

# Carriacou Historical Society (Museum)

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*Preserving the heritage of Carriacou and Petite Martinique*

## Ralph Lendore and Rhoda L

*Sloops, schooners and seafaring men*

Ralph Lendore was born on September 19, 1910 to Rufus and Rhoda Lendore of Harvey Vale, Carriacou. 'Boyie' Lendore or Captain Lendore as he was known came from a generation of seamen who sailed sloops and schooners. Captain Lendore went to work first in Venezuela and then Aruba. He earned his captain's certificate while sailing on ships in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Rhoda L was launched in 1944. It was a black and white schooner, designed and built by his father, Rufus. And what a beauty Rhoda L was. Along with John Scott's Principal S, Rhoda L was among the first schooners to trade between Carriacou, Trinidad and Guyana bringing food and basic household goods, oil, cooking gas and manufactured products to Grenada, Carriacou, St. Lucia, Martinique and Barbados.

In 1948 after 'Boyie' married Gertrude 'May' Quashie, Rhoda L was based in St. George's, Grenada, though Captain Lendore spent the Christmas season and the month of January in Carriacou to overhaul and maintain the vessel. It was his annual trip to Carriacou, which later included spending one week during the Easter season.

The reputation and legacy of Captain Lendore and Rhoda L came from punctuality and dependability. Captain Lendore was trusted by agencies in Trinidad and Guyana to transport cargo to their destinations. There are countless stories of Rhoda L and the legacy left behind. (Read more in the next newsletter)

Captain Lendore surrounded himself with Carriacou seamen who knew how to sail. In 1951, when Rhoda L had to carry a shipment of 'colass' or bitumen (pitch) from Trinidad to Barbados the Captain took along Elmo from L'Esterre; a top seaman who knew how to sail the channel between Tobago and Barbados and who later became the mate on the ship. When Rhoda L got its new engine in 1952, it soon became the mainstay of the trading economy between the islands from Trinidad to

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## News & Events

### Upcoming Events

During the months of July and August 2014, CHS will host a team of archaeologists, visiting Carriacou to help unearth and catalogue more of our island treasures and learn more about our ancestors and unique history.

### Fundraising News

In an effort to beautify and maintain the structural integrity of our historical landmark Museum, the Society held a Local Breakfast fundraiser on October 13th.

The menu included salt fish, smoked herring, fish cakes, fried and roast bakes, cocoa tea, lemongrass tea, and guava juice.

The Society was able to raise needed funds and provide a plentiful breakfast during the Sunday morning. Donations, still, will be most gratefully accepted.

**... DIARY DATE ...**  
**AGM on 13 March 2014 at**  
**Carriacou Historical Society**  
**(Museum) starting at 5.00pm**

## Welcome Message from our President – Refocusing our Mission



Once again, I welcome our readers to our bi-annual news letter. Since this is the last issue for 2013, I wish to take the opportunity to reflect on some of our accomplishments during the year. I will also raise some relevant issues regarding where the society needs to place its emphasis in the coming year.

In 2013, the society continued to engage the various communities in both Carriacou and Petite Martinique in forums through the Community Outreach Program to bring awareness of the society's existence and to sensitize members of these communities of our rich heritage which is generally taken for granted as most of our history and local traditions are slowly disappearing.

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## Museum Art Exhibits

The Museum is pleased to display the talent of local artists who recognise and exalt the beauty of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Three art exhibits have adorned the Museum's walls during the past six months:

Local Artists Views of Carriacou

The Artwork of Mrs Clemencia Alexander, daughter of famous artist Canute Calliste

Camp Kayak Campers Artwork

### Local Artists' Views of Carriacou



### The Art Work of Mrs. Clemencia Alexander, daughter of famed artist Canute Calliste



### Camp Kayak Camper Art.



## Museum Outreach Activities

The Museum Outreach Committee was formed to reach out to the people of Carriacou to bring history to them and to record living history for future generations. The group is very active and below is an outline of some of the activities the Outreach Committee has completed in 2013.

The Outreach Committee has embarked on a mission to video record the living history of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. With the aid of new video equipment, the committee continues to interview and record the memories of our knowledgeable elders. They share their stories and the Society is grateful to hold their remembrances for present and future generations. In the past six months the Committee has interviewed several experts.

**Centenarian Mrs. Masima Noel** recorded her views about living in Carriacou for the past 100 plus years. She provided wise commentary on nutrition and how to stay healthy and fit. She has worked hard all her life. She remains an example of the power of positive energy. She is adamant; we must continue to consume organic foods grown in Grenada.



**Retired seaman Philip Joseph, PJ**, told the Committee about sea adventures and commercial inter-island trading on locally built sloops and schooners.



Mr. Lyle Bullen and former Minister George Prime discussed the years 1979-1983, the events on Carriacou, and the legacies. The Committee hopes to acquire the equipment necessary to allow more residents to come into the Museum and record their stories that contribute to the history, culture and heritage of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Finally, the Outreach Committee ended its first round of meetings on a strong high note, after being invited to attend and present at the PTA Meeting at the Petite Martinique RC School on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was an enjoyable experience of sharing. After the business segment of the PTA meeting, the CHS Outreach Committee showed a power point presentation outlining the history of the Society and archaeological digs on Carriacou. Under the direction of Mrs. Clemencia Alexander, Amerindian artifacts from the Museum's collection were shown to the audience.

