

Historical and Archaeological Society The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”

HAS Newsletter No. 155 October, November, December 2021



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The Women Behind Street Names Part 2

By Janice Augustin

Rev. Dr. Rosa Ellen Lee OM 1928 – 2018

Dr. Rosa Lee Drive is located in Lower Gambles. It runs from Friar's Hill Road in the east, to Luther George Place in the west.

Rev. Dr. Rosa Lee devoted her entire life to church and community, and made a “remarkable contribution in a quiet and unassuming way.” Indeed, if we read one of her sermons (available on her website) she seems to be counseling her country even today in the midst of the Covid pandemic. She says – There is today, much fainting and weariness. The Source of Power ... Hast thou not heard that the Everlasting God, fainteth not, neither is weary”. Isa. 40: v 28 – 31.



Rev. Dr. Rosa Ellen Lee

She had her early education at Willikies Primary, and then moved to St. John's Mixed School, where she passed her 7th Standard Examination. At the age of twelve, she became a Sunday School teacher and continued this commitment until her death.

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The Women Behind Street Names Part 2

(Continued from page 1)

In January 1949, she married Mr. Henry Lee, and they successfully raised eight children. As a pastor's wife, she showed both administrative skills and theological knowledge. Her energy for the Lord's work was boundless. Some of the organizations to her credit are:

- The Girls' Class for Young Adults
- The Nazarene Women's Outreach at Beacon Light Church
- The Pre-School at Beacon Light Church of the Nazarene
- Twice weekly prayer meetings at the Beacon Light Church of the Nazarene, and also filling in for the leader at Wednesday Mid-day Prayer Meetings at the Wesleyan Holiness Church

In 1979, Rev. Rosa Ellen Lee became pastor of the Beacon Light Church of the Nazarene. She was an excellent choice. Because she believed firmly in self-improvement, earlier, she had received theological training at the Reformed Methodist Bible School in Dominica, and subsequently had additional training through correspondence courses given by the Nazarene Theological College in Trinidad.



The early Beacon Light Church
of the Nazarene

Rev Rosa Lee did not confine her work to her church. She extended her knowledge and skills to the wider community. A good listener, her quiet and caring disposition made her ideal for personal and confidential matters. Her gift for making persons feel comfortable and trusting had been used many years before her formal pastoral work. She wrote and read letters for persons who could not, and for whom telephone service in those days was non-existent. She served on several Boards and Associations including:

- The Coordinating Council of Women
- The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Senior Citizens
- The Juvenile Court
- The Crisis Hotline for the Directorate of Gender Affairs

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The Women Behind Street Names Part 2

(Continued from page 2)

Her abilities and dedication did not go unnoticed in the region. For seven years (1991 – 1998) she was an Elected District Superintendent of the Leeward/Virgin Islands District of the Church of the Nazarene, the first woman to hold that position. In May 2004, she was granted an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity by the Caribbean Nazarene Theological College in Trinidad.



At home, in November 2008, she was awarded the Order of Merit, and in May 2012, she was one of the recipients of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Awards.

Rev. Rosa Ellen Lee used her talents to improve the lives of people, and for this all should be grateful.

Did You Know:

At the time of emancipation in 1834, most people lived on sugar plantations in small cottages supplied to them. No village of today was in existence, except those that had been towns, for example, Parham, Falmouth, English Harbour and Old Road. Antigua’s villages were created after emancipation.

Memories of Christmas Past Masquerades and Celebrations in Antigua

- The villages of Point, All Saints, and Old Road were famous for Ironbands.



- The John Bull is a replica of the grotesque masked African witch doctor with bull’s horns, dressed in crocus bag, with a padded chest. The John Bull were given different names like, Pharaoh, Isaac, Authur and Grabbler.



Two persons who accompanied this John bull character were the whipman and drummer.



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- Long ghost and stilt walkers made up the Masquerades.



- The Christmas period lasted from Christmas Day to First Sunday.
- Sorrel drink from Senegal was aged with cinnamon sticks, cloves and fermented for three days. Some did not let it set but drank it fresh.



- When the carol singers went to your home to entertain, you were expected to give them sorrel and Christmas cake. Such tidbits were put aside specially for them.



- Stew pork was seasoned overnight and slow cooked over a low fire on a coal pot with “green paw paw” to soften, cloves for flavour, and cucumbers and other odds and ends “to sweeten it up”



- Highlanders simulated the Scots military dress, with a kilt and wire mask, accompanied by a fife band.



