

# Historical & Archaeological Society Museum of Antigua & Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



HAS NEWSLETTER NO # 112

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## Presidents Message

By Agnes Meeker

As we move into the year 2011, I would like to welcome our new President, Dr. Reg Murphy, to the Board of the Historical and Archeological Society. It is with tremendous pleasure (& relief) that Dr. Murphy accepted the Presidency without reservation when asked. His expertise and interest is well known particularly in the Archeological field and I know he will continue the work that he and Desmond Nicholson started so many years ago. Reg and Desmond always worked closely together and it is particularly fitting that Reg step to the fore one more time as HAS (Historical and Archeological Society) continues to build on and expand the knowledge already gathered.

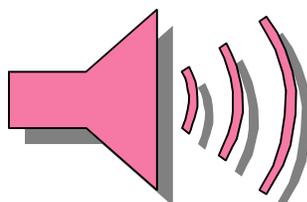


Agnes Meeker  
Past President

When Desmond stepped down I had only been on the Board for about three years when he asked that I take over the Presidency from him. I felt that I could never fill his shoes nor dedicate the time that Desmond spent, but I have a deep love for this island of Antigua with roots that go back six generations and feel that the history of this little 108 square miles is worth preserving. So for ten years I have kept the hearth fire burning and relieved that once more we have a professional at the helm.

The history of Antigua is a fascinating and a diversified one with many new books and papers coming to light as interest in the Colonial era comes to the fore. I expect the information on this era to keep on growing in the foreseeable future and we need to make sure that it is available for research in our Archives for nearly everyone who lives here has a stake in that past.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome Dr. Reg Murphy, though he is no stranger, and wish him a productive and instructive tenure as President of the Historical & Archeological Society (HAS). Thank You.



More History is made by secret handshakes than  
by battles, bills and proclamations.

## Museum Gets Priceless Papers– The Tudway and Martin Papers

Extracted from the Daily Observer Newspaper, written by Joanne C Hillhouse

The Museum of Antigua & Barbuda has just received a valuable Christmas gift the Tudway of Wells and Samuel Martin papers on microfilm - thanks to the efforts of Antigua & Barbuda's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr Carl Roberts.

Now, you may ask, of what value are estate documents of a bygone era? Well, take the personal papers (letters etc) of Samuel Martin, circa the 1600s to the 1700s, for instance. In addition to being a plantation owner in the Greencastle area, Martin was reportedly a well known political and military figure, described by one diarist of the time as the "father of Antigua" (according to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography) whose own father was allegedly murdered by "his slaves."

The papers, we understand, span the family's involvement in the politics, economics, and social life of the country and as such, act as a snapshot of, at least, a particular stratum of that society in a particular time. Given the limited first-hand data, particularly on the sugar making countries of the Caribbean, from that time, papers of this nature are of particular value for those interested in understanding not only the time referenced (plantation politics and such) but how things came to be as they are. It's been said of the Samuel Martin papers in particular that "they encompass the broad range of interests of a leader of some prominence in colonial society"

The Tudway of Wells papers cover an even greater span, 1689 to 1907, which given the span of time covered, have been described as "the most complete surviving private records pertaining to these plantations" ([http:// www.stampnotes.com/Today in Postal-History / 081050.hhn1](http://www.stampnotes.com/Today%20in%20Postal-History%20-%20081050.hhn1)). The particular plantation is Parham, owned and operated by the absentee Tudway family of Wells Somerset. The papers include annual accounts, correspondence, pay lists, slave registers and sugar records, providing, according to the referenced site "full details on all operating aspects of a sugar plantation as well as attitudes on absentee landlords and legislation affecting the sugar business."

Like the Martin papers and the Codrington Papers, considered to be quite significant in this regard - they help provide perspective on the social and economic history of the country at the time. Dr Roberts said the acquisition of these papers cost in excess of £2,000 and there's no doubt he thinks it was well worth it. "We now have an opportunity for people to, when the Museum releases the information, be able to know (more) about Antigua ... What we're trying to do is begin to develop the full story of Antigua." This is made even more significant, he believes, given Antigua's position then as the centre of government in the Leeward Islands.

