

# Historical and Archaeological Society

## The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



HAS Newsletter NO. 115

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## Protecting our Cultural Heritage

By Dr. Reg Murphy

In August, two consultation meetings were held here in Antigua with UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) to discuss the protection and safeguarding of Antigua and Barbuda's cultural heritage. In particular, emphasis was placed on underwater cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO held conventions for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in 2001 and the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003. The results of these conventions are international treaties in which states agree to adhere to the standards outlined by the conventions. By signing on to a UNESCO Convention, a country promises to uphold those standards, for example through legislation and heritage management, and becomes part of a broader international community collaboration.

The first consultation, held on Monday, 15 August, focused on the 2001 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. There are several tenets of the Convention. First, it obliges nations to preserve their underwater cultural heritage. Second, it favors *in situ* preservation. Archaeological excavations of underwater materials should only occur if the heritage is being threatened by natural or human forces. Third, there is to be no commercial exploitation of underwater heritage. This does not mean that tourists cannot visit underwater sites, rather it means items recovered from underwater sites are not to be sold for the profit of one or two individuals. Finally, the convention favors information sharing among shareholders.

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## Protecting our Cultural Heritage

*(continued from page 1)*

The second consultation, held on Tuesday, 16 August, focused on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In focusing on *intangible* cultural heritage, UNESCO recognizes that heritage is not limited to material items, such as monuments, but also encompasses living expressions and the traditions that groups and communities have inherited from their ancestors and transmit to their descendants. UNESCO made this the focus of the 2003 Convention because the increase in a global culture meant that many traditional forms of living and culture were being eroded. Examples of Intangible Cultural Heritage that are currently protected by UNESCO include the practice of falconry in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, the tango dance in Argentina, and Khoomei, an art of singing practiced by the Tuva people of southern Siberia.

What distinguishes the 2003 UNESCO Convention from other Conventions relating to cultural heritage is that it mandates the *safeguarding* of intangible cultural heritage, not just its protection. Safeguarding challenges us to preserve and promote our intangible cultural heritage for future generations. This could be done by adding aspects of intangible cultural heritage to school curricula, creating community centres for culture, and by promoting intangible cultural heritage through national festivals, such as carnival.

Government officials, representatives from different government ministries, as well as local stakeholders participated in both meetings. The Culture Programme Officer, Himalchuli, from the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster Office based in Jamaica was also on hand to answer any questions or concerns about the Conventions. Ultimately, those in attendance at both meetings agreed that these are vital Conventions for the government of Antigua and Barbuda to ratify and were excited to think of the opportunities for research and preservation they would open for Antigua and Barbuda. Not only would ratification provide the country with valuable legislation and protection of its heritage, but it would also provide an opportunity to document our heritage by conducting systematic surveys of underwater cultural sites and by creating intangible culture lists to be protected by a National Culture Policy. Our Secretary-General for the Antigua and Barbuda National Commission, Dr. Murphy, is currently working closely with the Ministries of Education and Culture to garner additional support for these Conventions by our government. Once these Conventions are ratified, Antigua and Barbuda will be eligible for programming funds from UNESCO to assist in the protection and safeguarding of our cultural heritage.

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## Highlights from the UNESCO Workshops



The Honourable Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, Minister of Education, discusses the conventions with Himalchuli Gurugn, Culture Programme Officer for the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster Office.



Consultation attendees discuss the benefits of ratification for Antigua and Barbuda during a coffee break.

## Museum to Co-Host MAC Meeting this November

By Samantha Rebovich

From 21 - 23 November the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, along with the Dockyard Museum, will host the Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC). MAC was formed in 1987 to allow museums and related organizations in the Caribbean to share experiences and skills. The objectives of the organization include promoting international best practices at museums within the Caribbean, acting as an advisory board for museum development, and serving as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

The theme for the upcoming AGM is “Museums and Sustainability.” The twenty-first century is posing a number of challenges to cultural heritage and museums. Alongside growing concerns about the environment and the sustainability of human society, museums are being forced to consider whether they themselves are sustainable institutions in today’s global economy. Preserving history and culture continues to be a challenge for many small museums throughout the Caribbean.

The AGM will consist of a series of lectures, workshops, and presentations from museum professionals from throughout the Caribbean. These will focus on how museums can stay sustainable in the twenty-first century as well as how museums can forge new paths for promoting sustainable lifestyles.

