

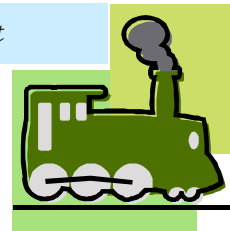
The BUXTON FRIENDSHIP Express

MARCH 2010

Connecting the Present with the Past

MOSA TELFORD

VOICE OF NEW GENERATION



Pride in Heritage

The History of Buxton generates a great joy in me. It is admirable how our ancestors persevered under a difficult system of slavery, and were able to unify and pool their resources to purchase the village a few years after slavery was abolished. I admire their strength. The development of the village that took place thereafter is also something of which I am very proud. They built a community where they looked out for each other.

Looking back on how many scholars the village produced informs me that there was a great sense of balance. Even though so much has changed today,



Mosa Mathifa Telford

people of great substance are still being derived from the village.

Undeniably, Buxtonians have always had a great sense of community, and even today this is seen in

abundance. We come together in times of crisis and are not afraid to stand up for what we believe. These attributes make me proud.

(Continued on page 2)

KEY FEATURES:

- 27-year old Mosa Mathifa Telford discusses heritage and matters of sustenance for the village
- Celebrating 170 Years of Purchase and Pride
- Buxtonian student obtains 13 CXC subjects, earning distinctions in Mathematics and English
- Tribute to a recently departed son of the soil. He was a British-trained barrister and Speaker of Guyana's Parliament.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MOSA TELFORD	2-3
SCHOLASTIC LEGACY ALIVE	4
BEYOND THE SHORE	5
FLIGHT & HOTEL	6
TRIBUTE	6
SOUVENIRS	7
EVENTS CONTACT INFO	8

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170TH ANNIVERSARY NEW YORK SHOW

A Grand Variety Show & Reception to commemorate the Purchase of our homeland 170 years ago, will be staged at the Catherine McCauley High School, 710 Brooklyn Avenue in Brooklyn, NY on Sunday, May 2, 2010, starting at 3:00 p.m. Tickets for the show are now available, and are reportedly in high demand.

The show, titled Buxton: Purchase and Pride, will feature dramatic presentations of Buxton's historical journey and its rich academic, cultural and social legacy.

Following the show, guests will savour a delectable menu, which will include cultural treats like Cook-up Rice, Foo-foo Soup, Metem-

gee, Conkee and Swank.

Music will also be provided for dancing pleasure

Tickets are \$25 per Adult and \$15 for each Child under 13 years of age. Get yours now!

See Back Page for Telephone numbers to order tickets.

MOSA TELFORD

(Continued from page 1)

As people of African descent and Buxtonians, this says that we can rise up out of any situation and exude a great amount of strength. It also tells me that when our former enslaved ancestors purchased the two villages they were not only thinking about their present, but also the future. They were laying foundations for the future generations, ensuring we had a structured place we could call home. I feel a great sense of joy because, as an individual, it is great for me to believe that they were thinking about me.

The way they toiled after the purchase of the villages imparts that they were an ambitious people who knew the value of land and what it meant to have your own.

Founding Fathers

The fact that Buxtonians recently allowed foreign elements to penetrate the village and desecrate its good name might have caused the founding fathers to turn in their graves.

The way Buxton is looked at today by outsiders, as well as by some members of the Diaspora, is not due only to the deeds by foreign elements, but the fact that some of its own villagers joined in destroying what was left of its glory.

The blood that was shed within the walls of the village, some by Buxtonians and some by foreign elements, is something over which the founding fathers, in spirit, are probably shedding tears.

The fact that the backlands which they left to be cultivated became a burial site for victims and a shelter for criminal elements is cause for tears. They [our ancestors] would not be proud. So many, young and blooming, were cut down due to foolishness; lives were sacrificed for nothing; and a war that brought no good, but only sorrow.

And now, too many young Buxtonians are letting their life drift by and not doing anything of substance with it. I have heard excuses like 'after leaving school there are no jobs, or education is limited, or that Buxtonians are being stigmatized by the Government'. Yes, there is oppression by outside forces, primarily because Buxtonians have been known to stand up. But, it is my firm belief that any person, young or old, who is determined and willing to endure, can make it.

The founding fathers would not be proud because some of the village's infrastructure was left to fall into ruin. The fact that serious effort was not made to maintain the roads

and streets, to dig the trenches, to keep the village clean, and to fully cultivate the lands that are there for that purpose would be other reasons for their disappointment.

Growth Opportunities & Institutions for Youths

Firstly, the youths in Buxton need motivation. They can benefit from role models who exemplify humility, strength, wisdom, honesty and other good characteristics.

