

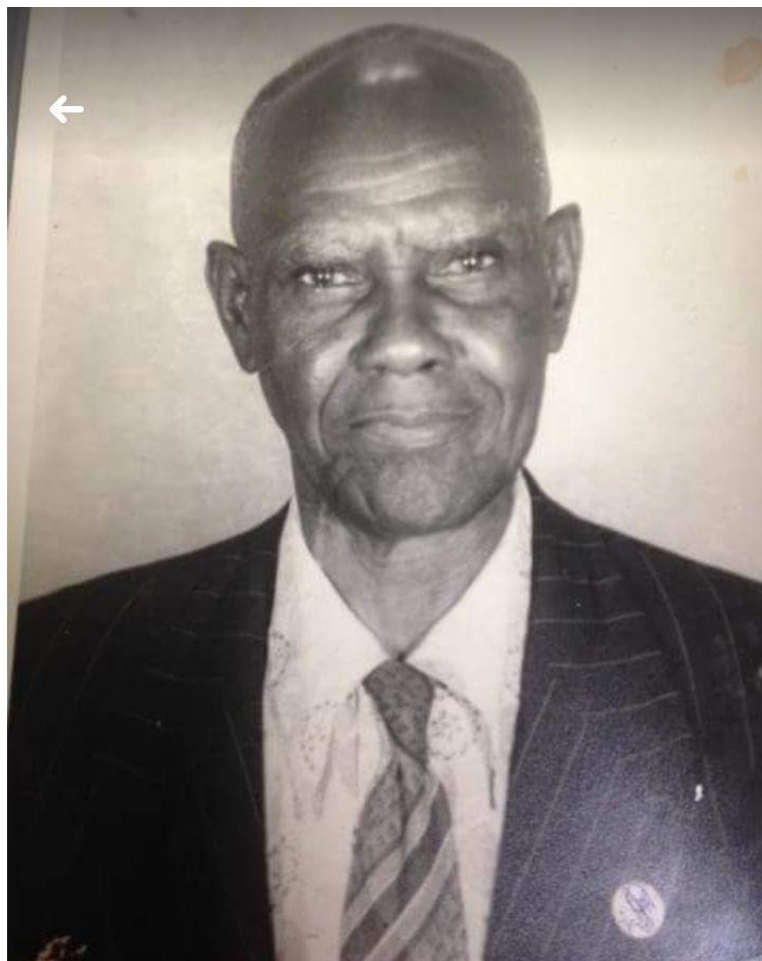


News May 2019

Email: hazelwoolford@gmail.com / guyanainstituteofhistoricalresearch@hotmail.com

Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow the Greatest Trade Union Leader that ever lived in Guyana. His long fight for the common people is unrivalled

Ted Semple



CRITCHLOW was born in Georgetown on the 18 December 1884. His father, James Nathaniel Critchlow, had emigrated from Barbados and was employed as a wharf foreman by the Booker Group of Companies, while his mother Julia Elizabeth Critchlow, born Daniels, was originally from the Essequibo coast. The young Hubert Critchlow attended the Bedford Wesleyan Primary School but left when he was 13 years old after his father died. He had reached up to Standard 4 (equivalent to Grade 6 in [continued on page 3])

Table of Contents

1	Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow.
4	The monumental changes that Kaieteur News brought.
5	Important dates in the month of May in Guyana.
7	The Guyana Institute of Historical Research – call for papers for 29 June 2019 Conference.
9	Phagwah Parade 2019 Was a Huge Success.
11	No place for vanilla politics in today's America.
13	Village problems over one hundred years ago.
16	Notre-Dame fire “not the worst chapter in its 850-year history”
18	Quotes of the President of Guyana.
19	Happy wedding anniversary Mr. David and Mrs. Marilyn Dewar.
20	Interfaith Council Condemns Violence in Sri Lanka.
22	Good Friday when I was 10.
23	Death announcement.
25	Registration

Acknowledgements

Ted Semple
 Mohammed Hamaludin
 Ministry of the Presidency
 Stabroek News
 Guyanese Online
 Kaieteur News
 Demerara waves
 Guyana Chronicle
 Guyana Times
 Caribbean News
 Guyana Broadcasting Corporation.
 Ministry of the Presidency.
The West Indian . April 27, 2019 . Page 33
www.thewestindianonline.com
 PROFILE of The Week By Dr. DHANPAUL
 History Extra
 BBC World History
 Basil Williams.

Editorial Committee

Deon Abrams
 Paul Moore
 Dillon Goring
 Tota Mangar
 Nigel Westmaas
 Timothy Crichlow
 Fitz Gladstone Alert
 David Hinds
 Thomas Singh
 Hazel Woolford
Videographers/Photographers
 Lawrence Gaskin
 Natasha Azeez
 Walter George
Contributors
 Kumar Mahabir

Did you know?

The Guyana Institute of Historical Research offers courses on the history online face book page? Upgrade your knowledge in Guyanese History, African Guyanese History, and European History. Click today.

American schools), but he felt that he had to find a job to help maintain his home.

While attending school he had excelled in sports, and he continued to do so as a young man. He soon became a popular sports figure and during the period 1905-1914 he was the country's middle-distance athletic champion. He was also a good footballer and cricketer.



Soon after Critchlow left school, he worked as an apprentice at the Demerara Foundry, and at the turn of the century he obtained employment as a dock labourer on the waterfront. Due to his active representation of his fellow workers during the 1905 strike in Georgetown, his popularity grew. He continued to champion workers' rights, and was always called upon to represent their case to employers in the years that followed.

During the strikes in 1917, he represented the interest of waterfront workers in collective bargaining, and by then was regarded as the leader of all waterfront workers. He became even more popular when he helped to secure increase wages for them.

In the 1917-1918 period, Critchlow led a petition for an 8-hour day. He was pressured by the Chamber of Commerce to withdraw his name from the petition, after all the other petitioners were forced to do so, but he obstinately refused. He was immediately fired from his job and blacklisted from obtaining employment, and he had to depend on assistance from close friends for sustenance.

Being unemployed, he devoted all his time to the campaign for the 8-hour work day. In December 1918, he and a small delegation of workers met with the Governor, Sir Wilfred Colet. It was after this meeting that Critchlow developed the idea of

forming a trade union, and he immediately began making the arrangements for its formation. The union, the British Guiana Labour Union (BGLU), was eventually established on the 11 January 1919.

The union experienced numerous problems on its establishment. The employers saw it as a force aimed at fomenting industrial unrest, and issued open threats to workers who were union members. Despite this, membership grew and by the end of its first year, it had more than 7,000 financial members comprising waterfront workers, tradesmen, sea defence and road workers, railroad workers, balata bleeders and miners, some Government employees and hundreds of sugar estate labourers. Branches of the union were also set up in various parts of the country.

Critchlow was employed on a full time basis by the union, and he never stopped being a spokesman for the workers, and publicised their grievances and demanded improved



working conditions and better wages for them. But he faced opposition from the more educated members of the union who felt that his limited education should not allow him to have such high responsibilities. These members, who were in the minority, wanted a doctor or a lawyer to lead the union. In January 1920 at a meeting of the union, a motion was introduced requesting Critchlow to hand over all the union's funds to Dr. T. T. Nichols, and two lawyers, J. S. Johnson and McClean Ogle. But the motion was rejected by a huge majority and a vote of confidence in Critchlow was passed.

