Preparations are in full swing for the grand celebration of Guyana’s 50th Anniversary of Independence next month - May. Buxtonians will also be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the acquisition of Friendship and the amalgamation of the two former plantations in establishing the Buxton/Friendship village community.

In Buxton, the commemoration will be formally launched on Sunday, 22nd May at St. Augustine Anglican Church, which will also mark its 175th anniversary later this year, since the church building was erected. The occasion will feature a liturgical mass, interpretive dancing, greetings, and short presentations of the history of the village and church. It will continue with an outdoor Brunch on the church lawns, with entertainment provided by Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra.

St. Augustine Anglican Church & Buxton Friendship Heritage Fund
cordially invite you to their
175th Church Anniversary & Jubilee Home Coming
Launch
Mass on Sunday May 22, 2016 at the St. Augustine Anglican Church at 08:30hrs
followed by a Brunch sponsored by the Buxton Friendship Heritage Fund
Entertainment by the Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra

Special Invitation
Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund extends a special invitation to all its supporters, who will be in Guyana, to attend the Jubilee Homecoming Commencement Service and Brunch on Sunday, 22nd May at St. Augustine Anglican Church. We look forward to welcoming you!
With a few weeks remaining to the elegant Buxton-Friendship Jubilee Ball on Saturday, May 28th, 2016 at the grand Tipperary Hall in Buxton, more than 75% of the available tickets have been reserved. The remaining few are expected to go very soon.

We have extended the early bird special to May 15th for patrons to buy their tickets at the bargain price of US$40 each. We would especially like to encourage our regular supporters to buy their tickets now and avoid any disappointment. Persons without tickets will not be allowed to proceed past the gate.

We have begun issuing tickets to patrons in the USA. Patrons from Canada, the United Kingdom, Guyana and other countries can pick up their tickets in Buxton from Lorna Campbell on 22nd May, 2016 at the brunch which will be held on St. Augustine Anglican Church’s lawns. Thereafter, please call Lorna at 220-0845 or Rollo Younge at 639-9035 to make arrangements to collect your tickets before the night of the ball.

The ticket price includes appetizers, dinner and drinks. Entertainment will be provided by Buxton’s own, New-York-based Super Terry 1-man Band, Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra and Popular D.J.
**RECONNECT WITH YOUR OLD SCHOOL**

Arrangements are being made to have overseas residents visit their old school in the village to interact with students and staff. The proposed date for the visit is Monday, 23rd May, 2016.

However, please note that there is a conservative dress code for visiting government offices, including public schools. For ladies, no short pants, tights, straps or strapless dresses, tube tops and T-shirts with vulgar messages or signs will be allowed; for men, no trunks, three-quarter pants, sleeveless jerseys or vests, and T-shirts carrying indecent messages are permitted.

---

**Hookup with Linden**

Join us for a day trip to the bauxite town of Linden on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. This will be a very exciting visit since Linden will also be observing its annual Town Week celebration. Thousands of Lindeners from the diaspora are expected to return home for the festivities.

Several interesting sites in the mining community are on the itinerary. We also hope to pass by a number of important sites in Georgetown to reacquaint ourselves with the beautiful garden city. Tickets are just US$40 a piece for this all-inclusive event, but must be purchased in advance.

---

**Bus Excursion to Linden Town**

**TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016**

Join the **BUXTON EXPRESS** on a **FASCINATING DAY TRIP & CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Visit Historic Sites * Museums * Monuments

Tourist Resorts & Other Landmark Sites

Across Guyana’s Popular Mining Town

Enjoy a Comfortable, Air-conditioned Bus Ride

Sumptuous Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks

Ticket: US$50

**Early Bird Special: US$40 up to May 15, 2016**

Limited Seating / First Paid, First Seated

For Ticket & More Info, Contact Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund:

John P Newton: 347-881-7055

Lorna Campbell: 718-342-0040/(592) 220-0845 (Guyana)

