

# The Buxton Friendship EXPRESS



**BFE 2010-1**

**February 2010**

## **BUXTON** Set to Celebrate **170th Anniversary**

*The former cotton plantation, Orange Nassau, was purchased April 1840 by 128 former slaves for \$50,000 and renamed Buxton Village.*

### Top Stories

- 170th Anniversary Celebration of Buxton
- Plan to rebuild Multi-purpose Tipperary Hall
- Young Buxtonian on Buxton Heritage
- Savvy Buxtonian Entrepreneur
- Grand Show & Reception in New York

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The village of Buxton will rock with pride and much excitement later this year when hundreds of its sons and daughters, residing abroad, return home to join with residents for a grand **9-day celebration** to mark the 170th Anniversary of the purchase of the former cotton plantation.

The festivities will kick off on Saturday, July 24th with

a Welcome Party to be hosted by the Tipperary Hall Restoration Committee.

Sunday, July 25th has been set aside for Sports. Starting off with a half-marathon Athletic Road Race, the programme will also feature Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Dominoes, Circle- and Table Tennis.

On Monday, an Arts, Craft

and Book exhibition. There are also suggestions to stage a Jobs & Skills Fair, and the possibility is being intensely explored.

Later that evening, Buxtonians will showcase their artistic talents in staging a Grand Variety Show, featuring drama, poetry, folklore, dancing and singing in keeping with the theme- Buxton: Purchase & Pride.

*(Continued on page 2)*

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 24, 2010</b>	GRAND WELCOME PARTY
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 25, 2010</b>	SPORTS DAY: Half-marathon Race, Cricket, Football & more
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 26, 2010</b>	ARTS FAIR * GRAND VARIETY CULTURAL SHOW
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 27, 2010</b>	DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA RESORT, ESSEQUIBO
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 28, 2010</b>	LITERACY DAY * VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM EVENING
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 29, 2010</b>	BUS EXCURSION TO EAST BERBICE
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 30, 2010</b>	GRAND BALL-DINNER DANCE & FASHION SHOWCASE
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 31, 2010</b>	CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * JAMBOREE
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 1, 2010</b>	DRUMMING & FOOD FEST * HEALTH FAIR

## Souvenir Magazine

*Printing deadline is March 31, 2010. Call us today to secure your spot in what will be a treasure for many generations.*

We are now working on a souvenir magazine to mark the 170th Anniversary of the purchase of Buxton by our ancestors. The publication will portray the historical journey and rich heritage of our people in vivid colour, laid out on quality paper.

The expected date of release is May 2, 2010 to co-incide with the Grand Variety Show to be held in Brooklyn, New York for the celebration. Everyone attending the show will receive a free copy of this magazine. Additional copies

will be available for a small donation.

The publication will contain many keep-sake articles and cherished landmarks of Buxton, some of them rapidly disappearing or now extinct.

Features include: History of Buxton-Friendship; Names of 128 purchasers and family stories from some descendants; Buxton Scholars; Famous Achievers; Young & Gifted Buxtonians, Religious Worship; Buxton Legends; Indo-Buxtonians and more.

Space will also be allotted for greetings, messages, in-memoriam, and business advertising at incomparably low rates.

### Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$150
Half-Page	\$100
Quarter-Page	\$ 75
Business Card	\$ 50
Booster	\$ 10
Picture/Logo	\$ 25
Inside Cover	\$200
Back Cover	\$250



## Celebrating 170 Years

*(Continued from page 1)*

Tuesday, villagers will take time out to visit the exotic [Baganara Island Resort](#) in the Essequibo region. They will travel by tour bus from Buxton to Parika, where they will board jet boats for a fascinating cruise along Essequibo rivers. After a brief sightseeing stop at Bartica, the party will proceed to Baganara Island for what will turn out to be an unforgettable day.

Wednesday has been designated [Literacy Day](#). Finals for an Elocution contest for Secondary School students and an Essay competition for Primary School Students are among the slated activities. Winners will be presented

with attractive prizes. The top performers at the Secondary Schools Entrance Examination and Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate exams will also be honoured

Later, Wednesday evening, the village will meet for a [Symposium](#).

