

# Buxton-Friendship

Express

MARCH 2016



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Buxton-Friendship Heritage  
Fund, Inc.

## NEW COUNCILORS ELECTED TO BUXTON-FOULIS NDC

**MARCH is**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**2016 Theme:**  
**Working to Form a  
More Perfect Union:**

*Honoring Women  
in Public Service  
and Government.*

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Following Local Government elections held across the country on 18<sup>th</sup> of this month, the APNU+AFC coalition garnered eleven (11) of the eighteen seats on the Buxton/Foulis Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC). The other seven (7) seats were secured by the PPP/C alliance. The NDC Chairman will be elected from among the eighteen councilors.

In the Constituency or First-Past-the-Post (FPP) component of the hybrid electoral system, APNU+AFC won 6 seats and PPP/C picked up the remaining 3. Under the Proportional Representation (PR) component, APNU+AFC was apportioned 5 seats while PPP/C gained the other 4.

Competing for the Buxton constituency (#1), Deon Abrams cruised to an easy victory with 915 votes over his rival, Owen Oswald McGarrell, who ran as an Independent candidate and mustered 289 votes.

In the Friendship constituency (#2), Shevan Wray (néé Forde), the APNU+AFC representative, eked out a win with 351 votes over her two Independent challengers – Oswald Williams with 293 and Adrian David Alfred with 248 votes.

*(Continued on page 2)*

CONSTITUENCY	AREA	FPP WINNER	VOTES	PARTY
1	BUXTON	Deon Forbes Abrams	915	APNU+AFC
2	FRIENDSHIP	Shevan Gail Wray, neé Forde	351	APNU+AFC
3	Bladen Hall, Coldingen & Non Pariel – North	Jackdeep Ramalagan Singh	684	PPP/C
4	Vigilance South	Kwasi A. Benjamin	383	APNU+AFC
5	Vigilance - Strathspey & Vigilance - Foulis Sugar Cultivation (South)	Michelle A. Adams	No Contest	APNU+AFC
6	Enterprise – Elizabeth Hall (North)	Ashworth Benn	711	APNU+AFC
7	Enterprise—Elizabeth Hall (South) – Beyond Railway	Shakilla Prashad	1,316	PPP/C
8	Bachelor's Adventure	Hazel C. Pyle-Lewis	No Contest	APNU+AFC
9	Paradise – Foulis	Ishwar Dyal Tulsiram	1,229	PPP/C

# NEW COUNCIL ELECTED

(Continued from page 1)

The new members will be inducted to the council on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. Following the installation ceremony, voting for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will take place. Deon Abrams is tipped to be voted in to the top position.

Asked about his ability to meet the expectations of constituents who seemed to have lost confidence in the system, Mr. Abrams expressed optimism in measuring up to the huge task ahead, and promised to serve in the best interest of the people and the district.

He related that he had been working in the community for all his adult life and was eager to get on with the business of rehabilitating the infrastructures and economies across the locality. Moreover, he lamented, *“Over 23 years, so many things have been allowed to go wrong. What we have to do is to go in there and see how much we can get corrected, then try to move forward with basic things like drainage; irrigation; education; youth, culture and sports; as well as infrastructure in general. We will try to work on rebuilding the economies of places like Buxton and those communities that would have been neglected over the 23 years by the PPP/C administration.”*

He wants to engineer a modernized structure of street demarcation in the vast Backdam section to facilitate housing development in the area and provide easy access for farmers to transport their produce.

*“Over 23 years, so many things have been allowed to go wrong. What we have to do is to go in there and see how much we can get corrected, then try to move forward with basic things like drainage; irrigation; education; youth, culture and sports [development]; as well as infrastructure in general.”*

He further noted, *“The village is expanding and people are constructing homes in the Back, but there is no network of roads there. The state of the drains and trenches must be fixed to assist people to do the kind of farming they want to do.”*

Mr. Abrams disclosed that there are ongoing discussions with representatives of the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to aid in revitalizing the village’s Agriculture industry. The agency wants to target unemployed youths for training in greenhouse production and income generation.

In a move to resuscitate Buxton Market, he stated that, in recent months, several stalls had been allocated to vendors, both inside and outside. He described the marketplace as being on the up-swing.

Congrats and best wishes to all!

CONSTITUENCY	COUNCILOR	TYPE	PARTY
1	Deon Abrams	FPP	APNU+AFC
2	Shevan Wray Brenda Huntley	FPP PR	APNU+AFC APNU+AFC
3	Jagdeep Ramalagan Singh Patricia Atkinson	FPP PR	PPP/C APNU+AFC
4	Kwasi Benjamin	FPP	APNU+AFC
5	Michelle Adams	FPP	APNU+AFC
6	Ashworth Benn Walston Martins	FPP PR	APNU+AFC APNU+AFC
7	Shakilla Prashad Balwant Singh Singh	FPP PR	PPP/C APNU+AFC
8	Hazel Pyle-Lewis	FPP	APNU+AFC
9	Ishwar Dyal Tulsiram Courtney Anderson	FPP PR	PPP/C APNU+AFC

**FPP:** First Past the Post or Constituency Winner

**PR:** Proportional Representation. Member appointed by Party/Group

**NOTE:** PPP/C to appoint 4 more Councilors from its PR list to fill its 7 seats

**APNU+AFC** won 11 of the 18 seats on the Buxton/Foulis NDC



**MR. DEON ABRAMS**

Tipped to be Chairman of Buxton/Foulis NDC

# Easter Waves



**Kite Sale in Buxton**

Several children gathered at the Buxton Gas Station to receive free kites. Before the distribution, President David Granger took time to explain the significance of the Easter Season to the eager and attentive bunch.

## THE BATHERSFIELDS SPREAD EASTER CHEER



Several children and their parents came to Buxton Congregational Church to receive gifts of backpacks, school supplies and other goodies, compliments of the Bathersfield family. They were also treated to delicious snacks and a good time.