Of their relevance to research and discourse today, Dr Roberts repeated the oft referenced maxim, that a country "that doesn't know where it comes from doesn't know where it is ... (and) we will fail to know where we have to go in a more appropriate manner." He also sees the opportunity for growth in historical tourism. But to do so, to put

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### NEWSLETTER

Myra Dyer

*Use The Museum  
Library: It Is A  
Reservoir Of  
Knowledge*

(Continued on page 3)

## Museum Gets Priceless Papers...

(Continued from page 2)



Fourth one from the right Antigua & Barbuda's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr Carl Roberts, the sixth one from the right Hon. Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, Mr. Eustace Francis, Michelle Henry, Reg Murphy and Agnes Meeker.

the historical relics into perspective and foster further academic research, he explained, you "have to have that signpost; this is what Antigua used to be like." These papers essentially existed in family collections before coming on the market. As a recipient of the Museum newsletter, he was aware of their interest in the papers and when they came on the market, thought the Museum was the perfect repository for this information as he wanted people to be able to access it and have a better sense of the history of their country. He was driven to do this, he said, by a sense of patriotism, as a "very proud Antiguan" committed to the growth and development of his country, Dr. Roberts said, "Any help I can give, I will."



The Museum is grateful, with curator Michelle Henry commenting, "We are hoping that Antiguanians will be able to come and read these papers." Papers which, she indicated, shine a light on quite a few plantations in Antigua - not just the ones specifically mentioned in this article and should spur much-needed research.

## Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Presents Christmas Gift To The Museum

Extracted from News Pages Newspaper

The Antigua Commercial Bank which recently hosted its annual "Christmas in the Park" show continues to keep the spirit of Christmas alive as on Wednesday 29th December 2010 it made a double presentation to separate entities.

During a programme chaired by Marketing and Public Relations executive Shawn Nicholas, the first set of proceeds from the event went to the museum of Antigua and Barbuda. Curator, Michelle Henry was on hand to collect the gift and graciously thank the organizers, calling them Christmas angels.



## The Museum of Antigua & Barbuda Introduces a New and Exciting Aspect of Technology in Education

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, Curator Michele Henry and Educational Technology Coordinator Mrs. Williams-Angmor are initiating a new aspect of Interactive Technology at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda. It involves the use of components to build a computerized blackboard called the "Interactive Whiteboard" being used in schools and cultural institutions abroad, internationally and now the Museum.

The Interactive White board offers educators an opportunity to share information with an entire group of students at the same time. These days it is all about integrating education, culture and technology by using the digital language our children speak. It enhances

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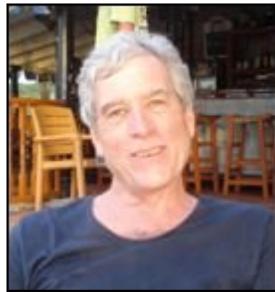
## A Visit to Antigua by Nick Warner, May 2010

By Agnes Meeker

Nick Warner, b. Singapore 1950 (father & mother both journalists posted there at the time). BA & MA from Australian National University. Has worked in a range of Australian government Public Service Departments and Agencies, Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs (Ambassador to Iran, High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Secretary Defence Department).

### Direct descendent of Edward Warner, first Governor of Antigua 1629.

Nick Warner has been researching his family history over the years and it would not be complete without a visit to St. Kitts/Nevis and Antigua to not only search the Archives but to get a feel for the terrain and walk the walk taken by one of his famous ancestors, Edward Warner first Governor of Antigua in 1629.



He came all the way from Australia to do this.

Eventually from all this research he hopes to publish a book which would be extremely valuable to the historical archives of Antigua.

Sir Thomas Warner of St. Kitts was known as the Coloniser of the Leeward Islands, and it was his son by his third wife, Edward Warner, who was Deputy Governor of St. Kitts in 1628 then became Antigua's first Governor in 1629.

An old and colourful story centers around Phillip Warner's wife and children who were taken by the Carib Indians from a church in Falmouth, never to be seen again. The harrowing story is told in Ms.

Lanaghan's Antigua & the Antigua's and further verification can be found in Vere Oliver, Vol.I. In 1675 he was removed to the Tower of London charged with the murder of his half brother Indian Warner at Dominica while trying to save his wife

and family. He was later acquitted and in 1689 "he fell from his horse as he was riding, his Horse stumbled and fell upon him, so that he died a few Days after the Hurt that he had received". He was buried at St. Paul's.