## Sugar Memories

By Agnes Meeker

*I was born in Bendals just before the Bendals Sugar Factory closed in 1940 and have many fond memories growing up, both in Antigua and five years in St. Lucia, surrounded by the talk, smells and sounds of sugar.*

Gunthorpes Sugar Factory had become the central factory for all of Antigua, with the cut cane being brought in by loco (locomotives on a network of narrow gauge railways). To this day I cannot drive by the old sugar factory on Sir Sydney Walling Highway without literally smelling the way it used to smell during crop time. Many found the smell unpleasant - it certainly was at Weirs Estate where the old wash water drained into the sea - but the smell from the factory near the cooling pond by Mackay Hill was much sweeter.

Saturday morning during crop time was a special time for us kids. We were allowed to go into the factory with our Capstan cigarette tin and pick whatever kind of sugar we wanted from the centrifuges.

The centrifuges spun and washed the molasses from the sugar, leaving lighter crystals. My favourite was a moist blend, warm and gooey with molasses.



From there we would go to the little shop outside the gate and get a penny bread, fresh and warm, to dip into the sugar in the Capstan cigarette tin...pure heaven!

The northeast wind would carry the black soot from the two chimneys in the factory right over the compound where we lived. The pieces of bagasse used to fuel the fires produced massive amounts of soot which swirled and eddied in our windows throughout crop time so our feet were always black and the sheets and towels could never be washed white.

No one looked at clocks, wore watches or asked the time - everyone relied on the steam whistle that blew for the change of shifts, lunchtime and teatime. It could be heard from all around, even as far as town. That whistle kept everyone regulated and you knew where you had to be when it went off.

I remember that whenever I smelt a cigar it would generally signal a visit from Dr. Winter, which often meant we were scheduled for an injection. Immediately I would duck and run for the cane field nearest the back of the house, bend low and run till I could not be seen. The cane field would also shelter me if I wanted to get away and hide in order to read a book uninterrupted. I could stamp down a little circle, sit on a piece of rag and be in my own little world through I did have to watch out for 'red itch' and often came out with scratches from the sharp cane leaves. But I felt safe and it was a place where no one could find me.

A stick of sugar cane to this day is pure pleasure. I think it was 'Bourbon' cane that was the soft, sweet one to suck on. Not the best for sugar yield, but grown to be eaten and so juicy the juice rolled down your arms and chin. I also remember my grandmother putting five spoons of sugar in her coffee or tea, saying 'Someone has to support the sugar industry'! Memories.

## Antigua Recognizes Historic Falmouth in International Celebration

This year marks the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Falmouth, Cornwall. In order to celebrate this achievement, the Falmouth 350 Committee is including recognition of the Falmouths throughout the world, including Falmouth, Antigua.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October Antigua participated in the “Falmouth Chain” in which the mayor of Falmouth, Cornwall will kick start a telephone chain around the world, calling representatives in Falmouths in New Zealand, the United States, Jamaica, and Antigua. Antigua will be the last to receive the call along with the secret “Falmouth message” and our Governor-General, Dame Louise Lake-Tack, will take the phone call. She will complete the chain by calling Cornwall, where our High Commissioner to the U.K., Dr. Carl Roberts will receive her call as he is the guest of honour at the dinner in Cornwall.

While Falmouth, Cornwall is celebrating its 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it is safe to say that Falmouth, Antigua, is at least 345 years old! Local histories suggest that Falmouth was one of the first towns settled in Antigua, being founded as early as 1633. Many of the documents relating to the early settlement of Antigua were destroyed when the French invaded the island in 1666. Much of the colonial documentation of Antigua begins in earnest in 1667 when the British regained control of the island. Therefore, we can say with extreme certainty that Falmouth Town existed by 1667, as did Falmouth Division. The question arises as to whether the town now known as Falmouth existed prior to 1667 and, if so, how far back its settlement dates.

There are several historical accounts that suggest Falmouth, Antigua, was established prior to 1667. For instance, the 3 April 1671 records from a Meeting of the Council in Antigua state: “On 3 Ap.

Serjt Major Nathl Clarke and Lieut. Paul Lee were paid 3000 lbs of tobacco for mending and fixing ye Court House at Falmouth...” (Oliver 1894). This passage might refer to repairs that had to be done because of the French invasion and therefore demonstrate that Falmouth was established prior to 1666.

