

Historical and Archaeological Society

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



HAS Newsletter NO. 122

July, August, September 2013

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The Pastelle Intruders - Antigua’s First All Women’s Steel Band

By Dulcie Pigott-Balogun

The first all women’s steel band was the brain child of Shirley Heath who was the sister of the late Dr. Ivor Heath both now deceased. Shirley decided that all the Steel bands – Brute Forces and Hell’s Gate the main two had male players only and it was about time women got involved.. She formed a band called The Pastel Intruders – all women who loved steel band music and appreciated its originality – strictly Caribbean music. The members of the band included Shirley Heath (leader), her sister Nalda Heath (now Streete), Crystal Fernandez (now Martin), Jean Pigott (now Berridge), Sylvia Pigott, Dulcie Pigott (now Balogun), Eileen Cephas from Barbuda (now deceased), Vera Carmichael (now deceased), Myrtle Owen (Maginley, now deceased – mother of John Maginley), Ina Richards, Ruby White (Carmichael) and one or two others whose names I cannot recall.

We practiced in the yard of the house where Dr. Luther Winter deceased operated his practice situated at the top of Long St. Mr. Griffith, now deceased, who directed the Police band tutored us with the help of Bertha Higgins, also deceased, who also loved music and taught singing and art at The Antigua Girls School. Arthur Jardine (aka Bomb) who was the leader of the Brute Force Steel Band would tune our pans and tutor us and encourage us tremendously.

The band played well enough to be invited to play at the Antigua Beach Hotel at Hodges Bay on the occasion of the Queen’s Coronation in 1953 when we rendered The Blue Danube – ‘When Summer Winds Blow’. We wore pastel coloured sashes with each colour depicting the instruments we played. The Band broke up when most of the players went abroad.

Locomotives at the Antigua Sugar Factory

By Janice Augustin

Sources: Mr. George Maharajah of Potter's Village & Mr. Lazaman Webson of Fitches Creek

Early Days

Canes cut in the fields were transported to the mills in cattle carts. Bulls and horses were used to pull the carts laden with the cane stalks to be ground into cane juice and subsequently made into molasses and sugar crystals.

The 1950's

Canes were taken to the factory in bagoons hauled by trucks. The bagoon was a kind of container usually 5'x8'x10'. The bagoons were marked "Made in England", but they were really of Belgian origin.

The 1960's

Transportation of the canes was changed to locomotives hauled by steam and diesel engines. The steam engines were usually larger than the diesel ones, and of course had more power. Steam to provide the power in the engines was produced by using heat and water. "Smith" coal was used in the furnace, and there was a water tank on the engine. Operators of these engines were: a driver of the locomotive, a "Breakman", who controlled the steam and a "Point Boy" who checked the containers of cane hauled by the engine. To accommodate the engines and the long train of containers, tracks were set down in almost every part of the island to take canes to the mills. These iron tracks were fastened to heavy pieces of wood called "sleepers". Tracks or lines were laid down from as far as Cedar Grove, Willikies, Jennings (near the location of the present school) and by Blubber Valley. There was a line that ran from North Sound to Sandersons to Pots Work Dam. There was even a line that ran to Bryson's Warehouse. This line passed by the St. John's cemetery, on to the present location of Perceival's Gas Station, through Villa and Point, and eventually the Bryson's warehouse. This building of galvanise sheets still stands.

An unusual feature of the "locos" was that the engines had names. These were: Joan (the largest), Judy, Edith, Leena, Marion, and Bessie (the smallest). These were names of the wives of the managers of the estates. There was also one engine named George.

The large engines were used on the longer journeys to the sugar factory, and where the locos had to haul massive amounts of cane over land that rose a little, for example from Bendals and Comfort Hall. The smaller engines were used for less weight of canes, where the track was on flat land, and the distance was short, for example from Seaview Farm and Donovans.

Locomotives at the Antigua Sugar

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Factory cont'd ...