Nick Warner was also interested in visiting the various estates owned by the Warner family over the years, of which there were quite a few. Old Savannah, Picadilly, Milly Byam (Folly), Belvedere, Osborne's, Dimsdale, Pares, Clarkes Hill and Ashton Warner (near Doigs). Clarke's Hill is known as the area where the first Government House was located, but I did not realize that it was also an estate at one time. I was able to meet with Nick and share some of the information on the above estates that I have managed to compile in the hopes of eventually publishing a book containing a documentary on all of Antigua's estates. Nick advised that he had in his possession quite a lot of documentation, which he would be happy to share, on Old Savannah which is one of Antigua's first settlements, if not the first and was where Edward Warner resided. Dr. Reg Murphy arranged for him to visit the site which has been declared a National Park property but it has yet to be fenced, repaired or made available to the public as a Historical Site.

Two Warner graves can be found on the Savannah site. Unfortunately the marble slabs were broken by grave robbers hoping to find artifacts but these could easily be repaired.

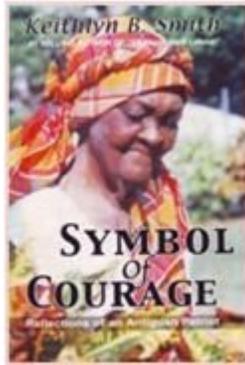
They read – "Here lied the body of Mrs. Elizabeth/WARNER/Late wife of Edward Warner, of this island, Esq. --- She departed this life the thirteenth of August/1723/in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of her age." And "Here lies the body of/Mr. Henry Warner/Who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Sept./1731/In the 39<sup>th</sup> year of his age/----"

The Savannah site, other than the two graves, contain some old walls, foundations and a beautifully built brick well, very likely one of Antigua's first.

History Belongs to the Winner!

## The Shanty Tribe of Breaknock

This is part of Section one(1) extracted from the book entitled "A Symbol of Courage" by Keithlyn Smith which was just donated to our Museum's Library.. In this book Mary Lewis who was 85 also known as Aunt Dood talks about estate life for her family & herself in the 1900's. This book is very interesting and is filled with information on life on different estates in Antigua. I urge you to purchase this book or just visit our museum's library and sit, relax and read it for yourself.



**M**y real name is Mary Lewis but most people know me as Mary Peterson and my family call me Aunt Dood. Peterson is the Honourable surname bestowed upon me when I got married to Levi Peterson and I am very proud of that name.

I am from Breaknock. Not many people hear of Breaknock nowadays. In earlier times people referred to it as the Evergreen Village because it was not known to be ever really out of water. The frequent droughts from which Antigua suffers never had the kind of adverse effects on Breaknock as on other places. Its green surroundings and high trees protected the water from rapid evaporation. The water would get very low at times when the drought was extremely hard and long, but luckily the rain would come in time before the water dried up completely. The estates surrounding Breaknock were fruitful. The belief was that people of Breaknock and of the surrounding estates were not that badly off because they did not have to bear the extreme hunger and starvation that was the main taker of life in the island. This does not mean that life was not bad with them. The circumstance was, the people living there could find a little thing to bite when people in some other places had nothing or very little to eat. Breaknock was in the rain belt of the land. There were gardens with all types of fruit trees; sapperdilla, marmiesupport, custard apple, breadnut, breadfruit, mango, sugar apple, guava, lime and oranges are some that I can remember.

I would say that Breaknock is close to the mid-south of the island. It is a little way south of Warner and lies east of Hamilton Estate. It is west of Body Pond

Estate and close to Body Pond that became well-known because it was the main source of water for the whole island for many, many years. Breaknock is also a stone throw from Sawcolts in the south.

People today mostly hear of Bental. Very little is heard of the estates within close proximity of Bental because almost everybody now name the whole place Bental. In my young days, each plantation was known and identified separately. To refer to the whole area as Bental is misleading. Breaknock is about one and one half miles from Bental Estate works. At one time Antigua's largest sugar factory was located at Bental. That may be the reason why the name Bental keeps ringing above the names of other estates.