They also need a training facility apart from the Primary and Community High schools. Everyone is not capable of academic learning; hence an institution like a Trade school would fill the gap. I have recently received information that such a school may now be under construction at the Back, but I do not know how far this has progressed.

More recreational activities would be welcomed. Some young people do not know what to do with themselves after school or work. There are also those who seemingly have nothing at all to do. While there are Football and Cricket clubs in the community, there is need for other activities.

The community could also benefit from more youth groups. Though there are groups within some Churches and the Toucan

II Multi-purpose Club, which has been around for a number of years now, they alone cannot cater to all.

I think what happens too often is that young people are not allowed opportunities to lead. It seems the elders in the village only want to instruct them. Guidance is important, but young people need room to develop leadership skills.

Youths in Buxton also need to know the greatness from which they derived; they need to be aware of their rich African heritage. I believe this can be done through lecture settings and DVDs, or by providing accurate literature.

Desired Changes

There are changes I would like to see in the village. As mentioned earlier, more activities for young people. I would like to see the restoration of Tipperary Hall happen sooner rather than later. I have written plays and would like to use Tipperary Hall as a venue to showcase such. I would like to use local talent because Buxton has a wealth of talented individuals. This could provide an avenue for them to showcase their skills and earn a living.

I would also like to see the Community Centre at Friendship Front renovated

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

for the building is not in its best shape at the moment. Young people are not now allowed full access to this building and I would like to see this addressed.

I would like to see better upkeep of the environment. The trenches are not as clean as they should be and there is garbage around the place. I believe people come around to clean once a month, but this should be increased.

As a whole, Buxtonians need to instill purpose in their hearts to change the stigma attached to the village by showcasing positivity, not negativity.

Buxton Aid & Development Organisations

I do not know much about these organisations. I remember when I wrote Common Entrance Examination and topped the village, for the five years I was at Secondary school, I received some assistance from US-based CIMBUX.

Before I left England a Buxton-Friendship organization (BAFUKA) was formed there. I am not sure what it has done to help the village.

Appeal

If there is any way they [organisations] can contribute to the upkeep of the village, that would be most helpful. Most of the streets in the village are now without light at night. If they can help with this and

ensure that it is maintained, that would be an excellent gesture.

Educational material is never too much; equipment for sports would also be good.

Education & Career

I attended North Georgetown Secondary School between the years 1994 and 1999 and graduated with six subjects at CXC. At the age of 17, I enrolled at the University of Guyana where I was pursuing a Diploma in Communication. I subsequently withdrew because I discovered that that was not my passion. In 2002 I went to London and attended the College of North East London where I completed a Diploma in Performing Arts. Since returning home I have attended various training programmes through my job as a Scriptwriter for the Radio Serial Drama *Merundoi*. With these accomplishments, I am qualified to work in Theater, Radio and Television, not only as a writer, but also as director or producer.

I like to think that my career as a Writer was not chosen, but rather as my destiny. Writing has always come naturally to me. As far back the age of 7, I was constructing my own poetry and stories on paper which led to creating scripts. At the age of 12, I knew for certain that being a Writer was what I wanted to do with my life.

Writing brings me a joy that words cannot describe; it draws me into a world where I am in control and the creations that come out of this always make me proud.

Role Models

My mother, Debra Murray, is a role model to me. The way she raised my sisters and me to demonstrate respect and the example she set of herself-a decent woman-will remain prominently in my mind.

Outside of my family, Brother Eusi Kwayana is another of my role models. He has always stood out as a pillar of wisdom and humility. During my years at Secondary school, I attended the lessons he offered at Lessons Place. His encouragement led me to wanting to succeed. One thing I will always remember is that, when I was about 15 years old, he told me that I was going to be a Writer. I took that as a blessing from him; a blessing that was sure going to lead me to succeed. Those words inspired me to be who I am today.

Community Activities

Unfortunately I am not involved in any community activities or with any organisations/clubs. This is because my vocation takes up a lot of my time. I do not have any close friends in the village and am no longer active with church. This may reflect that I am



an anti-social person, but that is not so. The friends I used to have, have emigrated, gotten married and moved on with their new life, or are still affiliates of the church I attend no longer.

Hobbies

My primary hobby is singing. Given the chance, I would sing all day, all night long. It is a gift bestowed to me; when I use it I feel a great sense of depth and meaning in expressing whatever emotion I may be feeling at the particular time. My other hobbies include reading and surfing the internet.

Buxtonian for Life

Despite hardships Buxtonians have had to endure in recent years, and despite the stigma that is now attached to the village, **I am now and always will be proud to be a Buxtonian!**

Buxton Forever!

