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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.

## Mission Statement

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

## MILITARY ANCESTRY

There are many books that can help in genealogical research, including “*Monumental Inscriptions in the Barbados Military Cemetery*” by Mary E. Gleadall. This book contains transcripts of the monumental inscriptions found in the Barbados Military Cemetery, at Gravesend. In addition to information on the cemetery itself, the book also looks at the history of tombstones, Barbados’ military history, monuments located within the Garrison Area, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as well as some biographical data on persons buried in the cemetery.

The appendix is of particular interest to those engaged in genealogical research as it provides several lists of names of military personnel in alphabetical order. Listed are:

- World War I and II Roll of Honour with names, rank, regiment, date of death and place of burial.
- World War I and II Commonwealth War Graves in Barbados with the names, rank, regiment, date of death and place of burial.

- British Army Units as at 1881 recorded on headstones in the Military Cemetery.
- Naval Ships recorded on headstones in the Military Cemetery.
- Royal York Rangers Casualty List 1809-1810 – with the names and rank of persons who fought in the war with French Colonies of Martinique, The Saintes and Guadeloupe.
- HMS Dauntless: Victims of Yellow Fever in 1852: Names, Birth, death, and rank.
- St. Ann’s Burial Register 1862 – 1886: Date of burial, names, age, rank, country of death, and religion.
- Barbados Military Cemetery Tombstones— Name, date of birth, date of death and Monumental Inscription.

This book is available at the Shilstone Memorial Library, Barbados Museum & History Society, as well as the Barbados National Library Service.

# FREEMASONRY IN BARBADOS

Family history researchers must not overlook fraternal organisations, which were present in Barbados from the 18th century. One of the oldest surviving being the Masonic Lodge; the first of which was the Michael's Lodge No. 186, established on 15 January 1740 by Sir Alexander Irvine (c. 1694-1743). The first Provincial Grand Master appointed in 1740 was Thomas Baxter, who was succeeded in 1755 by William Maynard. He in turn was followed by Hon. John Stone, Hon. Samuel Rouse, Hon. Benjamin Gittens, Hon. William Bishop, James Cummins, Col. John Straker, Francis Lord Seaforth, Brig. Gen. Charles Shipley, Hon. John Alleyne Beckles, Sir Robert Boucher Clarke, Col. John Elliott, John Locke, Robert Haynes, John P. D'Albuquerque, Lt. Col. William Bowring, Rev. A.E. Armstrong, Lindsay E.R. Gill, Major Arthur Warren and in 1980 by Dr. William Edward Cooper.

Most of the Masonic Lodges were located in Bridgetown. Of the 19 lodges established on the island between 1740 and the mid-19th century, only two were



Speightstown and one in Oistins. Another old Masonic Lodge still in existence on the island, is the Albion

in Lodge No. 196 E. R. This lodge was constituted and first met on 6 December 1790, with Daniel Donovan as the founding Grand Master. In celebration of its 185th anniversary in 1975, the Albion Lodge published a pamphlet entitled "*The 185th year of Albion Lodge No. 196 E R*" which contains an alphabetical listing of members from 1790 – 1975. This was followed the next year with the pamphlet, "*Albion Lodge 196 E.R. A History 1790-1976*" which contains Lodge members, their addresses and occupations in 1791. These two resources, can be found at the Barbados Department of Archives.

Another helpful resource, located in the Shilstone Memorial Library, is th pamphlet entitled "*Lodge Thistle 100 years of Freemasonry in Barbados*". This book provides a history of freemasonry in Barbados, and the membership roll of the Lodge Thistle 1014 S.C. from 1906-2006.

It also contains photographs of bearers and members of this lodge.

## 1892 Barbados to the Congo Free State – Part 1

By Marcia Nurse

**'The first lot of labourers, (294) to be employed by the Congo Free State Railway Company to establish a line through the States, left here on Tuesday, 26th Instant, in the S.S. McGarel. The Inducement held out to the labourers are such as has never before been made. Those despatched on Tuesday, we learn, are about the best of the class that has recently left here - young, healthy and strong. We congratulate the Company in having such an efficient and energetic agent as MR. GASKIN -whose ability in the selection of labourers is so well known- his having been employed by the Government of British Guiana for some time in that capacity. Among other things a free return passage is guaranteed. We wish the undertaking success. It is a good opening, no doubt, for superabundant portion of our labourers.'** GLOBE NEWSPAPER 28 July 1892 Sydney Martin Library, UWI, Cave Hill. Barbados

Within recent years, Barbadians have become more knowledgeable of and interested in the condition of the African-born and Barbadian-born field labouring class, after the Emancipation Act of 1834, and after the end of Apprenticeship in 1838. Segments of information focus on the movement of freed black men to the neighbouring islands, and in later years,

their descendants' emigration to South and Central America. British Colonial authorities facilitated the inducement and removal of black men, from estates across the island.

Is there a possibility that among the enslaved Africans, brought to Barbados between 1700's-1807, there were persons from the Congo? In the parish of Saint Philip existed an estate called Congo Road. Was that estate named such because there were a number of enslaved people from the Congo? Henry Alleyne Holder owned the estate from 1817-32. On 31 July 1834, there were 159 enslaved people listed on the compensation claim submitted by John Higginson; by October 1836, the executor Richard Deane collected British pounds 3,594, 10 shillings and 9 pence.

Were some of the men, 'induced', from across the island in 1892, descendants of enslaved Congolese and of the Congo Road estate?

To be Continued...