Thursday, villagers will embark on another [Excursion](#); this time to the Berbice Region. The tour-bus party will go across the spanking Berbice River Bridge, visiting the far reaches of the Corentyne villages and the town of New Amsterdam.

Friday Night, Buxtonians will light up the town with an elegant affair: [The Buxton Ball](#). The event will consist a Dinner Dance and a Fashion

Show featuring exquisite cultural wear. A popular string band will also be in attendance. Buxtonians and friends from home and abroad are gearing up for what is expected to be a grand occasion.

On Saturday, the eve of Emancipation Day, the community will come alive with the traditional festivities- [Campfire, Libation Ceremony and Jamboree](#) to start celebration of the 172nd Anniversary of the abolition of slavery.

A two-day Health Fair will also commence on Saturday.

Emancipation Day, Sunday, August 1st, will commence with an [Interfaith Worship Service](#). This will be followed by a Food Fest and Cultural performances.

### Health Fair

This will be a two-day event scheduled to begin Saturday, July 31st in Buxton.

The event is being co-ordinated by Buxtonian Dr. Owen Ifill, a physician based in New York. He is expected to be joined by other Health care professionals from home and abroad.

Donations of first-aid and healthcare supplies will be gladly welcomed.

# Concrete Plan to Rebuild Tipperary

## History

Tipperary was founded in former British Guyana as a burial society. The initial use of the building was expanded to social, cultural and educational activities for the people of Buxton, Friendship and other villages. The building was inaugurated by the chairman and councilors of Buxton and Friendship in the 19th Century.

## Architectural Information

The architect is unknown since the archives yielded no information. The building consisted of one story and it was erected in the colonial architecture style. The material that was used was timber.

## Activities

Throughout almost one century, the building served its purpose as a burial society, and a great amount of Guyanese took part in the social and cultural events of the centre. Tipperary was also used for rental purposes, which enabled the organisations to use it as a venue for social and cultural activities.

The events were co-ordinated by the board members of the Society who were elected by the members.

## Financial Means

The Society raised funds which were used for general maintenance of the building. The society's funds helped members to defray the expenses incurred for burial.

## Deterioration

In 1980, the building started to deteriorate due to the lack of maintenance and age. The last

part of the building fell down in 1998.

## Aunt Jess

Aunt Jess was born 6th August, 1898. Her 100th birthday was celebrated in the company of numerous relatives and friends from Guyana and the exterior. Among the guests were many dignitaries and government officials. The late Mrs. Janet Jagan was also in attendance at this joyous event. Many still remember Aunt Jess as a feisty and outspoken lady, who also expected transparency from those she had to deal with. To this day her popularity in Buxton Village has remained unsurpassed. Many still fondly remember this courageous lady. When the President asked Aunt Jess what she would most desire the government to do to commemorate this memorable date, she expressed her deepest desires and that was to restore Tipperary to its former glory and install potable water for the village.

Aunt Jess died at the age of 101, in October 1999. There was no follow up and Mrs. Janet Jagan died in 2009.

In April 2009, Aunt Jess appeared to her son, Charles Booker, in a dream, and persuaded him to rebuild Tipperary. He immediately took action by calling people to start the process of resuscitating the Buxton & Friendship Burial and Benevolent Society. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. There was an election in May 2009, and a committee was formed consist-

ing of twelve persons to initiate the activities.

## Committee Members

### President

Basil Bovell

### Vice-President

Victor Graham

### Secretary

Roxanne Carter

### Treasurer

Charles Booker

### Asst. Treasurer

Phillip Laundry

### Other Members

Paul Cole

Kenneth Hamer

May Hamer

Alvin Harry

Malcolm Parris

Compton Samuels

Herman Sobers

## Objective

Guyana is experiencing a serious crisis which is noticeable in the following areas: School dropout, Teenage pregnancy, Drug abuse among the youth, Increase in crime rate, etc., The goals of the Tipperary Committee are:

- ♣ To use its knowledge, experience and skills to rebuild Tipperary
- ♣ To undertake activities on national, as well as international level, to generate the funds necessary to restore the Tipperary Society Hall.
- ♣ To ensure that there will

(Continued on page 4)



Tipperary Hall

Lyndon Barton

Communique from the newly formed Committee of the Buxton & Friendship Benevolent Society

## Town Hall Meeting on Tipperary

A member of the new Tipperary Committee is expected to visit the US in a few months. There are plans to have him appear at a Town Hall meeting to address the resuscitation of the Society and plans to build a new multi-purpose community centre.