Mboya Wood: 646-727-5937

Rollo Younge: (592) 639-9035 (Guyana)
**FRIENDSHIP TRAILBLAZERS**

**STOP TRAIN — A FRIENDSHIP ISSUE?**

In 1856, the British Legislature gave the government the right to exact improvement taxes against the properties of villagers. This led to a stalemate between the government and property owners in Friendship. They claimed that they had not requested to come under Ordinance No. 4 of 1851. (**In 1851, the Government dealt with the matter of Titles, and passed an Ordinance (No. 4 of 1851, amended by No. 1 of 1852) providing for the appointment of Commissioners to divide the lands of villages among, and pass transports to, the individual proprietors.” — MEMORANDUM by the Honourable A.M. Ashmore, Government Secretary — On the subject of Village Administration, from the time of Abolition to Present Day -1903**

This ordinance was introduced by Governor Henry Barkley. He was also a sugar estate owner in Berbice and an elected member of the British House of Commons.

The inhabitants of Friendship led a revolt against colonial intrusion in their affairs and in defence of their rights to handle their own business.

In 1862, the Governor confiscated the properties of James Jupiter, Blucher Dorsett, Hector John, Webster Ogle, Chance Bacchus and James Rodney, sr. This led to riots.

After the governor refused to hear the complaints of delegations representing Friendship, six leaders of the village set sail for England to air their grievances to the Queen. Stopping over in Barbados, the delegation met with governor of the island, who later advised his British Guiana counterpart to absolve the properties of the delegations from the tax imposition.

The perceived betrayal upset the other residents to the point where the wellbeing of the delegates was threatened, despite their claims of not being previously aware of the contents in the letter they were given by the Barbadian governor to deliver to his B.G. compeer.

The standoff continued to a point where the villagers decided to stop the train that carried the governor in an effort to force him to listen to their grievances. Surrounded by angry residents, the governor promised to exempt Friendship from the levies.

The perceived betrayal upset the other residents to the point where the wellbeing of the delegates was threatened, despite their claims of not being previously aware of the contents in the letter they were given by the Barbadian governor to deliver to his B.G. compeer.

**DUTCH WELL**: The first Dutch well was located on the Recreation Ground at Friendship. There is some suggestion that the “Great House” was also located on this ground. The playground site was property of the former plantation’s owners. It was never distributed as proprietors’ shares, but was acquired by the [Village] Council for that purpose.

**COMPANY CANAL**, which lies between the Buxton and Friendship sections of the village, was dug around 1886 to provide irrigation for the farms at Kryenhoff and Younge Empolders as well as other farm lands in the village. Seepaltan, who was a farmer, was closely connected to the canal. Everyday, he paddled his boat, “Arno”. To his farms at Ogle Empolder. Interestingly, it was the same Arno that transported his body from his farm [where he died] to Buxton Front [where he resided].

**THE FIRST GRANT TO FARMERS** in the village of Friendship was given to Cornelius Kryenhoff. This grant was evidence that the people of Friendship were using the land profitably for agriculture. Kryenhoff was the first Black Justice of the Peace in Guyana. He came from respectable and well-to-do parents in Friendship. He was educated at the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) School, then he became a cooper.

He became overseer of Friendship in 1873. Being in this position, he was able to lease the land from the “Crown” in 1878. About 120 acres of land was reserved for his own use where he planted sugar cane. The cane was sold to a factory. He lost heavily when the price of sugar in 1886 dropped significantly. He was, however, able to buy a cane engine from the government, and transferred it from Triumph to Friendship where he began processing his own sugar.

**THE FIRST RICE MILL** in Friendship was on Ogle Street and it belonged to the Ogle family. Paddy, cultivated at Younge Empolder by Friendship farmers, including Nana Culley and her sisters, Mrs. Hiles and Mrs. Alder, was processed at this mill.