# **BUXTON MOURNS THE LOSS OF A FAITHFUL SON**

## **CLYDE RAYMOND ROOPCHAND**

Coming two days after the sudden passing of Haslyn Parris, the unexpected loss of another prominent and faithful son of Buxton was received with surprise and profound sadness by villagers and friends. Both of these gentlemen attended St. Anthony's R.C. Church and school in the village and, for some time, they also worked together at the State Planning Secretariat.

Clyde Raymond Roopchand passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York. He was 69 years old. Clyde was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1947 in Friendship Village, E.C.D. to well-known goldsmith, Fred Roopchand and Doris Roopchand, who both preceded him to heaven.

Clyde had attended St. Anthony's R.C. School at Friendship; Central High School in Georgetown; and the University of Guyana, Turkeyen, from where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences, majoring in Economics, in 1975. His post graduate studies included:

- ◇ Agro-Industrial Project Planning–Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados (1978)
- ◇ Agri-Business Management–AD Little Institute, Boston, MA, USA (1985)
- ◇ Financial Programming and Policy–IMF Institute, Washington, DC, USA. (1988)

From 1967 to 1974, Mr. Roopchand (Sir Roop) taught at the St. Anthony's R.C. School. After graduating from UG in 1975, he secured employment with the Ministry of Economic Development as an economist.

According to a Demerara Waves report, current Finance Minister, Winston Jordan remembers working "closely" with Roopchand at the State Planning Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance, along with then Finance Minister, Carl Greenidge and former Bank of Guyana Governor, Patrick Matthews in "putting together the Economic Recovery Programme." "We were like the core team back in the mid-80s trying to put together a programme to bring Guyana back," he said. "It's a loss to Guyana but it's inevitable,"

Roopchand recently left the position of Chief Planning Officer in the State Planning Secretariat, a position he held from 1987.



*(Continued on page 5)*

## CLYDE RAYMOND ROOPCHAND

*(Continued from page 4)*

His many job responsibilities included:

- ◇ Designing, developing and managing the Public Sector Investment Programme
- ◇ Appraisal and monitoring of Public Sector projects
- ◇ Participation in the preparation of the National Budget.

He sat on several boards and also served as Chairman of Guyana Revenue Authority.

Clyde got married and relocated to Kitty in 1977. He and his wife produced three children— two daughters (Sharon and Karen) and a son.

Despite the distance, he stayed in close touch with the people of Buxton/Friendship, because he was always interested in knowing what was going on in and about the community. He visited the village regularly. He especially enjoyed hanging out at Backdam Side playing dominoes and, in the old days, partying back there. He also liked to travel around Guyana and meeting with people.

Mr. Roopchand cared a lot about Buxton, and took every opportunity to help restore aging infrastructure, facilities and educational programmes in the village. He had an attentive ear, a generous heart and a willing hand. Some of the development projects in the village for which he is largely credited are:

- ◇ Extensive road improvement works
- ◇ Establishment of the Practical Instruction Centre and construction of a brand new two-storey building to house the new technical-vocational school
- ◇ Construction of the three-storey building which houses Friendship Primary School (formerly St. Anthony's R.C. School)
- ◇ Assistance in completing of the new Buxton Health Centre building

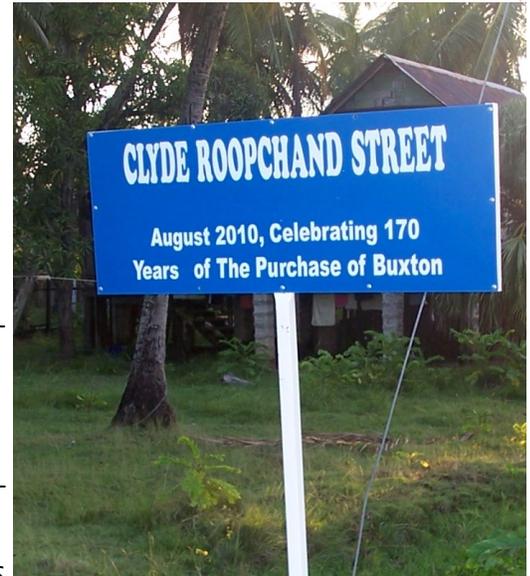
In addition to his teaching responsibilities at "Roman" School, he ran the school's athletic program, and was a very popular figure at school sports. Until he left for Kitty, Clyde was an active member St. Anthony's R.C. Church.

In appreciation of his dedication and contribution to the advancement of Buxton/Friendship, a new street was named to honour this faithful son of the village in 2010, during Buxton's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. He was also awarded a plaque of commendation.

Clyde Raymond Roopchand was also recognized for his long and dedicated service to Guyana in 2011. He was then bestowed the country's Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) award.

The Buxton community stands in deep mourning with his family, and extends heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved relatives.

We will miss him. May he rest in peace!



**Clyde Roopchand**  
presented with a Plaque of  
commendation by the group,  
Buxtonian4Life in 2010

# E.F. FREDERICKS MADE HISTORY, LEFT AN IMPRESSION

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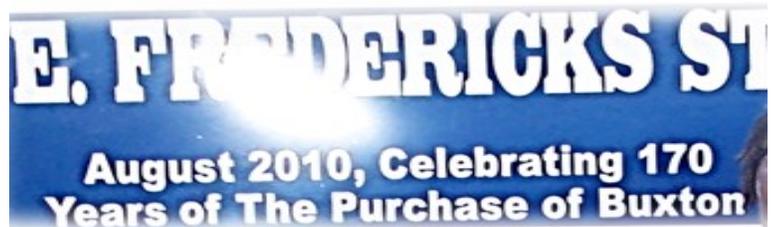
The registrars at Shaw University in Raleigh [North Carolina] probably looked surprised when Edmund Fitzgerald Fredericks came to enroll in the Black university's School of Law. Fredericks spoke with a proper English accent and was once described by a friend as, "every inch a Britisher." "Fitz," as he was known, was already well-educated and could speak multiple languages.