Stay tuned!

## Rebuilding Tipperary



"I was born at Brusche Dam, Friendship, and have always liked being part of the rich heritage of the original villages and the role they played in building the country of our birth....

I am interested in the Community Centre [Tipperary], and would like more info on what is being planned."

Angela Major Thomas

(Continued from page 3)

be a guarantee that the building will be used for social, cultural and educational purposes on behalf of the inhabitants, in general, but especially for the youths, under guidance of professionals and other adults -

Counseling; After-school classes; a Public Library; Computer courses; Sports; Scouting activities; Art projects; Training programmes; Lectures on Health issues, Crime prevention, etc.,

### Funds Generating

The Upper Floor will be made available for rental. A state-of-the-art Internet Café will provide telecommunication services, such as: internet, fax, telephone and copying. Revenue generated from these activities will go to cover maintenance costs of the building.

### Project Launch

An interdenominational service was held on August 30, 2009 to launch the Tipperary Project. The activity

was held on the now vacant Tipperary lot. About 350 people attended the ceremony.

### Project Finance

The Committee has embarked on an aggressive drive to raise the funds needed. The aim is to commence construction of the building by December 2010, with the expectation of completing it by 2011.

It is also expected that members of the Society will donate their time and expertise to the project for free.

*Proceeds from the commemoration of the 170th Anniversary will go to assist in the Tipperary Hall Restoration Project.*

## Buxton: Purchase & Pride

### 170th Anniversary Variety Show & Reception

Let's Show the World

## Buxton has Exceptional Talent!

Looking for persons to perform

Acting, Dramatic Poetry, Interpretive Dancing, Singing,  
Drumming, Modeling, etc.,

Call **Lorna: 718-342-0040** or **Quintin: 202-538-1261**

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR OR CASH WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN GREATER BUXTON.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR CONTACT INFORMATION TO ARRANGE DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP.

# Restoring Our Illustrious Heritage

by Lorna Campbell

Immediately after [Buxton Village](#) was launched on Facebook, it quickly attracted an overwhelming majority of young members. So, as we prepare to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of the Village, we invited the youths to have their say on this important milestone.

In this first issue of [The Buxton Friendship Express](#), we present the views of Abena Abiola Hinds.

She grew up on Company Road, but now resides in the US. She is a graduate of Arizona State University, having completed a BS in Geography, a BA in African & African-American studies, and MA in Liberal Studies.

What does the purchase of Buxton mean to Abena? “[It] means a lot to me, because we are part of Guyanese history; being the second village bought by ex-slaves. This says to me

that my ancestors wanted to be self-sufficient and empowered. They wanted to be self-governed and responsible for their day to day wellbeing, after being in bondage for more than three hundred years.

They wanted to be responsible for food for themselves, their family and fellow villagers. The surplus, they marketed; this allowed them to build wealth, which they passed down, from generation to generation, in the form of land ownership, which exists to this day.”

But would the Founding Fathers be proud of what Buxton is today? Like many, Abena does not think so, “because that rich cultural, educational base and leadership are not there anymore.” Moreover, certain events of the recent past do not appear to have served the village and its people well. “Most of the

young people are looking for guidance from elders, but it is sorely lacking,” she laments.

She would like to see the creation of job-training opportunities for youths in Buxton who leave school before acquiring adequate skills and qualifications to gain meaningful employment. Abena will be pleased to learn that a newly constructed Trade School, situated at the Back of the village, is reportedly nearing completion.

She would also like to see an expansion of extra-curricular activities, particularly Arts and Sports, for youths, while calling on elders to undertake a more proactive approach towards guiding the young in the right direction.

Abena Abiola Hinds is the proud daughter of Beverley Hamer and Dr. David Hinds.