Sugar canes were planted island wide too by peasant farmers who sold their canes to the Sugar Factory. Their canes were collected in containers near to the train line in locations called Sidings". The Point Boy on the locos would signal the engine drivers to stop, and the containers would be hitched from the siding to the track, and hauled along to the Sugar Factory. There was no problem about the identification of the canes. Each container had a ticket number clearly marked with ownership of the canes. The containers with the canes were weighed and the weight of the empty container was subtracted, so the weight of the actual canes was correctly recorded, and payments made accordingly.

One story about the sugar locos is told by Mr. Maharaj. In 1954, a train ran off the track in the vicinity of Gilbert's estate. Members of the "Weigh Gang" and the "Porter Gang" were sent out to help in this emergency. One Joseph Lake was the foreman of the Porter Gang.

There is an amusing story involving Mr. Maharaj and his fiend. They were walking to work at the Sugar Factory at about 5.20 one morning, when he saw a man approaching. He said nothing because he did not want to alarm his friend. Suddenly, the approaching man stretched, and got to the height of a lamp post and then disappeared. His friend whispered, "Whey de man gaan?", and then ran off in a speed leaving Mr. Maharaj alone on the road! Obviously, the friend had seen the ghost too.

When asked if a woman had ever tried to stop any train by using her magical powers, and was subsequently killed, Mr. Maharaj was adamant that nothing like that ever happened.

Carnival from a by gone era – Historic Antigua Photos



The Museum is offering a prize to the first person who contacts us with:

- a) the full name of the queen
- b) the year and
- c) the sponsor.

MUSE NEWS

By Michelle Henry, Curator

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES GATHER TO PROTECT WORLD HERITAGE

Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers for World Heritage

24-28 March 2013, St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, the UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana in collaboration with the Antigua & Barbuda National Commission for UNESCO organized the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers, in St. Mary's, Antigua & Barbuda from 24 to 28 March 2013. This training exercise was designed within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project "Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)".



Official Opening of the training course in St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda, 24 March 2013

The official opening of the training took place on 24 March 2013 at the Jolly Beach Hotel & Spa in Antigua in the presence of **Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; **Hon. Winston Williams**, Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; **H. E. Yoshimasa Tezuka**, Japanese Ambassador in Trinidad & Tobago; **Ms Alissandra Cummins**, Chairperson of UNESCO Executive Board and the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO as well as Representatives from UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana.

The training course which was a follow-up to the June 2012 training held in Kingston, Jamaica, brought together some 20 representatives from *Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago*. During the training the participants shared their draft nomination dossiers, exchanged information and received feedback/guidance from the resource persons/experts from the Caribbean, representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and UNESCO World Heritage Centre.



Field trip to Nelson Dockyard, Antigua and Barbuda, 26 March 2013

The 5-day training concluded with an action plan aimed at strengthening professional capacities in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in preparing nomination dossiers and to increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on *sites of memory* in the Caribbean. Participants also made a commitment to continue their efforts towards implementation of the World Heritage convention, specifically in completing the nomination dossiers, in public awareness and education on World Heritage matters and UNESCO Culture Conventions.

The Training Workshop was attended by Michele Henry Curator of the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, Chris Watters Heritage Specialist at the National Parks Authority and Curator of the Dockyard Museum and a HAS Board Member. The UNESCO Secretary is Dr. Reginald Murphy, National Parks and the HAS Chairman.

LOCO update

By Agnes Meeker

Mr. Lawrence Gameson was in Antigua for three weeks in March/April and was able to fit all of the parts manufactured in the UK specifically for the locomotive "Marion", the first of four to be restored.



Serious sand blasting equipment. Lawrence Gameson suited up.

It now LOOKS like a locomotive and not a pile of scrap iron. He brought with him a container with the necessary tools to finish the restoration and when he returns in July the loco will be sand blasted and painted with a special paint secured from a bridge building company that is supposed to last twenty years or more. Doug Luery was most instrumental in securing a lot of the necessary tools and the sand for the sand blasting part of the exercise, not to mention work behind the scenes.



Minister Maginley & Doug Luery - the sad remains of another locomotive slated for renovation.

