



GGBS Bulletin Board Hit by Spammers

Spammers have hit our Bulletin Board three times in less than four weeks. With each hit, the number of messages has grown. The spammers have hit typically on weekends only. The first time occurred on May 28th with about 10 messages. The third time, there were about 23 messages. Steps are now being taken to thwart these messages. Since we are being hosted by Rootsweb for no charge, we also do not have the capability of using advanced methods such as programming languages PHP and ASP to handle these types of situations automatically. If the available steps to thwart the problem do not help, we may be asking for our visitors to post a message on a mailing list Rootsweb board. Check our Yahoo Group for updates or the home page of our website for further announcements.

Update on New National Archives Building

No reports of the construction progress has been reported on the new National Archives building on Homestretch Avenue since February. The new building is being built by the purchaser of the present building on Main Street.

In February, the Stabroek News stated: "After concerns had been expressed that the cultural centre would have been inappropriate for the temporary storage of archival material and of the potential damage, the planned move was shelved.



New building under construction

The ministry's release had said the provisional first move to a part of the National Cultural Centre was to protect the artefacts as construction was taking place next door at a privately-owned building which posed some risk to the archives collection. However, the National Archives has since remained open to the public and there is no evidence of construction taking place in the immediate vicinity, though the area has been fenced off.

Stabroek News reported in February 2006, that: "Some of the materials in the archives were previously housed in the dome of the Parliament Buildings for years after which they were moved to a small building near the Central Fire Station on Water Street, close to the Stabroek Market. They were later moved to the Main Street location, which formerly housed the Barclays Bank. Some were accommodated in quarters at the National Museum building.

Lots of materials in the National Museum building are reportedly threatened. Public records are also housed in such institutions as the Parliament, Lands and Surveys, Deeds Registry, Central Housing & Planning Authority and City Council. Some materials are also reported to be in individuals' private collections."

New Genealogy Resource Site Coming Soon

Paul Allen, the founder of Ancestry.com, is building a new site for worldwide genealogical records. His new site is at: <http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/> and is promised to be fully operational by July 3, 2006. Let's hope to see some South American records, and more specifically, some for Guyana in particular !

Guyanese on TV

CCH Pounder plays Detective Claudette Wymys on "The Shield", on the FX channel and was recently interviewed on PBS radio. She was born Carol Christine Hilaria Pounder in 1952 at Georgetown, British Guiana. Pounder was raised in Guyana, and schooled in Britain. She attended high school in England, and attended Hastings College of Arts in Sussex and also attended Ithica College in New York. She is the daughter of Ronald and Betsey Pounder and wife of anthropologist, Boubacar Kone.

Pounder has received three Emmy Award nominations over her career: in 1995 she was nominated in the category of Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Agent Lucy Kazdin in an episode of *The X-Files*, in 1997 she was nominated in the category of Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Dr. Angela Hicks on *ER*, and in 2005 she was nominated in the category of Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Detective Claudette Wymys on *The Shield*.



Contact Us?

The volunteers who prepare this newsletter and maintain the website are members contributing their time and talents. We can be reached via email at:

Email: Genealogy@yahoo.com

You are welcome to visit our website at:

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyggbs/index.htm>

We welcome your input and any contribution (article, data on your family, etc.)

To Hoard or to Toss?

As genealogists, we all struggle with the desire to keep even seemingly meaningless items but as space becomes a problem, our need for tidiness kicks in and out they go! We have all probably lamented the photos or mementos we wished we had kept and treasured anything our ancestors kept, such as old letters and school records.

It is just this struggle within us all that **Ian McDonald** so aptly described in his "Ian on Sunday" article in the Stabroek News on January 29th, 2006. His article is cited below in its entirety:

"Two impulses contend in me - one is to allow chaos to take hold and the other is to keep everything tidy and in good order.

On the whole the tidying impulse wins. Every so often I conduct a great clearing-up operation - put the books at home in neat categories, clear out my desk drawers in the office and study, fix papers and files in new and orderly-looking heaps.