SCHOLASTIC LEGACY STILL ALIVE



“Despite the recent stigma attached to Buxton, we were able to overcome that and, as a result, have become stronger people,” observes young Oleta Williams, the 2009 top CXC performer from Buxton.

The recent Queen’s College grad secured 13 passes at the 2009 Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate, earning 8 Grade 1’s and 5 Grade 2’s, with distinctions in Mathematics and English A. An extraordinary performance of which her role models Brother Eusi Kwayana and the Buxton scholars before her must be proud.

Oleta is now attending the University of Guyana, where she is majoring in Environmental Studies. Why this field of study?

“I have always had an eye for Nature and all complementary natural processes associated with it. The natural state, as well as all biophysical entities of the environment (inclusive of flora and fauna life), is indeed a force to be reckoned with. It saddens me to know how much anthropogenic activities have influenced and altered the

normal functioning of the environment. Against this background, I have chosen this major, because I want people to value the environment, not only for its instrumental value, but for its intrinsic worth as well.”

After completing the Bachelor’s degree programme, she plans to continue studies towards earning a Master’s degree in the field. One of her career goals is to secure attachment to an international agency as an environmental consultant, with the objective of “reducing the impact that natural disasters have on humans by making them aware of the interdependence and interrelatedness of the environment and the human population.” Continuing, she asserts: “I am a Christian, and I strongly believe that God has blessed us with grandeur, that it is our responsibility to be stewards of the Earth and therefore take care of all components of it as well.”

Oleta is an active member of St. Augustine’s Anglican Church, belonging to the church’s Rock of Christ Youth Group which aims “to assist young people in the fostering of their personal, social and spiritual development; empowering them through the teachings of strong morals, leadership skills and religion, thus resulting in 100% contribution to the Church and

wider society.” She is also a member of the church’s Sunday School which strives “to instill in young children a sense of identity, simultaneously equipping them with basic moral skills as well as bring them closer to God.”

Oleta is also involved with the non-governmental organization Women Across Difference which caters to the achievement of social change, with key emphasis on Women and Family.

Her hobbies include writing poetry, surfing the internet and helping others.

She shares this poem.

Thought for Youths

Our well-spoken messages stir a heart to rejoice

There is nothing like our small but strong resilient voice

Though hidden most of the time, it often comes out once in a while

*Africans, Chinese, East Indians all
You talk we listen, You teach we learn*

Youths of Today, Leaders for Tomorrow

It is time we rise up and take a stand for Buxton and our nation

After all we are the future generation!

Oleta is the daughter of Olive Samuels and Paul Williams; and a granddaughter of Compton and Waveney Samuels.

“I am a Christian, and I strongly believe that God has blessed us with a grandeur, that it is our responsibility to be stewards of the Earth and therefore take care of all components of it as well.”



St. Augustine’s Anglican Church

PIECE OF HISTORY BEYOND THE SHORE

Many persons may not know that the original foundation columns of Arundel Congregational Church now lay buried in the Atlantic Ocean. In a letter, published October 21, 2004, in Guyana's Stabroek News, son-of-the-village Rockcliffe Pitt wrote:

"This building, now located at the northern section of Buxton Middle Walk Road, on land that was generously donated to that Church body by a Mr. Carter when it was forced by acts of nature to move from its original site, which is now part of the Atlantic Ocean. Proof of that was obtained when, in 1838, together with other adventurous boys, I went to the beach where we usually assisted fishermen to collect and sort their catch, and received part of it for so doing.

It was on one of those occasions, when the tide was very low and I had to go far-

ther north from the seawall than usual in order to be useful to the fishermen that I came upon what was the original Public Road, which they called "Old Road". Upon being questioned, the fishermen explained the history of the old road to me and then showed me a set of foundation stub columns that stood in regular rows nearby.

They informed me that they were the foundation columns of the original Arundel Congregational Church that stood there before it was removed to its present site. Inscriptions on one of those columns convinced me that the fishermen's information was correct so I passed it on to Rev. Pat Matthews, then resident minister of the church."

The official History of Arundel Congregational Church states: "This church

was first built at Plantation Nogg Eens. During those days, there was tremendous fear that the plantation was being threatened by erosion, and it was felt that the Atlantic Ocean would soon claim the building and the land on which it was situated."

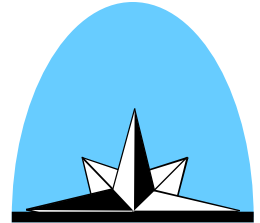
The building was then relocated to its current site at Buxton Middle Walk, on land donated by a Mr. Carter, who was a former slave. The cornerstone for the church was laid on November 24, 1844.