[Contributed by Ted Semple]

The monumental changes that Kaieteur News brought



Adam Harris

Things are not always what they seem. **The publisher of Kaieteur News hosted a gala to mark the occasion of the newspaper's 25th Anniversary and the launching of Kaieteur Radio.** The venue was the Pegasus. The event attracted friends, advertisers, staff members, and of course, relatives and family members of the publisher.

The smiles were there for all to see; everything seemed grand as indeed it was. But it was not all that it seemed. Glenn Lall was like an expectant mother experiencing labour pains. He could not stay still. He wanted everything to be spot on.

The programme got underway and he began to relax. I was sitting next to him at the head table and I could literally feel him relax. The programme continued and Glenn Lall the man emerged. I felt his shoulders shaking. He was crying.

I did not want my friend to be crying in front of a hall full of people so I asked him to slow down. And he did. Forget his review of where he began with the newspapers; forget his appreciation of the people who have been with him for two decades and slightly less; forget the road to success, but I couldn't forget the love he showed for the people who helped him along the way.

There was Yesu Persaud, himself a successful businessman, who saw something in Glenn Lall. There was Nazar Mohamed, one of the most successful gold merchants in the history of the country. There was Justice Claudette Singh who adopted him. All these people were there to share the moment with him.

I was there when Kaieteur News celebrated its tenth anniversary. The venue was the Georgetown Club; the head of state was Bharrat Jagdeo. In his address, Mr. Jagdeo announced that Guyana needed more Glenn Lalls.

Fifteen years later, he more than likely wishes there was never a Glenn Lall. Guyana indeed needed more than one Glenn Lall, because through his newspaper, he tackled every corrupt act that he became aware of. His relentless pursuit of indiscretion had a cost.

I remember when someone firebombed the printery while it was located aback of Eccles. Then the unthinkable happened. I was having a drink at the Blue Iguana, one Tuesday night, when I got a call. Five of my colleagues were shot dead at the press.

That incident reduced the staff, and particularly Glenn Lall, to tears. And as a tribute to the men, the company continued with that publication. No other newspaper ever experienced such a tragedy. Kaieteur News did in its first twenty-five years.

Of interest is the fact that Glenn knew nothing about newspapers, except that they contained messages on paper. Tell him that today and you will enjoy the kind of language reserved for the fish market. The English have linked such language to Billingsgate.

Now there is a radio station. It emerged the same day the newspaper celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Both the radio and the newspaper are inextricably linked.

The radio station should have been a part of the landscape many years ago. Glenn applied, but was ignored. Jagdeo, Donald Ramotar and Anil Nandlall concluded that if the newspaper was attacking them so much, and every day, then the radio station would be attacking them every minute.

That station is now a reality. Again, Glenn knows nothing about radio, but he knows what he wants. He wants something that is going to be different; something that is going to be a meaningful addition to the landscape.

He designed his station. Then he sought the equipment. I am convinced that he has the most modern studio in the country and probably one of the best in the region.

He got the license about a year ago, but he took his time. I was afraid that the license would be revoked for non-use, but he said to me that whenever he did something he does it well.

Before Thursday's launch he was as nervous as a deer in the sights of a predator. He bellowed at people; he cajoled, but he didn't beg.

When he sat before the microphone to launch his radio I expected him to be nervous. We were going live and many people are afraid of microphones. If he felt any fear he didn't show it. His presentation was flawless.

When it was all over I asked him whether he felt like a drink. He didn't even smile. He simply said that this was the time to get drunk. I did not expect to see him at work on Friday but he was there; very early having partied into the wee hours of the morning.

He is my friend. We talk a lot and we plan. I remember when we planned the format of the newspaper at the time we were contemplating going daily. Many of our decisions were taken at Palm Court. Two of the enduring columns grew out of our meeting at Palm Court—Dem Boys Seh and The Baccoo Speaks.

The design of all the newspapers in the country was dictated by Kaieteur News. There was a time when newspapers carried the main story on the front page. Kaieteur News changed that. The headlines and the most eye-catching photograph now adorn the front page. It is the same with every newspaper. **The radio station is about to change the landscape.**



1. Cleaning.
2. Employment
3. Event planning

Like and share Yahweh services Guyana on face book

Important dates in the month of May in Guyana

- | | | |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | 1 May - | Labour day. |
| 2 | 3 May- | Portuguese arrival day.
Forty Portuguese disembarked the 'Louisa Baillie' which docked here on May 03, 1835. |
| 3 | 5 May- | Indian arrival. |
| 4 | 26 May- | Independence day. |



The Guyana Institute of Historical Research – call for papers for 29 June 2019 Conference



The Guyana Institute of Historical Research, based in Montrose, East Coast Demerara Guyana. will host its **12th Research Conference, on Saturday 29 June, 2019**, at the Critchlow Labour College, and is inviting submission of abstracts and papers.

The conference theme is **“Labour, military history and, migration.”** The early registration fee is G\$5,000 for those who register on/offline between December 2018 and 28 June 2019. The late registration fee: G\$10,000.

Abstracts must be submitted by 14 June 2019, and early submission of abstracts will ensure that they are included in the Book of Abstracts.

Papers must be submitted by 22 June 2019, to facilitate photocopying for circulation to paid registered participants.

The committee will consider proposals on all aspects of the history of labour, military and migration and especially encourages submissions that reflect on this year’s theme; submissions that focus on other topics will also be entertained. Submissions of pre-organized panels and round-tables are strongly encouraged.

Panel, round-table, and poster proposals will include the following information:

Panel proposals must include a panel title and 300-word abstract summarizing the theme of the panel; paper title and a 300-word abstract for each paper proposed; and a one-page professional curriculum vitae for each panelist (including the chair and commentator).

Round-table proposals must include a round-table title, a 300-word abstract summarizing the round-table’s themes and points of discussion, and a one-page curriculum vitae for each participant (including the moderator, if any).

Individual paper proposals are also welcome and must include a paper title, a 300-word abstract of the paper and a one-page vita with contact information and email address. If accepted, individual papers will be assigned by the program committee to an appropriate panel with a chair and commentator. Volunteers, who wish to serve as chairs and commentators should send a one-page curriculum vitae to one of the following persons:

GIHR Conference specialist: Syndrene Harris -syndrene@yahoo.com

Conference committee chairman: Tota Mangar -totamangar@gmail.com

Registrar: Hazel Woolford -hazelwoolford@gmail.com

The focus of the theme:

Centenary of the registration of the BGLU (1919).

Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow.

Labor and Workplace.

Worker’s rights.

Economic development in nineteenth century British Guiana.

Poverty and unemployment.

Centenary of the end of World War 1 (1914-1918).

Guyanese and West Indian soldiers.

Gershom O. Brown.
Economic causes of World War 1
Demographic and, political consequences of World War 1.
Migration
Windrush generation.
Racial inequality.
Immigration policy
North America
Caribbean
Middle East.
Women, Gender and, politics.
Amerindian women and politics.
Women and local government.
China in Africa.
China in Guyana, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
The legacy of Indian immigration.