Members from the Ministry of Tourism including Minister Maginley paid a visit on site to see how the project was coming along, and apart from being pleased with the

restoration effort, Minister Maginley was most adamant that at least one of the restored locomotives should be made to actually run on tracks again. This would be inordinately expensive, but Mr. Gameson promised to see what could be done should he be given some assistance. In the mean time members on the project committee will be working with Public Works in getting the site at Betty's Hope prepared and a shed erected for the protection of the refurbished locomotives. Once completed, there should be four different types of locomotives on display with signage of historical significance, all part of the sugar era in Antigua.



The "Marion" rebuilt with parts specifically manufactured in the UK. Next step is sand blasting, then painting and fitted with bits & pieces i.e. gauges & lights.

This will definitely add another dimension of interest for visitors to Betty's Hope, bring back memories to those who remember when the locos traversed this island and 'wow' the young people born from the 1970's who have not a clue that these ever existed.

On returning to England, Mr. Gameson replied.....
 "I managed to get Marion's 2 headlights back to England Foc with BA, had fun with customs at Gatwick!
 The reflectors will be resilvered (just like mirrors, the silver is on the back), the body on 1 totally re made, and a new front also, then new front glasses cut. I am planning to fit Led bulbs, with a solar panel on top of Marion's cab roof & a battery, so the lights can run at night.
 I will be back in Antigua the second week of July to finish up work on the Marion and will look forward to seeing everyone again at that time."

Betty's Hope Restoration Project

By Chris Waters

April was a very busy month at Betty's Hope. We received a generous grant from the American Ambassadors Fund for Preserving Cultural Heritage towards renovation and restoration at Betty's Hope. The projects slated for Phase I were to set up new signage outside, revitalize the small museum and strengthen and repair the restored windmill. Phase I culminated in the American Ambassador coming from Barbados for a visit and to officially hand over the grant.

Each of these three Phase I projects had specific purposes. The outdoors signs were in a sorry state. Most of them were faded from the sun, chipped from the rain or had completely disappeared. These needed replacing as well as including additional, new information. The signs also have to be resilient in the tropical weather. As such, the latest batch of signs are a pilot project for heritage signage in Antigua, trying to find a weather and sun resistant surface that will last for years to come. The new signs are all on PVC base, the same resilient material used in water pipes. The signs are monitored every few weeks for damage, wear and fading.

The museum also got a facelift. Some of the signs on the walls were still from the original museum in the 1990's! Both the staff from the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda and the Nelsons Dockyard Museum worked to update the texts, refresh the layout, add new displays and put on new coats of paint. The work was completed for the Ambassador's visit, but continues to be improved upon.

The work on the windmill was far more complicated. The obvious damage to the mill was from weathering. Wooden shingles on the mill house had blown off. Ferns and other plant life grew into the walls of the mill. Some of the lime mortar was starting to leech out between the stones, weakening the entire structure. Stone masons were

contracted remove the plants and fill in the gaps again without destroying the historic character of the building. The damage that they found, though, was much more surprising. They removed individual stones only to find hollow spaces behind them, often full of nests or bats droppings, seriously harming the structural integrity of the building. What happened was that water, from rain, seeped through the cracks in the stone and wore the stones away in the inside. These formed cavities that kept on growing until some of the stones were only an inch thick. These stones were taken out and replaced with new, purposely cut stones. Furthermore, the stone masons filled in all the cracks and reset all the new stone with a historic blend of lime, sand and water. In order to protect the structure, however, a little concrete was added for resilience so that the lime would not be as vulnerable to being washed out with the rain.



More....Betty's Hope & The US Ambassador's Visit

By Walter Berridge

In 1990, restoration work began at Betty's Hope by volunteers interested in restoring an 18th century windmill and creating a historical park; essentially an outdoor museum. It was an immediate success that has also made a contribution to the heritage tourism product of Antigua Barbuda. Today, the project faces many challenges but the most difficult is maintaining ancient stone structures. In 2012, technicians from the Ministry of Tourism and the National Parks Heritage Department applied for funding under the US Ambassadors Grant for Cultural Preservation. This effort was successful and the first deposit to mobilize the project was made at Independence 2012 by Ambassador Palmer to Dr. Murphy, the Chairman of the Betty's Hope Project. Extensive stonework has now been completed, and work has begun on building new sailing points, gates for the mill and setting up an entry booth. In addition repairs will be made to the sagging tail-tree. Termite damage to the interpretation building will be repaired and faded signage around the site replaced. This work is now in progress and will be completed by Carnival 2013.

