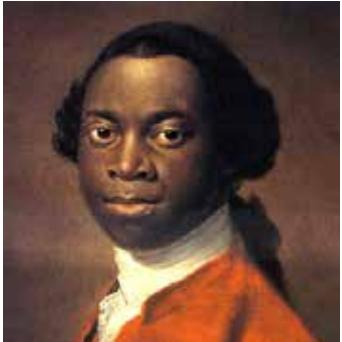


# **BLACK HISTORY** **IN BERMUDA**



**TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE**



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Bermuda National Trust is very grateful to the Bank of Bermuda Foundation for sponsoring this publication.

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*To protect and promote Bermuda's unique natural and cultural heritage for everyone, forever*

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## **Learning with the Bermuda National Trust Education Programme**

The Bermuda National Trust's teacher resources focus on nature reserves and historic homes owned and maintained by the Trust, offering comprehensive resources and creative learning experiences for visitors, teachers and students. We provide first-hand experiences that cannot be re-created in the classroom. Guided tours can be scheduled with a member of our education staff for preschool, primary, middle and senior level classes.

It is our hope that students will visit all the Trust properties, beginning at preschool or primary 1 - 2, and experience repeated visits throughout later primary, middle and senior years. Repeat visits help students build on their prior learning and develop a deeper understanding of the concepts and terms associated with each site. Senior students are encouraged to visit each site to learn about the care and preservation of nature reserves and historical homes. Opportunities are available for senior students to participate in our AIM Programme, allowing them to volunteer their time caring for Trust properties, which can be applied to required community service hours.



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# Field trips with the Bermuda National Trust

The Bermuda National Trust education team aims to promote and educate about Bermuda's cultural and natural history. We offer Stand-Alone Field Trips and Three-Part Learning experiences linked to the national curriculum, adult learning experiences, camps and teacher workshops.

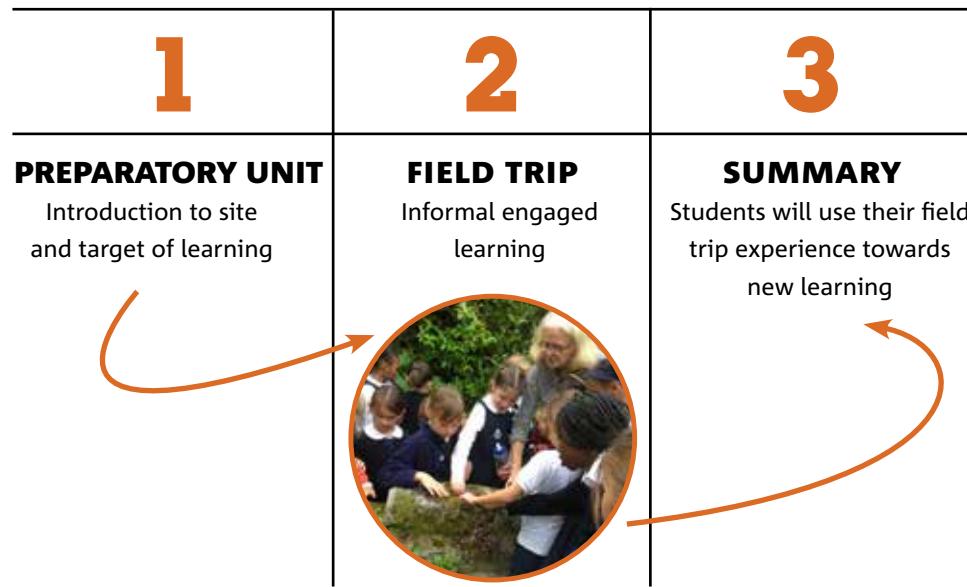
## Stand-alone Field Trips

The BNT education programme delivers engaging field trips to our historic sites and nature reserves. Students encounter and explore original items in an authentic setting. Culturally enriching field trips are offered at Waterville, Verdmont, the Globe Hotel and Tucker House where the past comes alive and students gain greater historical empathy and interest in Bermuda's people, diversity and culture.

Our nature reserves such as Spittal Pond, Paget Marsh, Somerset Long Bay and Vesey Nature Reserve provide the perfect settings for engaging and tangible science field trips. Here students can explore and learn in unique informal settings with the aim of gaining knowledge and appreciation of nature. All field trips include an element of environmental advocacy and explain the value of open space and the need for its protection.

## Three-Part Learning Experience

In addition to the Stand-Alone Field Trips we offer an introductory lessons, usually with a powerpoint presentation and a follow-up activity for students in the classroom.

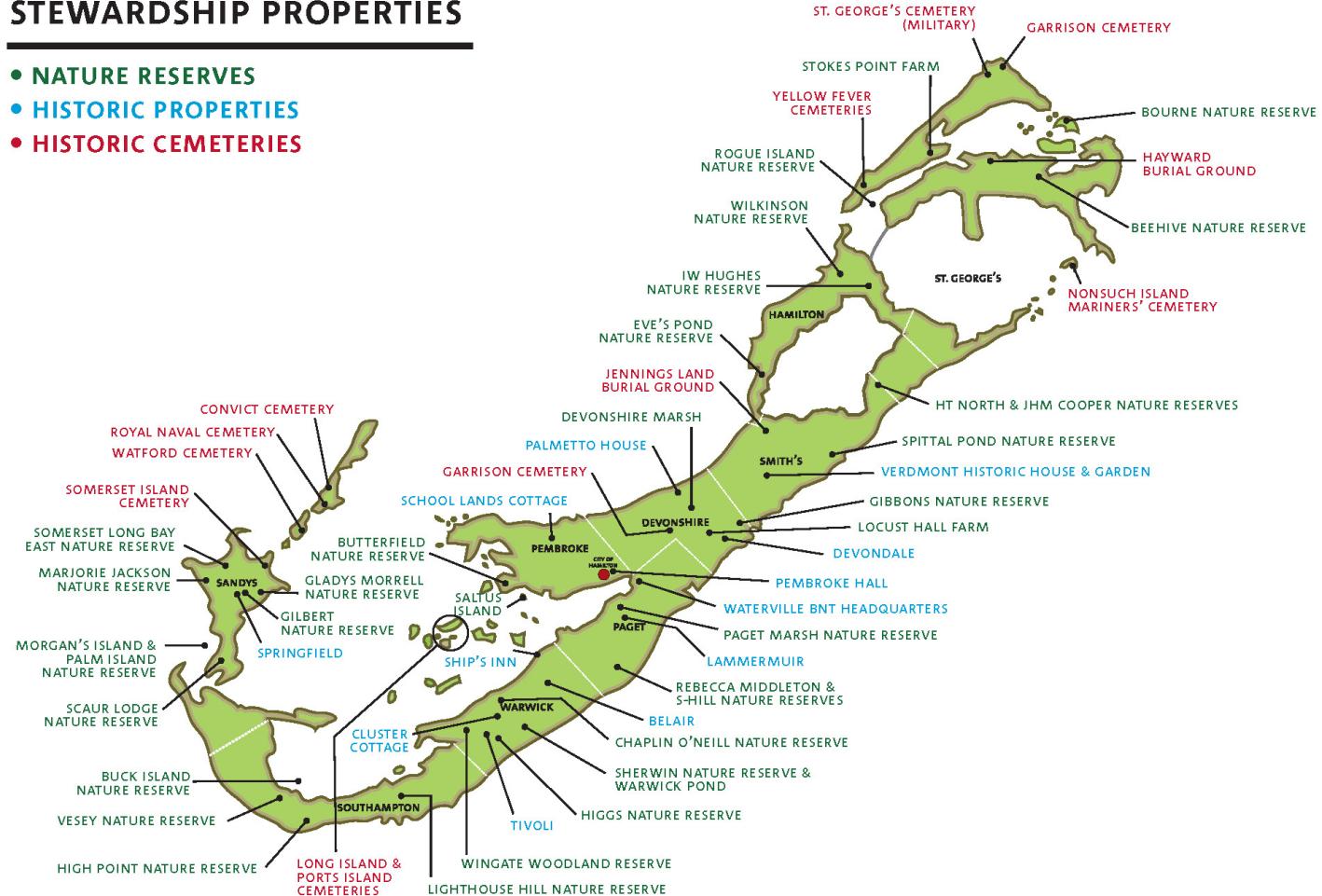


## Scheduling a field trip with us

To schedule a field trip with us, please complete the attached field trip booking form (see last page) and send it via email to [education@bnt.bm](mailto:education@bnt.bm). One of our education team members will be able to assist you within 24 hours. Please call with any questions at 236-6483.

# Bermuda National Trust STEWARDSHIP PROPERTIES

- NATURE RESERVES
- HISTORIC PROPERTIES
- HISTORIC CEMETERIES

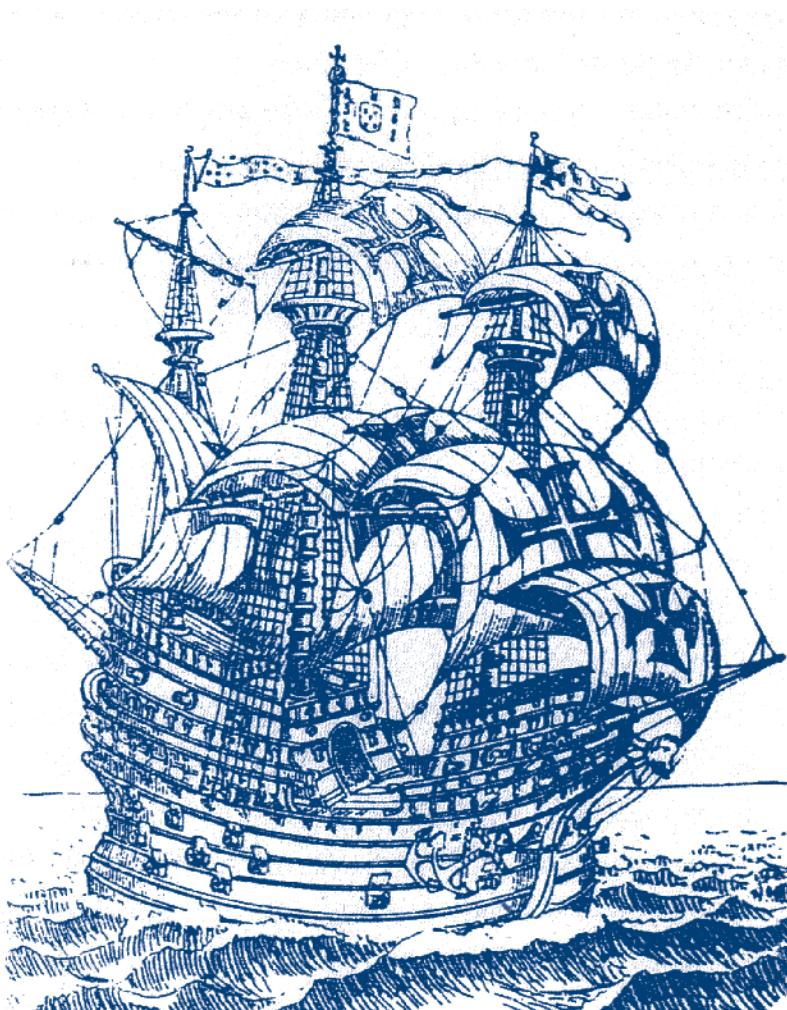


# **Introduction to this Resource Guide**

From the moment the first black and native American people arrived in Bermuda in the 17th century, their culture, heritage, language and stories became entwined with Bermuda's history and future. This guide aims to highlight the most important events and personalities to have left a mark on Bermuda's culture and history. The guide is linked to the Cambridge Curriculum and starts with the Age of Discovery (1505-1684) to be covered during the P4 and M2 classes. During P5 major events and personalities during the period 1700-1918 are covered and the period of 1920 to the present day is the focus of the section for P6 classes. Curriculum links provide background information for teaching and suggestions for activities. All subjects in this guide can be taught by our knowledgeable staff during our experiential learning field trips to Bermuda National Trust properties.

# 1505-1684

## From Discovery to the End of the Bermuda Company



Sixteenth century carrack



### FIELD TRIP Portuguese Rock

Visit Portuguese Rock at Spittal Pond and read letters from early visitors to the islands. Letters like Diego Ramirez's description of the Bermuda landscape, plants and animals.

Discuss how the early explorers travelled and navigated.

Write a diary entry for Venturilla. Imagine you are the only person to walk on the island, holding a lantern and being surrounded by seabirds. Students can also draw a sketch of Venturilla.

Discuss how the island's landscape, flora and fauna have changed.

### VOCABULARY

- Early world explorers
- Cahow
- Cedar tree
- Courage
- Carrack
- Adventure
- Exploration

## The First Black Man in Bermuda: The Story of Venturilla

As far as we know, Venturilla was the first black man to set foot on the islands of Bermuda. He was working on a Spanish ship commanded by Diego Ramirez in 1603 when it was shipwrecked on Bermuda. The crew needed wood for repairs and Ramirez sent Venturilla ashore to cut and bring back wood from a cedar tree. He rowed alone to the shore where he encountered incredible shrieks from sea birds, most likely cahows startled by the light of his lantern. Not knowing where these sounds were coming from he was terrified and was sure that the island must be full of devils.

# Indentured Servants

Shortly after Bermuda was settled in 1612, the first indentured servants were brought to Bermuda. Indentured servants were people who agreed to work for a set number of years (usually seven but varying from three to twelve) in exchange for paid passage to the island. They could not be sold or leased. Most indentured servants in Bermuda were poor white people who came from the British Isles and were enticed by the possibility of a better life. These servants were used as a cheap source of labour. On the expiry of their contracts, they were released from service and, in accordance with the normal practice at the time, were provided with tools and two suits of clothing by their former masters.

During these early years, black people living in Bermuda were not slaves but indentured servants. The first record of black indentured servitude we know of was under the leadership of Governor Daniel Tucker. He brought a Native American and a black man to Bermuda to work as pearl divers in 1616. Others followed, and there is evidence from letters of the time that there may have been a sizeable black population by 1621. These men were highly skilled and essential to the development of the island's early economy. Most came from the West Indies or were seized from Portuguese or Spanish ships (hence the fact that many had Spanish names). They worked as divers, or as planters and cultivators of tobacco and sugar cane, and their expert knowledge proved invaluable to the development of agriculture in Bermuda, as they were able to pass on their skills to other indentured servants.

However, life was not easy for indentured servants. In 1639, a Spaniard, Joan de Rivera y Saabedra, who was forced to stay on the island after the ship on which he was travelling ran aground off Bermuda, recorded these comments about the labour force:

*"Labour in the fields and in the farm houses is performed by boys, who are either orphans or who have been abandoned, and most of them, expecting betterment, have been brought to the island in ships that call here. They serve for ten years at a very miserable wage, which is paid in tobacco at the end of this term. They are clothed on the same mean scale, and thus live poorly and practically in a state of slavery. On completion of their time, however, they are freed; no force or violence is employed, a point to which much attention is given. There are also a few Blacks; some of them have landed from vessels wrecked here; others have been left here by the Dutch who captured them."*

In 1644, Captain William Jackson was reported to have arrived with a human cargo of several Indians and blacks and to have sold them as indentured servants. In addition, we know that a number of Pequot and other Indians were brought here.

Over the next few years the need for cheap labour in Bermuda increased dramatically. During the 17th century there was a vast expansion of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. It became far more profitable to own slaves than to use indentured servants, black or white. As such, Sir Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, brought in the first slaves to work on his plantations in Bermuda and Virginia. Over the next few years more and more slaves were brought on sailing ships, primarily from the Caribbean.



**Flatts Village with Bridge, 1835 (detail)**

By Thomas Driver

Watercolour on paper

# 1684-1835

## From Establishment of the Colony to Emancipation

### The Onset of Slavery

It is difficult to pinpoint a definite time for the emergence of slavery as an established feature of Bermudian life. During the colony's early years, the use of the word 'slave' as an identifiable label for Bermuda's black population servants was sporadic and infrequent and it was not until much later that the term entered the records as a permanent feature of colonial life. However, as the trans-Atlantic slave trade developed and boomed, the attitudes of many white Bermudians became increasingly hostile to their black counterparts. Blacks were progressively seen as sub-human when white islanders adopted an attitude of superiority that reflected the global expansion of western Europeans.

Although all indentured servants had the same legal status, in 1622, with Bermuda's population at approximately 1200, the Second Assembly had passed a special law aimed only at black people.

It was designed to, "*restrayne the insolencies of the Negroes*", as many white inhabitants had started to complain about the behaviour of blacks. They were accused of stealing livestock and crops, and of carrying concealed weapons. The result was a restrictive law that meant blacks could no longer trade in tobacco or any other goods without the permission of their masters and were prevented from participating in the lucrative Sunday ferrying of passengers between Coney Island and St. George's. It was the first law in the English language anywhere in the world specifically aimed at black people and it clearly indicated a shift in the political mindset of Bermuda's early leaders.

There is ample documentary evidence that demonstrates an escalation in this shift of mindset and the lowering of the status of black people living in Bermuda. For example, it was during the mid-1620s that some black people started

to be forcibly changed from indentured servants to life servitude (chattel slavery). This can be traced through bills of sale and indentures dating back to this time. These show how many blacks and Indians were locked in service for "fourscore and nineteen years" (99 years). However, some black people remained free throughout the period of slavery in Bermuda.