Shop at the online GHR store

Phagwah Parade 2019 Was a Huge Success



Grand Marshall Naro Balli Leads like a Champion!

Naro Balli walked like a champion on Liberty Avenue. He was among the first Grand Marshall to be chosen from the Parade Committee and he led the 2019 Phagwah Parade with dignity. The other Grand Marshall was Dharamacharya Pandit Rishi Misir of the Federation of Hindu Mandirs.



There was another first as well. Dharamacharya Pandit Ramlall was one of the founders of the Parade. He led and inspired the Parade and the community for many years. He sadly left us this year. The 2019 Phagwah Parade was fittingly dedicated to him and his words of wisdom will always be with us. The

Parade Committee made a special presentation to the family of the late Detective Brian Simonsen, of the 102 Precinct, with a plaque and monetary donation.



The Phagwah Parade of New York (PPNY) worked hard to put the finishing touches together. On the day of the Parade the drizzles came but this did not dampen the spirit of the supporters. They turned out in thousands and included the NYPD Desi Society, and Corrections Department, elected officials, the representatives of various mandirs, Census 2020, Jahajee Sisters, Sadhana, Chhaya, Caribbean Equality Project, and other groups.



During the program in Smokey Oval Park the umbrellas were

unfurled as the crowd stayed on to enjoy a high-class presentation from local and overseas performers. The Parade Committee wishes to thank all for their participation and looks forward for their continued support.



No place for vanilla politics in today's America

By MOHAMED HAMALUDIN

Former President Barack Obama recently offered his most significant advice yet to the **Democratic Party**. Answering questions at an Obama Foundation town hall in Berlin on Saturday, he said, "One of the things I do worry about sometimes among progressives in the United States... is a certain kind of rigidity where we say, 'Oh, I'm sorry, this is how it's going to be.' And then we start sometimes creating what's called a 'circular firing squad' where you start shooting at your allies because one of them is straying from purity on the issues."

That message was actually for the democratic socialists and their agenda that includes New York Rep. Alexandria Occasion-Cortez's Green New Deal and Medicare for all.

The call for moderation is not surprising from a politician dubbed "No Drama Obama." He said in his 2004 address at the Democratic National Convention: "The pundits... like to slice-and-dice our country into Red States and Blue States; Red States for Republicans, Blue States for Democrats. There is not a liberal America and a conservative America – there is the United States of America. There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America – there's the United States of America."

He was speaking then about national unity; now he was talking to the Democratic party. It is useful to consider both aspects because even if Democrats can settle their policy differences, electoral success will not depend on moderation.

President Donald Trump and his hardcore base would beg to disagree with the idea that there are no blue and red states, no liberals and conservatives and no racial division. In fact, his election and his

presidency itself are based on policies that embrace the red states, conservatives and even hardline ideologues and one race, the white kind.

Obama is right that party unity is essential to electoral success. But he is wrong in saying that it should be based on compromise born of moderation. While many Americans are probably distressed by Trump's policies, they do not necessarily want vanilla politics from the Democrats. Two of the most controversial proposals from the democratic socialists have wide support. **Some 70 percent of Americans support Medicare for all, according to a Reuters poll last August. They include 85 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans.**

Some 81 percent of registered voters approve of the goals of the Green New Deal, including 64 percent of Republicans and 57 percent of conservative Republicans, according to a December poll by Yale and George Mason universities. The caveat was the cost of the program, varying from \$100 billion to \$1 trillion, which opponents have seized upon. But the benefits are very attractive, including replacing carbon fuel with renewal energy and a \$15 minimum wage with healthcare benefits and collective bargaining rights.

The question is whether proponents of such policies must take a back seat to their more cautious colleagues or whether the leadership should celebrate the infusion not only of fresh blood but also fresh ideas that offer an unambiguous choice to voters. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has done the former, giving some newbies prized committee seats. In terms of policies, if the veterans leading the House opt for caution, the democratic socialists and their allies should look to the success of the Republican Freedom Caucus in holding their party's feet to the fire.

The Freedom Caucus had just about 40 members in a House where Republicans were the majority but they were able to force their leaders to see matters their way, precisely because of "purity on the issues," and they forced Speaker John Boehner to resign.

The democratic socialists are still just a handful in the House but there is already a Democratic Progressive Caucus, with at least 24 members. Even combined, that is still not enough to exercise the kind of influence which the Republican Freedom Caucus wielded, ironically because of the much larger Democratic majority today. But even by themselves they are an exciting portrait of the Democratic party and America. Ocasio-Cortez is a Latina from the Bronx with Puerto Rican roots and her closest allies include Deb Haaland of New Mexico, one of two Indigenous women in the House; Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, one of two Muslim Americans and a former refugee from Somalia; Ayanna Presley of Massachusetts, her state's first black woman in the House; and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, the other Muslim American, who is of Palestinian background.

These women represent Americans who have been traditionally sidelined in politics. But they live the problems which ordinary Americans face daily and know what solutions are needed. Rather than allowing themselves and their ideals to be absorbed in a wider, more "moderate" agenda, they should continue to press their case, directly to the people, if necessary, as Ocasio-Cortez has already been doing.

Today's politics are not for the timid of heart and there will be strong resistance from the veterans and others fearful that voters will buy into the already ramped up attacks from Trump and his supporters. But it is a confrontation that cannot be avoided.

—
Mohamed Hamaludin is a Guyana-born journalist who worked for several years at The Chronicle in the 1970s and on publications in the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands before emigrating to the United States in 1984 where he worked at The Miami Times, the Miami Herald and the South Florida Times. Though now retired, he writes a commentary every week or two for The South Florida Times (sfltimes.com) in which the above column first appeared. He may be reached at hamal1942@gmail.com



Save the children. Enroll them in the Queens Daycare and, Child development center. Call Sister Elvira 2275093

Village problems over one hundred years ago

By Winston McGowan

This article will focus on conditions in eighteen villages of Guyana, which one hundred years ago were under the control of the Central Board of Health. These villages were for the most part inhabited mainly by Africans. They included Sparendaam, Plaisance, Beterverwagting, Buxton and Friendship, Golden Grove and Nabaclis, Victoria and Ann's Grove and Two Friends on the East Coast of Demerara, Agricola, Mocha and Craig on the East Bank, Bagotville, Goed Intent and Sisters, and Stanleytown on the West Bank, Den Amstel and Fellowship and De Kinderen on the West Coast of Demerara, Queenstown and Danielstown in Essequibo and Cumberland in Berbice.

Over one hundred years ago these villages were experiencing serious problems which made life for the residents very challenging. Perhaps their most fundamental and most disturbing problem was geophysical, namely, their inability for the most part to cope effectively with the formidable challenges of sea and river defence, drainage and irrigation. These difficulties stemmed from the fact that the coast was below sea level, the rivers often overflowed their banks and the country frequently suffered from seasons of heavy rainfall. In these circumstances the principal annual works undertaken by most villages were the digging and clearing of drainage trenches and the construction or repair of sluices.

In several villages, however, the main drainage could not be kept in order owing to a lack of funds. Furthermore, exceptionally heavy rainy seasons caused a considerable increase in expenditure for drainage, especially in large mechanically drained villages such as Plaisance and Buxton, for the operation of such steam-driven machinery was very expensive. Ultimately the question of drainage everywhere was a matter of funds which tended to be short in all villages. Villages often had no option but to seek loans from the government to cope with the problem of drainage.