The earliest reference to Falmouth in Oliver’s *History of Antigua* goes back to 1648 (In the Appendix, Volume III, P. 285). It comes from a “Book of Claims” dating to 1667 (again, reorganizing land claims following the French invasion). It states that land was claimed in Falmouth in 1648. It appears this is referring to land in Falmouth Divisions (which implies the town existing) but because the Book of Claims dates to 1667 it is unclear whether this land would have been in “Falmouth” in 1648 or whether they are documenting land claims in terms of “modern 1667” place names.

It seems that Falmouth, Antigua, is probably the third Falmouth in the world. Falmouth, Cornwall, was settled as early as 1540 and the town of Falmouth was created shortly after 1613. Falmouth, Maine, was founded around 1632 but by 1658 it was recognized as the province’s seventh town and was officially incorporated in 1718. Although the official date of the founding of Falmouth, Antigua is unclear, it is probably safe to say that it was founded prior to Falmouth, Massachusetts which was founded in 1660 and incorporated in 1686.

In any case, Falmouth, Antigua, holds strong salience in the modern history and culture of Antigua and Barbuda. It is one of the hubs of the country’s yachting industry and, as part of the Nelson’s Dockyard National Park, retains many of the historic structures and landscapes of the past.

## The History of Honourable Cecil Edgar Allan Rawle

Contributed by Gabriel J. Christian

### HONORABLE CECIL EDGAR ALLAN RAWLE (March 27, 1891- June 9, 1938)

Cecil Edgar Allan Rawle is Dominica's first national hero. He championed and fought for self-government, and for a unified Caribbean all his life. Born in Roseau, Dominica, on March 27, 1891, his parents, William Alexander Romilly Rawle and Elsie Elizabeth Sophia Garrett, had moved to the island from Trinidad. His father was the head of the local branch of the Panama Telegraph Company, later Cable & Wireless. Cecil Rawle was well educated, attending the Dominica Grammar School, then Codrington College in Barbados, and finally London's Inner Temple, graduating as a barrister in 1913.

For a short time, Rawle practiced law in Grenada and Trinidad, before returning to Dominica to open his law practice. At that time, Dominica had no elected representation in the local legislature, so he formed the Dominica Representative Government Association to campaign for representation, and established the Dominica Tribune newspaper to make that case, educate the public, and build support. He was a committed and energetic champion of West Indian self government and West Indian integration.

In 1925, partly as a result of Rawle's relentless campaigning, the UK granted Dominica a new constitution with the island's first elected legislature; and Rawle was elected to represent Roseau. He was a fearless activist and indefatigable campaigner for self government and West Indian unity. In 1932, he organized, and was elected chairman of the path-breaking and successful West Indian Federal Conference in Dominica. This was the first regional meeting to be initiated by Caribbean leaders themselves to discuss the future of the region. It was Rawle's conviction,

perseverance and networking that consolidated regional support for the idea of West Indian unity and the Dominica Conference. That conference brought attendees from almost all the British West Indian islands. At the end of their historic meeting, the conferees concluded: "Our work is to wash out the stains that now besmirch the Union Jack, stains of injustice towards weak nations. We are British to the core, but we demand that our flag shall be an emblem of Equality, Fraternity and Fairplay to all peoples over whose head it flies." Certainly, in the Dominica Conference's call for self-determination and greater West Indian unity, one saw the first steps towards the British West Indian Federation (1957-1962) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The conference lobbied the United Kingdom for greater representative government and autonomy. And the Federation, while short-lived, was a major step toward independence for the British West Indies.



In 1937 Rawle accepted the position of Attorney General of the Leeward Islands and moved to Antigua. Many saw this as a British plot to co-opt a rising Caribbean leader and a potential threat to British rule. Rawle died suddenly in Antigua on June 9, 1938 at the relatively young age of 47. His death has never been satisfactorily explained.

*(Continued on page 7)*

The Honorable Cecil Rawle is considered one of the founding fathers of West Indian integration. His legacy is often likened to those of other Caribbean greats such as Norman Manley of Jamaica, Captain Cipriani of Trinidad, Grantley Adams of Barbados and T.A. Marryshow of Grenada. At the attainment of Dominica's Associated Statehood in 1967, a bust of Rawle was erected on Federation Drive, in the Roseau suburb of Goodwill, to honor this great Dominican and Caribbean nationalist. He married Eva Shillingford and had six children - five girls and one boy.