With an increase in the need for a workforce, the use of slaves in Bermuda became normalised. The earliest records show that black or Indian slaves sold for an average of £12. By 1650, the trade in slaves was well established, with records indicating the name, age, price paid, seller, purchaser and date of sale. Some of the work undertaken by female slaves included serving as domestic servants, field hands, cooks, concubines, washer-women and weavers. Male slaves could work as boatmen, carpenters, field hands, fishermen, gardeners, labourers and house servants.



COURTESY BERMUDA ARCHIVES, ELLIOTT COLLECTION

**Harrington Sound**, 1816, By Thomas Driver, Watercolour on paper

This painting shows a group of slaves at work on the edge of Harrington Sound at Devil's Hole in the far east of Smith's Parish.

## Follow the Diaspora Trail



## African Diaspora Heritage Trail

The Bermuda Department of Tourism and the international African Diaspora Heritage Trail created a trail linking sites, monuments and museums which reveal the history of the African Diaspora. These sites were officially designated as part of the transnational heritage tourism initiative formed in 2001 and part of the UNESCO Slave Route Project with the aim of protecting and educating the public about the heritage and culture of those belonging to the African Diaspora.

### Trail Sites in Bermuda:

- ① Commissioner's House, Dockyard
- ② Cobbs Hill Methodist Church, Warwick
- ③ Barr's Bay Park, Pembroke
- ④ Statue of Sally Bassett, City of Hamilton
- ⑤ Verdmont Historic House, Smith's
- ⑥ Jeffrey's Cave at Spittal Pond, Smith's
- ⑦ Gibbet Island, Smith's
- ⑧ Lost at Sea Memorial, St. David's
- ⑨ St. George's Historical Society Museum
- ⑩ St. Peter's Church, St. George's
- ⑪ Bermudian Heritage Museum, St. George's
- ⑫ Tucker House, St. George's
- ⑬ Pilot Darrell's Square, St. George's



### FIELD TRIP African Diaspora Heritage Trail

Have students study the sites of the African Diaspora Heritage Trail and have them choose a specific individual site to study.

### ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Students should visit the site of their choice, research and conduct interviews with experts if possible. The report about the site could be in the form of a written essay/article, video, photographic collage, song or poem.

### VOCABULARY

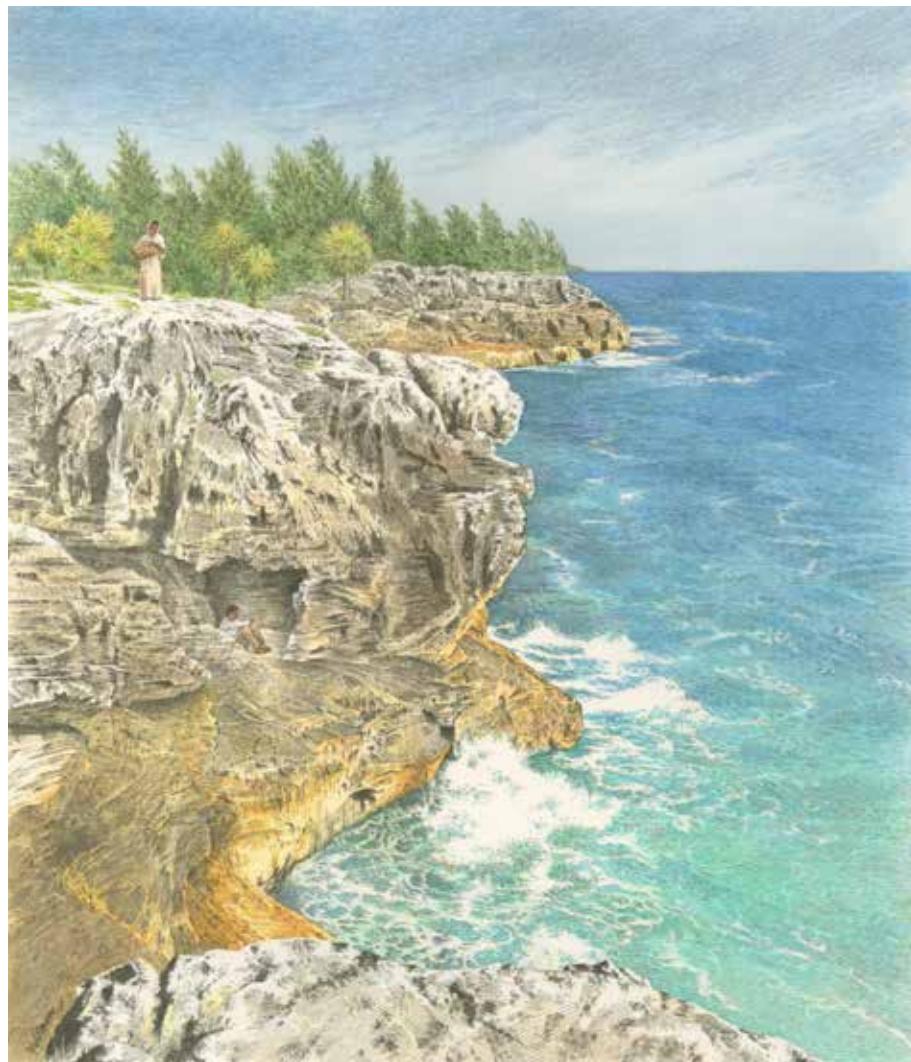
- Diaspora
- Transitional
- Heritage
- UNESCO
- Migration

# Jeffrey's Cave

At Spittal Pond, this small cavern open to the sea, and accessible from above, is called 'Jeffrey's Cave'. The name derives from a slave who escaped from his master and hid here for several weeks. The search was abandoned when it was believed he had escaped from Bermuda on a sailing ship. However, the master began to notice the mysterious behaviour of one of his female slaves who disappeared daily at sunset, always carrying a small package. He followed her through the woods to the cave in which they found the well-concealed Jeffrey.

Many slaves tried to run away from their masters. Rewards offered ran from \$20 for a runaway mason to \$2 for a boy. In spite of offers of rewards, slaves often helped their fellow slaves to hide and run away.

This site is part of the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Bermuda and an officially designated site under the transnational UNESCO Slave Route Project.



**Jeffrey's Cave**, 2016

By John Burgoyne

Ink and watercolour on paper

## FIELD TRIP

### Jeffrey's Cave at Spittal Pond

Visit Jeffrey's Cave at Spittal Pond and sit quietly by the cave. Read the story of Jeffrey from the book, *I Wish I Could Tell You*, by Lyn Joseph.

Ask the students what Jeffrey might have hoped for. Was he hoping to escape on a sailing ship? Was he able to swim? How else could he have made it to a ship?

Show students how to weave with Palmetto leaves. Jeffrey could have made a basket to catch fish on calm days.

## VOCABULARY

- Enslavement
- Cave
- Palmetto
- Stealth
- Limestone
- Hope
- Love
- Fear
- Loyalty
- Desperation

# Slave Revolts

Throughout Bermuda's history, there were a number of slave conspiracies focusing on freedom as the principal objective. They were always discovered in their infancy and before the onset of violence and bloodshed. The harsh and oppressive emergency reactions and legislation following the conspiracies underscored the terror and panic which spread throughout Bermuda when they were discovered. The records indicate that major revolts took place in 1656, 1661, 1673, 1682, 1730 and 1761. The poisoning plot of 1730 has attracted the most interest amongst historians.

# Emancipation



## The Slavery Abolition Act 1833

(3 & 4 Will 4 c. 73)

10. *An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies*  
(28th August 1833)

*The short title was given to this Act by the Short Titles Act 1896, Northern Ireland. This Act applies in so far as it applies to the United Kingdom as a whole.*

*(Whole Act, except s. 12, 13, 14 & S. 12. (2) & 1890)*

12. *A*fter 1st August 1834, all slaves in the British colonies shall be emancipated, and slavery shall be abolished throughout the British possessions abroad

14. *....All and every the persons who on the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four shall be helden in slavery within any such British colony as aforesaid, shall upon and from and after the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four become and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and forever manumitted; and ... the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and ... slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and forever abolished and declared unlawful throughout the British colonies, plantations, and possessions abroad.*

*9.L.S. (V.L. 37) — 24*

The slave trade was abolished by Great Britain in 1807 but it did not bring about an immediate end to the institution of slavery in the British colonies. In 1833, the British Government passed the Emancipation Act, which scheduled the abolition of slavery to take place in 1834 in all of the British colonies.

Like their counterparts in other British territories, Bermudian slave-owners were wary of the social and economic consequences of Emancipation. Several were worried that freedom would be accompanied by lawlessness and idleness and, in order to ensure elitist control in Bermuda, the property qualifications for voting in elections and becoming Parliamentary candidates were substantially increased.

There was also concern that the ex-slaves, removed from their former owners, would have difficulty adjusting to the economic pressures of freedom with its attendant obligations of caring for children, the aged, the infirm and the unemployed.

Much of the support the former slaves were destined to receive was of a random and unofficial nature – definitely not part of a preconceived comprehensive strategy to ease their financial burdens. For the most part, it appeared that they were to be dependent on their job skills and their limited resources, on whatever they managed to receive from their former owners and the parish vestries and on assistance from their fellow blacks and the Friendly Societies and Lodges which emerged after Emancipation.

# Brig *Enterprise*, February, 1835

The *Enterprise* was an American merchant vessel that shipped slaves along the Atlantic coast. However, Britain had abolished slavery throughout its Empire including in Bermuda a year earlier.

On February 11, 1835, bad weather forced the *Enterprise* into Hamilton. It carried 78 slaves in appalling conditions. The majority were free Americans who had been kidnapped into slavery. It became the centre of an international incident when the authorities freed nearly all the slaves.

Bermudian customs officers called a gunboat and Royal Navy officers to detain the ship when the captain of the *Enterprise* threatened to leave. Richard Tucker, the president of the Young Men's Friendly Institution, intervened and the slaves went before the Supreme Court to choose whether they would continue as slaves on the ship or remain in Bermuda as free persons. On February 18, from 9pm until midnight, the court heard each slave. Seventy two of the 78 slaves chose to go free. Only a woman named Matilda Ridgely with her five children chose to return to the United States. Some descendants of people on the *Enterprise* still live in Bermuda.

This case contributed to tensions arising between the US and the United Kingdom over the question of slavery, though in the 1853 Treaty of Claims the US and the UK agreed to settle a variety of claims on the freed slaves.



## ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Imagine you are a slave on the *Enterprise* on February 11, 1835. Write a short story about how you came to be there, and how you feel now as you are about to be freed. Don't forget to include the new facts you have learned.

### ***We Arrive***

By Chesley Trott

Barr's Bay Park

Collection of the City of Hamilton

# Cambridge Curriculum Links for P4 and M2

## 1505-1684: From Discovery to the End of the Bermuda Company

Curriculum Module Title	BNT Focus/Field Trip	BNT Field Trip Site
<b>SS.P4.C2b</b> Politics and Law: Early Governance (1505-1684) Early visitors	Field trip to Spittal Pond, Portuguese Rock. Students will listen to the story of Venturilla. They will also discuss how early explorers travelled and what Bermuda looked like when Venturilla stepped ashore. Reading of letters and diary entries from early visitors will complement the field trip.	Spittal Pond
<b>SS.P4.C1c, SS.P4.H4a</b> Politics and Law: Early Governance (1505-1684) Company to Colony	Field trip to Tucker House. Investigate Richard Norwood's map and learn about the Bermuda Company and the division of Bermuda into tribes and shares.  Talk about tobacco growing, agriculture and farming in general.	Tucker House
<b>MLD2A11</b> Bermuda's Geography	Field trip focusing on the how Bermuda's geography affected its discovery and early history.	Spittal Pond
<b>MDL2 C13 – C16</b> Enslavement and the Middle Passage	Field trip to Verdmont with discussion on the system and conditions of slavery, and comparison of slavery in Bermuda with slavery in the West Indies.	Verdmont
<b>MDL2 D17 - D20</b> Emancipation and changing status of blacks	Field trip to Verdmont with focus on Emancipation and its effect on Bermuda's society and the lives of the newly freed black community. The story of the brig <i>Enterprise</i> (February, 1835) is brought to life through role play and discussion.	Verdmont

# 1700-1918

## Development Under the Crown

### > Main Personalities and Events

#### Olaudah Equiano



Olaudah Equiano was born in 1745 and there are no records of his early years. In some accounts, he was born a freeman in what is now Southern Nigeria, and in others he was born in the Americas. However, all accounts agree that he was sold in Virginia to a Royal Navy officer at about the age of 11 and was renamed 'Gustavus Vassa'. He remained the slave of Lieutenant Michael Pascal for eight years, during which time he learned to read and write.

He was then sold to a ship's captain in London, and sold on to prominent merchant Robert King.

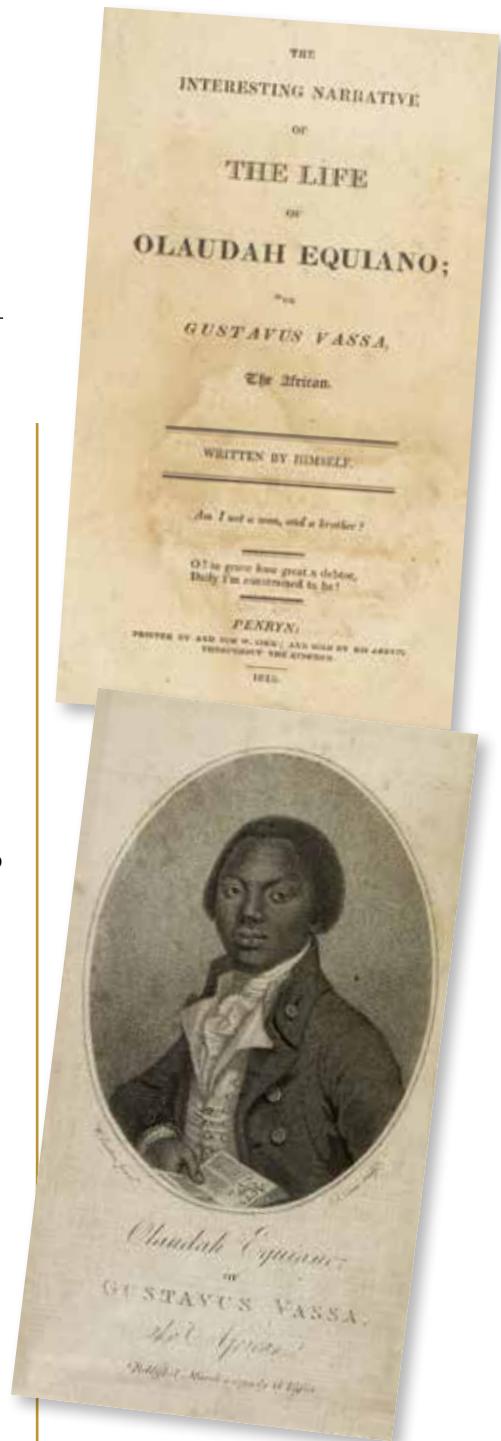
He worked as a deckhand, valet and barber. By trading on the side, he managed to earn enough money to buy his freedom in three years.

He spent most of the next 20 years travelling the world and even went to the Arctic. Due to his experience as a slave, he joined the abolitionist movement in 1786 in London, and became a prominent member of the 'Sons of Africa' (a group of 12 black men in the abolitionist movement). He also spent four years as a crew member aboard a Bermudian sloop in the West Indies.

In 1786 he published his autobiography, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*, which was one of the earliest books published by a black African author. Like Bermudian Mary Prince's narrative, Equiano's book was crucial in showing the immorality of slavery through a first person account. He resumed his travels to promote the book, which became very popular and advanced the abolitionist cause as well as making him a rich man.

In 1792, Equiano married an Englishwoman, Susanna Cullen, with whom he had two daughters – Joanna Vassa and Anna Maria Vassa. He died on March 31, 1797 at the age of 52.

*This book can be accessed for free on Google Books or at Gutenberg.org*



The title page and frontispiece from Equiano's 1786 book, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*.

## **Sarah 'Sally' Bassett**

Sarah 'Sally' Bassett is famous in Bermudian folklore for the alleged poisoning of her owners and was burned at the stake. Not much else is known about her; however it is known that she was an elderly mixed-race slave who had several children and grandchildren.

According to court records, Bassett, with her granddaughter Beck, allegedly poisoned a Sandys couple, Thomas and Sarah Foster, and their slave girl Nancy. She was said to have given Beck rags containing two poisons and the week before Christmas, 1729, she instructed Beck to put some of it over the kitchen door and the rest in their food. The household fell seriously ill, except for Sarah and Beck, casting suspicion on them both. The Fosters survived, though the fate of Nancy is unknown.

At her trial in June, Sarah Bassett was convicted of the poisoning and sentenced to death – the court decided to burn her alive. She is said to have been executed at the foot of Crow Lane, where crowds gathered to watch.

Two pieces of folklore surround her death: firstly a hot day became colloquially known as a "Sally Bassett day"; and secondly legends say that after Sarah's death a small purple flower was found in her ashes – now the national flower of Bermuda, the Bermudiana. Some claim that the flower was a symbol of her innocence. A statue of Sarah Bassett was officially commemorated by premier Dr. Ewart Brown on the grounds of the Cabinet Office on February 9, 2009.