In 1902, for example, the Golden Grove and Nabaclis Village Council borrowed \$2000.00 to cover the cost of renewing the Nabaclis Sea Sluice. That same year the Beterverwagting Village Council borrowed \$950.00 to meet its share of the cost of replacing one of the boilers of the Triumph Draining Engine, which was the joint property of the villagers and the government. The heavy rainfall which caused drainage problems also adversely affected the villages in other ways. In particular, it resulted in the erosion of village streets, thus increasing the cost of their upkeep.

Many Village Councils discovered that after seeking to address the principal problem of drainage, they had no funds left to use to <https://guyaneseonline.net/> maintain and repair village roads. As Thomas Daly, the Inspector of Villages, reported about Plaisance in 1897, "in consequence of the heavy

expenditure for drainage because of a very heavy and long rainy season we have had, the works of making up the streets and digging trenches could not be carried out."

The major financial difficulties which villages in Guyana were encountering one hundred years ago were a result of several factors. Prominent among them was the fact that the government, dominated by the White sugar plantocracy, was unwilling to use revenue in the national treasury to develop Black villages, apart from the grant of small loans repayable with interest. Furthermore, each year a significant part of village rates, by far the main source of funds available to Village Councils, was not collected, owing to the inability or unwillingness of villagers to pay them. The Inspector of Villages tended to blame the Chairmen of the Village Councils for this state of affairs, accusing them of dereliction of duty and criticizing them for their reluctance to resort to legal proceedings to enforce rate payments.

Occasionally, as was the case of Agricola in 1898, villages also suffered because of the misappropriation of rates by dishonest Village Overseers. The truth, however, was that in the absence of a subvention from the government, even if all the rates were collected, the Village Councils would still have been short of funds to maintain and develop the villages properly. The uncollected rates, however, made the situation worse, preventing the Councils from being able to undertake budgeted works in relation to drainage, roads and sanitation.

The condition of the villages was obviously partly a result of the quality of their administration, especially the sense of responsibility and enterprise of the Village Chairman and the efficiency and integrity of the Village Overseer. The Overseer, a fulltime salaried employee of the Village Council, played a crucial role in the collection of rates and the execution of village projects. Determined Village Chairmen were sometimes able to ensure the collection of a high proportion of rates by putting an effective system in place and, if necessary, by exerting pressure on the villagers to pay their rates by taking legal proceedings against them. For example the success of the Council of Den Amstel and Fellowship in 1902-3 in securing the highest proportion (97 per cent) of collected rates was attributed to "firmness on the part of the Chairman in insisting on regular payments at stated times."

Problems arose in village administration as a result of poor judgement in the choice of Village Overseers and the lack of effective supervision by the Chairman of the Overseer, who sometimes used the opportunity to misappropriate village funds. The realization of the importance of having an efficient Overseer prompted the Council of Ann's Grove and Two Friends to dismiss its Overseer in 1898 "on account of inattention to his work" and to appoint a successor on probation. However, the overall view of the Inspector of Villages in relation to Village Overseers seems valid. He remarked: "I think that, as a whole, the Councils have been fortunate in their selections, but I am sorry to say, there have been, exceptions, which have caused considerable loss to some of the villages."

The administration of villages was sometimes adversely affected by a number of other factors, including the unwieldy size of the Council, a lack of harmony among the councillors, friction between the Chairman and other members of the Council and hostility between the Council and villagers.

In 1898, for example, Mr. Hinds, the Chairman of the Plaisance Village Council, tendered his resignation in response to complaints by some councillors and other villagers, much to the regret of the Inspector of Villages, who regarded the complaints as "frivolous and vexatious". However, one of his successors, W.J. Johnson, refused to resign although, according to the Inspector of Villages, "his office has not been a bed of roses" as a result of "uncalled for opposition and annoyance on the part of some of the Villagers."

Over one hundred years ago many coastal and riverain villages were also facing economic problems, especially in the key area of agriculture, which was the main source of subsistence and income for many villagers. With the exception of rice, which was beginning to be grown in small quantities in some villages, most of the crops cultivated were perishable. Paramount among them were ground provisions, especially cassava, yams, tannias and sweet potatoes, but some fruits, vegetables, plantains, coffee and cocoa were also cultivated. In a few villages there were scattered patches of sugarcane, with

only Beterverwagting, with no more than 30 acres, having any significant area in canes. Cane farming on village lands was not making much progress for two main reasons.

Firstly, most villagers did not see any benefit in giving up growing food crops in order to cultivate sugarcane. Secondly, village farmland was split up into lots which were too small to permit the cultivation of cane on a large and remunerative scale. Agriculture in most coastal villages was in a precarious state. It was adversely affected by the vagaries of the weather (especially severe drought and very heavy rainfall), inadequate drainage, breaches in sea and riverain defence, the high cost of steam-driven drainage machinery, pests and disease, the inadequate knowledge of farmers and the small profit gained from the sale of ground provisions.

Although these individually and collectively were formidable obstacles, the major problem which village farmers faced was what the Inspector of Villages rightly described in his 1903 Report as "the crushing weight of Praedial Larceny". Because of praedial larceny and other disincentives, peasant agriculture in African villages around 1900 was in a state of severe depression. Large areas of land were completely uncultivated and much of the rest was cultivated in only a perfunctory manner, some beds being tilled and others untilled.

According to the Inspector of Villages in his 1899 Report, "nearly all the coffee and fruit trees in most of the villages have been allowed to die for want of attention". This apparent neglect of agriculture was due partly to the fact that many adult African males left the coast for several months each year to seek their financial fortunes in gold mining in the interior. This temporary migration created labour problems in the villages, forcing some African villages to have to hire free East Indians to undertake necessary works in drainage and road maintenance.

Villages, over one hundred years ago also had problems in the area of sanitation and health. Their two most urgent needs in sanitation were an adequate pure water supply for drinking purposes and an efficient method for the disposal of faecal matter. Poor sanitation was the cause of many diseases found in villages, especially those conveyed by impure water, such as dysentery, diarrhoea and enteric fever and those transmitted by insects, especially malaria and yellow fever. This situation was partly a result of the attitude of the Central Board of Health which, influenced by the inadequate collection of rates in many villages, did little or no work there. Thus, although in the towns malaria was being tackled through the use of quinine, there were very few anti-malaria measures being undertaken in the villages. Lack of funds made it difficult for villages to address the problems of sanitation adequately. Some of them, however, were making some progress. For example, in 1898 the Village Council of Bagotville applied for and secured a loan of \$410.00 to perform certain sanitary works with the result that the situation was "much improved". Furthermore, according to the Inspector of Villages, it "made a reservoir by which the villagers are now supplied with good drinking water." "Not surprisingly, the Chairman, Councillors and Overseer of the Village were lauded by the Inspector for keeping the village "in good order". In short, one hundred years ago coastal and riverain villages in Guyana were grappling with a diversity of problems, some geophysical and others administrative, financial, economic and medical. Owing to these problems most of these villages were in a depressed state and their inhabitants were experiencing a disturbing deterioration in their quality of life.