Former Senator Michael Caesar organized and presented with Mr. Dwight Logan a very informative and comprehensive overview of Petite Martinique's history. Lively discussion ensued.

The meeting ended with the Committee showing the "Vanishing Sails" documentary trailer. Refreshments followed.

The Committee is most grateful to Teacher Tyra Ollivierre, the parents, faculty, and staff, and community for this enlightening and enjoyable experience.

The CHS returned their hospitality when they welcomed the group to the Carriacou Museum for a tour on October 31st. Students, teachers, and parents ended their day long field trip around Carriacou with a tour of the Museum conducted by Director Clemencia Alexander and Administrative Assistant Gloria Wells. The CHS Outreach Committee provided refreshments for the group of 80

### Museum visit from Petite Martinique RC School



The Outreach Committee also held school / community meetings in the villages of Harvey Vale, Mt. Pleasant, Hillsborough, Dover, and Petite Martinique.

*If you wish to get involved in the Outreach Committee, contact Mrs Patricia Hollingsworth at the Museum on: 443-8288*

## Sustainable Heritage and Seine Fishing



Seine fishing, a strong historical fishing tradition continues in Carriacou's waters. In June, Sparrow Bay was the spot where local fishermen gathered to cast their seine net and catch Jacks. Skilled man power and great team work governed the process. The mesh nets were controlled by men in 3 boats, who cast the nets wide and carefully trapped the fish when the boats enclosed the area. Several divers remained in the water to further guide the catch as the net tightened around the school of fish. The fish were tied off and hauled to Hillsborough where they were sold quickly. The sustainability of sea life remains a necessary way to maintain community livelihood.

Sustainable Grenadines Inc - "SusGren is a trans-boundary NGO committed to the conservation of the coastal and marine environment and sustainable livelihoods for the people in the Grenadine Islands between Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines." <http://www.susgren.com/>

SusGren held its Annual General Meeting in the Conference Room of the Museum on September 11, 12, and 13. At the Friday session the Carriacou Historical Society was elected a regular member of SusGren's Board.

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## Carriacou Historical Society – Window on the Past

The Outreach Committee is launching a new and exciting approach to outreach in the community. Thanks to the brilliant idea of Daphne Wilson and Cris Mitchell, we look forward to **CARRIACOU HISTORICAL SOCIETY - WINDOW on the PAST** in the *Carriacou & Petite Martinique section of the INFORMER*.

### CARRIACOU HISTORICAL SOCIETY - WINDOW on the PAST

#### DID YOU KNOW? DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

There was a railway cart and rail lines on the Hillsborough jetty and a crane at the end of the jetty.

There was a hydrofoil called the "Flying Fish" that was faster than the Osprey. It took dignitaries from Grenada to Carriacou.

There were 2 large ferries the "Madinina" and the "Barbados Pioneer" that traveled weekly from Trinidad, Grenada, and Carriacou through the Grenadines up to Barbados and back.

IF YOU HAVE SUCH MEMORIES AND PHOTOS from the past that you would like to share with your fellow Kayaks, please CONTACT the CARRIACOU MUSEUM at 443-8288 or <http://carriacoumuseum.org/> E-mail: [carriacoumuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carriacoumuseum@gmail.com)

## “Ralph Lendore” Continued from Page 1 .....

Martinique. In 1955 after the ravages of Hurricane Janet, Rhoda L came into Grenada, devastated by the storm, bringing food and other essentials to support the people of Grenada. After offloading goods for Grenada, Captain Lendore made sail again to the North to make sure that his beloved people in Carriacou had food too.

Rhoda L travelled to Trinidad on a weekly basis and supported the economies of poor people in Grenada, then called “speculators” who survived on subsistence living. These speculators shipped crates of fruit and vegetables every Tuesday by Rhoda L, which were received by their relatives in Trinidad on the Wednesday morning. Then the relatives would send back goods or money by Captain Lendore on his return trip to Grenada on the Saturday.

Sailing is not an easy job and sailing a schooner between Trinidad and Grenada, navigating the Bocas is not for the faint-hearted, but Captain Lendore knew the sea and respected it. He loved sailing, making sure that goods reached the people and he did it well. It was said that Captain Lendore believed that heavy rains should never stop a boat from sailing, and Rhoda L maintained this reputation until 1971 when it collided with a large oil tanker in Trinidad waters.

Captain Lendore looked after the Rhoda L well. He surrounded himself with a network of contractors to maintain the engine. He had a team of seamen from Carriacou like Mr. Maze and Nolly from L'Esterre, who overhauled the boat in December and January in Carriacou. He had his men like Leo Compton from Windward and Petit Martinique to repair the sails and make sure the schooner was seaworthy. Within this tight community of top class seamen there was loyalty and they were well compensated.