E.F. Fredericks was born in Buxton Village, in the Demerara Region, on the north coast of South America, in what is now Guyana, on March 9, 1875. E.F. was the second son of Louis and Charlotte Fredericks and grew up attending church, going to school, and helping tend cattle at home. He excelled both in school and at church, showing exceptional oratory skills and acting in plays such as Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." As an adult, he became a teacher at the Friendship Wesleyan [Methodist] School and was later made headmaster of Concordia Presbyterian School on Wakenaam Island, off the coast of what was then British Guiana. Fredericks was headmaster-teacher until September 1903 when, at the age of 28, he sailed for America to pursue a life-long dream of becoming a lawyer.

*(Continued on page 7)*

This article was extracted from the Statesville Record & Landmark, a daily newspaper based in Statesville, North Carolina. It was published in two parts: February 20, 2016 and February 27, 2016. The writer, Joel Reese, is the local history librarian at the Iredell County Public Library in Statesville.  
[http://www.statesville.com/community/column-fitz-made-history-with-mooresville-s-first-black-school/article\\_842ee08a-d57f-11e5-](http://www.statesville.com/community/column-fitz-made-history-with-mooresville-s-first-black-school/article_842ee08a-d57f-11e5-)

## **Buxton Remembers E.F. Fredericks**



### **THE BUXTON BATTLE SONG**

1. Thou wilt not cower in the dust  
Buxton my own native land,  
Thy glorious name shall never rust,  
Oh Buxton my own native land.
2. Remember Fredericks, yes we must,  
The Buxton Scholarship his thrust.  
And now he slumbers in the dust,  
In Buxton my own native land.
3. And now may every girl and boy,  
In Buxton my own native land,  
His heart and brain all day employed,  
In Buxton my own native land.
4. To add to our illustrious line  
Of sons and daughters who all time,  
Give of their best that you may shine  
For Buxton my own native land.

*Composed by late teachers  
of Buxton Congregational School*

*“In keeping with his love of education, Fredericks founded the Buxton Scholarship. Balbir Nehaul was the first to receive the scholarship and became the first Guyana-born government bacteriologist and pathologist.”*

REMEMBERING

## E.F. FREDERICKS

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*(Continued from page 6)*

In North Carolina, 1903 was not a good time to be a Black man. In 1898, a White supremacy campaign had taken control of State politics, and on August 2, 1900, the State passed Article VI: The Suffrage and Eligibility amendment to the state constitution. The law required the paying of a poll tax to vote and required all voters to pass a literacy test. The purpose of the law was to disenfranchise Black citizens by taking away their right to vote. The effects of the suffrage amendment in 1900 were immediate. White turnout for voting between 1900 and 1902 plummeted and voting by Blacks ceased as 75,000 Black male voters were removed from the rolls. Registers also refused to allow the Cherokee to vote based on an 1895 federal court ruling that identified them as wards of the federal government. Between 1873 and 1957, North Carolina passed 23 Jim Crow laws separating Black and White citizens in society.

Undeterred by the state's political environment, Fredericks immersed himself in the study of law, completing the three-year program in two years. He passed the N.C. State Board of Examination in March 1905 and was appointed attorney and counselor-at-law even before he officially graduated from Shaw with his LL.B degree in May of that year. In 1905, the North Carolina General Assembly granted a charter (“Public Laws of N.C., Chapter 556, Section 1) that “hereby constituted a school district for White and colored children, to be known as “The Mooresville Graded School District.” On April 24, 1906, Mooresville voters passed a bond and local tax creating the Mooresville Graded School system. E.F. Fredericks, who had a love for both the law and teaching, was soon hired as the principal over Mooresville’s colored school.

Fredericks was better educated than probably 99 percent of the people in Iredell, but still faced the same legal and social restrictions that all Black men did in that time. Fredericks never gave into self-pity. He was a self-made man who through his own intelligence and hard work had gone from being a boy tending cattle in British Guiana to being both an attorney and school principal in the United States. A friend said Fredericks enjoyed horse racing, cricket, cycling, and boxing.

The first day in the newly graded colored school was Monday, September 17, 1906 and the faculty consisted of principal-teacher Fredericks and Melissa Murray. More than 100 children enrolled in the school on the first day and by November, the two teachers had 120 students. The Black community showed strong support for the school from the start. The 120 students represented 69 percent of the 174 Black children in the Mooresville area who were eligible. By comparison, the White school only enrolled 44 percent of the eligible White children from the same area.

Fritz used his writing skills to create support for the new school. On January 3, 1907, he sent “A Report of the Colored School” to Mooresville’s newspaper, The Enterprise, in which he wrote, “Since my appointment as principal of this school, I have attempted to arouse the people to a sense of self-help. How well I have succeeded in the venture you will decide on examining the following figures.” Fredericks gave a report on his efforts to raise funding for the school from the community through various programs put on by the students. Their efforts had raised \$45.60 which had been used to purchase maps, a stove and piping, and other materials needed at the school. The editor of The Enterprise made note of Fredericks' work writing, “We are glad to print the above report from E. Fitz Frederick, principal of the colored school of Mooresville. It is just and right that the public should know what he is doing for his race, and we are glad to say, doing well.” The article went on to say, “He is preaching the doctrine that 'God helps them that help themselves' and we are glad to see it.”

On Oct. 29, 1907, the Mooresville Enterprise reported the Black school had 140 pupils and that “E. Fitz. Fredericks, Principal of the Colored Graded School, is Making a Fine Record.” Fredericks turned to his background in theater to hold fund-raising events for the school. The Enterprise reported on March 3, 1908, “The colored school teachers are giving a series of entertainments to raise money toward building a new school house. The first of the series came off last Friday night, from which they realized \$20. The next comes off on March 27th, a musical performance given by the juveniles.” On Oct. 27, 1910, Fredericks' report appeared in the paper under “An Education Meeting: there will be an educational meeting at the colored Presbyterian Church, the immediate object of which is to raise some funds needed for the equipping of our new school building, the beautifying of the premises and assisting generally of school needs where necessary.”