Subscribe Today

1. Women's History magazine- \$1,500 per annum
2. Lessons in Guyanese History -\$1,600
3. Guyana Institute of Historical Research Journal- \$1,600.
4. Outline in Guyanese History-\$500.
5. GIHR Book marks \$40.

Notre-Dame fire “not the worst chapter in its 850-year history”

Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris has “miraculously” survived a devastating fire thanks to the medieval building techniques used when it was erected in 1163, a leading medieval historian has said



By **Emma Mason**

Speaking to *History Extra* after the blaze, which over the course of 15 hours overnight on 15/16 April obliterated Notre-Dame’s roof and caused its spire to collapse, Dr Emily Guerry said it was “extraordinary what has survived”.

As Paris and the wider world were left reeling from the sight of the city’s Notre-Dame cathedral in flames, Dr Guerry, a historian of medieval Europe, said the fact that so much of the famed structure survived is “a testament to medieval craftsmanship”.

She told *History Extra*: “Gothic cathedrals rarely catch fire. In fact, the Gothic style – with its powerful stone vaults and elegantly pointed arches – developed as a sort of flame-retardant system to protect cathedrals from fire. The Gothic architectural style first appeared in and around Paris in the mid-12th century and it became popular across Europe after a number of Romanesque churches succumbed to incendiary destruction, due in part to the high risk of older barrel vaults made of wood.

“Famously, the entire east end of the Romanesque cathedral at Canterbury collapsed in the fire of 5 September 1174. We know from detailed primary source records that the Canterbury monks invited French masons to rebuild their new church in the Gothic style, complete with a strong stone vault. As a result, Canterbury Cathedral is the earliest cohesive Gothic building project in the British Isles.

“In 1194, the Romanesque fabric of Chartres cathedral also burned down – Gothic masons then spent decades erecting the gigantic, elegant church that visitors see today. However, for parts of Notre-Dame de Paris to burn down in 2019 just does not make sense; this is a terrible, terrible accident.”

Considering the damage, Guerry explained that the flames quickly reached the roof of the cathedral, destroying the forest of oak beams (dating from 1300) that held it up, before toppling the spire. Although the whole of the upper roof was destroyed, only one part of the stone vault was pierced, due to the brilliant technical achievement of its Gothic designers. So, the stone vaults that visitors see when they enter Notre-Dame have survived intact. This, says Guerry, is “a testament to medieval craftsmanship – it’s also a modern miracle”.

She said: “Structurally the cathedral remains mostly intact, as are its three famous rose windows.”



Notre-Dame’s south rose window. (Photo by Godong/UIG via Getty Images)

“Every Parisian; anyone who loves Paris; anyone who loves history, art and architecture, is heartbroken by this fire. But this morning there was some relief – yes, it is likely that it will take decades to rebuild the cathedral, but we’ve lost a lot less than we expected last night, and there is a great sense of hope. This is not the darkest chapter in Notre-Dame’s long history.

“Notre-Dame already survived the targeted iconoclasm of [the French Revolution](#); the violence of the 1871 Commune of Paris (the insurrection of Paris against the French government in the wake of France’s defeat in the Franco-German War and the collapse of Napoleon III’s Second Empire); the First and Second World War. So while this fire may *look* devastating, I think we can take solace in the fact that what happened last night was just one terrible chapter in [the long and wonderful history of this archetypal church](#). The cathedral of Notre-Dame will be restored and the community that loves it will continue to thrive, and – thanks to the incredibly brave firefighters who have worked so hard to save it – one day we will have the privilege of seeing this beautiful cathedral rise again to great heights.

“This fire is totally shocking and the damage it caused is absolutely heart-breaking, but this is not the end. Notre-Dame still stands and, as long as it does, this cathedral will continue to embody something truly beautiful about our collective humanity. Notre-Dame is a place where the human spirit takes form in stone, light, and colour. Although some of its parts are now in ashes, it will endure.”

Quotes of the President of Guyana



1. The Easter celebration has become a manifestation of social cohesion. It is a time when the barriers of class and ethnicity are broken and replaced by the bonds of goodwill. The Easter holiday — the longest weekend in our country's calendar — brings Guyanese together, at home and in the diaspora, in fun-filled family reunions, kite-flying, picnics, regattas, rodeos and other outdoor activities.
2. The Easter celebration reminds us of this country's geographic and demographic diversity. The Rodeo takes place in the Rupununi savannahs of the south, populated mainly by indigenous people. The Regatta is held at Bartica which located at the confluence of the great Essequibo, Mazaruni and Cuyuni rivers. Kite-flying across our country, is an ancient practice brought here by Chinese immigrants. Easter celebrates our diversity.
3. The Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is the country's supreme law. Adherence to the Constitution is an essential element of democratic governance and the maintenance of public trust. Your Government is committed to upholding the Constitution unreservedly.
4. The Chief Justice, in the case of Compton Reid v. Speaker of the National Assembly et al, declared, on 31st January 2019, that it was unconstitutional for a person holding dual citizenship to be elected as a Member of Parliament. This ruling was affirmed by a majority decision of the Court of Appeal on 22nd March 2019.
5. I have a duty to ensure that the Government acts in accordance with the Constitution at all times. I have, in accordance with the Courts' rulings, accepted the resignations of Mr. Carl Greenidge, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Dominic Gaskin, Minister of Business; Mr. Joseph Harmon, Minister of State in the Ministry of the Presidency and Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, Minister of the Public Service in the Ministry of the Presidency. These resignations take effect on 25th April 2019.

6. "I thank these Ministers for their stewardship as members of my Cabinet and of the National Assembly since May 2015. Their sterling public service has been to our nation's benefit".
 7. The resignations of these Ministers have created vacancies in the Cabinet and the National Assembly. It is necessary, in the circumstances, for their ministerial responsibilities to be reassigned and for the transfer of some junior ministers. I now announce the following appointments:
Mr Hemraj Ramkumar, as Minister of Business;
Mrs Dawn Hastings-Williams as Minister of State in the Ministry of the Presidency; and
Mrs Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, as Minister of the Public Service in the Ministry of the Presidency.
I announce, also, the reassignment of junior ministers as follows:
Ms Annette Ferguson, as Minister in the Ministry of Communities, with responsibility for Housing;
Mrs Simona Charles-Broomes as Minister in the Ministry of the Presidency with responsibility for Youth Affairs; and
Mrs Valerie Patterson-Yearwood, as Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Rural Affairs.
 8. The programme of the PNC is a programme for all Guyanese wherever they are. Race must not be used as an electoral factor".
 9. We are strong, the PNC is strong and the Coalition (APNU+AFC) will win the elections!
 10. There is no such thing in the Constitution as a 'care-taker' government, there is the government and government continues to function.
-



Congratulations Mr. David and Mrs. Marilyn Dewar, on your wedding anniversary.

Interfaith Council Condemns Violence in Sri Lanka



Faith leaders who attended the ICCD meeting condemn the atrocities in Sri Lanka, at steps of Queens Borough Hall

The Interfaith Council for Community Development (ICCD) has condemned the recent atrocities in Sri Lanka. At a meeting on the steps of Queens Borough Hall, faith leaders spoke out against violence and called for action to be taken to bring the perpetrators to justice.



