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The Newsletter of the Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG)

# Connections

World War I Service Records

By

Margaret Belgrave

"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 came upon this site during one of my online rambles and found it fascinating, as I am sure many others will as well.

At [livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk](https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk) may be found the Imperial War Museum's site, which, in its words, invites us to "discover, explore, and remember millions of personal stories from World War 1". This is the result of a digital project undertaken from 12 May 2014 to 19 March 2019. More than 160,000 people worked together to ferret out and reveal hitherto unknown stories. There is also a short film for viewing.

The IWM acknowledges the support provided by the various contributors, whether individual or organization, who pulled together some 7 700 278 life stories, 3 175 052 facts, and identified 8 820 communities which connect the stories with some common attributes - ranging from names on war memorials, to family members.

Specifically, with regard to the service (pension) records of the British West Indies Regiments, the following 121 paged site is worth perusing: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/community/4478>.

It is revealed that around 850 Barbadian men enlisted, all volunteers; 67 pages devoted to Barbados, may be examined at: <https://grannum.wordpress.com/2015/01/14/barbadian-soldiers/>

This tremendous resource provides us with a means of touching those who were called upon by King George V to stand up and be counted, and who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to prove their loyalty. The inclusion of two of the surnames from my own family search, Howard and Chandler, made this a personal journey.

# A Bajan's Journey to Sweet Salone, Conclusion

**Kevin Browne**

Day 13: We got up early and headed to the immigration office in Freetown, to be processed for our biometric passports. We would be the first ones to have this new type. This was a very busy day for us.

Day 14: We went to look at some land that had been gifted to the Temne Abara Nation. The intention of this is to build multiple houses here for anyone from the group looking to repatriate themselves or for anyone visiting for an extended period.

Day 16 The Monument & Relics Commission invited us to an afternoon gala which was well attended. Again, we had traditional dancers and drummers all giving amazing performances.

We ate some good local dishes including; Cassava leaf stew, Lafidi, Ground Nut soup, Pemahun, Fish balls and Crain-Crain - a Stew Made from the leaves of the Jute or Corchorus plant, which is very similar to Okra when cooked.

We danced the night away under the African stars.

Day 17: We went to the Paramount Chief's village to perform Ablution/Wadu and prayer.

Most west African Countries are Islamic and this is the dominant religion especially in Upper Guinea

We washed ourselves in the traditional way and entered the Sacred House where an Iman prayed for the group and wished us well on our onward journey.

Day 18: Myself, together with 108 African-Americans, attended the statehouse with the President Madaa Bio for our Certificate of Citizenship and awarding of our Sierra Leone Biometric passports. As mentioned, we are the first group to receive this type of passport.

President Madaa Bio gave an excellent speech, telling us that this Citizenship was our birthright. He also talked about the Atlantic slave trade and its many atrocities.

The officials told me that I am the first Barbadian to return to my Maternal Land and to go through this process.

All in all, I had the most wonderful and memorable journey. The entire nation of Sierra Leone made me feel at home, safe and very welcomed.

The food was just amazing and the Temne Abara Nation did an excellent job in facilitating this trip and integrating us with the Temne traditional local culture.

The beaches really surprised me, you have the mountains, jungle and sea all wrapped up in one, an amazing breath-taking Vista.

Last but not least, we returned to the city of Waterloo, world famous for its fish and cassava bread-you cannot come to Waterloo and not partake in the local dish.

We also drank fresh palm wine right from the tree, as the locals say "from God to Man".

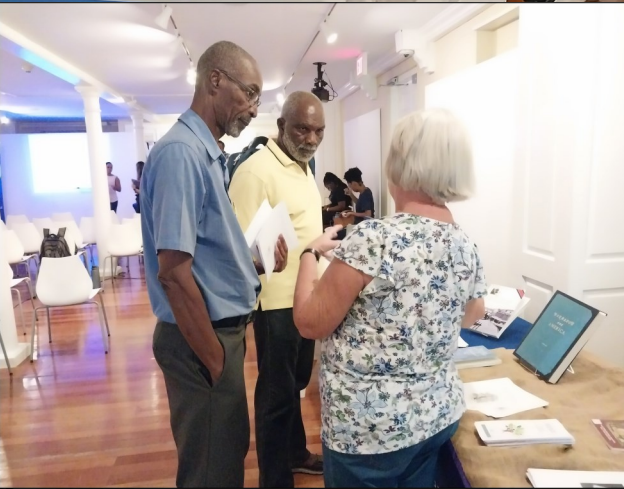
What an excellent adventure.!