*(Continued on page 8)*

## EDMUND FITZGERALD FREDERICKS

He left his mark on three continents

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*(Continued from page 7)*

Fredericks gave a series of race-related lectures in Mooresville to try and break down racial misconceptions. In the summer of 1911, he sailed to Great Britain where he represented North Carolina at the First International Race Congress at the University of London. While in England, he witnessed the Coronation of King George V at Westminster Abbey. He returned and in the *Enterprise* on April 25, 1912, reported that “The first commencement of the colored school will take place on Friday evening, May 3rd, 1912, at the Presbyterian church. Every effort is being made to render the occasion profitable. One of the best songstresses in the State has been secured to heighten the proceedings.” On December 12, 1912, in the *Enterprise*, under “The Christmas idea,” Fredericks promoted the upcoming school Christmas concert, asking people to attend and demonstrate the Yuletide spirit of “Peace on earth and good will to men;” and quoting Tennyson: “Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.”

On March 6, 1913, the *Enterprise* reported that, “E. Fitz Frederick, who has been principal of the colored schools here for several years past, will leave Saturday for London, where he will probably become engaged in editorial work on one of the London papers. The school board has granted him a leave of absence, for 10 days or longer.” While in England Fredrick completed the Oxford Senior Examination at the Crystal Palace Centre as he worked to obtain a law degree in Britain. Back home in Mooresville, he reported in the *Enterprise* on October 29, 1914, “At the opening of this school, it was found necessary to raise \$160 for the purpose of employing an auxiliary teacher when the school reaches its highest enrollment.” Believing that education and job skills were the keys to improving one’s life, Fredericks created an industrial department at the school under Bertha Graham to teach the students job skills. In the *Mooresville Tribune*, November 25, 1915, the paper reported, “Prof. Fitz Frederic, principal of the colored graded school of Mooresville, has hit upon a special course of training for the pupils under him and it is very gratifying to him and the public generally for his pupils to respond so readily to the ideas he is giving them in the matter of manual and industrial training.”

1916 was Fredericks' last year as principal of the Black school in Mooresville and, in September 1917, he was succeeded by Principal J.L. Hollowell of Statesville. World War I had begun and Fredericks, the “Britisher,” moved to England to serve as an accounting clerk in the War Office. While in London, Fredericks was a prominent member of the African Progress Union, and at the end of the war, was sent as a delegate to Paris, to the first Pan-African Congress.

Nearly 16 years after leaving British Guiana, Edmund Fitzgerald Fredericks returned to his native country in June 1919 and was called to the English Bar on July 6. Fredericks became an important figure in the Guiana court and political system. In 1926 he was elected to the Combined Court, winning the South-East Essequibo seat, and in 1928, he was returned unopposed as a member of the legislative council. On the recommendation of Guiana Governor Sir Edward Denham, King George V appointed Fredericks as the first African-Guyanese member of the Executive Council.

**Fredericks was a member of the Education Committee, the advisory body to the Governor in the formulation, adoption and execution of education policies. In keeping with his love of education, Fredericks founded the BUXTON SCHOLARSHIP. Balbir Nehaul was the first to receive the scholarship and became the first Guyana-born government bacteriologist and pathologist. In 1922, Fredericks and Dr. T.T. Nichols founded the Negro Progress Convention to promote the advancement of the African-Guyanese people.**

E.F. Fredericks died on April 6, 1935, at the age of 60. His death was reported in the *New York Times* which described him as a prominent barrister and a member of the British Guiana Legislative Council.

On Sept. 29, 2010, Professor Barbara Josiah at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice presented a paper called, “From Shaw University to the Booker T. Washington of British Guiana, Hon. E.F. Fredericks and Contributions of HBCU’s to the African Diaspora” at the 95th Annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History Convention in Raleigh. Prof. Josiah said, “Three days after Hon. Edmund Fitzgerald Fredericks, LL.B, M.L.C. died, an eminent legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of the British Guiana (Guyana) identified him as the then colony’s Booker T. Washington.”

Mooresville’s first Black graded school principal left his mark on three continents.

## **Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund**

Invites You to Come & Enjoy a Delightful Afternoon

# **Buxton Spring Banquet**

*Celebrating*

**FRIENDSHIP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Milestone**

**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

From 4:00 p.m.

## **St. Gabriel's Church Golden Hall**

**331 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

*(Between Nostrand & New York Avenues)*

- ◆ **Delectable Menu**
- ◆ **Cultural Entertainment**
- ◆ **Swing Dance Showcase**
- ◆ **African Drumming**
- ◆ **Dramatic Poetry**
- ◆ **Music for all Ages**
- ◆ **Dutch Auction in aid of Buxton Xmas Fire Victims – Prized Items ~ \$1 bids & More**



**Ticket Donation: \$25**

### **For Tickets & More Info**

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**Mboya: 646-727-5937**  
**Oneko: 917-912-9384**  
**Ken: 646-789-3972**  
**Owen: 646-894-4256**  
**Lorna: 718-342-0040**  
**Rennie: 347-863-6121**  
**Quintin: 202-460-3948**