**FIRST INDO-GUYANESE IN FRIENDSHIP**: In 1890, Cornelius Kryenhoff appeared before the Labour Commission, and he was given permission to hire fifteen (15) Indo-Guyanese because Afro-

(Continued on page 5)
(Continued from page 4)

Guyanese would not work on Mondays, except at their own price. Kryenhoff could not afford to pay this extra money and still make a profit. He had no alternative but to hire Indo-Guyanese workers. Clyde Roopchand’s grandfather (Fred Roopchand’s father) could have been among these Indo workers hired by Kryenhoff.

**THE FIRST GOLDSMITH** in Friendship was “Lilboy”, located at Railway Line and Friendship Middle Walk.

**JUKE BOX**: The pioneer of Juke Box entertainment in Friendship was Bysoondial Singh, called “Kaiser”. He was a tailor [and chauffeur] who came from Non Pariel and settled with his family in Friendship. Other operators included George Joseph, Sr. (Labamba) and Charles Barnes (Maestro).

**THE FIRST SOAP FACTORY** in Friendship was established by the DeCambra family. It was located at the corner of Friendship Middle Walk & Railway Line.

**CRICKET**: The late Fred Roopchand, a prominent goldsmith, was once the leading pioneer of the sport in the village. He had formed the new Congress Cricket Club and coached players like Charles Booker and Martin Stephenson. Both of them went on to play at the national first-class level.

There was also the war time Casual Cricket Club, which enlisted late Friendship greats like Oscar Spencer, sr., Martin Stephenson, Clayton Castello and Speco Bacchus.

Former resident magistrate, Mr. Veerasammy, played a major role in the development of sports facilities and helped to raise the standard of Cricket in the village. He coached the sport and gave freely of his talents.

**VOLLEY BALL**: Reverend Aubrey Bowen, a Lutheran minister of East Indian descent, introduced the sport in the village. He and his family occupied the church manse, which was located on Friendship Middle Walk.

**TABLE TENNIS**: It is believed that Reverend Bowen’s family also introduced the ping-pong sport in the village. The sport was also played at Friendship Methodist School.

---

**ST. AUGUSTINE’S ANGLICAN SCHOOL** was the first school to begin formal education in Friendship. Benjamin Croft was the first catechist and headmaster (1841–1857).

**BUXTON SCHOLARSHIP**: Enacted in 1923 to provide academic scholarships to children from Buxton-Friendship, the first awards were made in 1925 to two residents of Friendship. The first winner, Balbir Ballgreene Nehaul was sponsored to attend Queen’s College, and he went on to become a successful bacteriologist. The other winner, Claude Holder also went on to Queen’s College and succeeded in becoming a respected educator.

**VOCATIONAL SCHOOL**: The first vocational school (trade school) for boys was located at the corner Friendship Middle Walk and Railway Line. The first headmaster was Mr. Kirby Philadelphia of Friendship.

**ST. AUGUSTINE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH**: The Church of England was the pioneer when the need for religion and education arose. St. Augustine’s Church, at Friendship, opened its doors for worship on Sunday, 28th August, 1841.

Many of the formerly held slaves welcomed the church since the month of August was associated with Freedom. St. Augustine, the chosen patron saint of the church, was himself from Africa. He had been the Bishop of Hippo, an ancient city in what is now Algeria.
BUX’N OOMAN GETS PhD

Never, in the history of mankind, has the highest degree available in academia been awarded to anyone for a dissertation on “bux’n ooman.” This unique, unequalled and unusual effort was carried out by a bux’n ooman. Pauline Baird was just awarded a doctoral degree, an honor granted only to a handful of people worldwide, for being a courageous voice for the disenfranchised. Undoubtedly, Pauline’s extraordinary accomplishment is another Buxton-People-Stop-Train moment.

Pauline comes from a long line of family members who are always at the forefront of educating and serving. Her folks, the Bairds, Griffiths, and Watsons are known for exemplary service, and being among the well-educated. Her grandmother, Aunt Baba, left a legacy of spiritual fortitude at the Friendship Methodist Church. Her uncle, Seaton Griffith, was known for his instructive wisdom. And, her aunt, Cecilene Baird was Guyana’s most meritable Minister of Education. So, in many ways, there is no surprise to the enormity of Pauline’s intellectual capacity based on that genealogy.