# Barbadians in the Bahamas 1891-1968

By Dr. Frederick Alleyne

The Barbadian migrant presence in the Bahamas is sometimes forgotten or not often mentioned when one speaks of the history of Barbadian migration. However, Barbadians have been establishing themselves in this northern, Caribbean island archipelago, since the late 19th century.

Keith L Tinker proposes that the Barbadian migration to the Bahamas can be divided into three main phases, the 1891-1908 first police recruitment stage, the artisan stage of the 1920's-30's, and the 1952-68 police and prison officers and skilled professionals stage.

The first stage which began in the 1891-1908 period, occurred when the then Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, Captain H. M. Jackson, who had also served in the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, proposed that recruits be procured from outside the Bahamas. Ultimately, it was decided to employ the skills of mostly Barbadian ex soldiers of the West India Regiment. The ex Barbadian soldiers had proved to be effective policemen in British Honduras, Trinidad and British Guiana. The Bahamas of the late 19th century was experiencing increased criminality spurred by the smuggling that occurred between Florida and the Bahamas islands.

These recruits proved very able because of their discipline and educational standards and paved the way for more Barbadian recruits. Every three years after the initial intake of Barbadians, another twenty five officers were recruited from Barbados. It was from these early Barbadian recruits that Barbadians began to settle and have families in the Bahamas as it was also felt that these young Barbadian officers were very eligible spouses. It was also in this late 19th century period that a Barbadian, not recruited as a police officer, entered the Bahamian scene. Robert M. Bailey of St. John, Barbados arrived in 1898 and would later distinguish himself as a master tailor, political, social and educational reformer.

Barbadian migration continued to grow in the 1920's when construction was booming in the Bahamas. This construction boom was in part fueled by the smuggling between Florida and the Bahamas and was caused by the Prohibition laws (Volstead



R M Bailey High School. F E Alleyne. Nassau. 2019



Davis Street. F E Alleyne. Nassau. 2019

Act 1922) of the United States. Rum and other alcoholic beverages were the high value products illegally shipped into the United States during the Prohibition period. Barbadian artisans, many of whom had honed their skills in Panama, Brazil and Cuba, were readily recruited to assist on the building projects in the Bahamas. According to Tinker, one of the enduring legacies of the Barbadian artisan presence in the Bahamas was the skills transfer that occurred in the Bahamas especially in new constructions methods.

Construction was not the only skill that the Barbadians distinguished themselves at in the Bahamas, but skills such as tailoring, dressmaking and shoe repair all attracted Barbadian expertise. Tailors such as Robert M. Bailey who was mentioned earlier, was the tailor of the elite and well to do of the Bahamas.

A common theme which is also mentioned in relation to the Barbadians artisans was the fact that because the Barbadians were successful and well educated, they were not only patronized by the better off members of the Bahamian society, but were able to marry into good families.

The third and final phase of the Barbadian migration to the Bahamas would begin in the early 1950's when, again, policemen were recruited, but would be joined by prison officers, hotel workers, teachers, accountants and other professionals. Unlike the earlier Barbadian migrants this latter group comprised some family groups.

Familiar Barbadian names in the Bahamas include Maynard, Bowen, Clarke, Parris, Sandiford, Gooding, Gill, Worrell, Price, Bullen, Gibson, Holder, Chandler, Neil, Watson etc. The Barbadian presence in the Bahamas contributed significantly to the social, economic and political development of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The contributions of Barbadians and their descendants has been rewarded in many ways. Robert M. Bailey is remembered for his contribution to secondary education through the Robert M. Bailey High School and streets such as Arundel and Davis streets were named for the Barbadians who helped to develop these communities.

# SCOTTISH SURNAMES

The following are a list of Scottish surnames identified in the book *“Barbados and Scotland Links 1627 – 1877”*.

Abercrombie, Adamson, Adare, Affleck, Anderson, Armstrong, Arnott.

Baine, Barclay, Bruce, Burnett,

Caddell, Callendar, Cameron, Campbell, Carmichael, Crawford, Cummins, Cunningham

Dalrymple, Drummond, Duncan,

Elder, Elliot

Falconer, Farquharson, Ferguson, Findlay, Forbes, Fortheringham, Fraser,

Gibson, Gilchrist, Gordon, Graham, Grant,

Hamilton, Hay, Henderson, Hunter

Innes, Irvine

Johnston,

Keith, Kennedy, Kidd

Lamont, Leslie, Lindsay, Lyon

McAllister, McAndrew, Mcaskill, McCollin, McDonald, McIntosh, MacKay, McKenzie, Mclean, McPherson, Maxwell, Munro, Murray,

Neilson, Nicholls.

Oughterson

Powrie,

Ramsay, Reid, Riddoch, Robertson, Ross,

Scott, Simpson, Sinclair, Stewart, Sutherland,

Tate, Thomson, Trent

Urquhart

Wallace, Watson, Watt,

## NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19th—Barbadians in Liberia—Dr. Matt Reilly, Lorenzo Witherspoon and Cherrine Smith

July 21st—“Exploring Barbados-South Carolina Historical, Genealogical and Cultural Connections” - Prof. Don Scott

### RECENTLY UPLOADED TO YOUTUBE

<https://youtu.be/nIO5QO0xgVA>—Barbadians in Africa—Prof. Alan Cobley

**Submission of articles for our upcoming newsletter are welcomed and can be submitted via email to [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb)**

### Executive of the BGG >>>

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

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 from 9 am until 4 pm.

**For further information contact Harriet Pierce, Librarian .**

**Address:** St Ann’s Garrison, St Michael, Barbados.

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