Newsletter Online

You can access this newsletter and the past issue from our website.

www.buxtonguyana.net



CHURCH HISTORY

By 1841 St. Augustine's Anglican Church had already been erected at Friendship by way of an 1838 gift of two acres of land from proprietor John Gardiner Austin, brother of Anglican Bishop Austin.

Source: History of St. Augustine's by Sister Blanche E. Duke [2006]

OBITUARY

With deep sadness, we report the passing of Stella Agatha McRae Williams on February 21, 2010, in Maryland.

Born 3rd July, 1919, she was the mother of Paula and Oswald Williams, and brother of Melford McRae.

Mrs. Williams, a seamstress and weaver by profession, went to Buxton Congregational School, and found pleasure in organizing dinner for family members and

friends. She was related to the Culleys, McRaes, Seaforths, Cockfields and Alders.

She migrated to the United States in 1992 and lived in Maryland up to the time of her passing.

She is also survived by eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, and will be forever remembered for her acts of kindness and generosity.

Buxton had its own commuter bus-**Buxton Pride**. The bus was once owned by the large Manniram family who resided at Public Road, Buxton.

Take note of how clean the streets of Georgetown were then. That's why it was called the Garden City.



FLIGHT, HOTEL & TRANSPORTATION

FLIGHT



Caribbean Airlines, formerly known as BWIA, and Delta Air operate direct flights between New York's JFK Airport and Guyana's Cheddi Jagan International Airport (formerly Timehri).

Caribbean Airlines, which also operates flights from Miami, stops in Trinidad. The stop can last from 90 minutes, with no change of plane, to several hours, which almost always results in a change of plane. It is therefore very important that you note this when booking your flight to avoid excessive delay.

The Atlanta-based Delta Air provides non-stop service to Guyana, but its fares tend to be higher than those for Caribbean Air. Strangely, however, Delta travelers can sometimes obtain lower fares for flights originating from Washington, DC bound for Guyana.

You can book your flight online or contact Lorna for assistance and for Travel Agency information.

www.caribbean-airlines.com

www.delta.com

Pay particular attention to Delta's baggage policy to avoid additional fees.

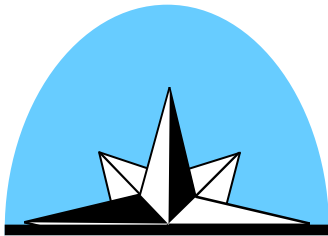
ACCOMMODATION

Though there are no hotels located in Buxton, a good number of excellent and affordable ones can be found not too far away, in Georgetown. We are compiling a list of recommended ones to be published shortly.

We have also received inquiries about Vacation homes for rent. If you know of any, please contact us.

TRANSPORTATION

We also plan to put together a list of reliable and safety-conscious taxi and bus operators for your comfort and convenience.



Winslow Martin Zephyr was the father of Zachary Zephyr; son of the late Sophia Zephyr; brother of the late Walter (Bengeysey) and Joseph (Mantool) Zephyr; husband of the late Pearlle Zephyr, nee Ramkissoon.

Mr. Zephyr, who was fondly nicknamed Peckatoo, grew up at Buxton Front and attended Buxton Congregational School.

He studied law in England. On his return to Guyana, he went into private practice, and also served as Speaker of Guyana's Parliament.

Martin Zephyr, a devout Lutheran, reportedly died in New York, June 2009, at the age of 78.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WINSLOW MARTIN ZEPHYR

Winslow Martin Zephyr, like me and Archbishop Dr. Cecil Mercurius, was born in Buxton Village 78 years ago. He was of the fourth generation of emancipated slaves who were among the purchasers of the Buxton-Friendship Village lands from former European expatriate sugar and cotton plantation owners.

Martin Zephyr was a son of the poorest of the poor of a working class community; he was educated and intelligent and was possessed of a soul for a wider humanity as his groundings in human rights and social justice were rooted in experiences of his own

struggles and sacrifices in life and in those of the working poor.

Martin articulated his philosophy and vision for justice for the working class in a manner that earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him and knew of him. His legacy will long be remembered whenever the interests of the working poor are violated.

Martin was my relative, my friend and colleague. I knew many things about him in our many years of life and living in our native homeland and for a brief period in London, England, where he pursued

studies that enabled him to become a Barrister and to be called to the Bar in England. His human and professional qualities are too numerous to mention in a brief eulogy.