On Tuesday 16th April 2013, US Ambassador Mr. Larry Leon Palmer and his delegation visited Antigua and viewed the results of this generous contribution to the heritage of Antigua and Barbuda. Dr. Reginald Murphy gave the welcoming remarks and the introduction to the project. Ambassador Palmer responded with his remarks. The gathering was also addressed by Hon. John Maginley, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and Minister Eleston Adams, Ministry of Culture, Carnival, National Festivals Office (NFO), Independence Celebrations, National Parks and Heritage Sites. The proceedings closed with a photo shoot, tour of the historical sites led by Dr. Murphy. Refreshments were served which were provided by the Museum. Ambassador Palmer was very pleased and impressed and promises to revisit the site in subsequent visits



Dr. Reginald Murphy (Chairman Betty's Hope Project), Michelle Henry (Curator), US Ambassador Larry Palmer, Ann-Marie Martin (National Parks), Debbie Joseph (Museum)



US Ambassador Larry Palmer, Ann-Marie Martin (National Parks), Minister Eleston Adams



Model of the Betty's Hope Plantation on display at the Betty's Hope Museum

Meeting Space Available for Rent

The Museum conference room located upstairs on Long St. is available for rent at a very reasonable price. It can seat approximately 75 persons comfortably and is fully air conditioned.

For more information and to book, please contact the Museum at 462-1469 or 462-4930 during our business hours.

Help identify historic Antiguan photos

They can be viewed at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/sets/72157630634941210/with/7596548674/>

Please leave comments, tags and add stories on the archives' Flickr page.

Restoration Donors

Special Thanks going out to **Charles D. Peters, H.D.D./A.M.P** for donating a magnificent collection of photographs to the museum's library. Mr. Charles D. Peters has been the recipient of several national and local awards, given by the Washington post and the St. Thomas/John's art council of the Virgin Islands. *The Photographer's edge Inc.* has published his photographic works. Mr. Peters received millennium recognition in who's who in the world and who's who in America. On January 5, 2004 *International Freelance Photographers Organization (IFPO)* and the *American Image* press presented him with the lifetime distinction of honor in the art and science of photography, and the *Honorary Degree of Excellence. (Master Photographer Regnant).M.P.R.* On November 1, 2006 he was accredited with a *Master Photographer Diploma* which earned him the *Degree of Distinction Honorarius* and the title *A.M.P.* On the 15th day of February 2008, Mr. Peters was inducted to the Hall of Fame by the *International Freelance Photographers*

Organisation (IFPO), which was earned an Honorary Degree of Distinction in *Photographic Arts and Sciences* and the Title *Charles D. Peters, H.D.D.*



View of 1977 English Harbour, one of the photographs donated by Charles D. Peters

New Members

The Historical and Archaeological Society & Museum of Antigua & Barbuda would like to welcome our newest members:

Mr. Graeme Shove
Ms. Reaksha Persaud
Ms. Cherry Lee

Got News to Muse

If you have an article of interest & would like to have it included in our next issue, please send to us at the Museum along with a photo, the e-mail address is [Museum @candw.ag](mailto:Museum@candw.ag)



An old LIAT ad, Courtesy of Personalities Caribbean 1965

Upcoming Events

Nelson's Caribbean Hell-hole An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered

Sun, sea, war, tropical diseases and poisoned rum. Human bones found on an idyllic beach in Antigua trigger an investigation by naval historian Sam

Willis into one of the darkest chapters of Britain's imperial past. As archaeologists excavate a mass grave of British sailors, Willis explores Antigua's ruins and discovers how the sugar islands of the Caribbean were a kind of hell in the age of Nelson.

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

July, August, September 2013 HAS NEWSLETTER, No. 122

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