



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.”

## Barbados Museum Online

By Harriet Pierce

Vital records such as birth, marriage and death certificates remain fundamental to family history research. However, as one delves deeper into Barbadian genealogy, records such as plantation ledgers and Vestry Minutes may prove helpful. To this end, the Barbados Museum Online <https://barbuse.pastperfectonline.com/Archive> should be a required stop for family historians. The site consists of fifteen original manuscript documents, which were digitised with the support of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Each document is full text and fully downloadable. The documents included on the site are:

- Colleton Plantation Ledgers: 1818-1857; 1818-1844
- Haynesfield Plantation Ledgers: 1843-1864; 1843-1865; 1865-1881; 1881-1887; 1887-1893 and 1893-1895
- St. John Vestry Minutes: 1649-1697; 1792-1820; 1829-1863, and 1863-1884.
- St. Michael Vestry Minutes: 1678-1743; 1745-1754 and 1789-1805.

But what do these documents offer to the family historian? The ledgers of these two plantations located in the parish of St. John, gave details of their operations during the stated period. Such details could include transactions with named individuals and companies, as



well as sugar and rum production.

From early in its history, Barbados was divided into Vestries along parish lines. These vestries, headed by the Churchwarden and comprising propertied members, acted as a form of local government, levying taxes, providing for the upkeep of the parish church and schools, roads and the provision of poor relief. These documents therefore provide a snap shot of the parish during the specified period, which is invaluable for social history. For the genealogist, names such as those of vestry members and officers, tax payers, persons granted poor relief or who otherwise came to the attention of the Vestry, could assist in the compilation of family histories.

This unique and invaluable resource is available to all family historians from the comfort of their homes, free of cost.

# 1892 Barbados to the Congo Free State – Part 2

By Marcia Nurse

An examination of the publication *Of Halls, Hills and Holes: Place Names of Barbados* (2016) reveals at least three reasons for the naming of *Congo Road* Saint Philip. None of these explanations pinpoint evidence of the presence of enslaved persons, from the Congo Region of Africa, influencing the naming within that parish. Interestingly by 17 November 1817, in Saint Philip, there were 724 persons, out of 9,175 enslaved persons, documented as African born. That statistic was the second highest number of African born persons enslaved on the Island; Saint Michael tallied the highest at 2,252 African born persons. Across the Island there were 5,496 African born persons listed within the total enslaved population of 77,273.

Modern-day researchers and historians have evidenced that powerful West African traders plundered the ‘interior’ and ‘southern lands’ for

fellow Africans, whom they sold to Europeans involved in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Prior to the rise of The Trade, the capture, amongst Africans, in warfare, by other more powerful Africans, was politically, socially and culturally an acceptable practice; likened to European territorial warfare, it too led to empire expansion. Over approximately 300 years enslavers’ activities led to the presence of other peoples, besides West Africans, amongst those targeted, captured and bought by Europeans. Such captives could have been people from the region known as Congo. Undoubtedly, some such persons were enslaved in Barbados prior to 1807. Many Barbadians’ DNA results are showing an ancestral connection to Cameroon, Congo Western Bantu Peoples.

Perhaps in 21<sup>st</sup> century Republic of Barbados; a study utilizing DNA research could be completed among

‘long-standing/rooted’ families, within the districts of Congo Road, to determine whether there is a strong DNA link with today’s population of the Republic of Congo. An analysis of the 1817 Returns of Slaves for Saint Philip would allow for the collection of data regarding the African-born enslaved persons’ identification names, sexes, ages, how they were utilized by their owners, their owners’ names and the locations where they were held. Such research may lead to those 1834-38 surviving Africans; and to the European surnames they may have been recorded with as they underwent further registration by the various Christian denominations. Will any of those surnames match those of the 1892 ‘*young healthy and strong*’ men cited as induced by Mr. Gaskin of the Company?

What awaited these men who ventured to the 1892 Congo *Free State*?

## A Note from the Shilstone Memorial Library

Visitors to the Shilstone Memorial Library can now access [www.Newspapers.com](http://www.Newspapers.com), the largest online newspaper archive. Established in 2012, this resource includes newspapers from Australia, Canada, Ireland, Panama, the United Kingdom and the USA. The mainly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century information includes obituaries, marriage, birth and death announcements, social pages, news, sports and entertainment.

For the Barbadian historian and genealogist, the resource features information on Barbados and about some Barbadians. It is however only accessible in the library. Schedule a visit.

**EASTMOND, Ralph Henderson.** It is with great sadness that we are announcing the passing of our dear beloved husband, father, grandfather Ralph Henderson Eastmond who passed away peacefully on November 7, 2008. He has left behind his loving wife Pastor Jasmine Eastmond, children Anne, Ian, Jennifer, grandchildren Wesley, Bryan, Melissa, Marcus and Andrew. Predeceased by his loving daughter Janice. Visitation will be on Friday, November 14, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. and funeral service Saturday, November 15 at 11 a.m. at Kane & Fetterly Funeral Home, 5301 Decarie Blvd. Interment to follow in Barbados.



# My Journey...Winston Bowen



I was born and raised in the UK, but I was fortunate to have met my grandparents and associated family members in Barbados when I was young.