# **Wha de Story Seh?** by Dr. Pauline Baird

## **TALES OF BEING A BUXTONIAN IN JAPAN**

Dear Buxtonians,

**Wah de Story Seh?**

**I was thinking the other day about how my Buxtonianness travels with me.**

**So, leh me tell you about this village girl in Japan, my neighbor Etsuko-san, and cook-up rice.**

**Here is a story:**

**Well, I needed to learn Japanese bad**

**I was tired of shopping by sight**

**And pointing at things in the stores, saying “Kore Wa?” [What is this?]**

**I was tired of buying salt instead of sugar**

**Yes, one time I did that and I had salt for the entire year!**

**That is what happens when you can't read and write in another language**

**All the stupidity stopped**

**When I met my neighbor Etsuko-san**

**Here is another story:**

**Etsuko-san invited me to her home and taught me to speak Japanese**

**Lesson 1: “Watashi wa, Pōrin desu” [My name is Pauline]**

**Eh Eh, I speaking and ting**

**And I sounding like a proper Japanese and all.**

**So Etsuko-san and I used to go to a dance class each week**

**One day after the dance class, I decided to make Cook-up rice**

**Ping Pong, Ping Pong**

**My intercom rang**

**I check and I see Etsuko -san on the monitor**

**“Pōrin-san [Pauline-san] what is your food?”**

**“Cook-up”**

**“Cook-up?” Dono Riyori wa nan desu? [What dish is that?]**

**I explained that I cooked**

**Left over everything in one pot—**

**Left over carrot, left over chicken, left over spinach,**

**Rice and coconut milk**

**She does not understand so I told her that is Bimbo Riyori [poor man food]**

**“I want to eat Bimbo Riyori”**

**I gave her a small bowl of hot cook-up**

**Not sure what she will think.**

**A few minutes later**

**Ping Pong, Ping Pong**

**Estuko-san came back again**

**“Bimbo riyori oiishi desu!” (Poor man food is very delicious)**

**Whisper: “Pōrin-san my husband wants some Bimbo Riyori too!”**

*Congratulations!*

*Buxton-Friendship Express wishes to salute Dr. Pauline Baird on having successfully completed her PhD Degree.*

*Hearty congratulations and Best Wishes in all your future endeavours to you, Dr. Baird, from our editorial committee and readers!*

*Dr. Pauline Baird taught at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology an Engineering University for six years. She and Etsuko-san have remained friends.*



Collis Nicholson

# COLLIS NICHOLSON ELECTED GTU REGIONAL V.P.

Congratulations to Teacher Collis on being elected to the position of Regional Vice-President of the Guyana Teachers' Union! General elections were held on 26<sup>th</sup> March by the national Teachers' union for a new executive body to serve the next term.

Mr. Nicholson is a Graduate Senior Assistant Master at Company Road Primary School (Methodist). He also functions as the Sports Co-ordinator for the GTU—Buxton Branch and E.C.D. District. Inside and beyond Buxton/Friendship, he is a highly respected Community Organizer, Youth Leader & Mentor.

Since 2012, Nicholson served as Chairman and General Council Representative of GTU—Buxton Branch. Before that, he functioned as the Secretary of the branch (2010-2012).

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TENURE TO TEACHER COLLIS AND HIS COLLEAGUES!

## Celebrate Guyana; Celebrate Friendship



Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund Cordially Invites You

*The Buxton-Friendship Jubilee Ball*

*& Heritage Awards Presentation*

**SATURDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2016**

**THE GRAND TIPPERARY HALL**

Buxton Middle Walk, near Public Road

from 7:00 p.m.

175<sup>th</sup>

*An Elegant Affair*

In special commemoration of  
**Friendship 175<sup>th</sup> Purchase Anniversary**  
**Guyana's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary**

**Sumptuous Cocktail & Dinner**  
**Exotic Drinks \* Gala Atmosphere**

**Super Terry 1-Man Band \* Popular D.J.**  
**Buxton Pride Steel Orchestra**

ALL-INCLUSIVE AFFAIR: US\$40 UP TO APRIL 30

\$40

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Owen: 646-894-4256 \* Rennie: 347-863-6121 \* Rollo: 592-639-9035

**RESERVE YOUR TICKET NOW!**



*City of Guyana*

**HAYNES CITE**

~BY ANTHONY HAYNES

# **GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL:**

## **Need for Faith or a Fairy Godmother?**



Over the last decade the government of Guyana has annually budgeted and expended billions of Guyana dollars in sustaining the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). A large amount of those funds go towards training and remuneration of personnel and the maintenance/upgrade of the facility. By comparison the state spends far more per capital on this institution than any other medical service centre in Guyana, whether public or private.

The premier service outlet of the GPHC is its Accident and Emergency Unit (A&EU) which provides twenty-four/seven service to the general public. The existing 'modern' facility was constructed and put into service some twenty-four (24) years ago. The standard operational procedure of this unit is to provide service to a patient based on the severity of his or her physical condition rather than the order in which they would have arrived at the unit. This most critical public service institution operates on a policy that says the health personnel has a right to refuse service to a patient if they determine that the patient is disorderly.

Many stories have been told about the negligence, unprofessionalism and utter disregard for patient care displayed by some of the staff functioning at the Accident and Emergency Unit and in the Wards at the GPHC, but to experience it is another story. I shall like to relate to you, first hand, my experience at the GPHC from Sunday, January 24 to Tuesday February 02, 2016.

An urgent distress call from my father at about 09:30hrs [9:30 a.m.] on January 24th would have initiated a rush to GPHC Out-Patient Unit, as my mother was bleeding unexpectedly and uncontrollably from her nostril. Within 30 minutes of arrival at the Medical Out-Patient Unit, she was seen by a doctor and referred to the A&EU. The day's drama unfolded when my sister objected to the triage nurse using an un-sterilized thermometer to take my mom's temperature. The nurse responded by sending my mother back to the waiting area and placing her medical card to the bottom of the stack of cards to be seen by the doctor. After two hours, my sister enquired from the nurse about my mother's status. She was told that my mom has to wait. A lengthy exchange of words followed and a young doctor intervened. He was dismissive of our concerns and defended the nurse's action saying that the patient was being observed. We were then asked to leave the patient and go outside. About fifteen minutes later, another patient called us from inside to indicate that our mother was bleeding again and had collapsed. By that time,



**Main Complex of the Georgetown Public Hospital**

*(Continued on page 13)*

# **GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL: A TRAUMATIC ENCOUNTER**

*(Continued from page 12)*

another sister who is a nurse attached to a different department of that institution, arrived and requested a porter to take her inside to the examination area. The patient was then attended to by a doctor who revealed that her pressure was fluctuating.