When the tidying impulse overtakes me I take a special pleasure in destroying accumulated bits of paper and throwing out old newspapers and magazines. This can be exhilarating.

There comes a feeling of self-satisfied achievement in getting rid of a mass of useless rubbish that is gradually piling up and threatening to take over every nook and cranny in your living and working spaces. There is a good feeling of clearing the decks and starting again. It gives the semblance of the hope we all like to have of getting another chance to do better. It is a little bit like an athlete losing weight and feeling better.

And yet every time I tidy up and throw away there is a part of me that flinches as if I was catching myself in an act of vandalism. And indeed from a certain perspective it is vandalism. In the eye of history what will be considered rubbish? I remember that great Guyanese, Joel Benjamin, an outstanding archivist, bibliophile and human being, telling me that everything is grist to the historian's mill - that today's ephemera will be endlessly fascinating in another age. When I destroy last week's badly printed political pamphlet or a strange poem sent by an old man or old prospectuses for this venture or that, or even yesterday's invitation to a dinner party or the programme for the latest show at the Cultural Centre or exhibition at Castellani House, I sense Joel shaking his head in deep reproof. He praised the wonderful incapacity to throw away waste paper.

In London, a while ago, the truth in this was brought vividly home to me. I was browsing in a bookstore as more than anything I love to do when in a great city. It was a bookstore which specialized in antique books and memorabilia. As always I looked out for old Demerara volumes but found none on his occasion.

What I did find, and spent considerable time browsing over, were five facsimile volumes, published in 1987 by Boydell and Brewer in association with Cambridge University, of

the scrapbooks in which Samuel Pepys, the great English civil servant and diarist, pasted his vast and miscellaneous collection of popular songs of the day.

What a treasure trove! He was a compulsive hoarder. Nobody else in his time - not even the national archives or the great libraries - bothered to keep such trivia. So now the Pepys hoard is unique and priceless. He kept all the latest tunes and ballads and street songs like a squirrel gone mad, pasted them carefully into his notebooks, and lovingly annotated them. When Pepys died they were deposited with the rest of his papers in the Pepys Library at Magdalene College in Cambridge. There they lay for three centuries. Then a few years ago among the magpie hoard of papers and books and all the sundry scraps Pepys could never bear to throw away this particular goldmine of curious information in his scrapbooks was discovered by a Joel-like sort of person called Geoffrey Day. He also found that Pepys had kept more than 4,000 woodcuts illustrating the ballads in the popular art form of the day, a glorious addition to the already unique treasure.

Long ago they were just the latest pop tunes. Now for the political historian the ballads bring back to life popular attitudes to such diverse events as the execution of Walter Raleigh and the Glorious Revolution. For the special historian there are accounts of city life in vivid detail: murders, gin shops, midwives, juicy scandals, the Great Fire of London, the effects of plague, the fleeting gossip of the day. Students of literature will be interested in the full texts of the ballads from which Ophelia sings snatches in Hamlet. There is a whole volume of bawdy ballads, as one would expect of Pepys, fit to match our most lurid modern-day calypsos or rap songs; for instance, An Excellent Song about an Engagement between a French privateer and an English fireship which leaves very little to the imagination. The Happy Man or the Virgin Betrayed is illustrated by a beautiful but somewhat unsuitable woodcut of Adam and Eve.

To think that such intriguing documentation once was simply consigned to the rubbish bin in households of the day! Chaos, the patron saint of the untidy, at least made sure that one obsessed collector's detritus was preserved for future delectation.

Now I will think twice before I throw away anything at all. There are only two problems about this. Will my wife allow it? And, even if I succeed in this resolve, which archive in Guyana, please tell me, can be depended on to preserve my precious collection of ephemera for three centuries?

----- Ian McDonald for Stabroek News, 2006"

It is our understanding that Mr. Benjamin's bibliography is the only one ever attempted of published works regarding Guyana (or British Guiana).