**Me outside the State House in Freetown**



# EVENTS' SHOWCASE

The Barbados Genealogy Group (BGG) recently set up two exhibits at two events. The first event was the Financial Literacy Fair held at the Exchange Museum on Spry Street, opposite the Central Bank, on Saturday 24 June 2023. Visitors to the fair were able to view various literature and books relating to genealogical research and were given the opportunity to browse some websites, mainly familysearch.org, to see if they could find any information about their ancestors. The second event was a fundraiser for the Ermine Holmes Charitable Trust on Saturday August 26, 2023 at Gun Hill Signal Station. Harriet Pierce, the BGG facilitator and Shilstone Memorial Library's librarian, represented the BGG, through interaction with interested patrons and circulation of some of the group's literature.



# BARBADIANS IN NEW YORK

by David O'Carroll

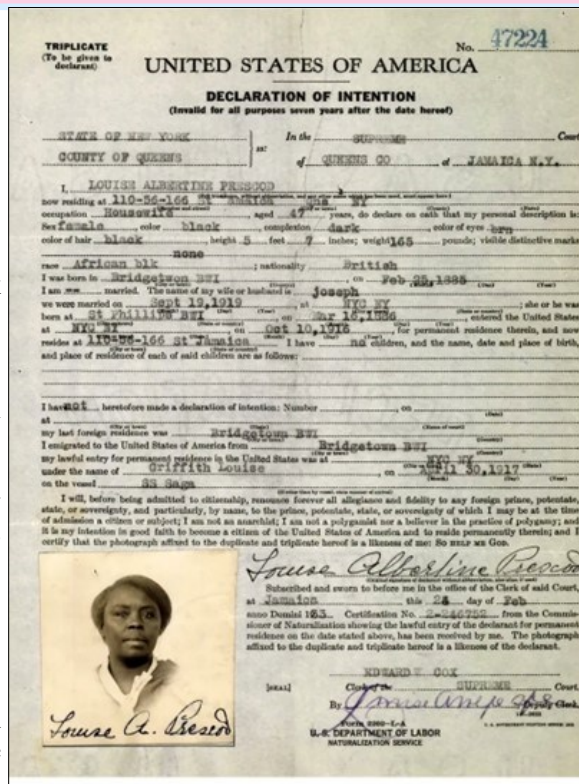
A new database covering naturalization records held in Queens and the Bronx courts in New York became available in June this year. Despite being presented as a resource for people tracing their European heritage the records include people born in Barbados. The best news is that it is free.

At present, only the naturalization records for Queens and The Bronx are available, but it is hoped that records from other counties in New York will be digitised.

There are 270 records in Queens (out of the total 400,000 records in the database) for people born in Barbados, who arrived in the USA between 1887 and 1950.

Hugh Batson was born in Barbados on 24 June 1868 and arrived in New York on the vessel *Fontebell* on 9 November 1887. His wife Carrie was born in New York but had died when his application was made. He worked as a Collector. He made his application in the Queens court.

For The Bronx there are only 66 records for Barbadians, arriving between 1891 and 1923. The earliest arrival in this group was George Frederick Bone McNicol. He was born in Barbados on 9 July 1861 and arrived in New York on the vessel *Allianca* on 3 July 1891 aged 30. The record gives the details of his wife and their six children, the first being born in New York eleven months after they arrived in 1892.



If the records include the “Declaration of Intention” a photograph may be included. The declaration for Louise Prescod appears on the landing page for the Naturalizations website which can be found at <https://nynaturalizations.com/>

### Search By

Petition #

Year of Arrival

Country of Origin

County Filed

Name

Include alternate spellings (name search only)

Q Search

### Instructions

- Search one or more fields
- If more than 500 results found, the list will be limited to the first 500 results
- Provide as much information as possible to narrow down your search
- Partial first, last and origin names are allowed
- Use alternate spelling option when not sure of spelling

### Search Results

( 2 Record(s) Found)

	View	Petition #	First Name	Last Name	Date of Arrival	Country of Origin	County Filed
1		41115	Beartrice Coward	Prescod	1911	Barbados	Queens
2		045255	Louise Albertine	Prescod	1917	Barbados	Queens

- 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, which is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9 am until 4:30 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)