The Lewis family spread right throughout the whole island. A very large part of the root of the family tree was at Breaknock. There the family had a strong influence on life in the village for several years. A Lewis family member was found in almost every house at Breaknock. Certain members of the family were involved in almost everything in the community. Organizing of singing meetings, concerts, singing round at Christmas, warri games, cricket matches, donkey race and other sports.

The Lewis family was the corner stone of the St. Luke's Anglican Church for over a century. At one time the well-loved and distinguished Anglican Bishop George Summer Hand, served at St. Luke's. It was there that he got close to the Lewis family and showed by his words and his deeds that he thought very highly of them. Priest after priest could call on them to do anything for the church. The family worked hard during the construction of the church and later maintained it with extreme care and devotion over the years.

In those days people in high places hardly discussed slavery. Bishop Hand was a little different. He would say a thing or two now and again about slavery, particularly when he was saying nice things about members of the Lewis family for their hard work and devotion to the community. Sometime in the 1930's I learned from him that the Lewis family are descendants of the Ashanti tribe from the Gold Coast in West Africa. Sometimes he would refer to the Lewis family as the Ashanti tribe of Breaknock. The local people regarded the name "Ashanti" as a nickname and would refer to members of the family as "shanti-

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## The Shanty Tribe of Breaknock

(Continued from page 5)

shanti". They also made rhyme from the name. At times they would say "Shanti-shanti! Go look for your donkey!", and there was another one "Shanti-shanti! Go put on panty!"

Bishop Hand claimed that the tribe came to Antigua sometime in the 18th century. He also said that a boat called "The Elizabeth" brought members of the Ashanti tribe to the island and that they disembarked at Johnson's Point Wharf where the English had a fort and a slave market. He also told the congregation that the female slaves that came off the boat were given the name Elizabeth, which became the most popular name in the Southern part of the island. My middle name is Elizabeth and my grandmother's was also Elizabeth.

I don't know every member of the Lewis family living in the island. What I think happened was, they moved from the south and spread their seeds all over the place. However, I can speak a little of the Lewis family of Breaknock. They were jet black people - real black people. Despite their black complexion, it was noticeable that many of the men went for fair-skin women to be their partners. The top craftsmen around were found in the Lewis family. They were among the best in the important trades of the time. No joke. Those who were not top wheelwrights or blacksmiths, would be good carpenters or masons.

As a child growing up, I would hear people mention the name Norman Lewis. They spoke of him as a top builder and one of the best banjo players in the land. He was one of the leading workman during the building of the old Big Creek bridge. He was involved in nearly every major construction in his time. I think that Big Creek still stands out as a master piece. I don't think that the new one can come close to its strength. Back in the old days members of the Lewis family monopolized the cooper trade at Hamilton, Bental and Jennings plantations. The sugar industry was the main source was the main source of livelihood, and coopers played an important part in its operation. As a result the sugar estates could not function properly without the coopers.

Mark Lewis was a specialist blacksmith at Hamilton. When I say "specialist blacksmith" I mean one that could do quite a few things. He could shoe horses and

donkeys and he made bits for them. He also made cart wheels, and could bend iron into any shape. Mark also made cutlasses, knives, scrapers and tempered them so that they would remain sharp for long.

It was hard to find anybody in Breakneck and the surrounding estates that could read better than certain members of the Lewis family. God blessed the family with good heads. Education was a scarce thing then. Plenty duncy-headed people were around. It was not their fault for not knowing a thing. That was a big problem well before I was born and after. Some members of the Lewis family at Breaknock helped to teach people how to read. This they did over a long period of time, gladly sharing the knowledge they had. In those days it was very, very, dark at nights but the family lit lamps, made the sacrifice and burned the midnight oil to help others.

My great uncle, Paddy Lewis used to run a night school at Breaknock. Victor Lewis, another great uncle, operated a separate night school at Bental. Bishop Hand would always say that the Lewis family was known to get high grade for reading. At that time, some people could call words but did not understand them. Bishop Hand made it clear that the Lewis' he knew also received high grades for understanding what they read. I remember at one time how he praised my brother Victor for being able to handle himself properly at Sunday School and how he could face the congregation with assurance at the age of nine years.

Victor could read without a blunder at that tender age when education was extremely limited.