***Sarah 'Sally' Bassett, 2009***

By Carlos Dowling  
Cabinet Building, Front Street  
Collection of the City of Hamilton

## FIELD TRIP Verdmont

Visit Verdmont with your students, study the Trott Return of Slaves and look at the items slaves would use while completing their daily chores in the house and garden. Have each student pick one of the slaves and write a short biography about him or her.

Talk about the names of the slaves and brainstorm with the students about the origin of the names. Ask the students what they think about how the slaves felt about their given names.

View the slavery artefacts at Verdmont and talk about the daily chores of slaves at the house.

Look at the architecture of Verdmont and the craftsmanship that went into the building of the house. The house was probably built by slaves. Highlight their skills and their craftsmanship.



An African Diaspora Trail marker at Verdmont.

## The Enslaved People of Verdmont



For more than 120 years, Verdmont was home to generations of men, women and children who had no choice but to live and work there. Probably the house was built by slaves. Alas, we do not know their names. We do, however, know the first names of later occupants from the inventories of several of Verdmont's owners. Bess, who cared for builder of Verdmont John Dickinson's sister Alice, is mentioned in his 1714 will where he made provision for her "accommodation ... so long as she continues serviceable in the family". More information, such as employment, age and country of origin can be found on the Returns and Registers of Slaves. The details were provided in 1833 by John Trott on behalf of his deceased father Samuel Trott. Tom, a mariner, probably worked at sea remitting the bulk of his wages to his master; Dick and Prince were listed as labourers and Nanny (or Nancy); Emma and Geoffrey as domestics, Geoffrey, who was five years old at the time of Emancipation on August 1, 1834, was probably the last person born into slavery at Verdmont. We do not know what happened to him. Did he stay on at Verdmont with his mother Nanny while she continued to work for wages? Or did they leave? And what surname did the family assume?

RETURN OF SLAVES made by John H. Trott for the Estate of Samuel Trott					
NAME	SEX	COLOR	EMPLOYMENT	AGE	COUNTY
Tom	Male	Black	Marinado	57	St. George's
Jack	Male	Black	Laborando	20	-
James	Male	Black	-	38	-
James	Female	Black	Domestic	26	-
Tomlin	Male	Black	-	62	-
Buffay	Male	Black	-	-	-

*I, John H. Trott, do swear that the Return was by me delivered to be Registered, contains a true, faithful and correct account and description of all the Slaves belonging to the Estate of Samuel Trott, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, to help me God. John H. Trott*

*Done before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833. John H. Trott*

The Estate of Thomas Smith Esq. of Verdmont.		
<i>Inventory of Slaves</i>		
2 Hauling Horses	25	-
2 small Pigs	2	-
2 small Dogs	10	-
1 Pid. Job	4	-
<i>Men.</i>		
Brachas	30	-
Samuel	75	-
Will at 60	75	-
Joe	90	-
<i>Women.</i>		
Bethel	35	-
Lucy	45	-
Lucy	45	-
<i>Boys.</i>		
Sam	35	-
Sam	35	-
Ray	25	-
Sam	25	-
Sam	45	-
<i>Girls.</i>		
Sam	25	-
Sam	25	-
<i>Cattle.</i>		
2 Horses	27	-
1 Bull	15	10
7 Cows	115	-
1 Cow	10	-
1 Calf	9	-

## Returns & Registers of Slaves

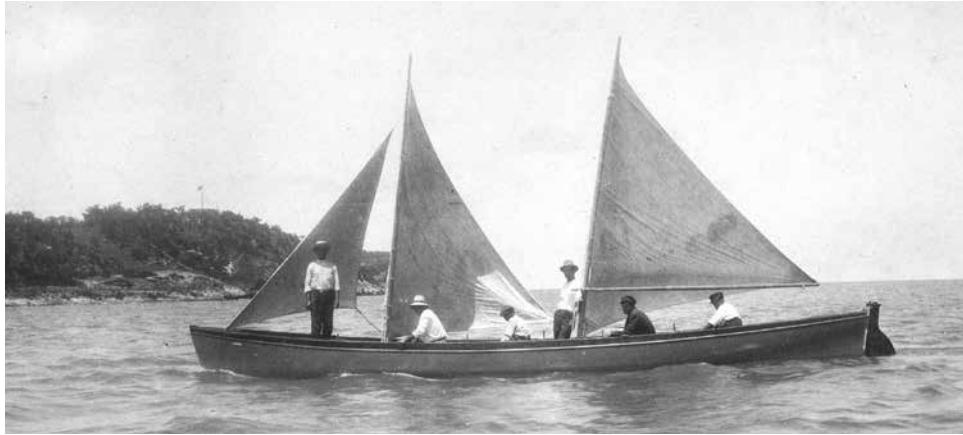
Following the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 Britain required its colonies to maintain Registers of Slaves in order to monitor slave ownership and stamp out slave trading. Bermuda submitted its first Register of Slaves in 1817 when slave owners, or their agents, were required to complete a Return of Slaves listing their slaves by name, sex, colour, employment, age and country of origin.

*top left:*  
Return of Slaves 1833/34 John H Trott agent for the Estate of Samuel Trott (deceased) October 15, 1833

## Inventories

An inventory is a complete list of items such as the contents of a house. One is sometimes made of the possessions of a deceased person to aid in the settlement of their estate. Old inventories, such as those found for some of the owners of Verdmont, provide a glimpse into the furnishings and the use of the rooms whilst a telling sign of those times was the listing of slaves alongside other possessions.

*bottom left:*  
Extract from the inventory of Thomas Smith December 17, 1782 which lists men, women and children.



COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF BERMUDA  
THOMAS M. DUROIS GODET PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

A pilot gig under sail, c. 1920

## Pilot James 'Jemmy' Darrell

James 'Jemmy' Darrell was a slave who belonged to Captain Francis Darrell of St. George's. When the captain died in 1793, Joseph Laborn became his new owner.

The same year, the British government bought land in Somerset that would become HM Dockyard, and in preparation for the construction of the docks a British surveyor, Lt. Thomas Hurd was sent to carry out a marine survey of the island.

James Darrell was among the slaves who assisted Hurd, probably because of his skill as a pilot and his great knowledge of the island's bays, inlets and coastline. Piloting was an occupation that blacks dominated in the 1700s.

While carrying out the survey, Hurd noticed several channels at the east end of the island that might allow naval ships to navigate the perilous reefs and enter the protected waters, and on May 17, 1795, Darrell manoeuvred the 74-gun ship HMS *Resolution* into what is now known as Murray's Anchorage. It was a task that required great skill, and he impressed everyone including Vice-Admiral Sir George Murray who requested that Darrell be made a free man.

The request was approved on December 1, 1795 and he was officially granted freedom on March 1, 1796. He became part of a thriving community of free blacks in St. George's, and earned a good living as King's Pilot. Darrell married twice, once fathering a son to an unnamed wife. The second time, he married Eusebia, and they had two children, Thomas and Joanah, and five grandchildren. He died at the age of 66 in 1815, and left his property to his family, whose descendants still own his home.



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*right:*  
A plaque in memory of Pilot James Darrell is located at St. Peter's Church in the graveyard for Free Blacks and Slaves in St. George's.

*left:*  
James Darrell's house on Aunt Peggy's Lane in St. George's.

# Mary Prince

Mary Prince was born about 1788 as a slave in Brackish Pond, Devonshire. She was sold to several abusive owners, including the Wood family of Antigua.

In Antigua in December 1826, she married Daniel James, a freed slave who worked as a carpenter and cooper. However, she was viciously beaten by her master for this act.

In 1828, she travelled to England with her owners, where she was able to run away and gain her freedom because slavery in England was illegal even though it was still allowed in the rest of the British Empire. However, she couldn't return to her husband in Antigua.

Prince campaigned against slavery with the Anti-Slavery Society and took employment with Thomas Pringle, an abolitionist writer and a secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society. She became the first black woman to present an anti-slavery petition to Parliament and her story, *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave*, was the first slave narrative written by a black woman.

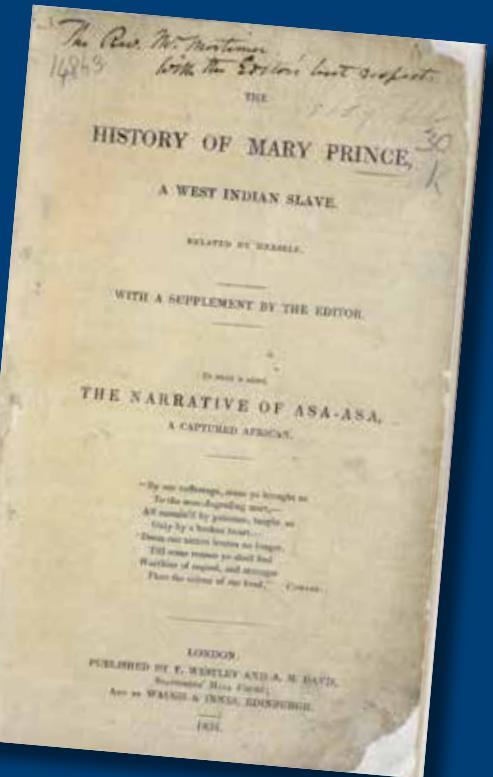
The book was crucial to the success of the abolitionist movement, making people in Britain aware that even though the slave trade had been made illegal, the horrors of slavery had not ended. First person narratives like Mary Prince's helped people understand the horrors of slavery.

Her description of her treatment in Bermuda where she was viciously beaten at School Lands Cottages in Pembroke, and in the Turks and Caicos Islands where she raked salt, show that although slavery in Bermuda was different from on the plantations in the West Indies, it was often inhumane and cruel.



## School Lands Cottage, Pembroke

This was formerly the home of Captain John Ingham and his family, and is located on St John's Road in Pembroke. Mary Prince's narrative describes how she was bought at auction in Hamilton by Captain Ingham and was later beaten terribly by him. Afterwards, she hid "under the steps of the piazza in front of the house". The residence is now owned by the Bermuda National Trust and is on a 99-year lease. The entrance to the property features a plaque commemorating Mary Prince's time there and her contribution to ending slavery.



The title page from *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave*, published in 1831.

## ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Imagine you are a part of the abolitionist movement. Write a letter to Parliament to help your cause and end slavery.

# Joseph Rainey



Joseph Rainey was born into slavery in Georgetown, South Carolina in 1832. His father, Edward Rainey, purchased freedom for his family and moved them to Charleston when Joseph was 14. There both father and son worked as barbers. Rainey's mother was of mixed race with French and African ancestors. In 1859 he married Susan who was from the West Indies and also of mixed race. They had three children: Joseph II, Herbert and Olivia.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the Confederacy drafted all free black men to construct fortifications around Charleston and Rainey

worked building walls and digging ditches. He also worked as a cook and steward on blockade-running ships and while doing so he and his wife fled to Bermuda and settled in St. George's.

Bermuda had abolished slavery in 1834 and was hospitable to the Raineys. They rented the detached kitchen at Tucker House where he set up a barbershop. His wife was a skilled dressmaker and was able to establish a business making dresses for the leading ladies of St. George's. At this time Tucker House was owned and occupied by Althea Harvey who inherited the house from her father, Benjamin Dickinson Harvey.

Rainey used the conversations with his clients to improve his education and knowledge about current affairs in Bermuda and the United States. On January 1, 1863 American President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, declaring slavery outlawed in all Confederate States which were still in a state of rebellion. However, slavery in the loyal border-states was untouched by this proclamation and slaves there had to endure almost another three years of bondage before they were freed. It was the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which finally outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude on December 6, 1865.

After the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Raineys took their savings from Bermuda and returned to Charleston. There Rainey became increasingly involved in politics and was well regarded within the community. In 1870, he was elected to the State Senate of South Carolina and later that year he became the first African American to serve in the US House of Representatives. In 1874, he became the first black man to preside over the House of Representatives. He was re-elected four times and served until March 1879 - a record length of service for a black Congressman only surpassed in the 1950s. During his term Rainey supported legislation promoting the civil rights of southern blacks and the economy of the south. He focused on the desegregation of schools and protection of blacks from action by the Ku-Klux Klan. He also advocated radical Republican Senator Charles Sumner's Civil Rights Bill of 1875 which outlawed racial discrimination on juries, in schools, on transportation and in public accommodation.

After Rainey retired from Congress in 1879, he was appointed a special agent of the US Treasury Department in South Carolina. He served two years and then went into business. Shortly before he died of congestive fever on August 1, 1887 he and his wife had opened a millinery shop in Georgetown.

## FIELD TRIP Tucker House

Visit Tucker House and talk about Joseph Rainey in the kitchen where his barber shop was located.

## ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Imagine you are Joseph Rainey returning to America after the Civil War. Write a short story describing your experiences in Bermuda and how America has changed.



Barber's Alley beside Tucker House is named for Rainey.



An African Diaspora Trail marker at Tucker House.

# Joseph Henry Thomas

COURTESY BERMUDA BIOGRAPHIES



Although slavery was abolished in 1834, many freed slaves faced great obstacles because of lack of access to education and lack of support for people in need. Joseph Henry Thomas, who was born before Emancipation, played a leading role in education and in establishing the Friendly Societies which helped people facing hard times.

Thomas first formed libraries and then, in 1846, when he was in his 20s, became the second headmaster of the Lane School, one of the first schools founded for newly freed slaves. He taught there for more than a decade.

He later founded a school, the Chester School, which was described by a visitor from London in *The Royal Gazette* as being comparable to the best schools in England.

Throughout his life, he fought for desegregated schools, and he was a supporter of an interracial school in Hamilton called St Paul's College which closed after three years due to opposition from whites.

In 1879, he was one of the group of six men who met at Wantley, the home of his son-in-law Samuel David Robinson on Princess Street, Hamilton, on October 6, 1879 to discuss the feasibility of establishing a high school that would be racially integrated. Five more men joined the original six at a second meeting on October 9 when the Berkeley Educational Society was formed with Mr. Thomas as chairman. It would take 18 years of effort, but in 1897 The Berkeley Institute opened. It continues to serve the Bermuda community to this day.

In 1859, Mr. Thomas became one of the first black Bermudians eligible to sit on a jury because he owned sufficient property. He was also instrumental in establishing Friendly Societies and what is now the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Bermuda.

Friendly Societies like the Oddfellows and Freemasons Lodges began in England during the Middle Ages and had a goal of self-improvement, in-house savings, helping people with finances for funerals and financial support for widows, orphans and others in need. After slavery ended, many newly freed slaves needed help. Through the efforts of Mr. Thomas and others, the Somers Pride of India Lodge opened in St George's in 1848. Thomas helped to found more lodges in Hamilton and Sandys.

In 1870, following a visit of Bishop Willis Nazrey to Bermuda that year, Mr. Thomas and several others instituted proceedings to establish the British Methodist Episcopal Church, the forerunner of the AME church.

Through schools, lodges and churches, Mr Thomas established institutions dedicated to helping black Bermudians take their rightful place in society. Many of these institutions still exist today and are his legacy.

## The Friendly Societies

On August 1, 1834 two Acts of Parliament came into effect in Bermuda. The first abolished slavery while the second gave blacks the same rights and freedoms as whites. However, nothing in these Acts provided resources for these newly free men and women, and nothing prevented them from being evicted from their previous owners' lands. Consequently, many blacks became trapped in a cycle of unemployment and poverty. After more than 200 years of enslavement, it is no surprise that although blacks had been made the legal equals of whites there was deep social and economic inequality between them.

The black community formed "Friendly Societies" to meet the needs of newly freed slaves. The first Friendly Society was formed in Pembroke in 1832, and by 1859 there were over 15 societies throughout the island. These societies had the goal of self-improvement and accumulating in-house savings to help those in need such as sick members, widows and orphans. They also raised funds to build black schools since Bermuda remained deeply segregated, with blacks barred from white schools. Joseph Henry Thomas, who was born before Emancipation, played a leading role in establishing the Friendly Societies and worked relentlessly for better education for Bermuda's blacks. Mr. Thomas also helped found lodges in St. George's, Hamilton and Sandys which still exist today. Although the government now does much more to assist people, the lodges continue to help those in need.



## Charles Ratteray

Born in Nassau, Bahamas in 1799, Charles Roach Ratteray was brought to Bermuda by his mother as an infant. When his mother died, he was raised in Somerset by two white spinsters who lavished him with love. He learned to read and write and was trained as a ship's carpenter.

Black Bermudians were well known before and after Emancipation as good sailors and carpenters who took part in shipbuilding.

Ratteray built scores of boats and ships in Bermuda. Two of the ships, *Morning Star* and *Rose of Sharon*, made many journeys to the American East Coast and the Caribbean, carrying onions and other vegetables grown on Bermuda's farms. *Rose of Sharon* was sold in 1855 for £3,000 – more than \$400,000 in today's money.

Mr Ratteray, who was also a dairy farmer and an undertaker, amassed an impressive amount of property during his lifetime. In 1859 he owned three houses and more than 26 acres of land. As a property owner he was one of the comparatively few black Bermudians who had the right to vote. He married twice and had eight children who survived to adulthood. Many of their descendants have contributed to the Bermuda community, serving in parliament and politics, religion and business.

