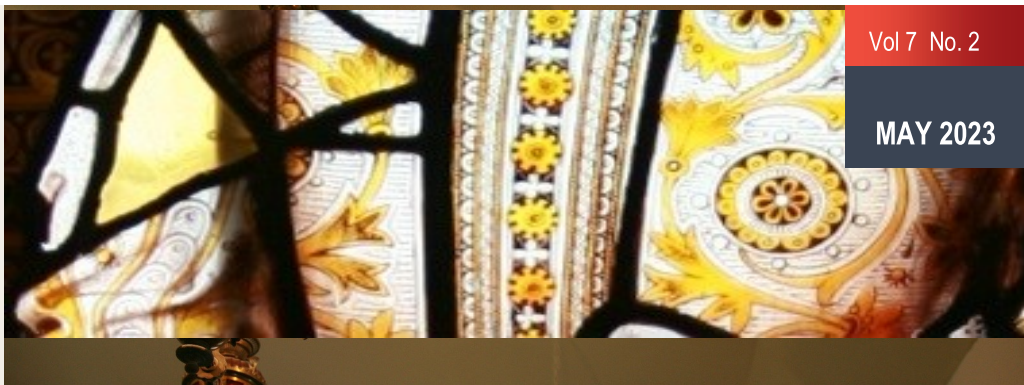


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The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

Connections

Barbados Genealogy on Facebook

Lynda Lewis



Barbados Genealogy



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

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

Mission Statement

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

I started Barbados Genealogy on Facebook on 9 July 2009 as a way for others to interact, ask questions, post comments, suggestions on their Genealogy journey as they researched their family trees. During the 14 years we have grown considerably. As of 2 January 2023, the Group recorded 5803 members, comprising 68% female and 32% male. The highest number of female members fall within the 55-64 age range and for males, 65 years. The top 5 countries are USA, Barbados, United Kingdom, Canada and Trinidad& Tobago. Between 5 December 2022 and 1 January 2023, there were 3648 active members. The most popular day is Wednesday and most popular times being 10:00 am followed by 8:00 pm.

Feedback from members has been positive, even when members are frustrated because of the difficulty in finding the leads. Certainly, in my own research this group has put me in touch with persons in my extended family that I did not know. Their help has allowed me to extend my research, fill in gaps, meet new family members, both online and in subsequent visits to Barbados. Based on feedback, they too have shared similar experiences.

There is a gentleman who has shared much information and pictures on Barbadians who went to Brazil. He is a fountain of knowledge on that topic. Some people searching for Barbadians in Panama have shared similar stories. I remember someone who posted to the group seeking information on a relative who went to Panama. I found the relative in the Panama records, shared the information and how he could access it. The photo of their relative is the only picture they have of their ancestor and it was subsequently used in a family reunion.

Continued on page 4

A Bajan's Journey to Sweet Salone , Part II

Kevin Browne

Continued from Vol. 7 No. 1 January 2023

Day 3: We spent most of the day in Waterloo Market, the second biggest city after Freetown. Waterloo market was very busy, so many people hustling and bustling. It reminded me of Swan Street, but on steroids multiplied by a million.

What I loved about West Africa is the abundance of fresh food. I enjoyed drinking moringa, lemon grass and honey each morning, all sourced from the village.

Day 5: We went to the beach. I was very surprised about the beaches in Sierra Leone, they are stunning. River no 2 beach is now my favourite beach in West Africa; white powder soft sand and crystal, clear water.

People on the beach were playing local music very similar to Calypso, the whole atmosphere reminded me of being in Barbados on a Bank Holiday. That evening we ate the best yam and fish I have eaten in a very long time.

Day 6: We had a very early start as today we were going to the Paramount Chief compound for our Naming Ceremony.

This was an elaborate event with the Regional Chief attending, together with many Government Officials and religious leaders. A lot of traditional dancers and drummers gave a spectacular performance and we the ate a kola nut which is ubiquitous in West African culture along with a rice ball, as Sierra Leoneans are rice people. If one spends enough time in Africa you will start to notice subtle variations. For example, the cultures of Upper Guinea and Lower Guinea are very different.