Operating from a deep place, Pauline was able to execute an intellectual practice to improve understanding and appreciation for the deserving reverence of women who were ignored. Her passion to embrace the heritage of this special group has now evolved into a masterpiece of rhetoric and philosophy. Using a simple model – “Wah De Story Seh” – with reason and reflection, Doctor Pauline Baird cleverly captures a transcendent vision that is the cornerstone of women’s dignity, not only in Buxton, but globally.

After several years living and teaching in Japan, she journeyed to the United States of America to broaden her cultural horizon. Interestingly enough, she did not use those foreign experiences as the staple for this massive study; instead, she reached back into her own tiny village, Buxton, well known for education and imagination, to celebrate the historic relevance of women.

For her global work, she became the recipient of the prestigious “Scholars For the Dream Award”, given to women of color in the national Conference on College Composition and Communication. I said it before, and I am saying it again: Pauline’s worldview is caught up in a creativity that takes some simple layman vernaculars and develops them into serious scholarly storylines. Only a Buxtonian can do that! Surely, the spirit of her work is the spirit of her entire life as she continues to commit to a meaningful life, looking for potent ways to make a positive impact on others. I can’t wait for this work to be transformed into hardcover!

When asked, what the core message behind this epic project, she humbly expressed the following:

(Continued on page 7)
“In my project, ‘Towards a Cultural Rhetoric Approach to Caribbean Rhetoric: African Guyanese Women from the Village of Buxton Transforming Oral History,’ which I dedicated to Buxton, I built a Cultural Rhetoric approach by listening to the stories of a group of African Guyanese women from the village of Buxton - Lorna Campbell, Jennifer Lee, Cheryl Glen, Shevan Forde and Tamika Boatswain. I obtained these stories from engaging in a long-term oral history research project where I understand the Buxtonian women to be interested in telling their stories to teach the current and future generations of Buxtonians. I built this approach by using a collaborative and communal methodology of asking ‘Wah De Story Seh?’ This methodology provides a framework for understanding these women’s strategies in history-making as distinctively Caribbean rhetoric. It is crucial for my project to mark these women’s strategies as Caribbean rhetoric because they negotiate their oral histories and identities by consciously and unconsciously connecting to an African ancestral heritage of formerly enslaved Africans in Guyana. In my project, I enact story as methodology to understand the rhetorical strategies that the Buxtonian women use to make oral histories and by so doing, examine the relationship between rhetoric, knowledge, and power.”

Congratulations!

~ by Dr. Clayton Bacchus

Company Road Primary School (Methodist) invites you to its

Maypole Fair

Saturday, May 21, 2016
School Grounds

Lots of Fun and Games
Face Painting * Trampoline
Pole Plaiting
Crowning Senior & Junior
Maypole Queens
Music
Plus Tasty Food & Drinks

Admission
$200: Child   $400: Adult
One day after the APNU+AFC coalition was declared the winner of the May 11, 2015 General and Regional Elections and David A. Granger sworn in as the ninth President of Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the 'jungle' behind Cuffy [the 1763 Monument] was invaded and its vegetation systematically decimated. Approximately eight months later, we were informed by a government’s spokesman that the former race course will be converted to a stadium and Park. We were also informed then that the site will be made ready for a Mash-Day (2016) Flag Raising Ceremony, a dress rehearsal, precluded a grand Independence parade on May 26, 2016; a billboard to that effect was unveiled. The government indicated that the construction of a new stadium was needed to seat the expected ‘millions’ that will attend the 50th Independence Parade; the 2007-built, 15,000-capacity Providence Stadium was deemed inadequate, relative to the situation that unfolded on the day of President Granger’s inauguration.