Mr Ratteray is said to have turned to religion after he nearly died during a violent storm when sailing one of his ships in the Caribbean. He feared he was facing almost certain death and he promised the Lord he would dedicate the remainder of his days to Him if his life was spared. He then helped to secure the property on which the Wesley Methodist Church in Sandys was built and was responsible for much of the carpentry in the church, where he was also a preacher. He later helped to introduce what became the AME Church to Bermuda and his daughter Mary donated land for the construction of Allen Temple AME Church in Somerset.

He died on August 24, 1872 at his Somerset residence. An obituary in *The Royal Gazette* said that he came to Bermuda at an early age, became a ship's carpenter and "soon perfected himself in the art". He was also described as "an energetic, enterprising man and a Christian".

## Shipbuilding in Bermuda

Shipbuilding was important as Bermudians turned away from being an agricultural society to a seafaring society. By 1700 the Bermuda fleet consisted of 70 cedar ships and by the mid-1770s sloops were the vessels of choice for privateers and merchants throughout the Atlantic due to their speed and durability. This led to a thriving shipbuilding industry which saw as many as 100 ships being built annually and exported worldwide. Shipbuilders, carpenters, blacksmiths, merchants and sailors all profited from this and the industry provided island-wide economic growth. The Bermuda sloop was the most desirable ship to have in the 1700s and early 1800s. It had a long narrow hull, was built from durable Bermuda cedar and had one mast with a type of rig which allowed it to sail extremely fast and close to the wind. The sloop could be sailed with only four to six men.



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*A Bermudian Sloop with a view upon the Spanish Main, 1807 (Detail)*  
By Dominic Serres

## ACTIVITY

Discuss shipbuilding in Bermuda and its impact on Bermuda's economy.

# Eliza Lusher

Many people know of Britain's Florence Nightingale and Jamaica's Mary Seacole who nursed wounded British soldiers in the Crimean War.

But did you know that Bermuda had its own "Lady with the Lamp" who nursed victims of yellow fever – and applied for funds to join the nurses in the Crimea?

Eliza Lusher's story is one of bravery and tragedy – she nursed people with a highly contagious disease and probably died of it herself. Yet despite the support of powerful people, she did not get financial help when she asked for it.

Eliza Lusher was born a slave in 1819 and married John Henry Lusher in 1837. They had two daughters but Lusher died in 1852.

In 1853, when Bermuda was hit by an outbreak of yellow fever, Eliza went to the Dockyard and nursed the sick soldiers and sailors there. One of the patients, a Colonel, promised she would be paid for her work, but died before he could make good on his promise.

Two years later, after war between Britain and Russia broke out, she petitioned the British government to allow her to serve in the Crimea. The governor of the day, Colonel Murray, supported her request, stating: "This woman was very useful in attending the sick soldiers during the prevalence of yellow fever in this Colony in 1853 and bears an excellent character. She is most anxious that Government should furnish her with a passage to Turkey for this purpose and from what I can learn of her I believe her services would be extremely serviceable in such a capacity."

The British government replied the following month, declining her request, without explanation.

In 1856, yellow fever broke out again, and over several months Eliza Lusher nursed 85 people who had come down with the disease, treating them with her own medicines and supplies when they could not afford their own. Most of them recovered but many were poor and unable to pay her for her services.

She later presented a petition for financial assistance to Parliament, and explained that because she had been seriously ill herself, she was unable to apply for compensation earlier. However, in August, 1858, MPs turned down her petition by a vote of 13 to five.

Eliza Lusher died a year later, aged just 40. The cause of her death was unknown, but her exposure to yellow fever and the reference in her petition to becoming "seriously and dangerously ill" suggest that she may have contracted the disease herself.



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## ACTIVITY

1. Research the causes of yellow fever and why it had such a devastating effect.

2. Imagine you were a nurse in the 1850s. What treatments and medical equipment would you have compared to today? Name one major change in medical care between 1850 and now.

*Dockyard Looking from the Great Sound, 1856 (detail)*

By Edmund Gilling Hallewell  
Watercolour on paper

A view of Dockyard in 1856, the year Eliza Lusher was nursing people with yellow fever.



*right:*

**Roll-top Secretaire and Bookcase, c. 1810**  
By Samuel and Henry Smith  
Mahogany, brass, glass

*left:*

**Side Table, c. 1851**  
By John Henry Jackson  
Bird's-eye cedar

## Black Craftsmanship

Furniture from the Bermuda National Trust  
Collection made by Black Bermudians

Much of the best Bermuda cedar furniture was made between 1620 and 1750 when mahogany came into fashion. Cedar's durability and the ease with which it can be shaped made it perfect for Bermudian woodwork and furniture. The vast majority of Bermuda's early furniture, like its houses and ships, would have been made by slaves, who were known to be skilled shipwrights, masons, cabinet-makers and silversmiths.

The mahogany roll-top secretaire and bookcase (above right) is from the workshop of white Bermudian brothers Samuel (1766-1841) and Henry Smith (1770-1837) who are considered to be two of the most prominent cabinetmakers in Bermuda's history. They were assisted by their slaves Nokey and Augustus. Two other items at Tucker House which came from the Smith workshop are a mahogany desk and a mahogany chest of drawers.

At Verdmont, you can see the cedar side table (above left) made by black carpenter John Henry Jackson. It was entered in the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace in England in 1851.

### FIELD TRIP Tucker House

Visit Tucker House and identify the furniture made by the Smith brothers and Nokey and Augustus.

### FIELD TRIP Verdmont

Visit Verdmont and identify the cedar table made for the Great Exhibition.

### ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Find five reasons why Bermudian cabinet-makers would have used cedar for furniture. Explain why a ship builder would also have been good at building houses or making furniture.

# African and Native American Culture in Bermuda

## Gombey Dancing

Today, Gombey dance troupes can be seen performing all over Bermuda on public holidays, as well as at football matches, cricket matches and other occasions.

They never fail to attract a crowd as they dance energetically to the rhythms of the drums and the calls of the bottle whistles. Their costumes are covered with many-coloured tassels and they wear tall peacock feather hats, capes covered in pieces of mirror, and masks which hide their faces. The dancers are of all ages and children play an important role. In modern times the Gombneys are a celebrated part of Bermudian culture. This was not always the case.

The Gombey tradition had its roots in West Africa and took hold in Bermuda when black slaves were brought here from Africa via the Caribbean. The name "Gombey" comes from the Bantu word for "rhythm".

On Boxing Day and New Year's Day they would gather and dance. Their dances often told stories of cruelty by their masters and resistance to European control. It was a means of preserving some of their heritage when so much of it had been stripped from them. The practice was disapproved of by slave-owners and polite society, and so the masks and costumes allowed the slaves to hide their identity and avoid punishment. The disruptive power of Gombey dancing was such that there were even laws passed in the late 18th century banning it.

Although the Gombneys are similar to the Bahamian Goombay, they are unique to Bermuda and reflect our particular cultural mixture and history. The Gombey tradition was heavily influenced by the significant population of Native American slaves which existed in Bermuda. This can be seen in the dance style, the roles the performers play (e.g. the 'Chiefs' and the 'Warriors'), as well as in the hatchets, tomahawks and bows and arrows that the performers carry. Even Bermuda's British heritage is attested to in the British military inspired snare-drums. The dances retell Biblical stories as well as stories from African, Native American, British and West Indian lore.



### ACTIVITY

Have a member of a Gombey dance group visit your classroom. Discuss origin, dance style and costumes of dancers.

### ASSESSMENT INDICATOR

Design your own Gombey Costume. What do the colours, words and images on the cape mean?

**ACTIVITY**

# Bermuda Gombey Dancers

Colour in the Gombey picture.

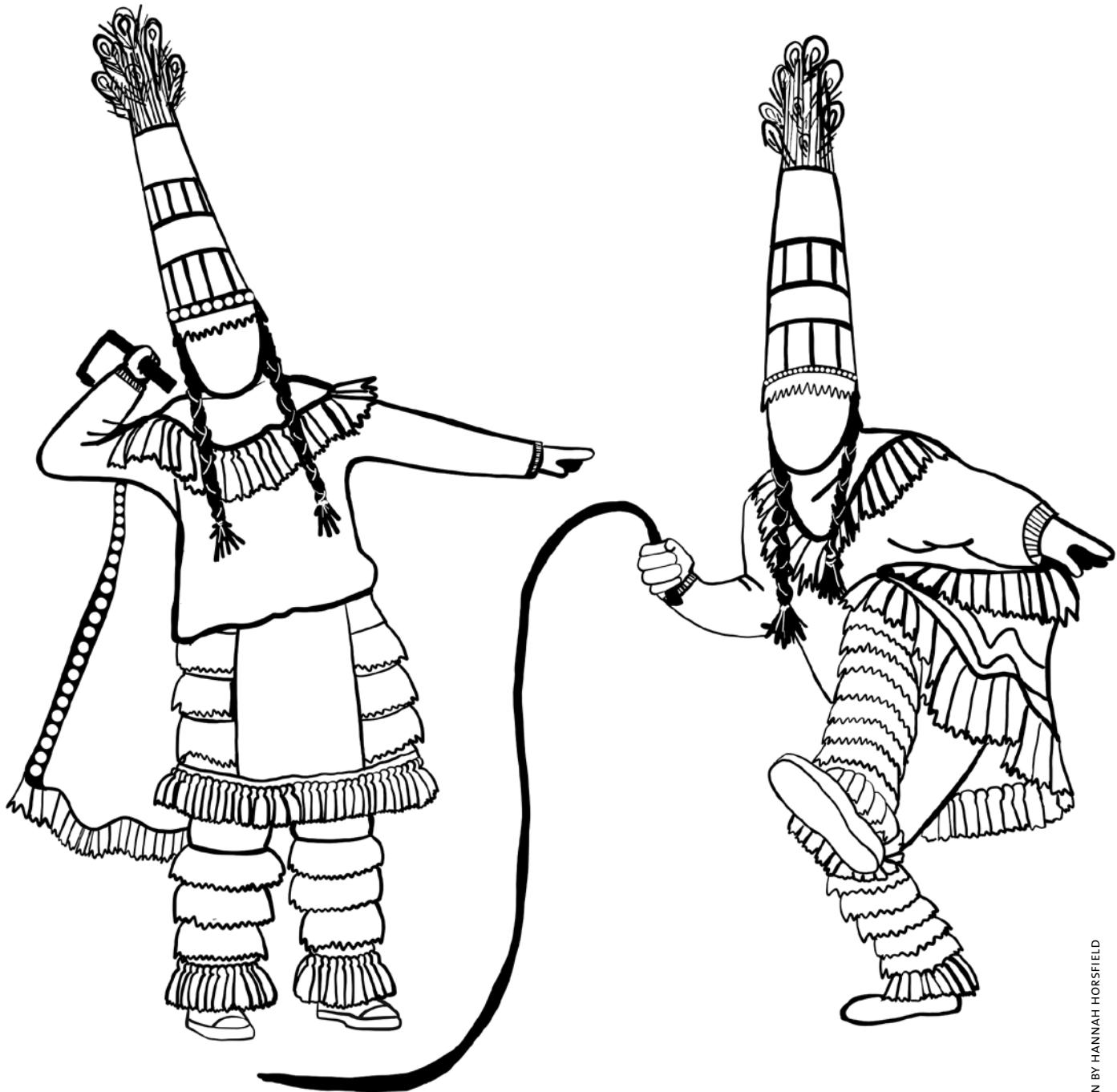


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH HORSFIELD

# Cambridge Curriculum Links for P5 Students

## 1700-1918 · Society and Culture - Development Under the Crown

Curriculum Module Title	BNT Focus/Field Trip	BNT Field Trip Site
<b>SS.P5.C2a I, II, III</b>  Politics and Law: Emancipation 1834 and changing status of black Bermudians	<b>Friendly Societies:</b> Field trip to Verdmont includes a tour of the house and talk about Emancipation and the period after Emancipation. The legacy of the Somers Pride of India Lodge founder <b>Joseph Henry Thomas</b> will be introduced. Thomas played a leading role in education and in establishing Friendly Societies.  Role play skit will help students to understand the political and social situation of the time.	Verdmont
<b>SS.P5.C2a I, II, III</b>  Politics and Law: Emancipation 1834 and changing status of black Bermudians	The story of the brig <b>Enterprise</b> (February, 1835) is brought to life in a field trip to Verdmont. The collections in this historic house feature the fine works of black <b>carpenters and furniture makers</b> in Bermuda, including John Henry Jackson's bird's eye table at Verdmont.	Verdmont
<b>SS.P5.E1a,b</b> <b>SS.P5.G2a</b> <b>SS.P5.C2b I,II</b>  Politics and Law: Governance under the Crown 1684-1918	<b>Bermuda's Political Symbols and Personalities:</b> View slavery artefacts at Verdmont and write a diary entry from the point of view of a slave.  Students will learn about the slave and abolitionist Mary Prince through a partner skit 'Meet Mary Prince' and excerpts from her writing.  Students will study the enslaved people of Verdmont, their names, origin and professions.  Learn about African and native American culture in Bermuda including Gombey dancing.	Verdmont
<b>SS.P5E3a II</b>  Economy & Technology – Development under the Crown 1684-1918  Main economies in Bermuda: ship building, whaling and piloting	Field trips at BNT sites with a focus on ship building, whaling and piloting. Students will learn about black pilot <b>James 'Jemmy' Darrell</b> in a partner skit 'Meet Pilot Jemmy Darrell'.  Learn about master shipbuilder and preacher <b>Charles Roach Ratteray</b> (born 1799).	Waterville
<b>SS.P5E1b</b> <b>SS.P5.G2a</b>  Economy & Technology Development under the Crown 1684-1918	<b>Bermuda's Global Connections:</b> Visit the Globe Hotel's Blockade Runner Exhibit explaining Bermuda's role during the <b>American Civil War</b> (1861-65).  Learn about <b>Joseph Hayne Rainey</b> at Tucker House though a partner skit 'The Barber and the Dressmaker'.  Understand the impact of <b>Yellow Fever</b> outbreaks and hear the story of a Bermudian nurse.	Globe Hotel & Tucker House

# 1920 - Present

## > The Road to Democracy

### The Suffrage Movement 1900-1944

Progress towards full democracy in Bermuda was slow in the first part of the 20th century. But beneath the surface, pressure for change was building.

Women's Suffrage took centre stage for much of the first half of the century. After the failure of female suffrage in the 1890s, little happened until Gladys Misick Morrell returned to Bermuda after the First World War and, inspired by Britain's suffragettes, formed the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society and began the campaign for female suffrage.

The campaign would take 20 years and repeated rejections. The most effective means of protest was the refusal of women property owners, including Morrell, to pay their parish taxes. Their furniture would then be seized and auctioned to pay the debt. This became an annual ritual and helped to publicise the cause of women's suffrage.

Nonetheless, women's suffrage bills were moved and defeated throughout the 1930s. In 1944, following an election, Sir Henry Tucker brought a new bill, which was carried 20 to 14. The service that women had given to the Second World War effort helped to swing the vote, as did the vote of Dr. Eustace Cann (pictured), who, like most black MCPs, had previously opposed the change, mainly because it entrenched the property vote.

He said: *"When one speaks about keeping the vote from women on the basis of sex, one must also think about keeping certain people from getting jobs because of the colour of their skin ... I shall vote for this measure today because I hate to see any group enslaved by the power of others and refused their legitimate rights. I call on all Assemblymen to consider these matters that would grant to others the same privileges now proposed for the Suffrage Society."*

Four years later, Hilda Aitken and Edna Watson became the first women elected to the House of Assembly.



COURTESY THE BERMUDIAN MAGAZINE



COURTESY DR. JOHN CANN

Dr. Eustace Cann

Outside the Somerset Police Station after Gladys Morrell's furniture was put up for auction for non-payment of taxes.

# The Labour Movement & Human Rights Petition 1944-1954

Until 1944, workers' rights and labour standards in Bermuda were virtually non-existent. Segregation was in place and blacks, who comprised most of the labour force, were often not listened to by those in power. In 1944, the Bermuda Workers Association was formed by a group of workers at the US Naval Base in Southampton when they had had their pay cut. They chose Dr. Edgar Fitzgerald Gordon, who had a reputation for taking on the white establishment, as their first president. The goals of the BWA were achieving trade union recognition, ending racial segregation, and achieving universal adult suffrage.

In 1946, Dr. E. F. Gordon travelled to England to present a Human Rights petition from the BWA to the British Colonial Secretary. This petition called for the British government to investigate Bermuda's human rights record, particularly the poor treatment of black and working-class Bermudians. The Colonial Secretary responded with strong recommendations for positive changes to the colony's discriminatory laws. One result of the petition was the introduction of free primary school education, which came about following the passage of a law in 1949.

Due to a new law banning a labour union from participating in political activities, the BWA established the Bermuda Industrial Union in 1947. It continues to be Bermuda's largest trade union to this day.

Pressure for change continued to build in the 1950s. In 1953, a record nine black Bermudians were elected to the House of Assembly, leading to the formation of an Inter-Racial Committee which would investigate racial problems. Sir Henry Tucker chaired the committee, and Dr. Gordon was one of only four blacks appointed to the committee. The report, released in 1954, made few concessions to blacks, but did end racial discrimination in Government employment.



COURTESY THE BERMUDA INDUSTRIAL UNION

Bermuda Workers Association supporters on the grounds of the House of Assembly in 1948 during the debate of a White Paper, that was sparked by the BWA petition.