**For his lifelong championing of universal adult suffrage and the rights of Dominicans to be ruled by their own legislature, and for his commitment to West Indian integration, DAAS honors the Honorable Cecil Edgar Allan Rawle.**

## **Celebrating 50 Years of Nelson's Dockyard**

As was noted in the last newsletter, this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the restoration of Nelson's Dockyard. To commemorate this achievement, the Dockyard Museum and the Heritage Department of the National Parks Authority have organized a series of events that draw on the unique history and heritage of this site. We hope that you will attend some of these festivities as we celebrate one of the most important sites in Antigua!

*Sunday, 13 November*  
*Thanksgiving Service at John Baxter Methodist Church*

It is fitting that we celebrate the longevity and success of Nelson's Dockyard at John Baxter Church because John Baxter lived in the Dockyard from 1778 until 1784. Stationed in English Harbour as a master shipwright, Baxter would often preach Methodism and within a year of his arrival, the Methodist community in Antigua grew to 600 people. The first Methodist Church was built in Antigua in 1783 and Baxter was its preacher.

*Monday, 14 November*  
*Dockyard Day: Opening Ceremonies and Exhibition Opening*

The 14<sup>th</sup> November was chosen as the opening day of Nelson's Dockyard in 1961 because it coincided with Princes Charles' birthday. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening Day of Nelson's Dockyard, an opening ceremony will be held in English Harbour. Following the ceremony, the Dockyard Museum will unveil its exhibition: 50 Years of Nelson's Dockyard which highlights the restoration efforts in the 1950s as well as the birth of yachting in English Harbour.

*Thursday, 17 November*  
*Privateers vs. Royalists Sailing Race*

Nelson was sent to Antigua to enforce the Navigation Act, so the question is: Are you with him or against him? In the showdown of cavaliers vs. crown, who will win? Pick a team and fly your colours accordingly. Race starts in English Harbour, so get your fastest vessel to the Dockyard before race time. Prize-giving will take place at the conclusion of the *Boreas Pursuit Race* on Sunday, 20 November.

*Sunday, 20 November*  
*Boreas Pursuit Race*

Nelson once chased the combined fleets of France and Spain across the Atlantic! You won't have to go that far, but do you think you can keep up with him? Race starts in English Harbour. Prize-giving for the Nelson's Dockyard Series to follow. Prizes will be awarded for individual race winners, series winner, and a plethora of other categories including most spirited and best costume!

*For Up-to-date information on the all the festivities visit our website:*

<http://50th.dockyardmuseum.org>

## Locomotives on the Rail to Restoration

Mr. Lawrence Gameson of T. Gameson & Sons Ltd. from England will be partnering with the Museum of Antigua & Barbuda, The Betty's Hope Trust and the Ministry of Tourism in an exciting project to restore several of the old locomotives that used to traverse the island carrying the canes from the country to the Antigua Sugar Factory. Public Works Department is also on board with help in collecting and transporting the locos to the Mechanics Yard where they will be worked on and once refurbished, to Betty's Hope. This is absolutely the last chance to restore and preserve some of our historic past as we lose so much to the scrap iron collectors, the bush and time.

A sample of each type, steam, gas and diesel, will be restored to their original glory as a static display that will become part of the Betty's Hope experience. Signs will depict the history of each loco and they will be displayed under an open shed on rails set on a bed of rock. Children will be able to view and interact with these old machines enabling them to learn a bit of our history that has totally disappeared from the face of Antigua.

It is hoped that a fourth locomotive, of extreme historical note, can be refurbished to actually run the rails once again. This loco, known as "The Bessie," came to Antigua from France after World War I and still has the armour plate with slits for windows. If this loco can be made to run again, a short narrow gauge line will be set up along the Betty's Hope entrance road to give rides to visitors. The length of the line will be determined by how much loco line can be found on the island and we will be approaching the public in this regard.

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda will be presenting an evening in the near future to advise the public further and would hope to have people who actually worked with and on the locos tell their stories. A PowerPoint presentation will depict

photographs past and present of the locomotive glory days. Anyone born after the 19770's has absolutely no conception of the extensive loco lines that used to traverse this land and cannot even envision the loco horn blowing as they crossed an intersection.



Antiguan locomotives are rusting away unless we restore them!



HUDSON HUNSLET No. 15 built in England 1946

## Muse News

By Michele Henry

### ***Tomorrow's Blossoms* by Roy S. Dublin**

The Dublin Family kindly donated a heart warming Anthology entitled, *Tomorrow's Blossoms* by Roy H.S. Dublin. This collection of poems won the King's Medal for being the best book of Poetry in the British Empire in 1934.