We left the GPHC at 02:00hrs [2:00 a.m.] the following day, subsequent to the patient being admitted to the new Female Medical Unit. During the period of medical observation, 12:00hrs to 1:30hrs the following day, nursing care had to be provided by my sister since the nurses attached to the A&EU were very reluctant and appeared to be incapable of attending to the needs of the patient. In fact, when nurse Jacqueline Haynes would have left the patient between 18:00 and 19:00 hrs to return to her work station, our mother who was on saline and still bleeding had to proceed to the washroom unassisted. When she got there, she had to wait for about twenty minutes since the room was occupied. The person occupying the room was physically incapacitated and could not get out by herself. When my mother asked one of the nurses for assistance, she was told by the nurse, "that is not my job." After bleeding profusely and wetting herself at the washroom door, my mother was rescued by my sister when she had returned to the A&EU to check on her.

During the period of my mother's admission she was never cleaned or taken to the washroom by the nurses; other incapacitated patients had similar experiences. A family member had to remain after the visiting period in the morning and evening to tidy my mother since that was the most convenient time for doing so. On several occasions while the patients are being tidied by their relatives, the guards would come into the ward and ask the visitor(s) to leave because the period for visiting was over. While it is not normal at GPHC for patients to take their own medication, it was found that when medication was given, unless it's intravenous, it was placed on the patient's cupboard. I also observed that when patients are referred to the wards, the staff (porter) bringing the patient is left on their own to locate and transfer the patient to that bed. Whenever a complaint or objection is made against the staff, the related patient is victimised.

However, it must be stated that the hospital was fully equipped to take care of my mom's needs, and most of the health workers she would have encountered during our week of ordeals were courteous and competent in the execution of their duties. Recently a new Board of Directors, headed by Dr. Max Hannoman, was installed and many of the issues highlighted in this article were mentioned by him as areas to be addressed immediately.

## **Better must come!**

**"Duh suh na like suh."**

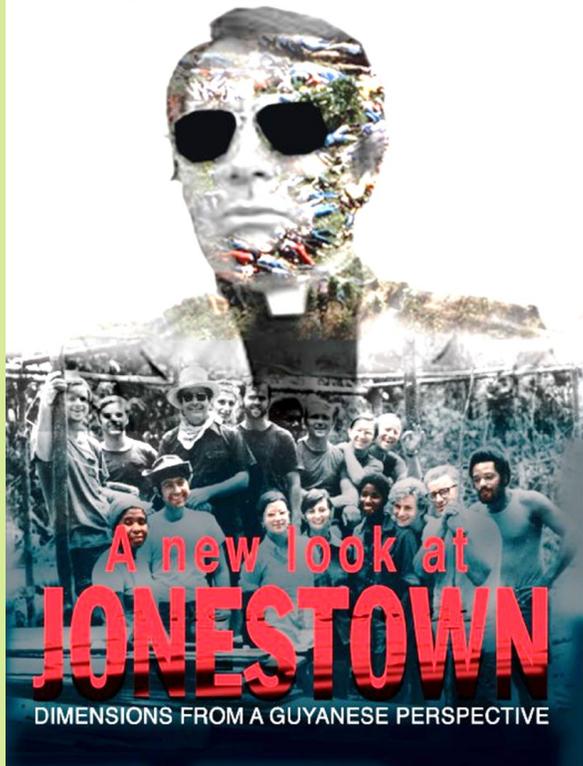
Until the next time, to God be the Glory!



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EUSI KWAYANA



# BOOK REVIEW

~by Dr. Baytoram Ramharack

On November 18, 1978, over 900 members of the Peoples Temple, located not far from the Port Kaituma airstrip, died after drinking cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid. Their suicidal act was attributed to a directive from Reverend Jim Jones, the religious leader of the commune. Jones himself died from gunshot wounds. Despite the publications of seven books by Jonestown survivors about the incident, many questions remain, including the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the commune and the death of American Congressman, Leo Ryan, who went to Guyana to investigate reports of atrocities associated with the Temple. This tragedy has long been dismissed as an American tragedy. Perhaps, this was so because Guyana's Prime Minister Burnham declared the Jonestown Massacre "an American problem".

A recent publication, *A New Look at Jonestown*, by elder statesman Eusi Kwayana offers a fresh look at the mass suicide. Not surprisingly, Kwayana, a political activist, offers a Guyanese perspective of the tragedy. Interest is generated from reading the first chapter of the 258-page book, as Kwayana interviews three survivors of Jones' Temple, one of whom wrote the foreword to the book, Laura Johnston Kohn. Kohn says she was "awestruck" with Kwayana's description of the Jonestown event. The rest of the book incorporates excerpts from the writings of several Guyanese, including George Danns, Walter Rodney and Jan Carew, culminating in an analysis by Kwayana.

What makes Kwayana's narrative worth reading is his deliberate examination of a "tragedy in Guyana" as a "Guyanese tragedy", while still reminding us that the tragedy involved primarily victims from the US. One scholarly excerpt comes from the work Guyanese sociologists, George Danns and Lear Matthews, who consider Jones' commune as a "community-inspired self-reliance" effort coinciding with Burnham's cooperative socialism. The authors point to the fact that Jonestown was part and parcel of Burnham's development plans made possible by an offer of "resources and encouragement for hinterland development" and his policy of encouraging "foreigners to settle in the interior".

Kwayana dug deep to identify the role played by Guyanese in this tragedy. A defining theme of the book is that the tragedy had strong resemblance to other international and national events in world history. While Danns and Matthews identify the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project as an outgrowth of Burnhamism, readers are left to wonder if Jones' commune was simply a cult or an experiment that offers broader historical lessons. The book makes the point that the commune was a reflection of a master/slave plantation society reflective of the type found in the American south. It considers the role of religion as central to indoctrination and social control of the labor population.