COURTESY THE BERMUDA INDUSTRIAL UNION

*Left to right, front row: BWA founder Gerald Brangman, Trew Wright Robinson, member of the BWA executive, and Dr. E.F. Gordon during the 1948 demonstration.*

# Rapid Change: 1959-1968

Until the late 1950s, Bermuda operated under a system of rigid segregation, meaning that black and white Bermudians led separate lives at least in public. They went to different schools, blacks were unable to work in many places, including banks and many offices, and could not work in managerial roles in Government or elsewhere. Blacks were also barred from many hotels and restaurants and the theatres had different seating areas for whites and blacks. Sports teams and private clubs were also segregated.

This system meant black Bermudians were deprived of many opportunities, economic and otherwise, open to whites, and while Bermuda's electoral system was not segregated, property requirements for voting and running for office meant that a much greater proportion of whites was able to participate in politics and the leadership of the island. The electoral system was also weighted towards the wealthy, who were predominantly white, because property owners could vote in each of the parishes in which they owned land.

The largely white leadership of the island argued that segregation was necessary because Bermuda's tourism trade was mostly made up of Americans who wanted segregation. Nonetheless, through the 1950s, pressure continued to build for change, albeit slowly.

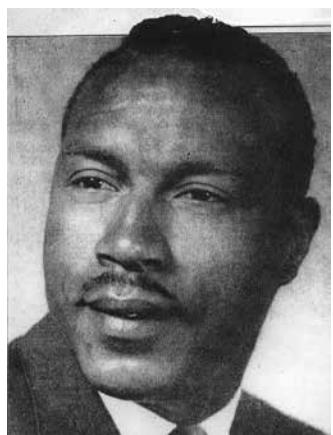
## The Theatre Boycott

Then, starting in June 1959, the system collapsed remarkably quickly. It began when a group of anonymous young black Bermudians called the Progressive Group launched the Theatre Boycott to end segregation in the movie theatres. Until then, blacks could only sit downstairs, while cinemas usually had an upper balcony where only whites could sit.

The boycott lasted two weeks, by which time all of Bermuda's theatres were closed and large crowds gathered outside them each night to hear people speak out on why segregation was wrong. Before the theatres re-opened, Bermuda's hotels and restaurants had announced they had ended segregation and when the theatres did re-open there were no longer any restrictions.

A year later, encouraged by the success of the Theatre Boycott, a group of former Howard Academy students formed the Committee for Universal Adult Suffrage (CUAS), under the leadership of Roosevelt Brown. The CUAS held meetings throughout Bermuda between May and November 1960. When the meetings began, most members of the House of Assembly opposed widening the franchise. By November, a majority had changed their minds.

In June 1961, Mr. Wesley LeRoy Tucker steered the Franchise Bill, establishing the principle of Adult Universal Suffrage, through the House of Assembly. Eighteen months later, the final version of the Franchise Bill was passed into law. It gave one vote to all Bermudians aged 25 or over. It divided Bermuda into two constituencies per parish, each represented by two MPs, for a total of 36 seats. However, owners of property over a certain value retained a "plus vote" in the constituencies in which they lived, meaning property owners still had an advantage over ordinary voters.



Roosevelt Brown



Miss Carol Hill and Mrs. Georgine Hill protest segregation at the Bermudiana Theatre, which denied entrance to blacks to watch repertory theatre in 1951. The successful protest was a precursor to the movie theatre boycott in 1959. The 1959 boycott is commemorated by the sculpture *When Voices Rise* shown below and unveiled in 2009 in Wesley Park – where nightly protest meetings took place until segregation in movie theatres ended.

The advent of universal adult suffrage also brought about the other great change in Bermuda politics – party politics. Before 1963, all members of parliament were independents. In that year, the Progressive Labour Party was formed, partly out of recognition that the changes to the franchise were going to require a new kind of leadership. The new party contested the May 1963 election, and six MPs were elected under the PLP banner, while another five black MPs were also elected – a record number.

In response, in August 1964 the United Bermuda Party was formed under the leadership of Sir Henry Tucker.

Although Bermuda was moving to a modern constitutional system, it was not there yet. In 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London. The majority report provided for universal adult suffrage for all Bermudians aged 21 or over, 20 dual-seat constituencies, and Bermuda's first constitution. A minority report signed by the PLP differed widely from the report and most fundamentally, called for 36 single-seat constituencies.

In 1968, the Bermuda Constitution Order 1968 was passed. The plus vote was abolished and the principle of one person, one vote was fully established. The constitution also established basic civil rights for all.

On May 22, 1968 the first general election held under the new Bermuda constitution was held. The United Bermuda Party won 30 seats and the PLP 10.



***When Voices Rise***, 2009

By Chesley Trott

# Civil Unrest 1960s-1980s

Although Bermuda made rapid political progress in the 1960s and 1970s, the period was punctuated by periods of confrontation and violence, in part because the rapid movement to equal rights in politics and the workplace was not mirrored economically. Party politics were often adversarial and there were confrontations across the bargaining table as industrial relations evolved.

The Bermuda Industrial Union's power had grown considerably and they fought hard to bring about higher wages and more benefits for workers, particularly in the 1970s when inflation increased rapidly. Tension came close to boiling over on several occasions. It finally erupted in 1965 when picketing BELCO workers clashed with police. The incident left 17 officers injured, with one beaten unconscious.

Tensions rooted in racial disparity sometimes manifested in rioting and violence during this period. In 1968, on the evening of the Floral Pageant parade, rioters ravaged Hamilton setting fire to store-fronts and overturning cars. Bermuda called its first ever state of emergency and invoked a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The anger and frustration caused by generations of oppression and inequality had burst through to the surface.

A second state of emergency was invoked in 1973. On March 11th of that year Governor Sir Richard Sharples and his aide Captain Hugh Sayers were assassinated in the gardens of Government House. Six months earlier, Police Commissioner George Duckett had been slain. Then came a wave of armed robberies, including one at the Shopping Centre in which two employees were shot dead. The prime suspect in the Duckett murder was Erskine Durrant "Buck" Burrows. In 1976 Burrows and Larry Tacklyn went on trial for the Government House murders, in which Burrows was convicted and Tacklyn acquitted. However, Burrows and Tacklyn were both found guilty of the Shopping Centre murders and sentenced to be hanged. In 1977 Dame Lois Browne-Evans led a campaign to spare her clients Burrows and Tacklyn from hanging, but it was unsuccessful.

The deaths of Burrows and Tacklyn set off a wave of riots as many black Bermudians saw the hangings as symbolic of years of continuing racial disparities. In the wake of this upheaval, Britain appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Lord Pitt, to investigate racially-divided Bermuda's fundamental underlying problems. The Pitt Commission held two months of hearings, and found that the riots were caused largely by unequal economic opportunities for blacks in Bermuda. The riots along with the Commission's findings laid bare that Bermuda continued to have a race problem despite the progress that had been made. However, out of this turbulent period came the acknowledgement that blacks and whites needed to have more open discussions about race and that they must work together to heal Bermuda's social ills.

Workers' frustrations continued throughout the 1970s and strikes were common. This came to a head in 1981 when the BIU called a general strike with the aim of pressuring employers to increase wages. The 1981 General Strike shut down industry all over the island and virtually wiped out tourism for that year. However, it resulted in wage increases as well as the first Labour Day public holiday in 1982.

## Further Electoral Developments 1989-2003

### 1980

The Human Rights Act was passed, outlawing discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age and other differences.

### 1989

The voting age was lowered to 18.

### 1998

The Progressive Labour Party defeated the United Bermuda Party and became the Government for the first time.

### 2003

A General Election was held under a revised format of 36 single-seat constituencies, configured in accordance with natural, as opposed to parish, boundaries.

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## Theatre Boycott Skit

Edouard, Rosalind, Clifford and Marva and others on stage. Enter Stanley, looking upset.

**Edouard:** Hello friend, what's wrong? Why did you ask us all to gather here today?

**Stanley:** Last weekend I tried to take my wife to a hotel for our anniversary, but they turned us away! When I asked why, they said it's because the tourists don't like coloured people – but I think it's because the owners of the hotel don't! So, I had to tell my wife 'sorry' and take her back home. I was so angry, but there was nothing I could do about it.

**Rosalind:** Sheesh. I know how you feel. Whenever Ed and I take the kids to the theatre they ask "Mommy, Mommy, can we watch from the balcony?" I'd be happy to pay the extra shilling to sit up there and see the excitement on their faces, but I have to tell them "No, sorry, only white folks can sit up there." And when they ask why, man is it hard to explain! So, I usually end up telling them "That's just the way it is."

**Stanley:** But that shouldn't be the way it is! And that's not how it is everywhere. When I was at university in Canada I realized that they didn't have any of this nonsense going on there and neither should we!

**Clifford:** You're right. It's high time that something be done about segregation in Bermuda. Although some whites have empathy for us blacks, the ones in power are never going to change their ways out of the goodness of their hearts or because it is the right thing to do. We need to hit them where it hurts, right in their wallets!

**Marva:** Exactly! That reminds me of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott, when blacks stopped riding the buses because of racist treatment. Blacks made up three quarters of the riders and when they all banded together and refused to ride the buses the bus companies really suffered economically. There is power in unity.

**Stanley:** (Jumps up) That's it! Most of the customers at Bermuda's theatres are black. If we could convince the black community to boycott the theatres, the theatres would lose a LOT of money. Then they'll have to give in to our demands for equal treatment! Who's with me?

**Rosalind, Clifford & Marva:** We are!

**Edouard:** I'm with you all the way Stan, but on two conditions. Firstly, we must remain anonymous, so that we are not attacked personally. And secondly, our protest MUST be non-violent. Violence only brings more violence. That is the only way we can build a better more progressive Bermuda. (All nod in agreement)

**Stanley:** We will call ourselves the Progressive Group then! And our boycott of the theatres will begin on June 15th this summer, 1959. (Exit)

(Enter Kingsley Tweed, the Progressive Group, and other protestors.)

**Protestor 1 & 2:** (Marching and chanting) Our skin is black, but our money's still green! Our skin is black, but our money's still green!

**Protestor 3 & 4:** Equal rights for all! End segregation in Bermuda!

(Enter Cinema Boss Jim Pearman and Movie Theatre Employee)

**Jim:** (Fuming) Look at these... these... hoodlums! They think they can disrupt my business? They're like a storm in a teacup. I don't need their money.

**Employee:** Don't sweat it boss, I'll give them three days. People love the movies too much to stay away.

**Kingsley:** (Loud and with passion) A storm is a tornado, a hurricane, a typhoon and a forest fire, all wrapped up into one. Now that's a storm – and you can't fit that into a teacup! (Crowd Cheers)

(Five days later)

**Marva:** I read in the paper that because of our protest many hotels have just announced they will begin to accept all customers without discrimination.

**Clifford:** The Anglican Church said it would end their practices of discrimination as well!

**Stanley:** It seems like this protest is showing people that the black community has its own kind of power!

(Five more days later, enter Jim and Employee)

**Protestor 1 & 2:** (Marching and chanting) Our skin is black, but our money's still green! Our skin is black, but our money's still green!

**Protestor 3 & 4:** Equal rights for all! End segregation in Bermuda!

**Employee:** I can't believe they're still here.

**Jim:** (Walks over to Kingsley) It's hard to admit it, but you've got me beat fair and square. I'd like to ask for a truce.

**Kingsley:** Do you acknowledge black folks as your equal and promise them equal treatment at all your theatres?

**Jim:** I do. (Jim and Kingsley shake hands)

**Kingsley:** Hurrah! A new day has dawned in Bermuda. (Crowd cheers)

**Edouard:** (Grinning) So, Stan, are you happy?

**Stanley:** I'm ecstatic! But now we need to talk about how we're going to get voting rights for all Bermudians...

# Major Personalities

## > The Importance of Their Deeds Then and Now

### Nurse Alice Scott • (1887-1968)

Like many Bermudians of her era, Nurse Alice Scott was a ‘woman of all seasons’, leaving her mark on nursing, education, politics and sports. Born and raised in Sandys, she was one of ten children, six of whom survived to adulthood. In 1912, she became the second Bermudian to graduate as a nurse from Lincoln Hospital in New York City.

At that time, black nurses were not allowed to work in Bermuda’s public hospital, so Scott worked first as a private nurse and then established the Shady Rest Home at her family homestead in Sandys which she ran for 40 years.

In the 1920s, she became “obsessed” with the idea of establishing a high school in the west end. Although it took some time, in 1927 Sandys Secondary School opened with six students and although it struggled for several years after that it continues today as Sandys Secondary Middle School and has produced many fine graduates.

Scott was a sports enthusiast and especially loved tennis. Because many tennis courts did not allow black players to use them, Scott built her own tennis courts at her home and founded the Shady Rest Tennis Club. She was a founding member of Somers Isle Lawn Tennis Club and played in overseas tennis tournaments.

While black Bermudians in the first half of the 20th century were refused many of the rights we take for granted today, women, black and white, were also denied opportunities in politics, education and many other activities. Scott was one of the few black members of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society led by Gladys Misick Morrell. Perhaps because they both played tennis and lived in Sandys, Scott and Mrs Morrell became friends.

After women were granted the vote in 1944, Scott became one of the first four women to run for the House of Assembly and she was supported by Mrs Morrell. She was therefore one of the first two black woman to run for Parliament, although she was unsuccessful.

Her contributions to the community were recognised in 1954 when she received the British Empire Medal. She is also remembered at Sandys Secondary Middle School where Scott House is named after her.

By breaking down barriers in education, sports and politics, Nurse Alice Scott is an inspiration and role model for those who have followed her.



COURTESY BERMUDA BIOGRAPHIES

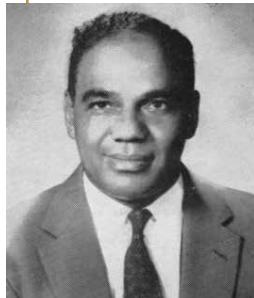
## Frederick Shirley Furbert • (1911-1975)

**F.S. Furbert was the first Bermudian principal of The Berkeley Institute, the main high school for black Bermudians during segregation. He was appointed in 1943 and was principal for 28 years. A Berkeley graduate himself, he attended the University of London, Oxford and the Sorbonne in Paris to gain degrees in education.**

Furbert dispelled the myth that teachers, especially head teachers, had to be imported from outside Bermuda. When he became principal, he promised not to do great things, but to do the small things that lead to greatness.

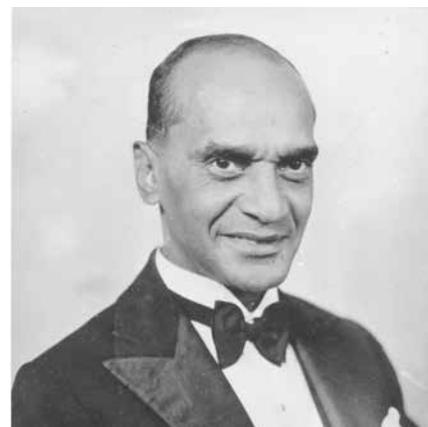
He hoped to bridge the gap between the races. However, The Berkeley Institute student body was not integrated. White students were welcomed at The Berkeley Institute, but white parents were not interested.

Furbert was key in the school's expansion. Student enrollment almost doubled under him and eight new properties were acquired, enabling the school's physical plant to be increased. After he retired from the school, he earned a Master's Degree in French and joined the Ministry of Education.



COURTESY BERKELEY INSTITUTE

## Dr. Edgar Fitzgerald Gordon • (1895-1955)



COURTESY BERMUDA BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr. E. F. Gordon was one of Bermuda's most controversial and important leaders in 20th century Bermuda, setting the foundation for reforms and political changes that would come after his death.**

Born in Trinidad, Dr Gordon went to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland to study medicine – although his first love had been cricket. He completed his medical studies in 1918 and returned to the Caribbean after working in Scotland for a time. On his way home, the ship Dr Gordon was on stopped in Bermuda.

Some years later, after working in Trinidad and Dominica, Dr Gordon was offered a medical practice in Somerset and came to Bermuda with his family, this time permanently.

Dr Gordon loved Bermuda's beauty and its people, but he was shocked by the racism he encountered and the power that a small group of wealthy white men had over the rest of the people.

He soon became involved in campaigns to make Bermuda fairer for all people and to end the system of segregation.

Dr Gordon's first successes came in the field of labour relations, when he became the first president of the Bermuda Worker's Association, which was formed after workers building the United States Naval Base in Southampton during the Second World War – now Morgan's Point – had their pay cut.

By 1946, under Dr Gordon's leadership, the BWA had 5,000 members. In the same year, he was elected to the House

of Assembly, and drew up a petition calling for the British government to investigate how poorly black and working class Bermudians were treated. Dr Gordon personally took the petition to London.

One result of the petition was the introduction of free primary school education, which came about following the passage of a law in 1949. Soon after that, the Bermuda Industrial Union was formed, and continues to be Bermuda's largest trade union to this day. As a Member of Parliament, Dr. Gordon constantly challenged segregation and social and political inequities in all walks of life. He died in 1955 at the age of 60. Many tributes were made to him, and his spirit lived on in Bermuda.

Dr. Gordon, who sometimes used the name "Mazumbo", was often controversial and accused of arrogance, but his tireless efforts to bring about change in Bermuda had a permanent impact on Bermuda's political and working life.