- The name of the Governor who supported the Monkey Band on the road early for Masquerades was Governor Fiennes .
- On 25th December in 1967, an earthquake was felt in St. John’s.
- A Carol Tree was a long piece of wood with several cross bars decorated with Chinese lanterns carried by itinerant choral groups.
- The Monkey band played the following instruments: Bass pipes, a candy tin toot-toot-toot like a conch shell, and a conch shell playing toot toot.
- Play actors were youthful and dressed in close fitting trousers to an inch above the knee, edged with lace like a woman’s under-drawers. Over this was a skirt also trimmed with lace.

Hotel Development

Excerpt from the book, *'The Boy from Popeshead'* by Leon H. Matthias

When I was a boy growing up in Cedar Grove, I wanted to accompany my friends to the Antigua Beach Hotel to do odd jobs. The boys from the village were employed as caddies on the golf course, bell hops for the hotel, grooms for the riding stables. Some helped to care for the sheep and mow the lawns of the lawns of the hotel managers. These boys had extra money to spend especially on the weekends.

My mother was willing to let me join them ,but she needed my help to care for the sheep and cows and to give general assistance with the cotton and sugar field. She rented one acre of land from the government at Royals Estate. One day as we were cleaning some grass from some young sugar cane plants, my mother told me the story of the hotel development in our area .

Just before the second world war, George Bennett Bryson and John and Francis Anjo decided to venture out in the area of hotel development. They encouraged some of their friends to join them in this pioneering project. The Globe and Kensington Hotels in St. Johns, provided accommodations for the visitors to the island, however these were not expected to cope with the trade the fledgling tourist industry was bringing to the island. The group secured the necessary finances and bought several acres of land from the Haynes family. In 1939, construction on the Antigua Beach Hotel began in earnest, when a local builder Alliegh Hamilton was employed. This project, when completed, was expected to bring forty more hotel rooms to the island. These would offer modern accommodation and the facilities for the visitors to enjoy some excellent beaches. The location was excellent since it was less than ten miles from the Coolidge Airfield.



Kensington Hotel St. Mary's Street 1950's



Antigua Beach Hotel built in 1939



Antigua Beach Hotel 1940's

The people of Cedar Grove. New Winthropes and Barnes Hill were happy about this new development. A number of carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians and labourers were employed in the construction of the hotel, while other villagers waited patiently to join the hotel staff as maids, cooks, drivers and maintenance workers. Many youngsters who were leaving school had the opportunity to work with an experienced tradesman and at the same time learn a trade.

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Hotel Development

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Some of the white men who came to Antigua as business managers and employees for the local government, moved to the northern shores, began to build their country homes in the Hodges' Bay area. Names like Dalma Drew, Clarence Johnson, Sandy Turner, Jaime Farara, Fabian Bento were becoming familiar to the people of Cedar Grove.

The people in Antigua were encouraged not to abandon the land, even though higher paying jobs were now available. There was still need for farmers to produce sugar cane, cotton and the food to feed the population. The education system on the island was beginning to produce lawyers, doctors, businessmen, and civil servants who were expected to occupy positions of leadership. In many areas, they replaced persons of European descent.

With the close of the Second World War, Americans began to explore areas in the Caribbean. They were searching for places to enjoy a good vacation with friends and family. Antigua became an ideal choice. The island was easily accessible by air, and the field at Coolidge was capable of receiving the large planes which were in operation at that time. The island was also blessed with a beautiful climate and a large number of excellent beaches. The people were warm and friendly.

Other attractions on the island included the Nelson's Dockyard, Shirley Heights, Fort James and the beautiful towns of Parham and St. Johns. In 1951 the Society of Friends of English Harbor was formed with the goal of restoring this eighteenth century Nelson's Dockyard. It was hoped that a restored Dockyard would give the visitors to the island an opportunity to see the fortress from which the British Navy controlled the seas at crucial times during the Anglo French wars.

In 1951, the newly expanded Legislative Council, which included local elected representative, passed the Hotel Aid Ordinance. This measure gave favourable tax concessions to hotel promoters. The owners of the Antigua Beach Hotel responded to the Government's offer by adding a nine hole golf course, a tennis court and facilities for horse back riding. At the same time plans were being developed to construct the Jabberwock Hotel on lands adjacent to the beach.