The family has expressed, "Therefore, during this season of Independence, we, his daughters wish to foster an awareness of this early Antiguan Poet whose stated aim in writing this book was to put Antigua on the literary map. As you will realize this was a very bold step to take during colonial times."

The Museum would like to thank the family of Roy H.S. Dublin for this worthy accession, which we have added to our collections.

### **Preserving our Industrial Patrimony**

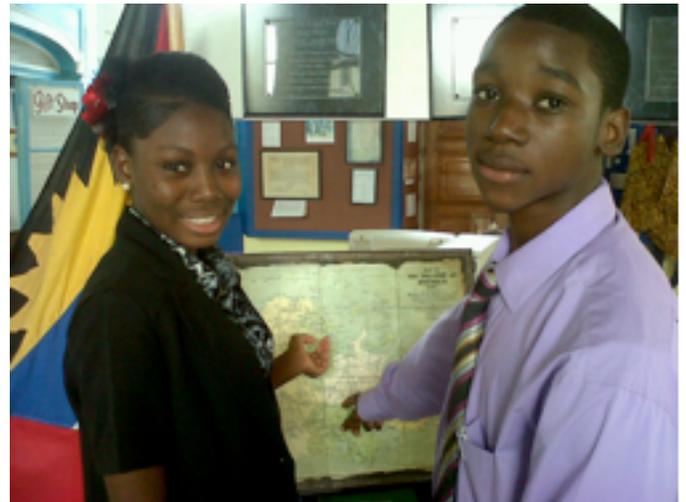
Thanks to a very alert scrap iron dealer, these wagon wheels from the old cane carts were delivered to the museum. We are grateful, because these wheels will form part of the new Industrial Archaeology Exhibit at Betty's Hope.



These wheels will now be preserved.

### **National Youth Week**

Rudolph McCaey, from the Pares Secondary School, and Kerry Ann Samuel, from the Jennings Secondary School, participated in the National Youth Work Experience Day at the Museum. They were introduced to the workings of the Research Data and Computer Centre, as well as touring the Museum to view the permanent exhibitions revolving around the history and heritage of Antigua and Barbuda.



Kerry Ann Samuel and Rudolph McCaey visited the museum to learn about careers in the museum industry.

### Dr. Lennox Honychurch book launch

Dr. Lennox Honychurch launched his new book *The Archaeology of Dominica* on Friday in the Upstairs gallery. The book is dedicated to the late Desmond V. Nicholson and family. Dr. Honychurch told the crowd that he was inspired to study and delve into archaeology by the late Desmond Nicholson. The multimedia display journeyed persons through the early settlers of Dominica, and the challenges of having to preserve archaeological specimens.



The crowd assembles to hear Dr. Honychurch's lecture.



Dr. Honychurch and Mrs. Lisa Nicholson

### Rendezvous Tour Guides.

The Museum accompanied the Rendezvous Tour Company on one of their unique and selective tours offered to our many cruise ship passengers. The day was well-spent exchanging ideas for new views, historical landscapes, natural heritage and local stories.



Rendezvous Tour Guides

Visit our new website:

[www.antiguamuseum.org](http://www.antiguamuseum.org)

Like us on Facebook for continual updates!

Museum of Antigua & Barbuda

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Museum-of-Antigua-and-Barbuda/107508883031>

The Historical & Archaeological Society Newsletter is published at the Museum quarterly in January, April, July, and October. HAS encourages contribution of material relevant to the Society from the membership or other interested individuals

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## *Historical and Archaeology Society*

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### Upcoming Events

#### **November**

Auction! The Museum will be holding an auction to sell a collection of original World War II posters. Details, TBA.

November 19<sup>th</sup>: "The Skin" by HAMA film; feature presentation in the upstairs gallery. All-inclusive: wine, open bar, finger foods: \$35 EC. Only 75 tickets will be sold. Meet the producers and directors for a Q&A session.

November 26<sup>th</sup>: The Museum Gift Shop is open with all of its new Christmas merchandise! Be sure to stop by and get your Christmas shopping done early!

#### **December**

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Annual Museum Christmas Masquerade Party! Dress to impress as we celebrate another year and another holiday season at the Museum!

#### **Forthcoming**

Guest lecture on the restoration of the locomotives!

Join HAS! Discover & Preserve Antigua & Barbuda's Heritage

TO BECOME OR REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, FILL IN & SNIP OFF. Mail to P.O. Box 2103, St. John's Antigua.

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