Abena Abiola Hinds, MA

**To receive The Buxton Friendship Express”, news updates and other information by electronic mail, send your e-mail address to:**

[lorna@buxtonguyana.net](mailto:lorna@buxtonguyana.net)

## The Birth of Buxton

Excerpt from Wayne Jones’

[Prophet Wills-The Walking Dictionary](#)

In 1840, one hundred and twenty-eight former slaves came together and paid \$50,000 for Plantation Orange Nassau. They deposited \$28,000 at once, and paid the remainder by the end of the year. The estate

was renamed Buxton, in honour of Thomas Fowell Buxton, who had moved the motion for Emancipation in the British Parliament.

The buying up of land by ex-slaves sent up the

prices. In 1841, the owners of Plantation Vigilance, near to Buxton but smaller, wanted \$90,000 for it. The Africans were dissuaded from entering into that deal and, instead, they turned to Plantation Friendship,

neighbouring Buxton on the east. These villages lay side by side and, in the eyes of many, were one. The Company Canal divides them, but they have a common drainage engine, market and village council.

## Taste of Buxton

by Dr. Clayton Quintin Bacchus

*“Young people need to find what their true purpose in life is, and stick to it. They need to pursue it with every fiber in their being, and success will follow....It does not take huge sums of monies to start a business, but it takes commitment....I have to give back like my ancestors did many years ago and I would like the young Buxtonians to carry on the rich legacy of those who came before us.”*



**Lorraine Watson-Newton**

*“Let us join together and leave a positive footprint in the sand of Buxton, so that our ancestors would be proud of us, and our people would live better lives.”*

Lorraine Watson-Newton  
Facebook-Buxton Village

It is no secret that Buxton women were, not only the ones who actually “stopped train”, but they were the engine of commerce and enterprise in the village.

Many of us would recall the fine haberdashery stores run by Mrs. Robinson on Public Road, Rubina Thomas on Company Road and Mrs. Correia (“Fogarty’s Upstairs”) at Bottom Station Road; the delicatessens managed by Esther Campbell and “Baby” Jervis; Mrs. Parris, Mrs. Phillips, Cousin Clara and Miss Ethel Choy’s cake shops; and, of course, countless stalls and trays vending fruits, vegetables, ground provision and fish, operated almost exclusively by women. They formed the economic backbone of the village.

Though the trend among women, in recent years, has since shifted to securing corporate jobs, few continue to venture into the entrepreneurial world. There is, however, at least one of our own who has combined professional and corporate experience with entrepreneurial savvy to reap admirable success in the business world.

Lorraine Watson-Newton is an aggressive self starter. A Registered Nurse, by profession, she ventured into uncharted waters in 1997, when she launched

her own business-Suburban Medical Equipment and Supplies-selling durable medical equipment and supplies. Since then, she has added four more business entities: two fine restaurants-*Taste of Caribbean 1 & 2*, an exquisite organic/herbal store-*Beauty the Nature*, and an immaculate art gallery-*Newton’s Art International*.

Mrs. Watson-Newton is the heart and soul of her conglomerate, but despite the demands of her business, she makes time to express her altruistic worthiness to society. She is actively involved with a number of non-profit organizations that cater to the needs of disadvantaged persons. Her cause takes her far and wide away from her base in Maryland, USA to deliver much-needed aid and assistance. In 2006, accompanied by her mother, Sylvia Watson-Pearce (Baby Syl), she distributed more than 300 food hampers to Buxtonians at home. She has also travelled to Jamaica, as part of a medical mission, to deliver needed health care to the sick poor.

Lorraine is also a member of the JBMSI benevolent group that is overseeing renovation of the Health Care Centre at Buxton. “I am committed to seeing the Health Centre completed,” she vows.

Also part of her civic responsibility is her willingness to be seen as a strong role model for young people. She offers: “Young people need to come together and pool their monies to start up businesses.” She further advises: “Young people need to find what their true purpose in life is, and stick to it. They need to pursue it with every fiber in their being, and success will follow.”

What’s her business philosophy? “Simply, to make money honestly by investing and not quitting,” she offers. Discussing her get-up-and-go predisposition she points out: “It does not take huge sums of monies to start a business, but it takes commitment.”