Naming Ceremony

During this Ceremony, we were blessed by an Iman and also a priest and I was given the name of **Thaimu Kamara** which was followed by the sacrificing of a goat. This was a day of much Celebration.



Traditional Temne Dancers

Day 7: We went to the immigration office in Freetown to fill out our passport applications.

Day 8: Sierra Leone has a lot of wild life and on this day we went to see the chimpanzees.

Day 9: We explored Freetown and visited King Jimmy market, one of the main slave markets. Here we saw the slave chains, hooks and writing on the walls left by our ancestors before they were taken to the Americas.

A Bajan's Journey to Sweet Salone , Part II Cont'd

Kevin Browne

Next, we visited the St John Maroon church, one of the oldest churches in Sierra Leone, This church was built by the Maroons who arrived in the colony in 1800 as black returnees from Jamaica, there is an entire fascinating story behind this church.



The Maroon Church

We next moved on to the famous cotton tree. I have never seen so many big bats in once place. This cotton tree is the most historic site in Freetown, for it is also the oldest cotton tree in Freetown. It is under this tree that the first Nova Scotian settlers congregated to give thanks for their liberty and new found freedom.

Freetown was birthed under this tree and anyone coming to Sierra Leone today always pay homage under it.

We also attended Fourah Bay college, founded on 18 February 1827. It is the first Western style University built in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Day 11: We attended a citizen investment workshop, what a morning this was.

We started the morning with some amazing traditional dance and drumming when all of a sudden, the big tour buses turned up and droves of African-Americans got off. The host then took us to the court yard for a traditional Sierra Leonean breakfast.

We sang the Sierra Leonean anthem and a welcome home song which was very moving.

This day we met various people from the tax department, immigration, banking and the legal sector

We ate a sumptuous Sierra Leonean lunch that afternoon and washed it down with some local ginger beer, I absolutely love the ginger beer in Sierra Leone.

What an amazing, informative and memorable day.



Bajan Flag on the Balcony of the Workshop Venue

Barbados Genealogy on Facebook

Lynda Lewis Cont'd

Another personal experience was finding a record in Barbados, in response to a query from a descendant of people who had survived the sinking of a ship off the south east coast of Barbados. A Barbadian lady nursed the baby survivor. The descendants of that baby live in a neighbouring Caribbean island. There are many stories others can relate.

Shortly after creating the Barbadian group, I created a Trinidad and Tobago group, with the hope that it would help me find ancestors who had emigrated to Trinidad. That too has been successful with similar stories and help given. This group has evolved and is being managed by others and attracting many researchers. There is now a few members of that group who have found various bits of information which they have posted to the group. There is also a lady who researches in T & T Archives and will send members her findings on the particular individuals.

In closing, I would say that I am aware of a number of Caribbean related Genealogy groups that can be found online by doing a general Facebook search for 'Genealogy'. Google searches are also helpful. I never thought 30+ plus years ago that researching my family tree would lead me to becoming a 'genealogical detective' but it has. Much more information is now available online, it is just to find the leads and clues. I continue to enjoy the journey; I hope you do too.

NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20— Using the Shilstone Memorial Library — Ms. Harriet Pierce

Sep. 21— Disasters, Records and Research—Mr. Robert "Bobby" Morris

BGG Past Presentations on YouTube—Playlist

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWhAN50mfrKE94fITPncultFGUu5FRidg>

Back Issues of Connections : <https://barbadosgen.wordpress.com/connections-newsletter/>

We welcome your articles for our upcoming newsletter scheduled for May. Please submit 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 / Editor</i>
Angela Skeete	<i>Education Officer</i>
Lynda Lewis & Betty St. John	<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, which is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9 am until 4:30 pm, by appointment only. Appointments are in 2 hour slots.

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