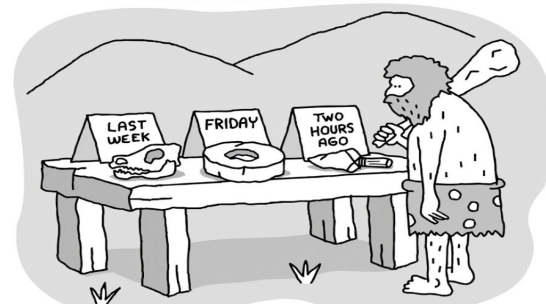
By the late nineteen fifties, the White Sands Hotel was opened under the management of Charles Hawley. This hotel was much smaller than the Antigua Beach Hotel and it was housed in property bought from Sandy Turner. Through a co operative agreement, the guests at White Sands Hotel were able to use the sporting facilities at the Antigua Beach Hotel.

In addition to the men and women who found employment in the hotels, the farmers were able to sell their vegetables on a regular basis. The managers bought a large quantity of limes, water melons, cucumbers and squashes. The fishermen sold fresh fish and lobsters and received a good price for their catch. Our family sold several hundred heads of lettuce to the hotels each week. This income supplemented what our family received from the sale of milk and vegetables from our garden.

The establishment of the hotels proved to be beneficial to the people of the village where I grew up as a boy.

Museum Humour

the first museum



wronghands1.wordpress.com

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands

Dockyard Celebrates 60 years of Existence

Happy 60th Dockyard!

So many memorable moments from those who attended our Thanksgiving Service at the Baxter Memorial Methodist Church in our beautiful village of English Harbour.

All shared in the rewarding journey of the past 60 years that has gave Dockyard pride of place in the lives of our community, employees and our nation.



Mrs. Lisa Nicholson (center) the wife of the late Desmond Nicholson, being escorted to the thanksgiving service

That's Likisha Donawa [in blue skirt], a proud member of the English Harbour community, who designed the logo and artwork on the billboard. And with her is our hard-working Desley Gardner, our Heritage Resources Officer.



They are only two members of a dedicated and professional team of NPA employees that we are extremely proud of as we mark this significant milestone.



Great find to add to the cannon inventory

Antigua Naval Dockyard, UNESCO World Heritage

When is a cannon not a cannon? When it is a Demi-culverin!!!

We have added a new gun to our collection in the Dockyard. A Demi-culverin is a medium sized smooth bore cannon developed in the late 16th century and made throughout the 17th century. It fired a shot between 8 and 10 pounds. A cannon at this time was a much heavier class of gun which fired a shot between 38 and 40 pounds.

Located near Monk’s Hill, this gun dates between 1600 and 1630, before Antigua was colonized by the English! It was probably one of the first pieces of ordnance defending the fort on Monk’s Hill. At some point it suffered a catastrophic failure and the muzzle was blown off. The gun was likely then tipped over the edge and forgotten.

Thankfully, when it was found it was recognized that this is an important piece of Antigua’s history and it was brought to the Parks so that everyone can enjoy it.



Muse News

Florence Bell member interest.

Florence Bell is one of our Life Members, who continues to maintain an interest in our projects at the Museum.



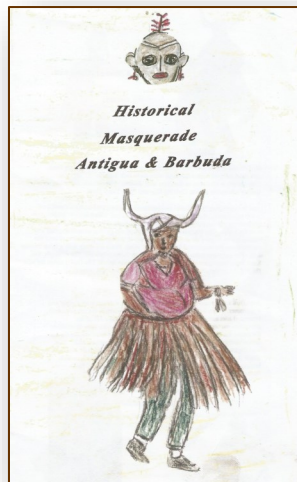
In 2021, our project was to begin surveying, documenting and photographing artifacts and objects in our storage. The object was to select artifacts and objects to rotate fresh and new visuals to our permanent exhibits, Florence stepped in and donated photo lamps, a tripod, and storage boxes.

Our documenting discovered a shark's tooth found in the Darby Sink hole, Pliocene limestone wall in 1997.