Arsalan Mohamed, the ICCD President, calls for an end to violence and a return to peace.

The meeting was chaired by journalist Arsalan Mohamed and President of the ICCD. Arsalan has been in the field for over forty years and has extensive knowledge about community relations.

Arsalan referred to previous meetings at Borough Hall by the Interfaith Council and said that they always seem to be for the purpose of condemning tragedies. In recent months, the Council met when there were tragedies in Pittsburg and New Zealand. It was hoped that this would be the last time that there was a meeting in such sadness.

A number of speakers took to the podium. Mohamed Rashid said that when such an event occurs 'the mind ceases and the heart stops and we can't find any words to describe it.' He said, 'I do not know that to say to my elders and my next generation but this should make us stronger. We should all pray for peace.'

Saleem Syed of the New York Muslim Center said that 'we stand in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. We condemn the attacks at Easter. Religious hatred and bigotry and murder have no place in our global community. People should terrorism at all levels should be condemned. There are some

people that think of violence but we should use all avenues to stamp out violence and bring those concerned to justice, he added.

Pastor Emmanuel Asse of the NAACP said that we should continue to work for peace, as we are all children of God. He pledged the support of the National Action Network in the peace process. He concluded that justice should be served. Arsalan pointed out that the Bosnian community underwent great sacrifice their homeland but did not retaliate.

Ishmael Serdonovich from the Bosnian Center said that terrorism has no religion and it's a sad day when people kill in the name of religion. People should be punished for killing others. He continued, 'I am coming from a country that suffered genocide; there were 300,000 Muslims that were killed and others prosecuted for no reason. I am proud to say that the Muslims in Bosnia did not demolish a single church because that is what our faith teaches us. We are Muslims and we have to live with everybody and New York is the best example for that. We are all brothers in humanity.'

Imam Shaykh Safraz Bacchus of the Masjid- al-Abidin said that the attack in Sri Lanka was violent and barbaric. 'I was upset when I heard the news that over 300 persons lost their lives and I feel upset because I feel that my religion was hijacked. My faith teaches me to love and to disseminate peace and when a person takes a life it is like taking the life of the entire human-kind. My faith teaches me that blessed are the peacemakers. I appeal to all to hold hands and oppose hate.'

Ali Rashid from the Pakistan Advocacy group condemned terrorism. This writer represented the Hindu community. He said that in Guyana there is no religious divide and that it's sad to learn about the atrocities in other countries. In Hinduism, there is respect for life. He urged the faith leaders to return to their respective houses of worship and to reinforce the importance of peace, tolerance and mutual respect. He added that Sri Lanka is a diverse society as is New York and we feel their pain.

Attorney Andrea Ogle requested a moment of silence. She called for love, respect and compassion and said that Sri Lanka is in our thoughts and prayers. Pastor John Kung from the Family Federation for World Peace echoed this message. He said his organization belongs to the family of God and that we should not remain silent and that we must marshal spiritual powers to change the minds of evil. In this fight the theology of parent power is important. Peace starts with all of us.

Abdool Gafoor from the Ahmadiya movement condemned the incident in Sri Lanka and called for peace. Brother Somnath Ghimire from Nepal also extended his condolences and said that we are all brothers and sisters and terrorism should be outlawed.

Dr. Mohamed Hack represented Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. He said that bigotry and hate should be denounced. The Borough stands united with Sri Lanka and we stand as one and our safety should never be compromised. He thanked the police for the work that they do and urged people to be proactive and to take precaution.

Arsalan thanked all for attending and also the Borough and the police for their help. The meeting ended with a statement of solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka.



Jeremy Peretz is the 2018 winner of the GIHR Journal Prize.

The Guyana Institute of Historical Research invites all interested researchers to submit articles to the GIHR Journal. A prize will be awarded in 2019, to one of the submissions. Article must be refereed.

Thank you.

Children corner

Good Friday when I was 10

By Dhanpaul Narine

It is a bright Good Friday morning and we are up early in Sookhoo Yard. There is no school today and later I will go to Chung shop to look at the kites. They use the gamma-cherry with such skill to paste the paper on the frame that it leaves me in awe. My kites always seem to look inferior. I can't afford the twenty-five cents to buy the kites from Chung so I must make do with the pointer broom kite. Sookhoo, the landlord, is tending to his goats and someone remarks that his beard resembles that of a goat. He hears and runs to get his long whip that he uses to scold us.

The logie under his house is rented to the Hafiz family. The eldest son has a cleft in his lip and his words are muffled but Hafiz makes sure that he reads the Koran daily to his children. I am fascinated by this big thick book that he reads from back to front. He tells us the stories about Moses and Ishmael and Mary. I have heard the preacher in the Church mention these names as well but they are in the Bible. Hafiz talks about the Holy Prophet that seems to know the thoughts of people and I think he can't be any different from Jesus or Krishna. The Pandit from Stelling Road said these religions are like paths up a mountain and they all lead to the top, and that we must be kind to each other.

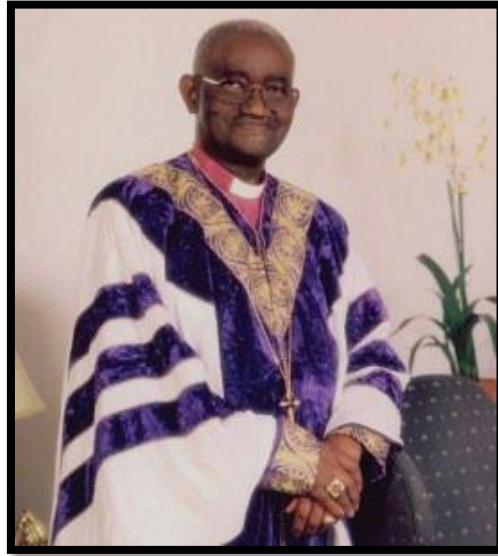
Uncle Worrell and Auntie Esther live in the logie next to ours. They are Christians that attend church at Christmas and Easter. Sookhoo comes to collect his rent. They pay their two dollars and are good for another week. But Ma can only pay one dollar for our logie. Sookhoo brings his carpenter with his hammer and he takes down two zinc sheets from the roof. We are exposed to the sun and the rain and Sookhoo says we must not worry. When we pay the rent he will put back the zinc sheets.

Uncle Worrell begs Sookhoo to put back the zinc; every logie needs a roof, he says. It is Good Friday, can he please show some compassion. Sookhoo and the carpenter man walk past him without saying a word. I know what I must do. I run all the way to Quan sawmill. The place is quiet, the engines are still. Benji Quan is drinking iced water. 'Please, can I have job,' I say. I can do anything. Quan smiles and I am hopeful.

'How old are you?' he asks. There is silence. Ma said to tell the truth at all times. 'I am ten,' I reply. Benji Quan laughs and says that I must go and fly a kite, and stop bothering him. My best friend Michael Worrell says it is Good Friday and Ma and I can sleep in their logie tonight. His mom will cook extra and tomorrow he will help us to catch shrimps to make Sookhoo's rent.