## William Ernest Rudolph Joell • (1902-1985)

**W. E. R. Joell was born in 1902. He was an excellent cabinet maker, but tennis was his greatest passion. He was an avid player and community organiser, often arranging for international tennis players to visit Bermuda. However, he was not allowed to play at the national Tennis Stadium as it was off limits to black people.**

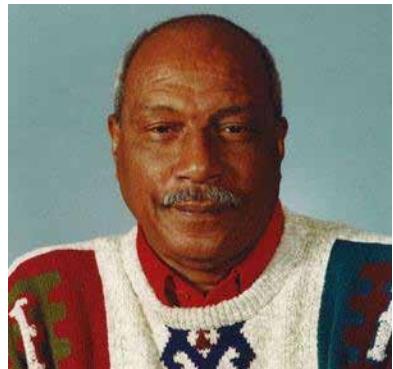
Propelled by his passion for tennis to undo this injustice, Joell led the movement to desegregate the stadium. In 1954 he brought Althea Gibson, who would later become the first black tennis player to win a grand slam title, to Bermuda. She played at the Tennis Stadium along with Russell Dismont and other black Bermudians. When the manager of the stadium reprimanded them for using the whites-only facility, Joell knew he must act. He asked Dismont to petition Parliament to desegregate the stadium. In 1954, Dismont's petition was unanimously passed, and the stadium was officially opened to everyone.

Joell contributed to the Bermudian community in many other ways. At just 22 years of age he formed his furniture company, Bermuda Furniture Craftsmen, and some of his pieces can be seen in the Bermuda Cathedral today. He was a signatory of the 1946 petition to investigate Bermuda's human rights record taken to England by Dr. E. F. Gordon. In 1958 he founded the Bermuda Tennis Development Fund to sponsor coaches who would teach the game to Bermudian children. He died in 1985 and in 2003 the tennis stadium was named after him as "The W.E.R. Joell Tennis Stadium".



COURTESY THE ROYAL GAZETTE

## Roosevelt Brown • (1932-2007)



**Roosevelt Brown was an activist who played a critical role in the abolition of the property vote. Following the success of the Theatre Boycott, he and other alumni of Howard Academy formed the Committee for Universal Adult Suffrage, which held meetings throughout Bermuda in 1960.**

The meetings which saw white and black leaders come together to debate the electoral system galvanised the public and put pressure on MPs to make changes to the electoral system which had restricted the right to vote and to run for Parliament to owners of property over a certain value. As a result, all adult Bermudians were able to vote in the 1963 General Election and in 1968 the last vestiges of the property vote were abolished.

A PLP organiser, MP and Pan-Africanist, he was elected to the House of Assembly in 1968 and organised a Black Power conference in Bermuda in 1969. He spent much of his later life working in developing communities in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean. He published his autobiography *Me One* in 2002 and was honoured with a commemorative stamp after his death.

# Dame Lois Browne-Evans • (1927-2007)

COURTESY THE BERMUDIAN MAGAZINE



**Dame Lois Browne-Evans was a Bermudian trailblazer in the fields of law and politics for more than 50 years.**

In 1953, she became Bermuda's first female lawyer, and ten years later she became Bermuda's first black female MP when she was elected to the House of Assembly as a member of Bermuda's first political party – the Progressive Labour Party. The 1963 election was also the first to be held when all adults could vote – not just property owners, which had been the rule for centuries.

Five years later, Dame Lois became the first female Opposition Leader when she took part in the 1968 general election – the first truly democratic election in Bermuda's history. She would step down as PLP leader in 1972, but became the Opposition Leader again in 1976, and would hold the job until 1985.

In law, Dame Lois took on a number of major criminal cases, including defending Larry Tacklyn who was convicted of murder. In 1977, she led an unsuccessful campaign to spare him and Buck Burrows, who was convicted of the murder of Governor Sir Richard Sharples, from being hanged. As a lawyer, she always maintained that people accused of crimes were innocent until proven guilty and had the right to a lawyer to defend them.

The hangings, which capped a turbulent period in Bermuda's history, led to riots. The events of December 1977 pitted Dame Lois, in her role as Opposition Leader, against the then Premier, Sir David Gibbons. After the riots, a number of proposals aimed at improving relations between whites and blacks and improving living conditions were put in place.

In 1985, Dame Lois resigned as Leader of the PLP after losing an election to Sir John Swan of the United Bermuda Party.

She remained an MP and a member of the Shadow Cabinet and was a successful candidate in the 1998 election when the PLP became the Government for the first time.

In 1999, she became the first black female Attorney General and, after retiring from politics in 2003, she was appointed a Dame of the Order of the British Empire.

Dame Lois died at the age of 79 in 2007. During her life, she was a role model and pioneer for many Bermudians and for women. A strong defender of human rights, she fought for workers' rights, an end to the death penalty and against discrimination of all descriptions. As a result, she was named Bermuda's first National Hero in 2007 – her final "first".



COURTESY BERMUDA BIOGRAPHIES

## Assessment Indicator

Write an essay about the life of Dame Lois Browne-Evans.

# Wesley LeRoy Tucker • (1907-1963)

**Wesley LeRoy Tucker was a leader in the fight for universal adult suffrage in Bermuda. He was a parliamentarian from 1953 until his death in 1963 and was a key figure in pushing through the many changes that brought greater equality for blacks at that time.**

In 1953, due to the requirement that people must own a certain amount of property to be eligible, only one in four Bermudian adults could vote. An even smaller proportion of black Bermudians could vote since they were not as wealthy as whites.

Tucker's first project was to join an Inter-Racial Committee to investigate racial inequality and improve the circumstances of black Bermudians. However, this committee was chaired by the powerful white parliamentarian Henry Tucker and did little to bring greater equality to blacks.

Re-elected to parliament in 1958, W. L Tucker now set his sights firmly on bringing universal suffrage to all adult Bermudians. However, he had to tread carefully to garner support from white parliamentarians who were afraid of blacks obtaining too much power. Aided by Edward T. Richards, a fellow parliamentarian and friend, he proposed a review of the 1945 Parliamentary Act, advocating a gradual broadening of the franchise. He was elected chair of the committee and for four years battled white parliamentarians who dug their heels in against universal suffrage.

After several versions of the bill, the final version passed in December 1962. It gave all adults over 25 the right to vote, although property owners received an extra vote. This result fell short of Tucker's aspirations for one man, one vote, but was a huge step toward giving blacks more political power.

Although W. L Tucker's career was defined by his push for universal suffrage, he had many other notable achievements. In 1959 he became the first black man elected to the Executive Council, a forerunner of the Cabinet. He was also the first black president of the Bermuda Employers' Council.

In parliament he denounced the segregated fire brigade and the Government's withdrawal of funds from black school Howard Academy, which subsequently closed. Tucker was also part of a committee which worked to pass a law that, in March 1961, made it illegal for restaurants to deny service to blacks. He worked as a mediator during the dockworkers' strike.

By 1963 his health was failing, but he received the prestigious award of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) shortly before his death.



COURTESY THE TUCKER FAMILY

# Sir Edward Richards • (1908-1991)

**Sir Edward Trenton Richards was the first Premier of Bermuda, but that was just one of many “firsts” he achieved in his long life.**

Commonly known as “ET”, he was the first black Bermudian to receive a knighthood, and the first black leader of the Bermuda Government. He was also the first black Bermudian to be a magistrate.

Before he achieved these firsts, he was a teacher, editor and lawyer, and he fought tirelessly to end segregation and racial discrimination in Bermuda.

Although less controversial and outspoken than some of his colleagues in the 1950s and 1960s, this “Peaceful Warrior” never gave up and saw his vision of a Bermuda where all men and women were treated equally come to fruition, largely without violence or confrontation.

Sir Edward was born in 1908 in Guyana. He came to Bermuda in 1930 when he was 21 years old to teach mathematics at The Berkeley Institute, and seven years later he became a Bermudian citizen.

In 1933 he started a second job working as an editor at the *Bermuda Recorder* where he was a vocal critic of segregation, writing often of racial injustices. In 1943, he decided to study law, and went to England. He returned to Bermuda in 1947 and practised law for the rest of his working life.

A year after becoming one of Bermuda’s first black lawyers, he was elected to the House of Assembly, representing Warwick. In those days, only people who owned a certain amount of property were allowed to vote or run for Parliament, and Sir Edward was one of the few black MPs in Parliament for the next 20 years.

By 1968, thanks to the efforts of politicians like Sir Edward and activists like Roosevelt Brown, the old property vote was abolished and the principle of one person-one vote was fully implemented. At the same time, political parties were established, and Sir Edward, who was conservative by nature and committed to bringing harmony to the races, joined the United Bermuda Party, which until then was largely led by white politicians.

Sir Edward was elected Deputy Government Leader and Deputy Leader of the UBP in 1968 and three years later in 1971, he became Bermuda’s first black ‘Government Leader’, a post which later became known as Premier - a change he negotiated with the British Government.

Sir Edward’s election by his UBP colleagues as Government Leader to replace Tucker was unanimous. Sir Edward became the first black Bermudian to lead a political party to election victory when the UBP was returned to power in the June 1972 election. As a native of what is now Guyana, Sir Edward was often confronted by anti-West Indian sentiment. However he reminded his audiences, often to laughter, that: “I am a Bermudian by choice, you are a Bermudian by accident.”



COURTESY THE BERMUDA NEWS BUREAU

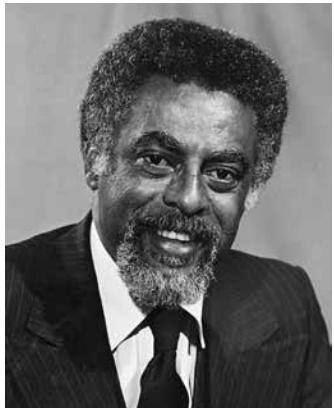
## Ottiwell Simmons • (b. 1933)

**Ottiwell Simmons was a trade union leader who played a major role in the rise of the organised labour movement in Bermuda.**

In 1962 he became the first full-time organiser of the Bermuda Industrial Union and later served as the organisation's president for 34 years. Simmons played a key role in the BIU/BELCO dispute and in the 1981 national strike.

He also became a prominent politician for the PLP and sat in the House of Assembly for 30 years until he retired from politics in 2007.

In retirement, he became a community organiser focused on youth issues.



COURTESY BERMUDA GOVERNMENT, DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

## Dame Marjorie Bean • (1909-2001)

**Dame Marjorie Bean was a pioneering educator and public servant who influenced multiple facets of society.**

She was the first black Bermudian to be appointed to an administrative post in the civil service when she joined the Department of Education as a supervisor in 1949.

She was the first woman appointed to Bermuda's Senate and the first woman to be made a Dame in 1994. Dame Marjorie was the founder of the Business and Professional Women's Association of Bermuda and set high standards for deportment and diction.



COURTESY THE ROYAL GAZETTE

## Gina Swainson • (b. 1958)



**Born in Bermuda in 1958, Gina Ann Cassandra Swainson is the only Bermudian to win a major international beauty pageant. In 1979, at only 21 years of age, she won the Miss World Pageant held in the United Kingdom. That same year she also placed second in the Miss Universe Pageant held in Australia. This was a significant achievement as it was uncommon to do well in both pageants!**

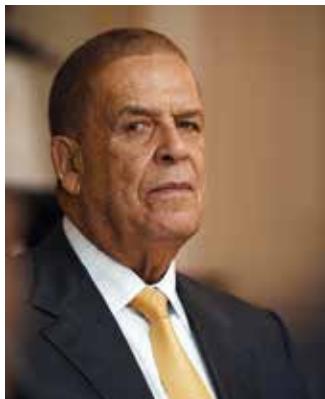
To honour this achievement, there was a parade held for Gina in Bermuda after her return. She also appeared on several postage stamps in 1980. Gina went on to open her own make-up business on Front Street called 'Gina of Bermuda'. She later moved to Britain, where she still lives today although she frequently returns to Bermuda.

### Assessment Indicator

Write a poem about Gina Swainson and don't forget to include all the facts you've learned. Act out the partner skit for Gina Swainson.

# Sir John William David Swan • (b. 1935)

COURTESY THE ROYAL GAZETTE



**Sir John Swan was Bermuda's longest serving Premier, as well as a successful real estate developer and entrepreneur. Born in 1935, John Swan founded the John W. Swan Ltd. real estate development company in 1962. Between 1968 and 1978 his company developed an estimated 40% of the homes in Bermuda, allowing many Bermudians to own a home for the first time.**

He became a United Bermuda Party MP in 1972, and as Minister for Home Affairs he was highly influential in introducing social reforms after the race riots of 1977. Sir John's genius lay in his ability to garner support for his initiatives from widely different segments of the population. He managed to convince Bermuda's mainly white business leaders of the importance of his housing and education initiatives, which were met with enthusiasm from the black community from which he himself came.

Sir John became Premier on January 15, 1982 and served for thirteen and a half years, resigning on August 25, 1995. In 1986 he reached an agreement at the USA/Bermuda Tax Convention which helped establish Bermuda as a major offshore financial centre. This led to international business becoming the main driving force of the Bermuda economy.

Sir John later pushed for Bermudian independence from Britain, and in 1995 he called for a referendum. He believed that many Bermudians, particularly black Bermudians, desired independence. However, the opposition Progressive Labour Party opposed the referendum and the United Bermuda Party was divided on it. Of the 58% of the population who participated in the referendum, 74% voted against independence. As he had promised to do if the referendum failed, John Swan resigned from office.

Sir John Swan has held many other distinguished positions such as Chairman of the Bermuda Hospitals Board, Director of the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Bermuda Employer's Council and was a founding member of the Bermuda Monetary Authority. For his outstanding service to the country Sir John was knighted in 1990, and was designated a Bermuda National Hero in 2016.

## Assessment Indicator

Write a song, poem or rap about everything Sir John W. D. Swan did.

# Leonard Frederick Wade • (1939-1996)



**L. Frederick Wade, known as “Freddie”, was an early and dedicated member of the Progressive Labour Party and remained loyal to his party through thick and thin. Having become the leader of the party at one of its lowest points in 1985, he died just two years before the PLP finally came to power in 1998.**

Mr Wade was a teacher from 1960 until 1968, and during that time gained a bachelor's degree in economics and geology from Queen's University in Canada.

In those days, white and black children went to different schools in Bermuda, and Mr Wade was angered by the difference between schools in Canada and Bermuda, and by how schools with black students received fewer resources than white schools.

Eventually he became convinced this would only change through political action, and he became an early member of the PLP, quickly rising through its ranks.

In 1968, he was elected to the House of Assembly for Devonshire North alongside Lois Browne-Evans (later Dame Lois). When Mr Wade was elected, he had to give up his job as a government teacher and he had difficulty finding work after that. In 1973, after being re-elected, he decided to become a lawyer, and qualified in 1976.

A year later he and his wife, Norma Wade (now Norma Wade-Miller) were both called to the Bermuda Bar, and became Bermuda's first married couple to both be lawyers.

Through the 1970s, Mr Wade was known as a sometimes controversial politician who often engaged in confrontations with the United Bermuda Party government inside and outside the House of Assembly. Despite that, he enjoyed close friendships on both sides of the House.

Although the PLP came close to winning the 1980 General Election, the election of John Swan (later Sir John) as Leader of the United Bermuda Party in 1982 revitalised the UBP and signaled a downturn in the PLP's popularity.

An election defeat in 1983 led to divisions within the PLP and the expulsion of some members, and a snap election in 1985 reduced the PLP to just seven seats out of 40.

At this point, Dame Lois resigned and was replaced by Mr Wade as Leader. Over the next 11 years, he slowly rebuilt the PLP while making it more moderate and less controversial. He also proved to be a clever strategist, and in 1995 he boycotted an Independence Referendum called by Sir John Swan. The defeat of the referendum led to Sir John's resignation, clearing the way for the PLP to come to power.

As the PLP neared power, Mr Wade's own health worsened, and he died at the age of 57 after a series of illnesses.

“Freddie” Wade brought the PLP to the brink of power and helped to make Bermuda a fairer and more equal place. In 2007, his legacy was assured when the PLP government renamed the airport the L. F. Wade International Airport in his honour.

## Dame Pamela Gordon • (b. 1955)

**Dame Pamela Gordon-Banks was born in 1955, six months after the death of her father Dr. E. F. "Mazumbo" Gordon who was a prominent civil rights activist and parliamentarian. Life was difficult growing up without her father, and at 16 she became pregnant and left school. She raised her daughter and, later, a son, while working as a restaurant manager in St. George's. She eventually went back to college and earned a commerce degree.**

She then entered Bermudian politics and became a Senator in 1990 at just 35 years old. In 1992 she was appointed Minister of Youth Development by Premier Sir John Swan of the UBP. She continued in politics, becoming MP for Southampton West and then Minister of the Environment, Planning and Recreation. When in 1997 Premier David Saul announced his retirement, Gordon became a clear frontrunner. In March 1997 she was sworn in as Premier and became the first female leader of Bermuda, as well as the youngest Premier ever. She served as Premier until the PLP won the 1998 election, ousting the UBP from power for the first time in its history. To honour Gordon's momentous achievements, she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.