*(Continued on page 15)*

# JONESTOWN

(Continued from page 14)

Kwayana made reference to a speech by Walter Rodney who essentially makes the argument that the Jim Jones affair remained a secretive one, with no official inquiry into the mass suicide by Burnham. It was yet another dark stain on the image on the Kabaka. In a reproduced 1978 Dayclean article, Kwayana forcefully argues that the Peoples Temple was actually a "state within a state" (a term that may have been used by top ranks in the Burnham regime), given the extent to which the Burnham regime was involved, and the level of secrecy associated with its creation. Kwayana reminded us of some simple facts that we may have taken for granted: Jim Jones "was in full control of truth and "he embodied the media...". This was eerily the simplicity with which the Burnham regime governed Guyana, particularly during the late 1970s, ironically, a time when Kwayana's opposition to Burnham was strongest. He reminds us of the contempt Burnham had for the Guyanese people - at the time when Guyanese faced import bans on many essential items, the settlers at Jonestown were exempt from the country's customs and immigration regulations. Not surprisingly, the District Commissioner-in-charge of the region had little or no oversight over the Jonestown settlement.

Now domiciled in California, the area from which most of Jones's innocent victims originated, Kwayana found time to meet with survivors of the People's Temple. His book offers some new insights into a national tragedy that claimed Guyana as an international pariah state. No embedded inpretensions, or utopian theoretical approach, A New Look at Jonestown is well worth reading, not because it was written by a politically/socially conscious Guyanese activist, but because of what it has to offer in our greater understanding of what essentially was a Guyanese tragedy.

....Dr. Baytoram Ramharack

Special Book Sale

## A NEW LOOK AT JONESTOWN

By



Eusi Kwayana

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### Ordering Information:

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## **Erudite & Profound Reflections**

Dear Editor,

Bravo! Touched! Thoroughly enjoyed the February issue of the Buxton-Friendship Express, especially the edifying history by Rollo Younge and the piece on 'The music of the village' by Elder Eusi Kwayana!

His [Kwayana's] mention of the choirs and the participants, some of them I can remember, gave me an acute nostalgic longing and yearning for a taste of that most wonderful period when the church and village vibrated with joyous rhythms, harmonies, choruses, hymns and sounds of the organs that were often quite irresistible and filling, and would generate goosebumps in anyone within ear sound. The masquerade and steel band sounds also do the same for me. This venerable feature of village activity was a very calming and soothing interlude between the harsher and more prevalent aspects of colonial village existence.

Additionally, the Haynes piece on the imminently approaching local government elections, skillfully embellished with the district map and candidates list, I find to be a good lesson in local geography, civics and politics which were quite informative, instructive and educational. However, Mr. Haynes needs to be reassured that because of people like him there is still hope for a better future.

These erudite and profound reflections did hit the spot and so I felt compelled to comment. Thank you and thank you.

Respectfully,  
**Albert Punch**  
Brooklyn N.Y.

***BuxtonExpress@aol.com***

## **Good Reading for Students of History**

Comrades:

I'm not sure how a copy of your newsletter got to my inbox, but I'm definitely glad that it did. Congrats to all those responsible for the production of an attractive, informative, well-edited publication!

I'm not a Buxtonian myself, but as the saying goes "some of my best friends [and a number of my professional colleagues] are Buxtonians". Indeed, I was delighted to read the Tamika Boatswain interview, as I know her parents very well from my days in education in Guyana. In fact, it was heartening to read of the positive activities in which a number of the youths are involved.

The articles by Brothers Eusi [Kwayana] and Rollo Younge are well researched and would provide good reading for any secondary school student of Guyanese/Caribbean History.

Keep up the good work, and keep the newsletter going strong!!

Celebrating, in unity, 50 years of Independence,

Best regards,

**Gordon N. Harewood, PhD**



# DONATIONS RECEIVED

The Buxton-Friendship Heritage Fund wishes to acknowledge receipt of, and thank the donors listed below, for the contributions and gifts received this month:

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**Tuesday, May 24, 2016**

Join the **BUXTON EXPRESS** on a

**FASCINATING DAY TRIP & CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Visit Historic Sites \* Museums \* Monuments

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John P Newton: 347-881-7055

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

Mboya Wood: 646-727-5937

Rollo Younge: (592) 639-9035 (Guyana)



# MARCH TRANSITIONS

- ◇ **LEYLAND EDWARDS** ~ He passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 in Ontario, Canada, at the age of 70. He was the husband of Veronica (Verra Gentle), a father and grandfather.
- ◇ **LINDEN FREDERICKS (Pro)** ~ Aged 61, he died suddenly on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016 in Guyana from an apparent heart attack. He is survived by his mother, Agnes Fredericks, children and grands.
- ◇ **ANDREW PHILANDER, Jr.** ~ He died on 3<sup>rd</sup> March from burns sustained in a fire at the Georgetown Prisons, where he was awaiting trial.
- ◇ **ELVIRA SYDNEY** ~ She passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 in Maryland, USA. The former resident of Cummings Street, Buxton was 91 years old. He was the son of Andy Philander, Sr.
- ◇ **WEYGAND FITZDAVID YOUNGE** ~ The eldest son of the late Teachers Dodsley & Lillian (Julie) Younge, he passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. He was 75 years old.
- ◇ **MARY RILEY-DOUGLAS** ~ She was the daughter of the late Dr. Walter Archibald Younge, Sr. and niece of the late Teachers George Younge, Dodsley Younge, and others. She also passed away in St. Louis, Missouri on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- ◇ **EDITH SMITH, neé GREENE** ~ She passed away in Guyana, and was soon joined by her sister, Babsy Greene who had travelled from New York to attend the funeral.
- ◇ **UNA POLLARD (CASA)** ~ She took to her angel wings in Guyana.
- ◇ **MARGARET COSBERT, neé ZAMMETT** ~ Died 12<sup>th</sup> March at age 58, in Maryland.
- ◇ **GEORGE BENJAMIN (Pizzaro)** ~ Originally from BV and former resident of Buxton/Friendship, he reportedly succumbed to illness, in Connecticut, USA
- ◇ **PANSY ROGERS** ~ She passed away in Guyana.
- ◇ **GLENDORA ISAACS, neé BROWNE** ~ Died on 17<sup>th</sup> March; Brooklyn, NY at 84 years old.
- ◇ **BABSY GREENE** ~ A former resident of Queens, New York, she died suddenly in Guyana, where she had gone to attend the funeral of her sister, Edith.
- ◇ **BRIDGET HOLDER** ~ She passed away in New York.
- ◇ **CLAUDETTE LONDON** ~ She died in a New York hospital. Funeral service for her will be held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Restoration Temple, Brooklyn. Interment scheduled for Guyana.
- ◇ **HASLYN PARRIS** ~ He succumbed on Easter Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. He was 75.
- ◇ **URELLA PHILLIPS** ~ She passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> March, in England.
- ◇ **CLYDE ROOPCHAND** ~ He passed away at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> March. He was 69 years old.



