Historical and Archaeological Society
The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be communicated”

HAS Newsletter No. 129 April, May, June 2015

In this Issue…

Restore Locomotive now on view
*Museum of Antigua & Barbuda*
Page 1

The Fiennes Legacies
*By Walter Berridge*
Pages 2, 3

Stories of the Supernatural
*(Folklore Stories)*
Page 3, 4, 5

The Earthquake of October 8th, 1974 in Antigua
Extracted from ‘*Reconnaissance Report of the Antigua, West Indies, Earthquake of October 8, 1974.*’ By J.F. Tomblin and W.P. Aspinall
Page 5, 6, 7, 8

Muse News
*By Michele Henry*
Page 9, 10

Museum Notices and Announcements
Page 10

Events, New Membership and Renewal Form
Page 11

Restored Locomotive Still on View

*Museum of Antigua & Barbuda March 2015*

The Hudson Hunslet #15, a diesel mechanical was built in 1946. It was operated by the Antigua Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes. It is one of the four locomotives recently restored and is proudly on display at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda on Long St. in St. John’s.

![Restored Locomotive](image)

We wish to thank Lawrence Gameson for his hard work and dedication also to Doug Leury and all those who made this project a realization.

The general public and visitors to the island are welcomed to come and view the loco exhibit during the Museum’s regular opening hours. And, please do take pictures.
Memory Lane……………..

Trojans Football Club, St. John’s, Antigua circa 1940’s
Courtesy Arnold Mason.

The Fiennes Legacies

By Walter Berridge

Hon. Sir Eustace Edward Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, 1st Baronet was born on the 29th February 1864 and died on the 9 February 1943 at the age of 78. Also known as Sir Eustace Fiennes, he was a British soldier, Liberal politician and colonial administrator. He was married and had two sons. Sir Eustace had a celebrated military career and fought in both the Second Boer War in South Africa and in Flanders and Dardanelles during World War II. He also had a very distinguished political career and served as governor of the Seychelles and the Leeward Islands from 1921 – 1929.

Board of Directors

Walter Berridge
Chairman

Reg Murphy
President

Seku Luke
Secretary

Janice Augustin
Averil Hector
Susan Lowes
Michele Henry
Members

Dame Louise Lake-Tack
Honourable Member

Museum Staff

Michele Henry
Curator

Debbie Joseph
Gift Shop Attendant

Myra Dyer
Library Researcher

Lavon Lawrence
Data Base Clerk
Library Researcher

Carissa Daniel
Heritage Interpretation
Museum Assistant

Caresia Simon
Kimanne Tongue
Job Experience Program

Jason Dyer
Maintenance

Mrs. Allan
The Fiennes Legacies

(Continued from page 2)

Governor Fiennes and his wife Florence were noted for several legacies which he left in Antigua, most notably the Fiennes Institute and several water projects including the Fiennes Well and a water distribution system still evident with the remnants of concrete catchments in a number of communities throughout Antigua.

A bus called the “Lady Fiennes” ran to and from the city of St. John’s to Fort James. Many of the older folks fondly remember this.

Governor Fiennes also had a pier built at Ft. James so that passengers could land from visiting ships.

Stories of the Supernatural
Folklore Stories of Antigua

There is a story about Blakes Estate that a planter, who once lived there, murdered his lover. It’s said that every year on the date that the woman was murdered, in the room in which she was killed, one of the floor boards would show the blood stain. Eventually another planter who moved into the house removed that board and replaced it with a new board and put the old board in the cellar. The blood stains continued to appear each year at the same time until the board which had been put in the cellar was taken out and buried.

One night at Sanderson’s Estate a family was preparing the house for a wedding for one of the daughters.

The family and friends were hustling about inside the house putting up curtains etc, when one of the friends looked out of the dining room window and remarked that someone was standing under the large rubber tree outside looking into the room. The mother of the bride her brother and sister and another friend ran to the window and all but the younger sister saw the figure as that of a white man in old fashion dress with white high collar. They believed it was the spirit of one of the old planters guarding his money.

(Continued on page 4)
Stories of the Supernatural

(Continued from page 4)

The figure was seen several times after that, actually inside the house in the same room which he appeared to have been looking into that night.