I salute him and bid him farewell as I close this approximation of some of the things I knew of him. Martin, may your soul rest in eternal peace in the place reserved for it by God and with the souls of the departed ancestors in their celestial places of rest.

Peace and Blessings!

Rampersaud Tiwari

170TH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS

Magazine

We are quickly approaching the printing deadline-April 5, 2010- for the commemorative magazine and there is still space available for special greetings, messages and advertisements.

For just \$10, you can have your name imprinted with a greeting in the magazine.

The publication will depict the historic path traveled

over the past 170 years; the proud achievements of the illustrious sons and daughters of the community; and the hope and aspirations of our young.

This publication will be a cherished memento for many generations to come, so secure your place in history while you can.

Please feel free to contact any of the Anniversary Committee members stated on the back page.

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

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Shirts, Caps & More

Look out for information on price and availability.



READERS' COMMENTS

Jacqueline Jones:

“I am very happy for the village Buxton/Friendship. I heard about the website today. The village is back to normalcy. All the roads, cross streets and playfield have been re-habilitated (we have good roads now). The Trade School is almost completed...Come on overseas-based Buxtonians lets do something about the Market.” 2010-02-10

Daisy Price:

“Not a Buxtonian by birth, but attended County High. So, obviously, anything to do with Buxton grabs my attention. November 7th, 2009, Victoria Village celebrated their 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Plantation Northbrook, so we all have the same heritage.

Congratulations to you guys!”
 2010-02-10

Judy Edwards:

“<<APPLAUSE>>, <<APPLAUSE>>, <<APPLAUSE!!>>

An excellent forum for recognizing and recording the proud and distinguished history of Buxton and bringing focus to what the village needs to move beyond its current challenges.

Lorna and Mboya, I admire your passion and dedication and am honored to know you both. It takes a tremendous amount of energy and selflessness to undertake this effort and see it to fruition. Your enthusiasm and altruistic nature is what Buxton needs to not only restore it to its former glory but take it to new heights. Let me know how I can help.”

2010-02-14

Francisco Morgan:

“I feel as though the website is very important, especially at this critical time. For the past few years Buxton was given names and titles that doesn't fit us as a people. We have produced more scholars, political ambassadors, sportsmen, tradesmen and military personnel than any other village that I can remember. So let us cherish this technology Buxtonians, let us join this website in tens of thousands and if and when we need money to repair our infrastructure let us all support it.

Thank you again.”

2010-02-23

GOING FOR 170TH CELEBRATION?

To help us make adequate preparations for the commemoration of our 170th Anniversary, we are asking everyone traveling in from overseas to let us know as soon as you finalize your flight arrangements.

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BUXTON GUYANA NETWORK

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BUXTONGUYANA.NET

WE'RE ALSO ON FACEBOOK

[BUXTON VILLAGE GUYANA](#)

GRAND VARIETY SHOW & RECEPTION

In Commemoration of the 170th Anniversary

BUXTON: Purchase & Pride

*Drama * Poetry * Dancing * Singing * Drumming * Folklore * Party **

*Cultural Wear Fashion Show * & More*

Sunday, May 2, 2010 from 3:00 p.m.

Catherine McCauley High School

710 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of Foster Ave), Brooklyn, NY 11203

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

Ticket Donation covers Show, Souvenir Magazine & Dinner

- Mboya Wood 646-727-5937
- Lorna Campbell 718-342-0040
- Errol & Vashti Cockfield 718-843-3690
- Owen Ifill 646-894-4256
- John Newton 347-881-7055
- Rennie Parris 347-863-6121
- Howie Abrams 201-924-0788
- Remington London 609-424-0418
- Quintin Bacchus 202-538-1261
- Brian Moses 416-672-4256

Proceeds to benefit Tipperary Restoration

**170TH ANNIVERSARY
BUXTON CELEBRATION**

Saturday	July 24, 2010	WELCOME RECEPTION
Sunday	July 25, 2010	CHURCH SERVICES * ROAD RACE * SPORTS DAY
Monday	July 26, 2010	OPENING CEREMONY * ARTS & CAREER FAIR * CULTURAL SHOW
Tuesday	July 27, 2010	DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA RESORT, ESSEQUIBO
Wednesday	July 28, 2010	LITERACY DAY * VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM EVENING
Thursday	July 29, 2010	BUS EXCURSION TO EAST BERBICE
Friday	July 30, 2010	GRAND BALL-DINNER DANCE & FASHION SHOWCASE
Saturday	July 31, 2010	HEALTH FAIR * CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * JAMBOREE
Sunday	August 1, 2010	INTERFAITH SERVICE * DRUMMING & FOOD FEST * HEALTH FAIR