COURTESY BERMUDA GOVERNMENT, DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

## Dame Jennifer Smith • (b. 1947)

**Dame Jennifer Smith was the first PLP leader to become Premier of Bermuda, after leading the party to its first election victory in 1998. Previously, she was a PLP Senator and MP after repeatedly running in the United Bermuda Party "stronghold" of St George's North – eventually winning it in 1989.**

She was highly respected in opposition for her management of the Shadow Education portfolio. She was Premier for five years. During her term in office, she achieved the party's goal of single-seat constituencies and introduced the position of Government Ombudsman. Days after leading the PLP to its second victory in 2003, she was forced out and replaced by Alex Scott. She remained in the House of Assembly until 2012, during which time she was Deputy Speaker.



COURTESY BERMUDA GOVERNMENT, DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

## Cyril Eugene Cox • (1928-2004)



**C. Eugene Cox was the Minister of Finance in the Progressive Labour Party's first cabinet following its historic 1998 election win. He was first elected to the House of Assembly in 1976.**

He had been an apprentice in the days when the British Government ran an apprenticeship scheme at the Dockyard which turned out highly skilled artisans. He went on to McGill University where he received an engineering degree. A long-time employee of the Bermuda Electric Light Company (BELCO), he retired as Senior Vice-President in 1993. He also supported Sandys Secondary School, The Berkeley Institute and the Anglican Church Synod.

## Johnny Barnes • (1923-2016)



**One of Bermuda's most colourful and beloved characters was John James Randolph Adolphus Mills. He was born on June 23, 1923 and was affectionately known as Johnny Barnes. He was an electrician and worked for the Bermuda Railway until it closed in 1948, when he became a bus driver.**

Sometime in 1986, Johnny decided to stand in the middle of the Crow Lane roundabout and start waving and blowing kisses to the passing commuter traffic, much of which flowed past him into the City of Hamilton each morning. He would arrive at the roundabout at about 3.45am and leave at 10am. As he waved and blew kisses, he would call out "I love you" and "God loves you", as he put a smile on countless thousands of faces each day. If Johnny failed to appear, police and local radio stations would be flooded with calls to check on him.

In 1998, a lifesize statue of Johnny was unveiled at the foot of Crow Lane, a rare honour for someone still living. Typically Johnny joked, "Well, I wouldn't be able to enjoy it if I was dead". In a 2011 documentary made about his life called 'Mr. Happy Man' he stated, "We human beings got to learn how to love one another. Then there wouldn't be any wars, there wouldn't be any killing." It was a philosophy he lived by his entire life. Johnny Barnes died on July 9, 2016.

# Cambridge Curriculum Links for P6 Students

## Development from 1920 - Present

Curriculum Module Title	BNT Focus/Field Trip	BNT Field Trip Site
<b>SS.P6.C1d</b>  Politics and Law- The constitution: a contract between the government and its citizens	The Road to Democracy: Learn how each action increased Ber- muda's democratic governance for all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voting rights for women</li><li>• Desegregation</li><li>• Universal adult suffrage</li><li>• A written constitution</li></ul>	Waterville
Identify major personalities of the period & evaluate the importance of their deeds then and now	Focus on the life and influence of major personalities listed above through partner skits and discussions	Waterville Verdmont
Society and Culture: Tiered Timeline & brief overview of main local & global events	Focus on Theatre Boycott, party politics 1963 etc.	Verdmont

# 100 years of Black Bermudian History

## 1918

WWI ends.

## 1927

Nurse Alice Scott opens Sandys Secondary School, the first high school in the West End.

## 1939

WWII begins.

## 1959

The Theatre Boycott led by the Progressive Group ends segregation in Bermuda's movie theatres, hotels and restaurants.

## 1960

Roosevelt Brown leads The Committee for Universal Adult Suffrage (CUAS) in a campaign for suffrage to be extended to ALL adult Bermudians, regardless of property ownership. The requirement of owning property prevented many blacks from voting.

## 1962

Mr W. L. Tucker steers the Franchise Bill through parliament, establishing the principle of Universal Adult Suffrage. However, large property owners retain a "plus-vote".

## 1968

Constitution: Fully establishes the principle of one person, one vote. The old property vote is finally fully abolished.

## 1968

Election: The UBP led by Sir Henry Tucker wins the first general election under the new Bermuda Constitution. The UBP will remain in power for 30 years.

## 1971

Sir Edward Trenton Richards (UBP) becomes the first black man to lead the Bermuda Government.

## 1978

The Pitt Commission finds that the riots of the '70s were primarily caused by racial inequality.

## 1981

The Bermuda Human Rights Act made discrimination based on race, religion, creed, national origin or political opinions illegal.

## 1982

Sir John Swan (UBP) becomes Premier and remains in office for 13 years. He plays a key role in establishing Bermuda as an offshore financial centre.

## 2011

The One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) is formed by a merger of the two main non-labour parties: The UBP and the BDA.

## 2012

Mary Prince named as a Bermuda National Hero, in recognition of her book published in 1831, about the brutality of slavery.

## 2017

PLP win General Election claiming 24 of 36 seats and 58.9% of the vote.

<b>1944</b> Women are granted the vote! Nurse Scott is the first black woman to run for Parliament.	<b>1945</b> Dr. E. F. Gordon, a controversial political activist, becomes first president of the newly formed Bermuda Workers Association	<b>1954</b> W.E.R. Joell fights for and wins the right for black Bermudians to play at the Tennis Stadium.
<b>1963</b> The Progressive Labour Party is formed.	<b>1963</b> Dame Lois Browne-Evans becomes Bermuda's first black female MP in the first election where all adults could vote.	<b>1964</b> The United Bermuda Party is formed.
<b>1971</b> The Education Act makes it illegal for any school in Bermuda to base admission on race, officially ending segregation in education.	<b>1974</b> Ottiwell Simmons becomes president of the Bermuda Industrial Union and remains president for 34 years.	<b>1975</b> Dame Marjorie Bean, a pioneering educator, founds the Business and Professional Women's Association of Bermuda.
<b>1995</b> Sir John Swan resigns from office after his Independence referendum, which was opposed by PLP leader L. F. Wade, failed.	<b>1997</b> Pamela Gordon (UBP) becomes the first female Premier of Bermuda.	<b>1998</b> Dame Jennifer Smith leads the PLP to an historic election victory. This is the first change of government in Bermuda's history. The PLP will stay in power until 2012.
<b>2019</b> Theatre Boycott celebrates 60th anniversary.		

# Teacher Resources/Activities

These activities are designed to be completed during the field trips or in advance of a visit.

## >Partner Skits

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### Partner Skit: Meet Olaudah Equiano

**Equiano:** Hi, Olaudah Equiano. Have you heard of me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You wrote a book, and you were one of the first black people to do so!

**Equiano:** That's right. I wrote a book called *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*. Bit of a long (and pompous) title, but it became very popular.

**Student:** So what was your book about?

**Equiano:** My book was the story of how I went from being a slave to being a free-man. You see, I spent 11 years as a slave, but once I got an income it only took me three years to buy my freedom. I travelled the world. I even went to the Arctic! I also joined the abolitionist movement.

**Student:** What's that?

**Equiano:** It was the movement that wanted to *abolish* slavery, hence the name.

**Student:** What did you do once you were free?

**Equiano:** Other than writing my book? I travelled the world some more to promote my book, which actually helped the abolitionist cause. I also became a rich man and married the woman of my dreams, Susanna Cullen, and we had two beautiful daughters.

**Student:** It was nice to meet you. Your story was very inspiring, especially for people who were still slaves; and you helped abolish slavery, which happened 68 years after your death. It seems like a long time but without you it might have been longer!

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## Partner Skit: Meet Sarah ‘Sally’ Bassett

**Bassett:** Hi, I’m Sarah Bassett. Have you heard of me?

**Student:** I think so...are you the slave who was accused of poisoning your owners? I thought your name was Sally Bassett.

**Bassett:** Kind of. You can call me what you like.

**Student:** So...did you really do it?

**Bassett:** People can’t agree. The story that the first Bermudiana flower came from my ashes – some say that was proof of my innocence. Others say they needed someone to blame so they chose me because I was black. But the police say they found rat poison in my cupboard, and my granddaughter Beck confessed. All that really matters is that they thought so.

**Student:** Wait, you have a granddaughter! Your statue makes you look so young!

**Bassett:** Again, stories change over time – I had multiple grandchildren. Another interesting story, people now call a really hot day a “Sally Bassett day”.

**Student:** It was interesting meeting you. I’m sorry about what happened to you, but you are part of Bermuda history.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Mary Prince

**Prince:** Hello, I’m Mary Prince, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were a runaway slave who made a major contribution to the abolitionist movement.

**Prince:** That’s right! I even wrote a book about my life – *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave*. It helped advance the movement and highlight the horrors of life as a slave.

**Student:** When you were a runaway, you had to leave your husband. How did you cope?

**Prince:** I threw myself into my work. As you can imagine, it was extremely hard for me, but by working I managed to keep going. For example, did you know I was the first woman to present an anti-slavery petition to Parliament?

**Student:** No. That’s pretty awesome. You were a role-model and an inspirational person who people still talk about. Your contributions helped people in slavery across the Americas.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Pilot James 'Jemmy' Darrell

**Darrell:** Hi, I'm Pilot James Darrell, but you can call me Jemmy. Have you heard of me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You piloted a ship as a slave, and then they made you a free-man. But why would they do that? It's not that big a deal.

**Darrell:** In my day, it was. I piloted HMS *Resolution* through one of the trickiest passages in Bermuda – and I made it look easy. The area is called Murray's Anchorage today, and it's near Tobacco Bay in St. George's.

**Student:** So why *were* you piloting a ship like that if you were a slave?

**Darrell:** A British man named Thomas Hurd was surveying the island to find the best place to build some docks. Now, they're called the Dockyard. Anyway, Lt. Hurd needed to find a way between the reefs that surround Bermuda so that ships could get in easily. He found a way in eventually, he just needed to test it and make sure big boats could get through. That's where I came in. It's where the most of the cruise ships get through today. Pretty cool, huh?

**Student:** Yeah. So, what did you do when you were free?

**Darrell:** I married a wonderful woman and we had two beautiful children. And they had five children of their own. Our line still exists today in Bermuda; we're one of the ancestral families.

**Student:** It was really cool meeting you, Pilot Darrell. You are someone who is remembered today for your resilience and resistance, and for how you triumphed to become free.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Charles Roach Ratteray

**Ratteray:** Hi I am Charles Roach Ratteray. Have you heard of me?

**Student:** Yes. Didn't you grow up in Somerset and became a very skilled sailor and shipbuilder?

**Ratteray:** That's right! I was born in 1799 in Bahamas and came to Bermuda as a five-year-old and was brought up by two dear ladies who raised me after my mother died. I was able to learn how to read and write and learn all the skills needed to build sailing boats and ships. My sailing ships went all over the Caribbean and all the way to England. They carried onions and other vegetables grown in Bermuda.

**Student:** I also heard that you were a very good businessman and that you owned land and houses.

**Ratteray:** That is right! I also made money as a dairy farmer and I was able to earn enough money to buy three houses and 26 acres of land. An important part of owning land in those days was that I was allowed to vote.

**Student:** Yes, I hear that during times of slavery, slaves were not allowed to vote and after Emancipation only men who owned property could vote

**Ratteray:** Yes, that is right. Women and people who didn't own land were not allowed to vote until much later.

**Student:** You became religious at some point in your life. What happened?

**Ratteray:** On a sailing trip to the West Indies we were hit by a violent storm and I feared death as the weather became horrendous. After coming through the storm alive, I promised the Lord I would dedicate the remainder of my days to Him if my life was spared. I helped to get the property for the Wesley Methodist Church and I also helped to build it. I also enjoyed preaching at this church.

**Student:** Well Mr. Ratteray, you should be proud of your contribution to Bermuda. Today you are recognised as an energetic, enterprising black man who had an impact on many Bermudian lives.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Eliza Lusher

**Lusher:** Hello, I'm Eliza Lusher, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were a nurse.

**Lusher:** I nursed over 125 people during two outbreaks of yellow fever here in Bermuda.

**Student:** Wow. How did you not get sick?

**Lusher:** I did get sick. Some suspect that I died of the yellow fever since I died so young, at 40 years of age.

**Student:** Did you do anything else?

**Lusher:** I didn't, but I wish I had. I wanted to go to the Crimean War to help nurse soldiers, but the British government refused and I could not afford to go by myself.

**Student:** That's a shame. You were an amazing woman who nursed many sick soldiers who couldn't help themselves.

**Assessment Indicator:** Write a song about Eliza Lusher. Be sure to include the facts you have learnt.

---

## Partner Skit: Meet a Gombey Dancer

**Gombey:** Hi, I am a Gombey dancer. Have you heard of me?

**Student:** Yes, I've seen you performing on Boxing Day, at cricket matches, and lots of other places! You're a celebrated part of Bermudian culture! But I heard that was not always the case.

**Gombey:** You're right! In fact, at one time there were even laws passed against it. Gombey dancing came to Bermuda through the black slaves that were brought here from Africa via the Caribbean. They would dance on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. However, many masters resented the practice and forbade it.

**Student:** Is that why you wear a mask?

**Gombey:** Exactly. The masks allowed the slaves to avoid being identified by their masters and avoid the punishment they might have been given.

**Student:** Why did the masters not like the practice? It is so much fun to watch and listen to.

**Gombey:** Hmm, it may have been because they thought of their slaves as property over which they had complete control. However, the dancing expressed of the slaves' own culture and where they came from. The dances they performed often told stories of resistance and survival, and through these dances the slaves drew strength from their common struggle. Perhaps the performances confronted the masters with the fact that these were real people with a strong spirit who could not be fully controlled. This must have frightened them a lot.

**Student:** I see. I heard that Gombey dancing is unique to Bermuda, but how is this possible if the practice came to us from the Caribbean and West Africa?

**Gombey:** The practice has its roots there, but it changed a lot over time here in Bermuda. It was greatly influenced by the Native American slaves in Bermuda, as well as the British army military bands.

**Student:** That makes sense! I hear that you call the young performers "warriors" and the older performers "chiefs". I also see them carrying hatchets, tomahawks and bows and arrows. Why do you carry a whip?

**Gombey:** It's because I'm "The Captain"! That means I'm the leader of the Gombey troupe or "crowd" as it is sometimes called. That is also why my cape is longer than the other dancers.

**Student:** I see! You have a very beautiful cape. The bits of mirror on it make it very flashy!

**Gombey:** Why, thank you! This was passed down to me by my father. Every image on it has a meaning that is significant to me, my family and my troupe. It is said that the bits of mirror are to ward off evil spirits.

**Student:** Wow, that's so interesting! Next time I see the Gombeys performing it will have a whole different meaning for me!

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## Partner Skit: Meet Nurse Alice Scott

**Scott:** Hello, I'm Nurse Alice Scott, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were a multi-talented black nurse who was the second black Bermudian to graduate from Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing in the US. What else did you do?

**Scott:** I started a rest home in my family property and was involved at the beginning of Sandys Secondary Middle School (though it was known as Sandys Secondary School then). I also built tennis courts at the nursing home and started the Somers Isle Lawn Tennis Club. I was part of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society in Bermuda, and once we got the vote I was one of four women to run for the House of Assembly for the first time.

**Student:** Wow. Is there anything you didn't do?

**Scott:** Well, I didn't write a book...

**Student:** How are you remembered?

**Scott:** I earned the British Empire Medal and I also have a house named after me at Sandys Secondary Middle School – Scotts House.

**Student:** You were incredible Nurse Scott. Thanks to all you did, you are an inspiration and a role model for all.

**Assessment Indicator:** Write a poem about Nurse Alice Scott. Don't forget to include all the facts you have learned.

---

## Partner Skit: Meet Dr. E. F. Gordon

**Gordon:** Hello, I'm Dr. E. F. Gordon, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! I know you were a doctor but you were also involved in politics.

**Gordon:** I was, but I got involved in politics because I felt blacks were treated unfairly.

**Student:** What did you do?

**Gordon:** I was trying to make Bermuda fairer for all people and to end segregation. I did this by becoming involved in campaigns. How is that wrong?

**Student:** I guess it wasn't...so what else did you do?

**Gordon:** I was a doctor at first, but in my campaigns I became the first president of the trade union the Bermuda Worker's Association. I was also elected to the House of Assembly which created a petition for investigation of poor conditions for black and working class Bermudians. It resulted in free primary school education.

**Student:** It sounds like you were pretty great. Thanks to your efforts and despite accusations, you had a permanent impact on Bermuda's political and working life.

**Assessment Indicator:** Write two short paragraphs about Dr. E. F. Gordon, one about why he was good, and another about why he was controversial.

---

## Partner Skit: Meet Dame Lois Browne-Evans

**Evans** Hello, I'm Dame Lois Browne-Evans, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were the first female lawyer, and the first black female MP.

**Evans** Correct! Do you have anything you want to ask me?

**Student:** What was your most famous case as a lawyer?

**Evans** I defended Larry Tacklyn, who was accused of the murder of the Governor. I led a campaign in 1977 to spare him and another man from the gallows.

**Student:** What else did you do?

**Evans** After I retired as Leader of the PLP I remained an MP and a member of the Shadow Cabinet. I also became the first black female Attorney General in 1999 and in 2003 I became a Dame of the Order of the British Empire.

