeans, resident in England before 1707, most immigrants from Scotland in this period would have been prisoners sentenced to be transported, as an alternative to execution. It was a time when the British Isles were caught up in the religious wars resulting from the Calvinistic revolts in Europe and Henry VIII's reformation of the English Church. In 1685 James II became King of the two countries but as a Roman Catholic, he was not welcomed by many of his subjects, and when he refused to pass certain decrees, the Duke of Monmouth in England and the Earl of Argyll in Scotland raised armies to fight him. The risings were routed, and many of those captured ended up on prison ships to Barbados. Sentenced to serve for life on the plantations, in Barbados they gained a reprieve in 1690, after James II lost his

throne.

The religious wars continued. Many people in the Scottish highlands were still Roman Catholic. James, son of James II, who became known as the Old Pretender, tried to regain the throne. and raised an army that was defeated at the battle of Sherriffmuir in 1715. Again more Scottish prisoners arrived. here, found guilty of high treason serve a seven year sentence. During this period, it is also possible that other McLeans arrived through growing Scottish business and family connections.

Once more in 1745, the grandson of James II, Charles Edward Stewart, also known as the Young Pretender or Bonnie Prince Charlie, travelled to Scotland and raised an army, this time defeated in 1746 at the Battle of Culloden. And again Scottish prisoners arrived here, found guilty of high treason, arriving in 1748 and conveyed to serve a seven year sentence. Records show that one of the prisoners was Hector McLean.

The name is of Gaelic origin. The family owned extensive lands in the Western Isles of Scotland and the founding father of the clan in the 13th century was Gilleathain na tuaidh, (Gilliain of the Battleaxe), Mac Gill-Eain is the present day Gaelic spelling.

ROLE ATTRIBUTED TO BAJAN WHITE WOMEN

An 18th-century observer named William Dickson suggested that the abundant presence of white women in Barbados helped to tame the brutality of planter class white men and assisted in the development of a level of paternalism amongst them. He further stated that the overwhelming presence of white women "civilised" the white community on the island and resulted in the gradual amelioration of slave relations. By 1715 white



women outnumbered white men on the island by one percent and by seven percent in 1748. However, the abundant presence of white women on the island presented the situation where many remained unmarried and therefore had to seek out a livelihood of their own. Many sought out entrepreneurship ventures in the service sector such as slave rental services, petty shop-keeping, tavern keeping, huckstering and operating sex-houses. Invariably, white women businesses were concentrated in the informal sector, especially

those that bordered on illicit and illegal activities.

Although illegal, many white women made a thriving business from prostitution. Not from prostituting themselves but from the rental of black and coloured women for sexual services in the city. A British military officer observed that white women in the city frequently 'rented out' female slaves as prostitutes to sailors. The slaves would go on-board ships to sell sex for money.

For these women, female slaves were of greater value

since they were able to perform multiple tasks to generate income, either as nannies, nurses, cooks, washerwomen, hucksters, seamstresses, or general labourers during the day and selling sexual services during the night. The by-product of these women's prostitution, the birth of a child or children, provided an additional source of revenue since they could be sold when weaned. By 1817 white women were 50% of the owners of slaves in Bridgetown on properties stocked with less than 10 slaves.

INTER-RACIAL RELATIONSHIPS

As there was a majority of males amongst the early settlers, mixed relationships were tolerated. However, by the early 1700s, the white elite in the island became concerned about the potential of many numbers of free people of colour, and a law of 1721 disenfranchised all non-whites, irrespective of the property they owned. White women who had sexual relations with black men could be socially disgraced and ostracised.

The following table, compiled from the 1715 census, provides examples of these relationships in the parish of St. Philip.



NAME	AGE	DESCRIPTION
John Goddard	40	A mulatto, born of a white woman
Jane Goddard	32	White, husband a mulatto
Elizabeth Shepherd	52	White, husband a mulatto
Thomas Goddard	30	Mulatto, born of a white woman
Ann Goddard	30	White woman, husband a mulatto
Mary Shepherd	13	Mother a white woman, father a negro
John Walke	5	Father negro, mother white
Elizabeth Walke	8	Father negro, mother white
Simon Kitteridge	18	Son of a white woman and coloured man
Sarah Avery	15	Mulatto, born of a white woman
Charles Sergent	36	Mother white, father a mulatto
Mary Sergent	31	White woman, husband a negro
Elizabeth Sinckler	48	Born of a white woman and negro man

UPCOMING TALKS ON ZOOM

“Old Maps and Almanacs - Plotting your Family Journey” by James Webster—March 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm

“Using Familysearch.org” by Nicholas Mayers - TBA

Some Common Terms to know for those that are "New to Genealogy"

Circa	Meaning "about" or "approximately" in reference to a date or a year.
Citation	A reference that links the "data" (the information cited) to an authoritative source to prove it is accurate (usually a primary source such as a legal document).
Descendancy Chart	A listing or display of all the known descendants of a particular ancestor which includes all children, the children's spouses and their children, and so on to the present day.
GEDCOM	An acronym for GE nealogical Data COM munication which is a file format developed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for recording genealogical information.
Gregorian Calendar	The calendar named after Pope Gregory in 1582 which replaced the Julian calendar. It was adopted for current use in 1752.
Heraldry	Is the practice (or science) of recording genealogical information in the form of artistic representations, coat of arms, family crests, and insignia.
Naturalization	The process used to become a citizen of a country.
Necrology	A list of obituaries or death records published in a newspaper or other public announcement.
Pedigree chart	The display used to show one person's ancestors by listing their parents and the parent's parents, and so on.
Social Security Death Index (SSDI)	An index of information related to the deceased who were registered under the Social Security program in the United States. Lists the person's name, birth, death, the soundex code, SS number and the state it was issued in.
Sources (Primary)	Included are: census records, birth, marriage, and death records, medical records, and other published records such as newspapers, court and land records.
Sources (Secondary)	Records which are second hand in nature such as biographies, dictionaries and encyclopedias (printed or online like Wikipedia), guides or manuals, and general histories.
Vital Records	Civil (legal) records which document the birth, marriage, or death of a person.

Source: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Terms

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

library@barbmuse.org.bb

Executive of the BGG >>>

NAME	ROLE
Harriet Pierce	<i>Facilitator</i>
Dr. Patricia Stafford	<i>Deputy Facilitator</i>
Marie-Claire Lyder	<i>Secretary</i>
Nicholas Mayers	<i>Information Officer</i>
	<i>& Editor</i>
Angela Skeete	<i>Education Officer</i>
Betty St. John &	
Lynda Lewis	<i>Floor Members</i>

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