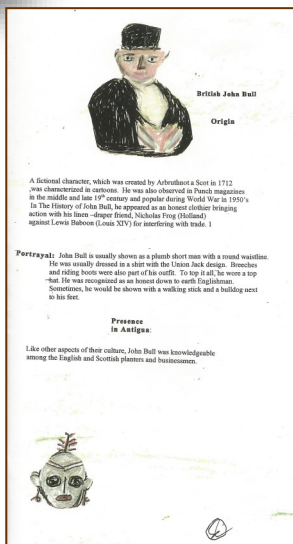
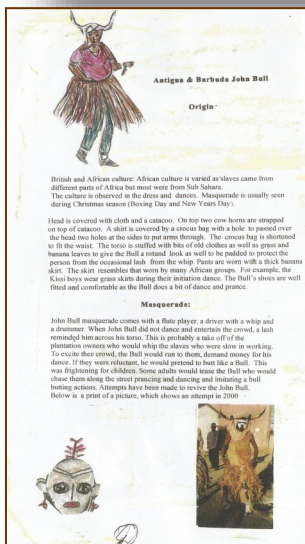
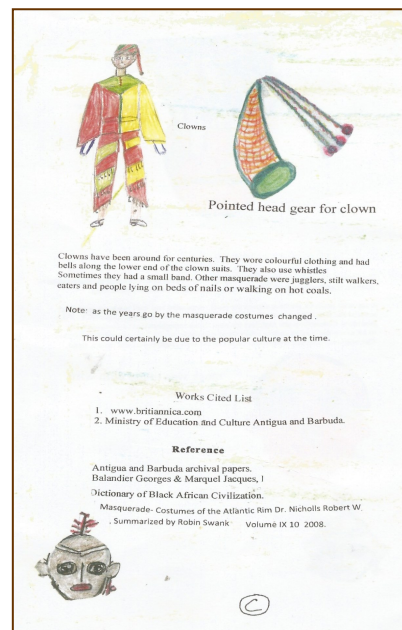
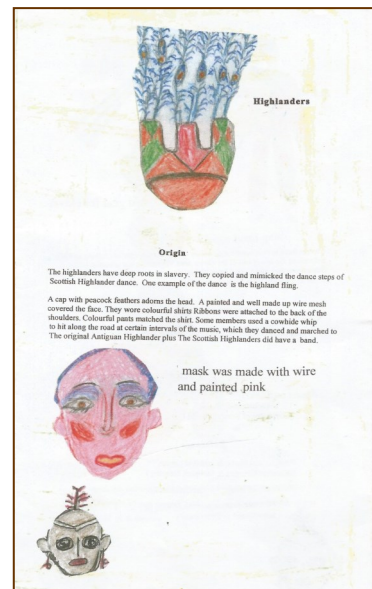
She has donated to the upgrade of Shipwrecks and Marine disasters permanent exhibit, which should be finished by mid April.

Florence also researched information and designed a brochure on the early. Traditional Masquerades in Antigua.

Florence resides in Canada, but visits Antigua for vacations.

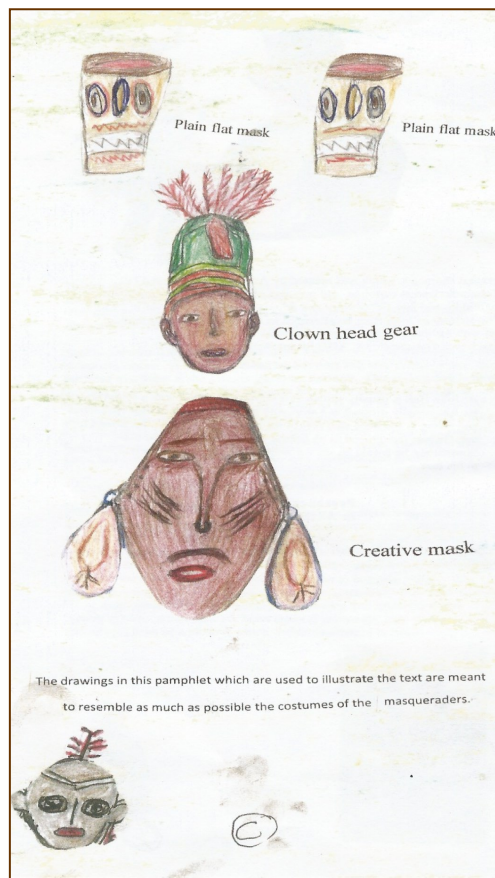


Images of pages of Masquerade brochure by Ms. Florence Bell



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Muse News *(Continued from page 9)*



Ms. Florence Bell presents a gift of a photograph of Falmouth harbour to Museum 's president Dr. Reginald Murphy in 2017.