On February 23, 2016, an estimated ten thousand persons attended the one-hour military parade/flag raising ceremony dress rehearsal, with approximately seventy-five percent of the attendees occupying the timber bleachers erected on the northern side of the arena. The new Mecca is currently a hive of activities to achieve an estimated twenty-twenty five thousand seating capacity for the 'Jubilee bashment' on May 26. On a guided tour of the facility early in the month of April, the STABROEK NEWS revealed photographic evidence which suggested that poor workmanship and defective materials were evident on the project. I would have done my own inspection on February 24, 2016 after my experience in the facility the previous day. My observation would have revealed poor execution in every facet of the works.

The big question is, "Was this facility needed at this time?" On the campaign trail, the electorate was promised attrition of corruption, significant salary increases, more jobs, reduction of VAT, safer communities, prudent management of our natural and financial resources among other goodies in the basket of 'A GOOD LIFE.' The world’s economic outlook seems gloomy with the major economies projecting contraction. All our continental and Caribbean neighbours are experiencing economic hardships. At home, we are getting less for all our natural resources and our major agricultural exports. Rice and sugar are taking a beating as the farmers battle with drought. While we await the materialisation of many of the basic campaign promises, we are informed that a sum of GY$300, 000,000 will be spent for the jubilee celebrations; the cost of the new mecca is unknown although a sum of one hundred and fifty million is projected to be spent during the next three weeks to have the site ready for the celebrations.

The facility under construction on Durban Park is described as a stadium. As is, the stage, located on the western side, and the bleachers on the other three sides are rough timber (mixed hardwood) structures. In my opinion the design of the works is economically and structurally flawed. The existing structure is not durable, poorly constructed, aesthetically distressing and a social cohesion disdain. It is known that the Square of the Revolution (Cuffy Square) does not lend itself to the congregation of our East Indian brothers and sisters, that point was emphatically made at the dress rehearsal on February 23. Better must come! “Wilful waste does mek woeful want.”

Until the next time, to God be the Glory!
On April 1st, the new councilors of the Buxton-Foulis Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) were sworn in to their positions. Following the installation ceremony, Mr. Deon Forbes Abrams was elected to serve as chairman of the council.

As the new chairman, Mr. Abrams succeeds Mr. Randolph Blair who served in the position for 12 years (from 2004 to 2016). He was not re-elected to the council.

The ruling coalition of APNU+AFC controls 11 of the 18 seats on the council, while the PPC/C holds the other seven seats.

Congratulations to Mr. Abrams and Best Wishes to the new council for a productive term!
Thanks to everyone who supported Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund’s fundraising banquet and our donors who sent in contributions this month (April)! We greatly appreciate your faithful support.

Special acknowledgment to:
* Handel Elcock (Andy) of Bellwood, Illinois (Fire Victims)
* Kim Grant of Brooklyn, New York
* Yvonne Lewis (Paul) of Brooklyn, New York (Education)
* Ojembo & Ann Tafawa of Brooklyn, NY
* June Wood-Agamah of Springfield, Illinois

* Colin Garnett of Brooklyn, New York
* Murphy & Norris Henry of Bowie, Maryland
* Carol Newton of Upper Marlboro, Maryland
* Lynette Thomas of New York, New York
* Anonymous (1)