# **A Tribute to Elvira Sydney**

Deepest condolences to the bereaved family! Aunty 'Vira was a wonderful person, an excellent pastry maker, a very good cook of delicious creole food, and a diligent seamstress. I had the privilege of helping her with regular rides in my car to her work place at Plaisance/Spendaam as often as she needed such help. There was always a seat for her in the back seat of my car as I travelled daily to work from Buxton to Georgetown. My two daughters who were students at Bishops' High School often sat on her lap or on either side of her. She enjoyed them as much as they enjoyed her in short amiable conversations. We missed her very much after we were dislocated to Annandale as a result of the 1964 unrest in the community.

Aunty Vira , your mission in this life is ended. Now in death, you must rest in eternal peace in the sacred place the Lord has prepared for you in heaven.

*Rampersaud and members of the Tiwari family  
originally of Buxton Front.*



## **Margaret Cosbert, neé Zammett**

Originally of Lot 33 Company Road, Buxton, Guyana, she departed for her heavenly home on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from her former residence in Maryland, USA. She was 58 years of age at the time of her passing.

Margaret was the last of three daughters born to the now deceased couple – Elaine & Charles Zammett. Her paternal grandmother was Leticia Sands.

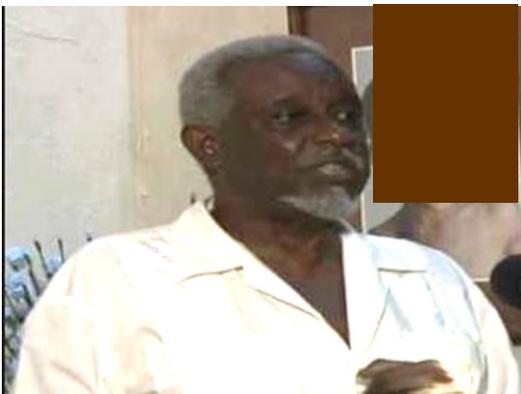
She is survived by her husband—Asquith Cosbert, also known as Collin and Cassa, from Nabaclis, ECD; her three daughters: Angela, Pheona and Letitia Cosbert; grandchildren: Jasmine, Jordan, Jayda, Gabriella and Isaiah.

Margaret also leaves behind her five siblings: Rita, Louis, Peter, Gwendolyn (Cheryl) and Richard Zammett; her 100-year old aunt, Elsa Cort of Company Road, Buxton; many other relatives and friends.

The late Margaret Mary Cosbert, neé Zammett, was laid to rest on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Gateway of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring Maryland, following a celebration of her life and funeral service at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Riverdale, Maryland.



## **Haslyn Parris 2 March, 1941 – 28 March, 2016**



This distinguished son of Buxton and former Deputy Prime Minister of Guyana passed away on Easter Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. He reportedly succumbed to an aneurysm at the Balwant Hospital in Georgetown, where he was admitted the previous night. He was 75 years old.

In his distinguished service to Guyana, Mr. Parris served as Deputy Prime Minister, C.E.O. of Guybau/Guymine, Chief Economist at Bank of Guyana, GECOM Commissioner, PNC/R executive member. After he retired from public service he wrote a number of books. He was also proprietor of the popular Pisces Bar on Friendship Middle Walk. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah, companion, Faye, and other relatives.

His funeral will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, with service at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Friendship Middle Walk.

# Buxton-Friendship Express



## MARCH 2016

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For more information, please telephone our General Secretary, Lorna Campbell at 718-342-0040 or e-mail her at [BuxtonFund@aol.com](mailto:BuxtonFund@aol.com)

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SATURDAY	APRIL 23	4:00 p.m.	<b>SPRING BANQUET</b> Cultural Entertainment Swing Dance Showcase Cocktail & Dinner Delightful Music & More	<b>ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH HALL</b> BROOKLYN, NY
Sunday	May 22		Jubilee Church Service	<b>St. Augustine's Anglican Church</b>
Monday	May 23		Garden Brunch / Launch	
Tuesday	May 24		Heritage Exhibition	
Wednesday	May 25		Bus Excursion to Linden	
Thursday	May 26		Senior Citizens Party	
Friday	May 27		Independence Day	
Saturday	May 28		Community Volunteer Day Home Pride Competition Jubilee Ball & Awards Presentation	
SATURDAY	JUNE 25	6:00 p.m.	<b>SUMMER SOIREE</b> Folktales, Laughs, Drumming, Dancing & More	<b>BROOKLYN, NY</b>
	JULY / AUGUST		<b>BUXTON HERITAGE WEEK</b> Children/Student Activities	<b>BUXTON</b>