Rhoda L also provided well for Captain Lendore's family in Grenada and Carriacou enabling him to diversify his assets and purchase two estates in St. David's. He grew and shipped cocoa and nutmeg and provided fruits and vegetables to the Richmond Hill Prison in Grenada. This also enabled him to expand his shipping trade and purchase three large iron boats - OK Service, Mabiri and Perica to accommodate the larger Caricom trade. It was on the Perica in Saint Vincent that he fell ill with a stroke in 1979 and his son Dr. Lendore had to go up to St. Vincent to bring him and Perica back to Grenada.

His love of sailing was all too evident during the down times when other schooners like Island Pride and Amberjack later began sailing between Trinidad and Carriacou. You could count on Rhoda L coming in first on a Saturday morning. His sons, Ronald and Carl looked out every Saturday morning about 5:30 am by the courthouse and could see Rhoda L coming up by Point Salines. By 6:00 am they would be down by the pier to catch the lines from the sailors to tie up the boat. There were fun times too when the Carriacou schooners would sail out of St. George's to Carriacou. Captains would compete to show their expertise in real sailing. Island Pride and Amberjack always wanted to beat Captain Lendore. Sometimes they did, but most times they didn't. And when they came to Harvey Vale to hang out and trade sailing stories over smoke food and jack iron it was all because of their love and respect for the sea.

### ARE YOU HAVING A MEETING ....

The CHS Conference Room is available to individuals and organizations. Please call 443-8288 or email the Museum - [carriacoumuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carriacoumuseum@gmail.com) for available dates and fees.

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## Our Membership Fees

Junior: EC\$10  
(under 16)

Member: EC\$25

Friend: EC\$100

Patron: EC\$500

Sponsor: EC\$1,000

If you wish to join the society or make a donation then contact:

[carriacoumuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carriacoumuseum@gmail.com)

or

tel: +1-473-443-8288

## Welcome Message from our President Continued from Page 1 .....

One of the main initiatives undertaken by the Outreach Committee is the documentation of the oral historical (the way of life in the past) by seeking out many senior persons in the various communities and get them to share as much information as their memory would allow. This initiative has been quite successful. Other accomplishments of the Outreach Program are featured in other articles of this issue so I will not elaborate here.

In 2014, the society will commemorate its 38<sup>th</sup> year. Whenever I think of the sacrifices of the founders who saw the need to create the society, I cannot help but give them high praise for their commitment and vision in preserving the few historical relics that would otherwise be lost to oblivion. Today, because of that commitment and vision, we have one of the best museums in the Eastern Caribbean.

While over the years the society might not have played a significant role in preserving many of the intangible heritage of the islands, it has achieved its basic objectives in preserving, to some extent, relics of the Amerindian, European and African heritage. None-the-less, many opportunities were lost for the preservation of most of the cultural heritage which is constantly slipping away from our traditional landscape. Except for Big Drum and Shakespeare mass many of our cultural traditions have either disappeared or took on new meanings.

As succinctly put by Coherit (1): “We must recognize that cultural heritage is not only a source of historical information but also a focus of democratic deliberation about how the past shapes present circumstances and future possibilities. With social bonds between communities fraying and communication between generations breaking down, young and old are experiencing a loss of identity and cultural dignity. Through rediscovering the value of heritage for shaping the future, community members can regain a sense of rootedness and socio-economic well being.”

Our tangible heritage has suffered a similar fate over the years. I make particular reference to many of the built environment, for example, where the towers and wind mills, industrial relics at Craigston and Dumfries estates, as well as the historic great house at Belair Park, to name a few; have been left to degradation; that is not to say that there were not concerns and conscious efforts made for their preservation and protection but the society as a non-profit membership organization does not have the policing power to do so by itself. We need both government and the community at large working together in collaboration with the society.

When we look at many of these historic relics, we see that they are covered by vegetation and in many cases trees are growing out of the walls. I have consistently stressed the need for both the local community and the wider public to work hand in hand to preserve whatever is left of these historic relics since many are in the public domain.

Our new outlook is eloquently expressed in our mission: “... to bring us closer to the past, present and future of life in Carriacou and Petit Martinique.” If this is to become a reality, we need to take the bold step to get the necessary authority and commit ourselves to making historic preservation a legacy of the Carriacou Historical Society.

I take this opportunity to wish our hard working board of directors, our members – local and overseas – and other readers of this issue of the newsletter the very best in the closing months of this year and God’s blessings as we look forward to 2014. In closing, let me once again leave you with this quote by Majjihima Nikaya:

*“If you want to know the past, to know what has caused you, look at yourself in the present for that is the past’s effect. If you want to know your future, then look at yourself in the present for that is the cause of the Future.”*

(1) Coherit Associates, an international consulting group specializing in sustainable community resource planning and cost effective management of shared cultural heritage.

### Board Members 2013

Stephen Alexander – President; Patricia Hollingsworth – 1st Vice President; Davon Baker – 2nd Vice President; Patricia John - Treasurer; Cassandra Cox-Peters – Assistant Treasurer; Maria Hamlet – Secretary; Sharlene Cornelius – Assistant Secretary; Directors; Randy Cornelius, Wallace McLeod, Theo Jerome, Wilfred Simon, Betty Braithwaite, Daphne Wilson