Drawing from the legacy of the Seaforths, especially her late grandmother, Carolyn (Cousin Carrie), of ‘giving back’, Lorraine proudly asserts, “I have to give back like my ancestors did many years ago and I would like the young Buxtonians to carry on the rich legacy of those who came before us.”

Finally, when asked about her success in the business world, Lorraine attributed that to her strong conviction of faith and a disciplined family background.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Obituaries

Condolences are extended to the bereaved families of the recently departed

- ♣ **Elcina Clasina Duke.** She passed away on January 17, 2010 in Brooklyn, NY.
- ♣ **Winifred "Thelma" Carter nee Samuels,** who passed away on

January 11, 2010 in Guyana

- ♣ **Violet Miller nee Sam.** She transitioned on January 1, 2010, in Guyana
- ♣ **Magdalene Hope-Smith,** mother of Shurcina, Wilbert, Alwyn and seven others.

She died on January 1.

- ♣ **Crossley McGarrell** left us December 2009. He died in Canada.
- ♣ **Clothilde Edmeade nee Stuger** transitioned on December 12, 2009.

May their souls Rest In Peace!



## Buxton Web Site-The Premier Village

"OH ME, OH MY!" I recently heard of this site, just logged on a feeling of nostalgia has overcome me. This could be the restoration of respect we deserve that was lost with the recent madness. NICE WORK GUYS! Proud to be born; grew up, educated in GOOD OLE' BUXTON." *Gloria Arthur.*

"Hats off to you all for undertaking this initiative! You have now created a window through which Buxtonians can see what is happening in our dear village and others can learn about our vibrant heritage. I am so happy, you would think I have died and gone to Heaven. Excellent job guys. Let's keep hope alive!" *Ingrid Ifill-King*

"This is wonderful my fellow Buxtonians. It's like new life has been given to Buxton. In this way, we can honour our past, celebrate our present, give hope to our future generations." *J. Kwame Abrams*

*This is a small sample of comments from visitors to our web site.*

<http://www.buxtonguyane.net>



*To receive timely updates, send your e-mail address to:*

[lorna@buxtonguyana.net](mailto:lorna@buxtonguyana.net)

## Buxton Guyana Network

After years of deliberation, a group of friends from the old Buxton Sports Club finally decided to launch this network with the specific aim of promoting the rich heritage and proud achievements of Buxtonians. Feedback was so encouraging that very soon after launching a website, a Facebook Page for Buxton was created. This became an instant hit, especially with the youths, many of them very successful in their academic pursuits and career development. All of them proud to belong to the Buxton Family.

Not to exclude our brothers and sisters who do not have Internet access, we have now launched the Buxton *Friendship Express* newsletter. Right now, our plan is to make it a monthly issue. This, however, will depend on our ability to secure dependable sources of information for publication.

The success of these initiatives will not be realized without the participation of members of the community. We depend on you to let us know what's going on

around you that can benefit the Buxton community.

We are working very closely with the new Tipperary Society Committee in Buxton to help promote awareness of the plans to build a multipurpose Tipperary Hall. The success of this project is expected to spur a new wave of development in our village. Your support can make a difference in the Buxton of tomorrow, as did the generosity bestowed to us by the founding fathers 170 years ago.

*The*  
**Buxton**  
*Friendship*  
**EXPRESS**

February 2010

We're on the Web!

<http://www.buxtonguyana.net>

We're also on Facebook at

[Buxton Village Guyana](#)

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**Grand Variety Show  
& Reception**

*In Commemoration of the*

**170th Anniversary**  
*Drama \* Poetry \* Dancing \* Singing*

**Buxton: Purchase & Pride**

*\* Drumming \* Folklore \* Party \**

*Cultural Wear Fashion Show \* & More*

**Sunday, May 2, 2010**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Catherine McCauley High School**

**710 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of Foster Ave)**

**Brooklyn, NY 11203**

**\$25-Adult \$15-Child (under 13years of age)**

*Ticket Donation covers Show, Souvenir Magazine & Dinner*

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**Proceeds to benefit Tipperary Restoration Pro-**