My father was a top Singing Meeting Speaker. He held the Bental and Breaknock Championship title for many years. According to my mother, no one could beat him easily. He had vast knowledge of the Bible, so much so, that the villagers Nick named him "Bishop-fu-Bible". Naturally, he followed in the footsteps of those who went before because he was a good carpenter and was a builder of tubs, scrubbing boards and troughs. My father was also a wheelwright of merit and a knowledgeable farmer. I would say he had blessed hands because anything he planted flourished. Farming was the big thing back then. The family was blessed with a host of good-farmers men and women.

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## The Shanty Tribe of Breaknock

*(Continued from page 6)*

The Lewis of Breaknock were physically strong people who cultivated the land with a pitchfork as if it were a plough driven by oxen. Very few could measure up with William Lewis. He could handle the pitchfork with such great power that people nicknamed him "Fork Machine".

In those days horse race was a top sport. How I judge it, cricket was first followed by horse racing. The English people loved their cricket. Back then priests, judges, magistrates, governors and poor people knocked the ball. At one time there was hardly an island team without a Lewis in it even if they did not carry the title Lewis. When it comes to the horse race maybe no one would believe me if I told them that Mark Lewis Number two, another close family member, was the best jockey in his day. The English people had their horse-racing regularly but the big one were held at Easter time, Whir and on Empire Day.

The Lewis family generally have long liver . To the best of my knowledge those I knew had not been subjected to any serious sickness in their young days. I think that gift of strength is one of the best blessings from the Almighty. Quite a number of the family members lived longer than the Bible-allotted three score years and ten. That happened although we worked so hard and suffered so much privation in life. My uncle Federick is over one hundred years and he is still here on the land of the living. He is the first known centurian in the family. I am now eighty-five years old and I feel good. I still have my head on my body. Me thank the Lord for sparing me up to this day.

As lousy as things are now,  
tomorrow will be somebody's  
good old days.

Gerald Barzan

## New President's Message

By Reg Murphy

On assuming my new role as President of HAS and the Museum, I have had some time for thought and reflection on the history of our organization. First or all it creates a sense of panic for I realize that I am now what's called "Institutional Memory", having been around since the beginning of the beginning. It has been an interesting road from the earliest days of setting up our first exhibits to the institution of today; one that would not have been possible without the contribution of many individuals who volunteered their time and resources, tirelessly so over the years.



Reg Murphy  
New President to the  
Board of the  
Historical and  
Archeological Society

On behalf of all the members of HAS, I would like to thank past president Agnes Meeker for her amazing contribution. Agnes was inspirational in her fundraising efforts and never flinched at the size and scope of the work and budget. Changing all of the windows in the museum, which required dismantling all the wall mounted exhibits and repainting the building, cases was a monumental project that I don't think many people would grasp the full scope, but her positive attitude and dedication to the project has ensured the continued survival of an amazing national monument and given HAS a sound platform to work on.

Since its creation in the mid 1980s, the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda has remained true to its mandate of education, preservation and keeper of the Nations tangible (and to some extent intangible) cultural heritage. Our database continues to expand and exhibits refreshed and upgraded on a regular basis.

In the 1990s, an alliance was formed with the Dockyard Museum and the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda. The Dockyard Museum has a mandate through the National Parks to conduct research and archaeology, and it assumed the role for both Museums. The Dockyard Museum and its Field Research Center now stores all of the artifacts excavated since 1995, and has become a vibrant

*(Continued on page 8)*

## New President's Message (Continued from page 7)

research based organization. I would like to see both organizations renew their working relationship and develop new partnerships and policies for their mutual benefit. First of these will be capacity building.

Collections management is crucial to all museums and it is important that we have a solid handle of our collections along with policies for their management, handling and storage. I will be seeking to develop an internship program for technical assistance and capacity building from reputable organizations overseas.

HAS was a founding member of the Museums Association of the Caribbean. MAC met annually over the past 15 years to discuss issues and to provide opportunity for museum directors and curators "swap notes" and learn from each other. In recent times, the financial crisis has eliminated funds and many of the smaller museums can no longer afford the annual week of deliberations. MAC is shrinking and is at risk of becoming extinct! HAS and the MAB has not attended MAC in many, many, years. I propose that we join the effort to revive this organization and become active in the Caribbean community of Museums. To this end, I will approach the Directors of MAC to discuss the issues faced by MAC and perhaps jointly hosting its AGM on Antigua in 2011 or 12. The budget required is small and manageable as members essentially pay their own way.