It is said that the devil followed a man who went to call on his lady love in Liberta, the man lived in Falmouth. The devil followed the man from Liberta, when he reached Horseford Hill in sight of the church steeple the devil knowing he could not pass the church stamped his foot in vexation and the hoof mark remained on the hill for decades, until the hill was eventually oiled over.

Legend says that up to today one can still hear the guards changing at Shirley Heights.

There is a room in Clarence House that no one can sleep in because they are beaten unmercifully by an unseen assailant.

At Cedar Hill under the evergreen tree someone is often seen there late at night and if asked the time the reply would be, “it was one o’clock when I left hell.”

At Luna Park where it is said that there was once a great mansion, one night while a ball was in progress the slaves revolted and slaughtered the guest at the hall. It is said that from time to time late at night music and laughter can be heard in the area.

It is said that at the Great House at Crabbs, a grand ball was in full swing, elegant ladies fluttered and fanned, dashing young blades postured and bowed and the string quadruple was in the middle of a Gavotte, when with a bloodthirsty scream and a crashing of glass the Caribs attacked. Within 15 minutes, not a man, woman or child was left alive. Only the eerie echo of the slaughtered “Fiddlers of Crabs” could still be heard. As they can be heard from time to time to this day.

It is believed that at Parham Lodge the spirit of a young maiden who was burnt to death in the cellar, is doomed to walk the road with a lantern until a virgin bride occupies both Parham Lodge and the neighbouring Estate on the same night.


(Continued on page 5)
Stories of the Supernatural
Folklore Stories

(Continued from page 4)

It is claimed that a headless horseman has been seen riding the road at Cedar Hill from time to time, though his origin is obscure.

The story goes that there was once a young man who lived in a certain village in Antigua, used to stay out very late hours at night. His old grandmother warned him repeatedly that this was a dangerous practice. He disregarded her warnings and continued to come home very late at night. Time passed and his grandmother died. The young man kept coming home late at night. One night on his way home when he reached a particularly dark stretch on the country road, he was confronted by a coffin lying in the middle of the road! The man was terrified! He could not turn back nor could he pass on either side of the coffin because each time he attempted to pass, his path was blocked by the coffin moving into his path. The man broke into cold sweat. The only thing he could think of was getting home as fast as possible. Since he could neither go back nor go around he rolled up his trouser legs, and trembling and sweating, he leapt over the coffin. He did not look back, nor did he stop running till he reached home! He burst through the door of his home, pale as a ghost and shaking like a leaf to be confronted by his father who was waiting up for him. His father did not need to ask what happened. He told his son that “your grandmother gave you a scare tonight and followed you home. She told me to tell you not to stay out late again!” Needless to say the young man never stayed out after dark again.

The Earthquake of October 8th, 1974 in Antigua


The Antigua, West, earthquake of October 8th, 1974 was located at 17.2º N, 62.0ºW with a hypo central distance of 35km from St. John’s, Antigua at a focal depth of 27km and with a body-wave magnitude (mᵇ) of about 6.6. It caused damage estimated at Modified Mercalli (MM) intensity VIII in Antigua and intensity VII in Barbuda, St. Kitts and Montserrat. It was the largest magnitude event in the eastern Caribbean since the magnitude 7.5 (mᵇ, Trinidad) event of March 19, 1953 near St. Lucia at a depth of about 150 km. The damage caused by the October 8, 1974 event was the most severe in the region since the Caracas, Venezuela, and earthquake of July 29, 1967 (Hanson and Degenkolb, 1969) and the most severe on the island of Antigua since the catastrophic Leeward Islands earthquake of earthquake of February 8, 1943.

There were quite a few damages done to areas in St. John’s. Most severe damage occurred to unreinforced masonry structures, especially the taller ones. These include the Anglican Cathedral in St. John’s, Antigua in which the limestone blocks were partly dislodged along the mortared joints, or the blocks themselves fractured in numerous parts of the building, while several of the masonry columns in the twin towers sections of the parapet of the St. John’s Cathedral completely collapsed. Similar fracturing, and outward bulging of the parapet wall occurred in the Courthouse in St. John’s.