Growing up in England with the Broomes, Hinds and Jackman clans, we called each other family / Cuz, but nobody really understood how we connected. Asking questions was taboo and was often met with “so and so got to call so and so uncle / aunt

In 2016 I started my genealogy, but soon gave up because I could not even find people I grew up around, like my grandmother and great grandmother.

In 2019 a cousin invited me to join a Facebook group for the Bromes, Jackman and Hinds families. I was sceptical, because I am a Bowen / Brathwaite. I introduced myself, mentioning that my mother’s father was a Skinner who had died when she was a little girl, so I did not have much information on his family line. Unknown to me, one group member, with whom I chatted over a 2-year period, and who had found out that we were related, started to do some research on the Skinner line. On January 20<sup>th</sup> of this year he sent me the birth records of my grandfather and aunt. That was very emotional for me as it was the first time in my life, I felt a belonging to my mother’s father side. Coincidentally it was also my great aunt’s birthday.

She was born on January 20, 1909. That sent a cold shiver through my body...Was this a sign? I had to investigate deeper.

FamilySearch was very helpful in finding family members, including great grandmother Skinner. I spoke to my Auntie who put me in touch with Skinner family members in Barbados. It was a cousin who became a conduit, relaying information from her mother, who is the daughter of my great aunt. Communicating with her was a great source of information. I was able to connect bits and pieces and find my great great grandmother, who they believed was married in later life; I even found the marriage record.

I next turned to a missing aunt who emigrated to Trinidad when she was young. They knew nothing about me but I tracked one of her daughters through Facebook and have now spoken to both of them on the phone in Trinidad.

My next task is to find out more about my great Grandfather Francis Jackman, whose name I obtained through a living source in Barbados. Just two weeks ago I was also able to confirm his brother and thereby connect another line in the family tree.

I could not have achieved so much without a network of likeminded family members. They gave bits of information and comments, which have enabled me to piece together a part of our family story and everyone is excited to see the result of this journey. Good networking and the sharing of information has been a great recipe for our success.

## Did you Know...?

Many early Barbadian history books that are now out of print, can be found at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). This site, which is managed by the Library of Congress, aims to provide “universal access to all knowledge. It offers downloads of books such as Schomburgk’s “History of Barbados”, in multiple formats.

A screenshot of a digital library page for the book "The history of Barbados : comprising a geographical and statistical description of the island; a sketch of the historical events since the settlement; and an account of its geology and natural productions" by Schomburgk, Robert H. (Robert Hemmings), 1804-1805. The page includes metadata such as publication date (1808), publisher (Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans), and collection (americana). It also features a "DOWNLOAD OPTIONS" section with various file formats like PDF, EPUB, and HTML, and a "4 Favorites" count. The page is viewed on a desktop browser with standard navigation icons.

## Online Resources that I Use

By Lynda Lewis

There are many sites online which can be used for genealogical research. The following are two free sites that I use and with which I suggest that you also become familiar and all they have to offer.

The most popular site used by many all over the world is [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Once logged in, go to 'Search' and then 'Records'. Enter the name of the person, approximate birth date, if known, and for 'Place,' enter Barbados. This site contains digitised records from 1637-1930. You will be happy to know that those for 1900-1930, now show in the record search. Below is the record for my father, who was born in 1924. In reviewing the site for this article, I noted a listing for his burial on the Find-a-Grave website, which an unknown person had entered. That site is built on entries submitted by individuals and is not always accurate, as in my father's case. Always try to find additional information to ascertain accuracy. If you are new to genealogy, I recommend reading "Tips for Effective Searches" found to the left of the home page where you enter a person's name and place.

The second site is [www.caribbeanfamilyhistory.org](http://www.caribbeanfamilyhistory.org) where you will find "various databases to assist Caribbean Family Historians." There are some limitations, but it does have useful information. Under 'Research' you can find links to various contacts in other islands. There is a section with information on Quakers,

Barbados Meeting Houses and Burial grounds. There are also sections for Monumental Inscriptions and Slave Compensations. Compensation information includes the person filing, amount compensated, year, and the reference number. This information would be useful as a starting point when searching other sites for fuller details. The section on burials is the most popular section of this site. Although, there are burials from all over the island, the major component is from Westbury Cemetery. Most of the 'Burials' were transcribed from actual parish burial registers. Transcription of the Westbury Cemetery Registers 1875-2011 was facilitated by the Late Mr Richard Goddard.

DATE	NAME	RESIDENCE	RELATION	OCCESSION	MERCHANDISE	REMARKS
Baptisms solemnized in St. Mary's Church in the parish of St. Michael in the Island of Barbados in the year 1924						
16 August 2 1924	July 28 Daniel	Byron	Holder	Kellman	Mason Hall Street	Policeman W. G. Murray
17 August 5 1924	June 19 Lionel Arthur	Lionel Forrige	Forrige	Forrige	Warrens Estate	Planter

### NEWS

#### UPCOMING EVENT

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

**September 15th**—“Island to Island The Provisioning Plantation Connection between Barbados & Shelter Island” - Donnamarie Barnes – Curator, Silvester Manor, Shelter Island

#### RECENTLY UPLOADED TO YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vKeCtoZzTg&t=19s>—“The Cubajan Connection: A Legacy of Sugar” by Sharon Marshall

**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
Lynda Lewis	
& Betty St. John	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, by appointment only.

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

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

**Phone:** 1 246 538 0201

**Email:** [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb)