In closing, I welcome the challenge as President of HAS and hope to build on the platform developed by former President Agnes Meeker, and look forward to working with the staff and volunteers of the Museum.

## Research Notice

By Reg Murphy

January marks the annual research season for CUNY Brooklyn College Field School on Barbuda. We welcome the return of Drs. Sophia Perdikaris and Tom McGovern and their colleagues that comprise the international multidisciplinary team. Excavations will continue at the early Arawak site at Seaview by the archaeologists, while mapping of the heritage sites and resources continues. One of the primary objectives of the team is to develop a cultural map of the island for the Barbuda Council and Authorities on Antigua, to ensure their survival and inclusion into the cultural heritage tourism product.

A similar project has also begun for Antigua.

Another team is now working on Antigua with the Field Research staff of the National Parks. Over the past week, Dr. Lisa Kennedy (Virginia Tech), Dr. Michael Burns (UWI), Dr. Allison Bain (University Montreal/Laval) and grad student Alex Berland have been taking core samples from the wetlands of Antigua for research into Climate Change. Core samples are simply put "tubes of mud" that date back thousands of years, are a record of events and the environment. They retain pollen, insects, plants, ash from volcanoes, sand layers from storm events, and many other microscopic animals that are significant of environmental conditions. This project is part of the Islands of Change Project presented at the Museum last summer. It is the tip of an iceberg of studies involving many universities and comparative research on Iceland, Manhattan and

Antigua/Barbuda. A field station is now setup on Barbuda with assistance from the Barbuda Council and research will continue over the next couple of years. One of the outcomes will be an environmental profile of Antigua extending back many thousands of years. This will provide solid scientific data to assist in understanding our changing climate and developing predictive models for the future. More to come.

## Museum Introduces New and Exciting Aspect of Technology

(Continued from page 3)

traditional teaching methods while meeting children where they are. Today's students are using technology on a regular basis and can figure out how to navigate digital device within an hour of it reaching their hands. Technology use is increasing and shows no signs of slowing down and our children have the ability to process information at higher rates so that Educators must begin to employ new methods in order to meet the learning needs of our children.

The Museum plans to begin a series of interactive workshops this Spring Season allowing the children to take virtual field trips to Betty's Hope, digitally cut, pack and mill sugar cane and digitally conduct their own archeological digs at Arawaks sites. This Interactive Educational Technology tool will provide the necessary stimulus to engage the growing demand of our children's developing technological minds. With the introduction of this interactive tool at the Museum it will expose a new generation to the heritage and treasures of the island. The possibilities are limitless with the use of this new tool.

## The Legend Of Ding-a-Dong Nook

*By the late D.V. Nicholson*

As a background to this legend, it is important to relate that Sir Thomas Warner, with his son Edward, first colonised the Leeward Islands in 1628 by settling in St. Kitts. By 1632, some differences developed between Sir Thomas and his son, so it was suggested that Edward depart and colonise nearby Antigua.

However, the original inhabitants of the islands did not fancy the intrusion of these foreigners. Caribs at that time lived mainly in Dominica, but they used the Leeward Islands for gathering certain natural resources, especially those that were unobtainable in the environment of their mountainous homeland. To discourage the European settlers they raided and destroyed their crops and settlements, but the real booty was the rum and wives of the settlers. The abduction of Cynthia, the wife of Edward Warner, gives rise to the Legend of Ding-a-Ding Nook.

One evening in 1640, after Cynthia had put her two small children safely to rest and all had quieted down in Edward's household known as Government House, she at last went to bed herself. However she could not sleep; some sort of 'spirit of the night' was keeping her awake. So she arose, wrapped herself in a taffeta gown, opened a lattice from her window, and viewed the wondrous scene of a beautiful quiet moonlit night overlooking Falmouth Bay to ease her mind.

It was all so still in contrast to the brisk daily trade winds and bustling household. Not far away were the settlers' simple houses amid the boughs of coconut trees in the young settlement of Falmouth village. Along with the sound of breaking waves in the bay, the distant bark of a dog could be heard; it was all very peaceful.