Death announcement



[Bishop Frederick Talbot b. 13 October 1927-d.11 April 2019]

Georgetown, Guyana – (April 26, 2019) His Excellency David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is saddened at the death of Mr. Frederick Hilborn Talbot, B.A., S.T.M., M.Div., D.Min. Bishop Talbot was born on October 13, 1927 in Mahaicony, East Coast Demerara, Guyana. He served as a Pastor at the St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church, Georgetown from 1961 to 1971. From 1971-73 he served as representative for Guyana to the United Nations and High Commissioner to Canada from 1973- 1974, followed by two years as resident Ambassador of Guyana to the United States from 1973 to 1975.

He also served Guyana from 1975 to 1980 as resident High Commissioner to Jamaica and High Commissioner to The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Barbados and as Ambassador to Haiti. His ecumenical work has included service as President of the Guyana Council of Churches; Caribbean Coordinator in Family Life Education for Church World Service; delegate to the 6th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver, Canada; President of the Georgia Council of Churches and ecumenical officer of the A.M.E. in a number of locales in the Middle East, Europe, Australia and Asia.

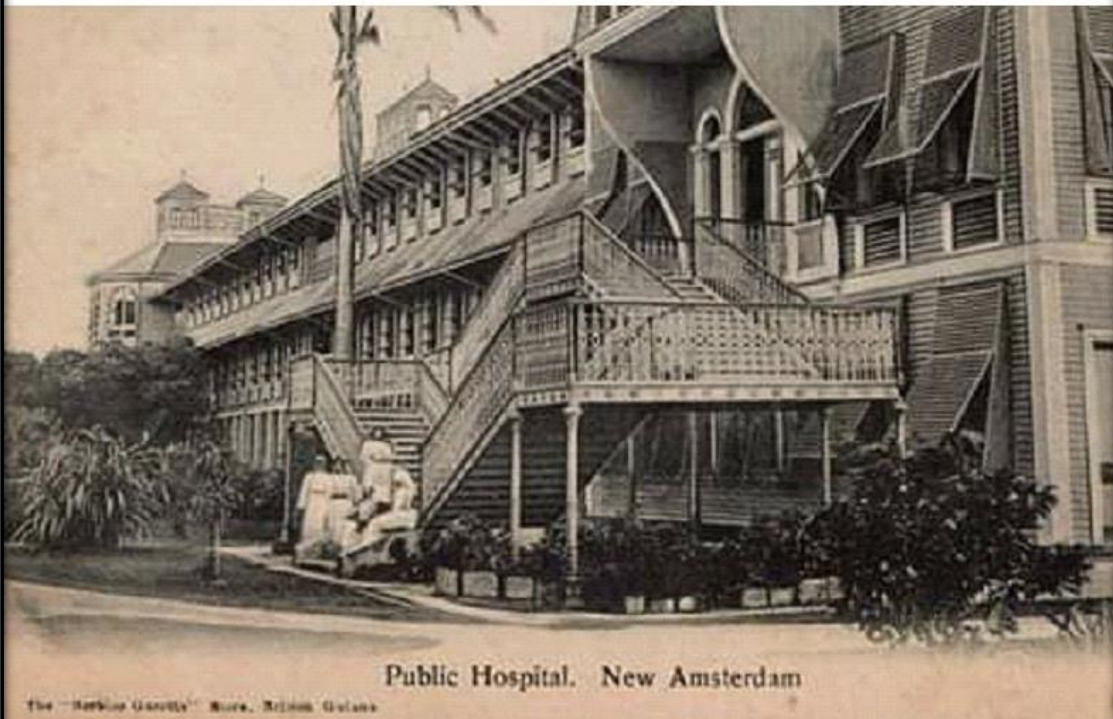
The holder of numerous honorary degrees, Bishop Talbot has written three books, composed texts and music for several hymns and produced a musical CD entitled 'A Bishop Sings of His Faith.' Bishop Talbot has had a long and distinguished record of service not only as an AME leader but also as a Pastor and teacher, in the diplomatic service of Guyana and in ecumenical relations.

President Granger extends heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot, relatives and friends during this sad time.

Forthcoming publication

Guyana

Leading Causes of Death During the Last 120 years



Ramesh Gampat

April 2019

Download, print and, email REGISTRATION FORM.

Twelfth Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research at the Critchlow Labour College, Saturday, 29 June 2019

Theme: Labour, military history and, migration.

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Prof.

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone Number: _____ (Home)

_____ (Office)

_____ (Cell)

E-mail: _____

Organisation: _____

Educator Post graduate student Researcher Administrator

Please submit a hard copy of your conference paper in the week of the conference for the conference secretariat to make multiple copies for distribution to registered participants. If unable to do so, please bring additional copies and, the Conference secretariat will print the extra copies for distribution.

Will you need a DVD / Video? Yes No

Early Registration fee: \$ 5,000

Late Registration fee: \$ 10,000

Cost of DVD: \$5,000.

Please fill out this form or a photocopy completely and send it with your registration fee to: Guyana Institute of Historical Research, 106 Atlantic Gardens, Montrose, East Coast Demerara, Guyana or email hazelwoolford@gmail.com

Registration form for exhibitors

Twelfth Annual Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research at the Critchlow Labour College, Saturday 29 June 2019

1. Dr. [] Mr. [] Mrs. [] Ms. [].
2. Publishing House:
3. Organization:
4. Name:
5. Address:.....
6. E-mail address:.....
7. Telephone numbers: (Home)
 (Office)
 (Cell)

8. Requirements.

- Please bring your tablecloth.
- Please bring your banner.
- Please have someone sit alongside your table.
- Please report to the Exhibition coordinator.

9. Will you need a DVD / Video of the conference proceedings? Yes [] No [].

10. Registration fee: \$5,000.00

Cost of the DVD: \$5,000.00

Please fill out this form or a photocopy completely and, deliver in person with your registration fee to the Guyana Institute of Historical Research at 106, Atlantic Gardens, Montrose, East Coast Demerara, Guyana, or on the day of the conference to the Head of the Conference Secretariat.

- Registration fee entitles participants to tea, lunch and afternoon snacks.
- DVD provides complete recording of the conference.

Participants are asked to leave the environment in the same way in which you found it.

Recent Releases

Continued on page 3.



News Black History February 2019 Price \$500

Eddy Grant

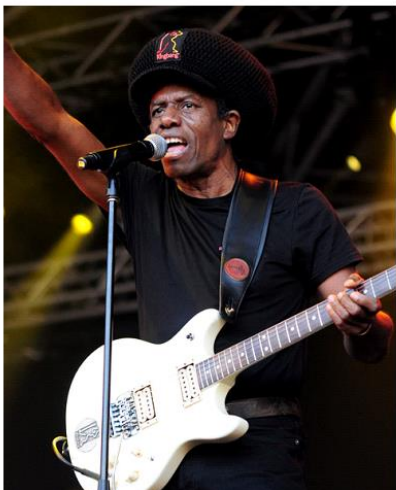


Table of Contents

Title	Page
Eddy Grant	1
UK Councils Condemned For 'Shameful' Rebranding of Black History Month	7
MAAFA	11
Knowing more about Ghana in Africa	13
GUYANA -Born Professor Receives One Of The World's Highest Professional Distinctions In The Field of Engineering	17
Alexander Gyamfi Art	18
Farewell	
a) Stan Cooke	
b) Shurcina Hinds	
c) Allison Butters-Grant	19
Tangerine Clarke and Roger Gary	21
Roxanne Persaud	22
Africa gets its fourth and only female President thanks to Ethiopia	24
West Indian Words that come from Africa	29
Commemorating the 1823 Demerara Slave rebellion	30
Proverbs of Guyana	31
Dr. Lowell Porter and the Small Business Bureau	32
African -Guyanese small businessman	33
International Decade for People of African Descent holds outreach	34
Observing African-Guyanese Heritage	35