Recent Transitions

♦ ROSE GRENADE. She passed away on 2nd April, 2016 in Guyana.
♦ STEPHEN (ISAAC) JOHN passed away on 3rd April, 2016 in New York. He was the BROTHER OF Mrs. Pearl Dover; FATHER OF: Larry, Dennis, Gordon, Godfrey, Joy and Trevor John.
♦ OLIVE ADAMS (nee Philander) passed away on 3rd April, 2016. She was the DAUGHTER OF the late Mr. Phillip Sr. & Mrs. Mildred Philander; SISTER OF: Andrew Philander, Sr. (Rugum), Myrna Davy, Phillip (Phil) Philander, Monica Fraser (Mamie) and Anthony (Tony) Philander.
♦ GORDON PAYNE passed away in England. He was the brother of Tommy, the late Audrey and Ronald.
♦ THELMA SMITH, aged 70, passed away on April 11, 2016 at Jamaica Hospital, New York. She was the DAUGHTER OF the late Rona Ifill and Harold Kersellius; MOTHER OF: Stacie Smith and the late Michelle and Dionne Smith; SISTER OF: Shirley Davis, Roxanne Hoyte, Harold and Carl Kersellius, the late Clifford Sancho (Toona), Waveney Abrams, Sydney Ifill and Neil Hoyte; NIECE OF: Edna Ifill, Agnes Fredericks, Cecil Persaud, Celeste McDonald, the late Oscar, Randolph, Gwendolyn and Hector Ifill, Vivienne Glasgow, and others.
♦ RAS. MICHAEL JEUNE, former teacher at County High School, poet and writer, passed away on 20th April, 2016 in Guyana. He was also a well-known actor, playwright and director at Guyana’s Theatre Guild.
♦ REV. IDA ABRAMS, former pastor of Church of God, Buxton, passed away on April 21, 2016.
♦ WINSTON FRENCH formerly of Friendship, passed away on April 26 in Fayetteville, North Carolina, USA
♦ NERISA SPENCER, aged 40 and formerly of Company Road, Buxton, was struck down by a car as she was walking along Lamaha Street, Georgetown on April 28.
♦ WINSTON ADAMS, Sr. (Tu-Tun) passed away on April 29 in Brooklyn, New York.
CLYDE RAYMOND ROOPCHAND: 2nd February, 1947 - 30th March, 2016

Above left, the casket with the remains of Mr. Clyde Roopchand is seen being taken into Buxton’s St. Anthony’s R.C. Church as students from Friendship Primary School (formerly St. Anthony’s R.C.) School form a baton guard for the procession. At right, in the front row, are President David Granger and National Assembly Speaker, Mr. Barton Scotland, who were among several current and former government officials to pay final respects to the distinguished career public servant.

Roopchand started his career as a teacher at then St. Anthony’s R.C. School, then worked his way up to become Chief Planning Officer in the State Planning Secretariat. He succumbed to illness on March 30, 2016 at a New York hospital. He was 69 years old.

His remains were interred in his family plot at St. Anthony’s R.C. Cemetery, Friendship.

HASLYN PARRIS: 2nd March, 1941 - 28th March, 2016

Seated in the front pew, at left, are Minister of State - Joseph Harmon, Speaker of the National Assembly - Barton Scotland, and President David Granger during the Thanksgiving Service for the life of the late William Arnold Lennox Parris at St. Anthony’s R.C. Church. Mr. Parris passed at a Georgetown hospital following a brief illness. He was 75 years old.

Also among those paying their final respects to the former Deputy Prime Minister of Guyana and top executive of the bauxite industry were Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo, former presidents - Donald Ramotar and Samuel Hinds, several Cabinet members and other government officials.

Mr. Parris’s remains were interred at St. Anthony’s R.C. Cemetery, Friendship.
Buxton-Friendship Express

April 2016

Published by: Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund, Inc.

E-mail: BuxtonExpress@aol.com

ORDERING INFORMATION

Eusi Kwayana
Phone: 619-267-6779
E-mail: tkwayana@gmail.com

Keith Easton
Phone: 240-601-3892
E-mail: keasto2@gmail.com

John Massay
Phone: 347-228-6939
E-mail: jmassay1@verizon.net

Come to the

Buxton Soiree

Saturday, June 25, 2016

from 6:00 p.m.

Shine Rice Cook-up, Roti/Puri
Black/White Pudding, Souse, Channa,
Phulouri, Pone, Mauby, Sorrell,
Vege Dishes & More

Cash Raffle Drawing

Eusi Kwayana

A new look at Jonestown

Dimensions from a Guyanese Perspective

US$19

Free Shipping in the U.S.

Buxton: The Spice of Guyana