(Continued on page 6)
The Earthquake of October 8th, 1974 in Antigua

(Continued from page 5)

On a whole, damage from the earthquake of October 8, 1974 was not great, and was mainly restricted to the refinery, and to older, larger, unreinforced structures such as churches and public buildings. Exceptions to this were some smaller buildings at the oil refinery, damage to which could be attributed to the fact that they were built on an alluvial area.

Damage to limestone blocks and parapet wall on verge of collapse to the old Courthouse.

Luke’s Hardware structural damage

On a whole, damage from the earthquake of October 8, 1974 was not great, and was mainly restricted to the refinery, and to older, larger, unreinforced structures such as churches and public buildings. Exceptions to this were some smaller buildings at the oil refinery, damage to which could be attributed to the fact that they were built on an alluvial area.

View of damages done to St. John’s Cathedral twin tower and parapet wall.

Damage to reinforced concrete ring beam is shown.

(Continued on page 7)
The Earthquake of October 8th, 1974 in Antigua

(Continued from page 6)

The early hour (05.11 Am. local time) of the earthquake was the main reason why casualties were few and minor. At that time the buildings which suffered most damage were mostly unoccupied. There were no deaths.

Michel’s Store, St. John’s, Antigua. Wrought-iron façade collapsed into street.

The West Indies Oil refinery compressive buckling is shown at the bases of a bulk water storage Tank school teacher research.

Creek side Road Bridge, Antigua. Unreinforced arch members were shaken loose making this bridge unsafe.

Bank of Nova Scotia suspended light ceiling panels and fluorescent covers fell 20ft. into the main part of the bank.

St. John’s, Antigua. Cast-iron water mains were fractured.

(Continued on page 8)
Deep Water Harbour, St. John’s, Antigua. Concrete slabs forming the quay cracked down the middle and subsided because of settling of underlying fill.

Deep Water Harbour, St. John’s, Antigua. Differential movement between Terminal Building and landing platform. A gap of 5cm (2 in) opened and the Terminal Building on the right settled 5cm (2in). The lamp standard collapsed to the north.

The West Indies Oil Co. Refinery, Antigua. An electrical substation partially collapsed and the roof was lifted clear. Note spillage of crude oil over top of bulk storage tank.

Bata Shoe Shop, St. John’s, Antigua. Fallen and cracked masonry is typical of damage suffered by a number of buildings on a north-south line through the town.
Muse News
By Michele Henry

Visitors, Guests and Happenings
At the Museum

Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future.
Refurbished #15 Locomotive

Dr. Reginald Murphy,
Dep. U.S. Ambassador
for Barbados and
Curator Michele Henry

Prof. John Wright, Mrs.
Wright and Mitzi of Hama
productions discuss the
Warri project-in house

Mathu T. Joyini High
Commissioner South African
High Commission.
Jongikhaya Joseph Rabe
(First Secretary), and
Debbie Joseph Staff

Curator and the High
Commissioner South
African High
Commission.

Linda- Christian
Clarke, memories of
the door salvaged from
her parents home on
Redcliffe Street

Careisa Simon, Heritage Tour
Guide Gives Donation to
AGHS Student towards their
book drive.

Errol Edwards, sculptor
and Griot of African
Dance and Culture,
entertains our guests.

English visitors for cricket

Kadejah of Sandals
Pineapple and Heidi Clarke
Director of Programs at the
Sandals Foundation
Jamaica, tour the museum
and Gift Shop after a
meeting to discuss projects.

Visiting performers
from the Peoples
Republic of China

(Continued on page 10)
Visitors, Guests and Happenings
At the Museum

(Cont. from page 11)

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

Ms. Ariel Martin of Antigua
Gregson Davis of the USA

Farewell
The Museum expresses deepest sympathies
to the families on the loss of:

Mr. Charles Warren
Mrs. Kathleen Archer

Acquisitions
The Museum would like to thank
Mrs. Paula Callam for donating to the Museum’s
Library “The 54th Regiment of Foot 1848 to 1851.”
Historical and Archaeology Society

April, May, June 2015 HAS NEWSLETTER, No. 129

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

May

May 23rd – Multimedia Presentation on US Bases in Antigua by Dr Susan Lowes.
Refreshments at 7:00 and presentation at 7:30. $25.00

June

Multimedia Presentation “The Most Wicked Town” – Dr. Reg Murphy

Join HAS! Discover & Preserve Antigua & Barbuda’s Heritage