**Student:** Wow. You were a role model and pioneer for many Bermudians and women. Your role in human and worker's rights, an end to the death penalty and against discrimination of any kind made you a national hero.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Sir Edward Richards

**Richards:** Hello, I'm Sir Edward Richards, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were an influential politician and the first Premier of Bermuda. And I'm pretty sure you got knighted.

**Richards:** What gave it away? Anyway, that's right. I was the first black Bermudian to be knighted and to become a magistrate as well. I fought for civil rights, and I did it peacefully.

**Student:** That's really cool. But are you a real Bermudian?

**Richards:** Yes I am. Though I was born in Guyana and although I only came to teach maths at The Berkeley Institute, I became a Bermudian citizen seven years after arriving. After all, you became a Bermudian by accident, I became one by choice!

**Student:** You became an icon that led Bermuda into a new age. You are incredible Sir Edward.

**Assessment Indicator:** Make a collage of everything about Sir Edward Richards. Try to include all the facts you have learned.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Gina Swainson

**Swainson:** Hello, I'm Gina Swainson, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were the Miss World's Winner and came second in the Miss Universe Pageant.

**Swainson:** That's correct. It is very uncommon to do well in both, but I did so in 1979, at only 21 years old!

**Student:** Did Bermuda do anything special for you?

**Swainson:** I had a parade back home and also got some postage stamps with me on them! How cool is that?

**Student:** Did you do anything else?

**Swainson:** When I returned, I opened a make-up business on Front Street: Gina of Bermuda. Now I live in England though.

**Student** Wow. Sounds like you were a role model for young women about healthy lifestyles and an idol for many.

---

## Partner Skit: Meet Sir John Swan

**Swan:** Hello, I'm Sir John Swan, have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! You were a Premier of Bermuda.

**Swan:** I was the longest serving Premier. But did you know I also was a successful real estate developer and entrepreneur? I founded John W. Swan Ltd. and between 1968 and 1978 my company built thousands of new homes. It allowed many Bermudians to own homes for the first time.

**Student:** Cool. What did you do as Premier?

**Swan:** Well, I introduced social reforms after the race riots of 1977 as a Minister for Home Affairs. As Premier, I reached an agreement at the USA/Bermuda tax convention which helped Bermuda be established as a major offshore finance centre. I also pushed for independence from Britain, though the referendum failed and so I resigned from office.

**Student:** Did you do anything else?

**Swan:** I was the Chairman of the Bermuda Hospitals Board, a Director of the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce, a Director of the Bermuda Employers Council and a founding member of the Bermuda Monetary Authority. I was knighted in 1990 and designated a Bermuda National Hero in 2016.

**Student** Sounds like you did quite a lot. You helped boost the economy of Bermuda in many ways.

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## Partner Skit: Meet Leonard Frederick Wade

**Wade:** Hello, I'm Leonard Frederick Wade, but you can call me Freddy. Have you heard about me?

**Student:** Yes I have! Aren't you the airport?

**Wade:** Close. The airport was named after me. I was a Member of Parliament and the leader of the Progressive Labour Party.

**Student:** So why did they name the airport after you?

**Wade:** I think it was because I helped to lead the PLP as an MP through some tense times in the 1970s and early 1980s when Bermuda was dealing with the legacy of racial segregation. Then, after a heavy defeat in 1985, I became party leader and laid the foundations for the party to win a General Election for the first time in 1998.

**Student:** Interesting. It seems you did a lot to help the PLP through a lot of ups and downs.

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### Assessment Indicator

Write two short paragraphs about L. Frederick Wade, one about what he accomplished and another about a word that comes to mind when you think of him.

# Other Activities

## Questions about Joseph Rainey

1. Where was Joseph Rainey born?
2. Who do you think taught Rainey the skills to work as a barber?
3. What skills did Susan Rainey have?
4. Why do you think Joseph Rainey and his wife escaped from the US?
5. When was slavery abolished in Bermuda?
6. How did Rainey obtain his knowledge about current affairs in Bermuda and from the US?
7. What do you think were the reasons for Rainey's return to the US in 1866?
8. What were the injustices black Americans had to endure at the time Joseph Rainey returned to the US?
9. What party did Joseph Rainey support?
10. Who was the American President who paved the road to freedom of slaves in January 1863?

**Answers:** 1. Georgetown, South Carolina. 2. His father. 3. Dressmaker. 4. To have a better life, to create their own businesses. 5. 1834. 6. From his clients. 7. The Civil War was over, Rainey wanted to enter politics to help others. 8. Racial discrimination in schools and in public places. 9. Republican. 10. President Abraham Lincoln.

## \*ACTIVITY

# Biographies of Famous Black Bermudians

Fill out the form using information you have learned about black Bermudians.



## The Incredible:

By .....

**BORN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Famous for:**

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**Obstacles faced:**

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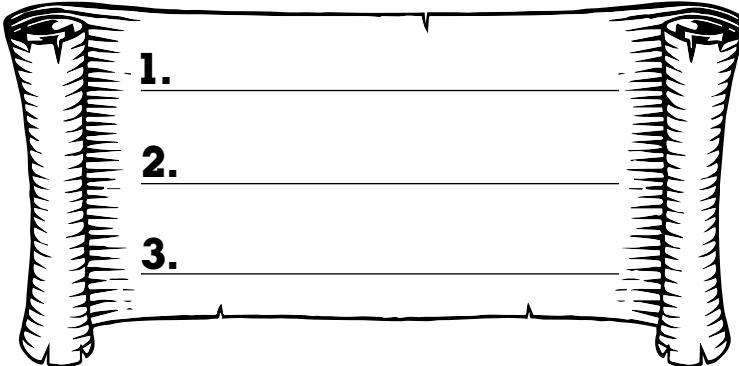
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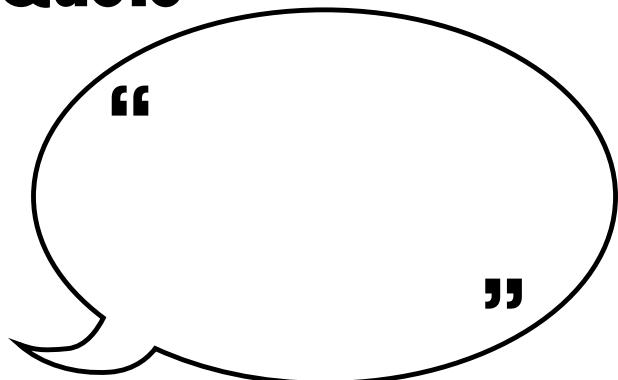
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### LIST 3 IMPORTANT FACTS



### Quote



If you could ask this person any question, what would it be?

Name someone important in this person's life. Explain why they were important.

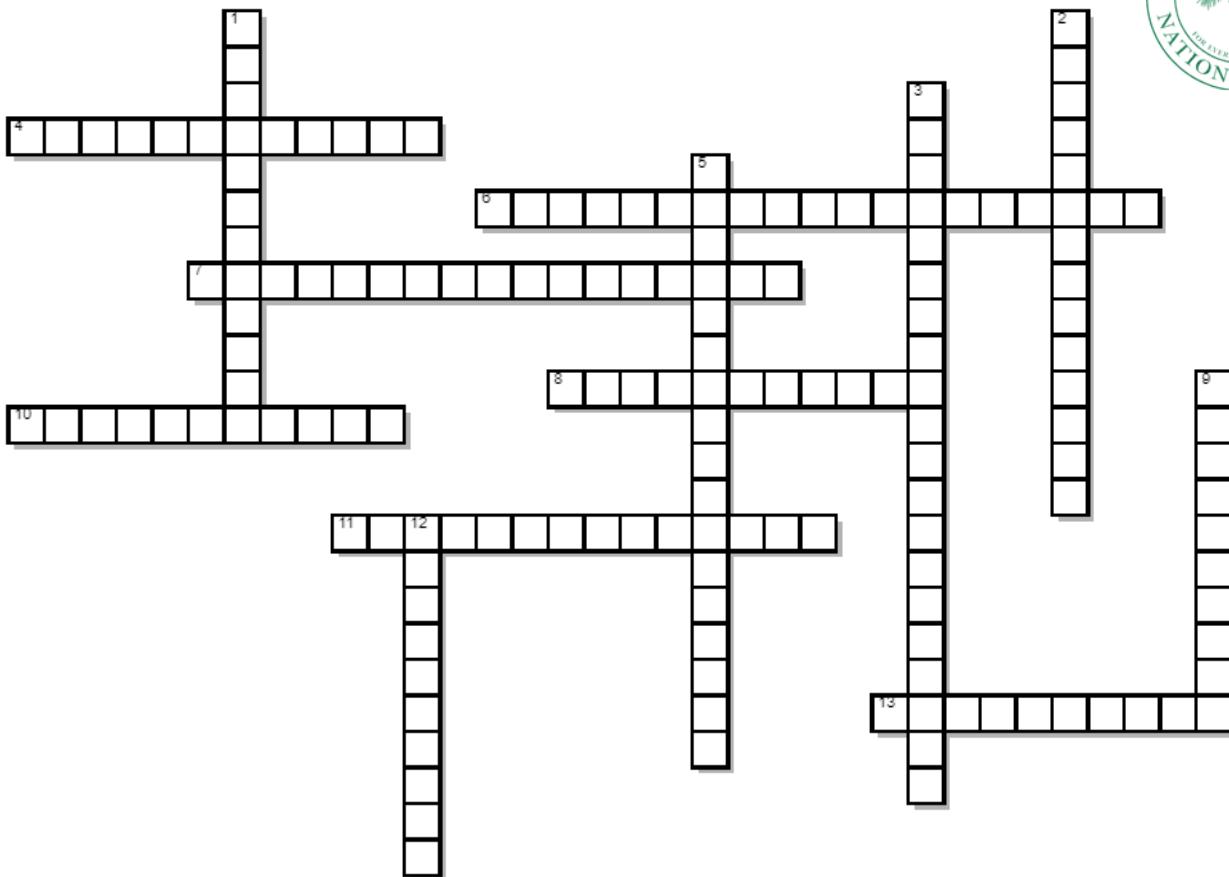
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## \*ACTIVITY

# Bermuda Black History Crossword Puzzle



The number in brackets at the end of the question indicates the number of letters in each word of the answer. For example: (6,6) means that the first word is made of 6 letters and the second one is as well.

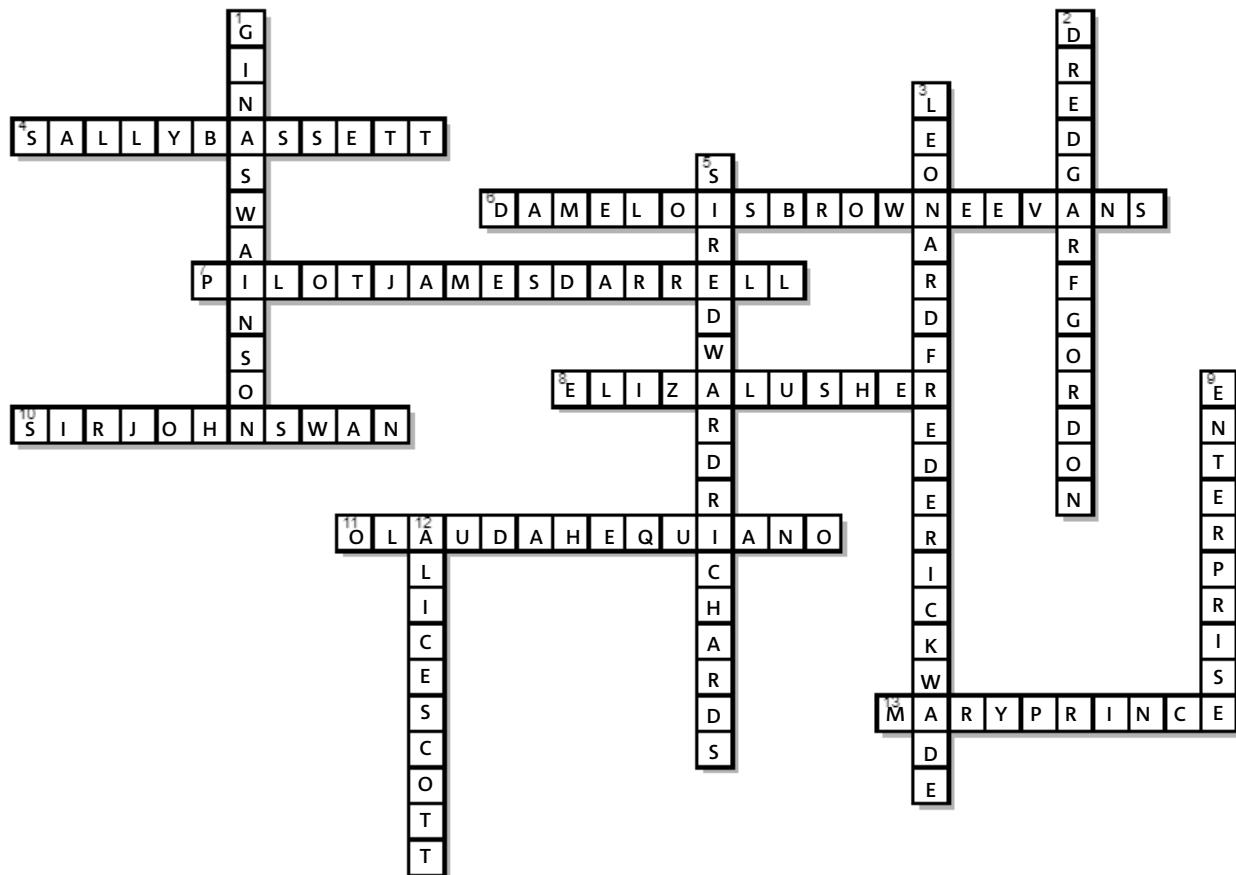
### ACROSS

4. A hot day is named after her (5,6)
6. The first female lawyer and the first black female MP in Bermuda (4,4,6,5)
7. He was a slave but earned his freedom navigating the waters of Bermuda (5,5,7)
8. A Bermudian nurse who helped those with Yellow Fever, but was killed by it in the end (5,6)
10. The longest serving Premier of Bermuda (3,4,4)
11. A man who earned his freedom from slavery, wrote a book and travelled the world (7,7)
13. A former slave who wrote a book about her experiences after she escaped to Britain (4,5)

### DOWN

1. A Bermudian Miss World winner, and runner-up in the Miss Universe pageant (4,8)
2. A man who gained controversy for trying to make Bermuda fairer and bring an end to segregation (2,5,1,6)
3. The airport was named after him in 2007 (7,9,4)
5. A man who was knighted and the first black Premier of Bermuda (3,6,8)
9. A ship full of slaves that was forced to Bermuda on February 11th 1835 (10)
12. A multi-talented nurse who was the second woman to graduate from Lincoln Hospital (5,5)

# Crossword Puzzle Answers



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORD SEARCH

P	A	G	W	A	L	L	I	R	U	T	N	E	V	H	R	L	K	B	J	
J	W	G	T	X	C	W	S	I	R	E	T	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	S	
E	E	Q	N	F	K	U	S	A	L	L	Y	B	A	S	S	E	T	T	D	
Y	R	E	T	T	A	R	H	C	A	O	R	S	E	L	R	A	H	C	A	
A	Y	R	Z	V	V	Q	W	L	J	O	E	L	L	E	K	G	J	M	M	
G	D	I	V	B	H	U	Y	Y	D	F	L	B	R	M	F	G	B	W	E	
O	R	E	S	N	O	M	M	I	S	L	L	E	W	I	T	T	O	X	M	
P	E	C	J	O	S	E	P	H	H	E	N	R	Y	T	H	O	M	A	S	
J	F	N	Q	Q	O	N	A	I	U	Q	E	H	A	D	U	A	L	O	B	R
E	G	I	V	U	T	O	L	X	Z	N	C	J	E	Z	K	I	R	N	J	
F	O	R	Q	F	R	E	D	E	R	I	C	K	L	W	A	D	E	Z	O	
F	R	P	Y	E	N	I	A	R	E	N	Y	A	H	H	P	E	S	O	J	
R	D	Y	C	T	E	B	G	N	O	A	B	T	L	P	F	Q	V	E	I	
E	O	R	N	M	D	B	G	I	N	A	S	W	A	I	N	S	O	N	E	
Y	N	A	A	S	Z	O	N	A	A	I	C	D	Q	M	E	C	U	N	B	
C	H	M	R	H	P	Z	T	U	E	U	G	E	N	E	C	O	X	Z	E	
X	L	L	E	R	R	A	D	T	O	L	I	P	L	F	E	B	N	M	A	
U	K	S	N	A	V	E	N	W	O	R	B	S	I	O	L	E	M	A	D	
D	A	M	E	J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R	S	M	I	T	H	U	O	I	
M	N	P	A	D	B	Q	G	N	A	W	S	N	H	O	J	R	I	S	V	

### WORD BANK

- Charles "Roach" Ratteray
- Dame Jennifer Smith
- Dame Lois Browne Evans
- Dame Marjorie Bean
- Dr. E. F. Gordon
- Eugene Cox
- Frederick L. Wade
- Gina Swainson
- Jeffrey
- Joseph Hayne Rainey
- Joseph Henry Thomas
- Mary Prince
- Olaudah Equiano
- Ottiwell Simmons
- Pilot Darrell
- Sally Bassett
- Sir E. T. Richards
- Sir John Swan
- Venturilla
- W. L. Joell



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