Then, as she was dreaming of the green hills and vales, and tall cities of her native land, England, she unexpectedly espied a swift-gliding canoe paddled by about twenty men. Just then the moon came out from behind a cloud and she saw yet another canoe approaching. These disappeared from her view, but feeling uneasy, she awoke her husband, Governor Edward Warner, who put the household and servants in readiness for a possible attack. All was quiet and Cynthia began to wonder whether what she had seen was just a dream, when without warning the most ferocious Carib war cries were heard and an attack was made. Confusion ensued, many bodies were laid about, but finally the Indians were obliged to retreat.

Alas! Edward's wife and two children had been carried

away in the confusion and taken to the canoes. On the way to the beach, where the boats had been left, one of the children cried out loudly. Fearful that the bawling would reveal their path of flight, a vicious Carib took the child by the feet and bashed its head against a rock. (In 1840, this rock was still being pointed out. It was on Patterson's estate which was then owned by the Hon. John Athill. Where is that rock today?)

The Governor immediately took an armed vessel in chase, but the sailing ships of the day were exceedingly slow compared with the long canoes that were speedily propelled by their many paddlers irrespective of wind conditions.



Rendevous Bay

After a day of sailing nothing was seen and on reaching Dominica, known to be the home of the Caribs, two empty canoes were perceived drawn up on the sandy beach of a small bay.

Orders were given to anchor and a landing party was organised. A beaten path leading up the mountains was located, but soon the going became intricate due to almost impenetrable undergrowth and inhospitable vegetation, some of which possessed sharp thorns.

The Governor's party was for giving up and returning, but just then Edward saw something that made him so excited he could hardly speak. He had seen a small fragment of taffeta that he knew to be the color of his wife's robe. So they laboured on through the undergrowth until they began to give up hope once again. Suddenly, as before, something else was noticed – a drop of blood! Then further on another and yet another! These were carefully followed and after an abrupt turn, a clearing was found in which was a Carib village.

Nothing could resist the Governor's resolve and power, and in the fight, Carib after Carib lay stretched out on the ground by his sword and the strength of his arm and determination. The anxious husband then entered the principal house that had been carefully guarded during the fray and a well known voice and an infant's joyous cry greeted him. Soon the beloved were in Edward's arms. The descent began, but Cynthia had to be carried as her feet had been badly cut after her shoes had fallen off, thus causing the trail of blood in the forest that had saved her.

(Continued on page 11)

## Muse News

### China Diplomatic Corps visit the Museum

The newly appointed Ambassador to China in Antigua and Barbuda His Excellency

Liu Hanming, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The People's Republic of China and his wife

Madame Jiao Fang, together with Madame Wang Zhaopeng First Secretary, to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda visited the Museum .

The Curator, and Debbie Joseph were on hand to greet the visitors and give them an insight into the rich and vibrant history of our islands. The visitors were presented with historical publications.



L-R D. Joseph, Ambassador Liu Michele Henry



L-R Mdme Wang, Michele Henry

His Excellency and his wife also attended our Christmas Party, and gave a donation in support of the continued work at the Museum.

The Museum has always enjoyed a working relationship with the Chinese Embassy, in mounting exhibitions reflecting the culture of China.

### Caricom Cuba Day 8/12/2010

Caricom Cuba day was celebrated on December 8th, with an exhibit mounted in the main gallery. Foreign Officer Jamien Knight hosted the event which included a short speech by the Cuban Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Jose Manuel Inclan. The Ambassador and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Paulette Otto viewed the exhibition, together with several Cubans, who work in Antigua and Barbuda.

Caricom-Cuba day, celebrates 35 years of the tangible

contributions to the development of human capital in the Region by Cuba. Under the CARICOM/Cuba Scholarship programme, many CARICOM nationals have completed undergraduate programmes in a wide range of disciplines, such as accounting, agronomy, history of art, various fields of engineering, mathematics, pharmaceutical science, medicine and primary education.



Cuban Ambassador, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Cubans working in Antigua

The invaluable service of Cuban doctors and nurses in several hospitals in Member States has injected life in the health of the Region and many Caribbean peoples have also benefited under the "Cuba/Caribbean Eye Care Project.