Editorial Team

Managing Editor Hazel Woolford



Archives Editor Nadia Gamel-Carter



Fashion Editor Natasha Azeez



History Education Editor Ann Thompson



Arts and Culture Editor Cleon Cadogan



Table of Contents

Letter from the Managing Editor	10
Running repairs	7
Health	11
National Archivist: Mrs. Nadia Gamel -Carter	17
Mrs. Sita Nagamootoo and daughter Adela	18
Women Lawyers	18
Encounter	20
Guyanese Bookshelf	21
HERSTORY	23
Female National Awardees of 2018	24
Meditation	26
Textile, Clothing and, Design	28
Gardening	29
Poetry corner	33
Congratulations to Ms. Natasha Azeez, who received the Guyana Cultural Association Award.	34



Save the children. Enroll them in the Queens Daycare and, Child development centre. Call Sister Elvira Moses at 2275093



Features	Page
Parental Rectitude & Children's Attitude	3
Valerie Rodway Rodway House	13
Female National Awardees	24

Please turn to page 19

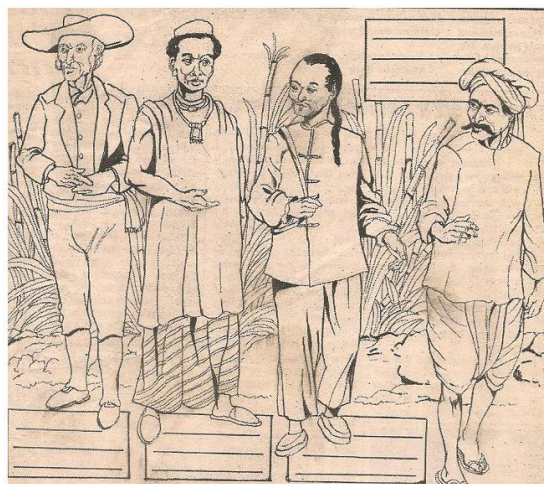
2.



Order your copy of the GIHR Twelfth Conference Book of Abstracts Today



Book of Abstracts



Theme: Labour, Military, and Migration
Date: Saturday, 29 June 2019
Venue: Critchlow Labour College
Time: 08:30 hrs-15:00 hrs.

WHAT

Guyana Institute of Historical Research Twelfth Conference

WHY

To examine the role of labour, military and, migration in the birth of modern Guyana, and the Caribbean.

WHEN AND WHERE

See inside for the date, time, and location.

Registration fee is GY \$5,000.00/US \$25.00



Please join us for the Guyana Institute of Historical Research Twelfth Conference. The date, time, and location will be:

Welcome reception

Date: Friday, 28 June 2019

Time: 18:30 hrs

Dress: Elegantly casual

Conference

Date: Saturday, 29 June 2019

Venue: Crichtlow Labour College

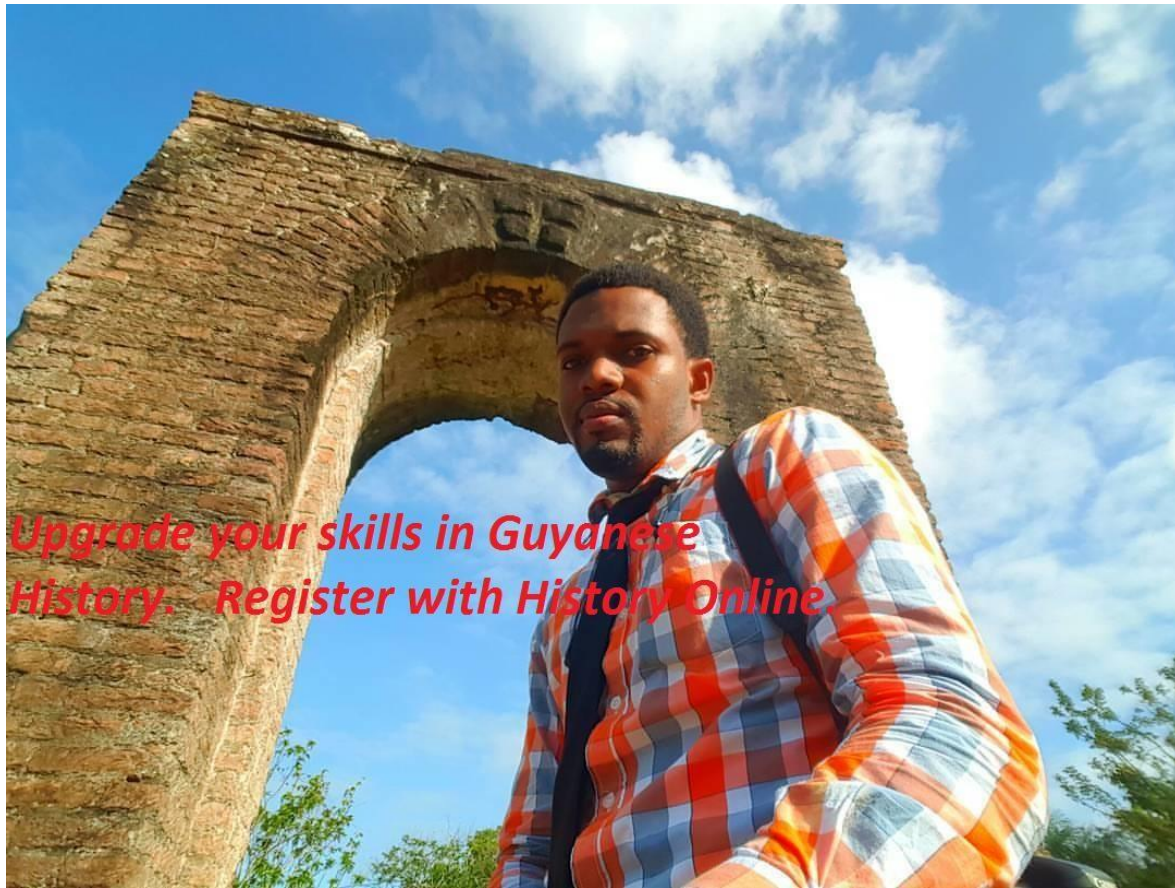
Woolford Avenue

Time: 08:30 hrs.-15:00 hrs.

Watch the GIHR video on You Tube



Guyana Institute of Historical Research Press



The following GIHR courses run from September to July. They are available online, as well as in packages, for homestudy:

1. M.A. Historical studies.
2. Diploma in Historical studies
3. Certificate in Historical studies
4. Certificate in African-Guyanese history.

Cost: \$16,000 for 16 weeks; \$10,000.00 per unit/\$40,000. 00 per trimester/\$100.00 per year

Click, like and, share GIHR Face book, Guyana Institute of Historical Research Diploma in historical studies, History Online, and GIHR Montrose Academy pages.