Antigua's Long Tradition of Sugar and Rum

By Chris Waters

Around 1800, the artist W.E. Beastall went to the Sunday Market in St. John's, Antigua. He was greeted by a bustling marketplace where vendors sold turkeys, chickens, ducks, pigs, goats, yams, melons, pumpkins, potatoes, cassava roots, pineapples, spices like turmeric and ginger, spinach, and countless other items. What Beastall produced was an image filled with the colors, sounds, smells, and tastes of a bustling marketplace and a great reminder that even though it was one of the harshest times in Antigua's history as arguably every person depicted in the rendering was of African descent and enslaved, it also depicts the long legacy of culinary tradition in Antigua, incorporating ingredients from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and the Pacific with West African and later South Asian techniques which makes Antigua's cuisine unique and tasty today.



Sunday Slave Market 1780's

For more than three centuries, Antigua was a lucrative sugar producing island. Produced from extracting the juice from sugarcane stalks, sugar was the first mass produced and mass consumed commodity in the modern world. Antigua's tropical location and fertile soils made sugar plantation owners not only the wealthiest people in the world, but the revenues derived from sugar and rum production from Antigua and other islands in the region drove the industrialization of Europe.

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Antigua’s Long Tradition of Sugar and Rum

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In Antigua, almost every possible arable acre was devoted to sugarcane fields.

As an industrialized process, sugarcane plantations required large influxes of labour. For 200 years, this was done through enslaving Africans. Every aspect of this work was only made possible and profitable through enslaving tens of thousands of Africans. By 1730, more than 90% of the island’s population was enslaved. In fact, approximately 40% of all enslaved Africans brought across the Atlantic landed in the West Indies between 1600 and 1860. In Antigua alone, an estimated 142,000 individuals were brought across the Atlantic in chains. Looking at Beastall’s artwork, it is easy to see the different African influences on clothing and foodways.



Africans transported to slave ship

Plantation owners were required by law to provide basic rations of bread, occasional salted meats and fish, and dried legumes. These were European staples in the maritime world before refrigeration. In addition, most plantations allowed space for the enslaved to grow food in gardens and raise small animals after working hours or on Sundays. It was from these plots where the food in Beastall’s Sunday Market came from, and it was from these plots where culinary traditions were maintained, and new ones created.

After Emancipation in 1834, new migrants came to Antigua: some more willing than others. South Asians from southern India were

brought to work in the cane fields as indentured servants, bringing with them new spices and introducing curries which were quickly adopted and adapted across the region. Portuguese, Lebanese and Syrians, and Chinese labourers and merchants arrived, too, each introducing new recipes, tastes, and ingredients across the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. By Independence in 1981, Antigua and Barbuda’s kitchen was complex, nuanced, and full of flavour and spice.

And, it is still evolving as Antigua welcomes new visitors and citizens from around the world. Whether you stop by a roadside barbeque for goat water or fungee and chop-up, or you go to a fine dining establishment, the Antiguan touches from this long tradition are there in every bite.

Chronological History of Christmas Events from year 1701-1967

SUBJECT	YR	EVENT
SlaveUprising	1701/12	Dec 27,8am.Martin killed by slaves as had not given Christmas holidays
Slavery	1725 c.	Christmas only to be a holiday.
Military Hist	1833	Every Christmas brought alarm, Militia was called out to prevent insurrect.
Culture	1844 c.	Christmas Days now ushered in with drums, fiddle music.
Culture	1850 c.	"Vinadarlush" (garlic pork) was introduced by Portuguese for Christmas
Christmas	1945	The first Christmas jump up was held (Armistice Jump Up).
Earthquakes	1967/12	25th. Christmas day. An earthquake was experienced.

What's Happening at the Museum

Island Academy School Visit to the Museum

RENDEZVOUS Tours, satisfied customers at the Museum. Thank you for visiting .



Staff member Debbie Joseph working on exhibit upgrade



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
Tel/Fax: 268-462-1469, 462-4930 E-mail: museum@candw.ag Website: www.antiguamuseums.net

Historical and Archaeological Society

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER No. 155

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay connected for further information, by visiting our Facebook page, *The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda*. Also visit our website www.antiguamuseums.net

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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