The exhibit included photographs of the former President of Cuba, Fiedel Castro with the Hon. Dr. Baldwin Spencer, historic scenes of Cuba, and Testimonials of students who graduated from the Cuba Scholarship Programme.

### Overseer's Gun presented to the Museum

Janet Warner and her nephew donated the 1920 overseer's gun, her father John Livinton once used on the Rooms, Carlyle, and Coconut Hall Estates. Ms. Warner acknowledged that it was time to donate this important piece of history to the museum. Though the gun is not on display to the public, it has rekindled memories for Helen Abbott, whose late father was an overseer. Helen said that the most overseers used their guns mainly to shoot at pigeons and mongoose.





## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### NEW MEMBERS

For becoming a friend/member of the museum, the Historical and Archaeological Society and the Museum of Antigua & Barbuda would like to thank and welcome the following persons :

Nikisha Delabanque of Antigua  
Sandy Meade of Antigua

### Acquisitions

The Museum would like to thank Ms. Melanie Etherington for donating to the Museum's Library seven (7) publications which are as follows:

- The Destruction of Black Civilization –Great Issues of a Race From 4500 B.C. To 2000 A.D., by Chancellor Williams.
  - Studies in West Indian Literature -Theatre, Series Editor: Kenneth Ramchand, by Judy S.J. Stone.
  - Survival For Service - My Experience as Governor General of Grenada, by Paul Scoon
  - West Indian Literature 2nd Edition, Edited by Bruce King.
  - The Iron Thorn -The Defeat of the British by the Jamaican Maroons, By Carey Robinson.
  - Behind The Planter's Back, by Neil Price.
  - Rastafari and Other African-Caribbean Worldviews, Edited by Barry Chevannes in association with the Institute of Social Studies.
- 'The Salvage History of Antigua & Barbuda,' by Nick Fuller, donated by the author Nick Fuller

### The Legend ...*(Continued from page 9)*

The ship was safely gained and soon the fair shores of Antigua were sighted. At last all was well, and the family was happy at being at home again, albeit without one of the children. This did not last long however. Other thoughts arose in the mind of the Governor; he imagined how the Carib Chief must have ravished her. In vain, his poor unhappy wife protested she was pure –“Jealousy is a green-eyed monster that does mock the food it feeds on!”

No longer enjoying the company of his wife, he determined to get rid of her, so he built a keep at Ding-a-Ding Nook and left her there to wear away her life in hopeless misery.

Ding-a-Ding Nook is the original name of Doig's Estate on the south coast at Rendezvous Bay, but there are no visible signs of the keep today.

So ends the Legend, but other endings have been related, in which the lady and her husband parted by mutual consent as it was her wish to have a house built at that spot. Or perhaps as another ending relates, the lady did not wish to go back to the stuffy old Governor, as she had had such a good time with the Carib King!

The story of this Legend is taken from a book published in 1844 entitled “Antigua and the Antiguans”, which purports to be “A full account of the Colony and its Inhabitants... interspersed with Anecdotes and Legends”.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE CARIBBEAN
www.dloc.com

### Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library

dLOC is proud to announce that in October 2009, its Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library (CNDL) initiative received \$440,000 in funding from the US Department of Education Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access grant to support the ongoing development of Caribbean research resources in serial form, such as newspapers, journals and magazines. dLOC is working with partner institutions and publishers to secure permissions to distribute publications still under copyright protection, while the funding will allow us to continue to develop new tools to support online submission of serial publications from project partners. Please visit [www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com)

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 & Archaeological Society

**JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2011 HAS Newsletter, NO.112**

## COMING EVENTS

- January** 29th Roger the Jester at 6:30 pm. Admission fee \$5.00 for everyone. BBQ, hotdog, burgers, popcorn, and drinks will be on sale.
- February** In the upstairs gallery on February 26th at 7.00pm, Multimedia Presentation “Hidden Places, Secret Views, Heritage Sites by Dr. Reg Murphy and Agnes Meeker. Admission fee \$20.00, includes wine , cheese and sodas.
- March** March/April: *Date to be announced.* “Colombian, Spanish, Cuban , Santo Domingo Cultural Exhibition”. Photographs, cultural items, dance, music, food.

## **JOIN HAS – DISCOVER AND PRESERVE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

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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