

# WE HERITAGE ON DISPLAY



We Gatherin'  
2025

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# We Gatherin' in Barbados... to Celebrate who we are!

## ST. LUCY

**The only parish named after a female - St. Lucy of Syracuse - St. Lucy was one of the six original western shoreline parishes incorporated and announced by Governor, Sir William Tufton in 1630.**

This northernmost parish contains eye-catching typographical features like no other: it borders on the placid west, turbulent north and the rugged east coasts of Barbados with a plethora of bays and inlets - from the almost inaccessible Little Bay and Cove Bay on the north and north-east, to the ancient northern picnic spot at Archer's and the now again inaccessible Maycocks on the west. Starting from the southwest, there are Half Moon, Freyers Well, Stroude, Laycocks, Chandlers, Nan's, Kings and River Bays almost at North Point. And there are others, like Landlock and Corben's.

There is nothing more spectacular than watching the blowhole at The Spout (Cow's Nostrils) when plumes of noisy water rocket skywards as the tide fills the hole. West of Northumberland is the Animal Flower Cave, one of Barbados' oldest National attractions.

Conversely there is nothing more serene than sitting on the cliff at Salmonds and watching the cruise liners depart Barbados at eventide. Slightly inland at Cove Bay, the huge water-carved boulders on the elevated plain bear ample testimony to Barbados' inexorable rise from the seabed; but the gouged out sea-filled Cove beyond the coconut grove, lying almost precariously below the strangely elevated Pico Tenerife (the Bishop's nose) typifies the very rugged terrain that welcomes none but the brave and hardy.

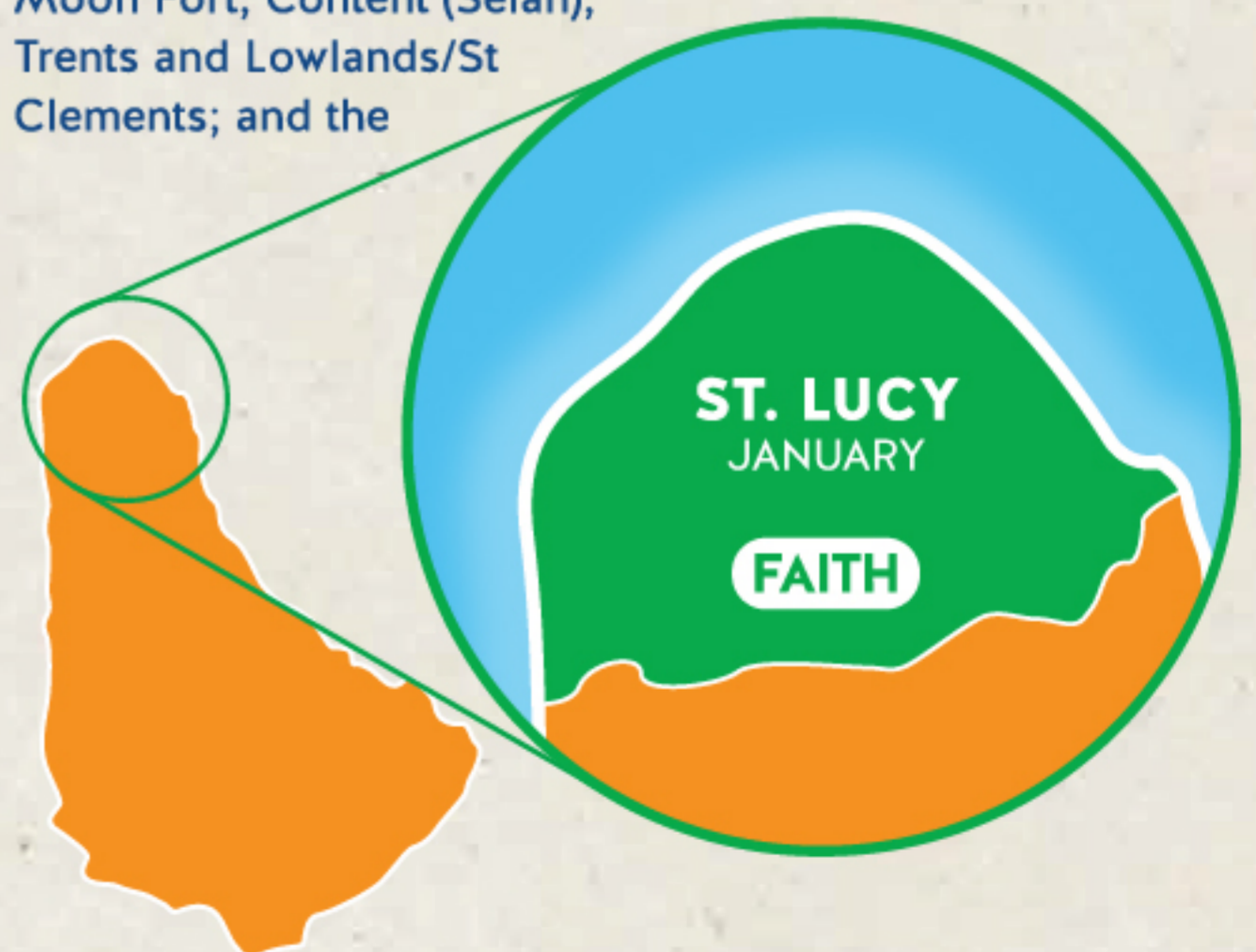
## HISTORY of St. Lucy

One of the early significant events in this parish was the consecration, by 1628, of the first English timber chapel. even before the official naming of the parish.

Unfortunately, that wooden building and two others built of stone. were successively destroyed or badly damaged by hurricanes which visited Barbados in 1629, 1780 and 1831. The current Georgian beauty, the fourth Parish Church, was consecrated in 1837. Its graveyard, the main Parish Cemetery, is a history laboratory which contains the mortal remains of many late, prominent parishioners including a Governor General, Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands.

The oldest parochial Primary School appears to have been located, ca 1850, near St.Clements Church whilst the Thomas Parry Secondary School of about the same vintage, was placed to the north, on the grounds of the St. Lucy Parish Church opposite Fairfield until its belated amalgamation with Coleridge School in 1952/3.

There are now four Primary schools: at Half Moon Fort, Content (Selah), Trents and Lowlands/St Clements; and the



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Daryll Jordan Secondary, also at Trents, a stone's throw away from the former Parry School.

The island wide Water System which started after 1860, was late in reaching this parish but St Lucy was well served by water wells which were dug on every plantation - some pumped by windmill power. These mills also provided electricity to some homes in the parish until the Barbados Electric Supply Corp. which started operations in Bridgetown in 1911, eventually reached a few St. Lucy homes. However, this parish boasted one of the first motor cars on the west coast.

In the dawn of the 20th century, residents of northern parishes made sure to look out each week as the owner of this new 'horseless carriage' proudly drove it into the city.

St. Lucy is best known for its famous rum, distilled at Mount Gilboa by the Sandiford, then Sober families since 1667. Sir John Gay Alleyne, Agricultural Attorney for the absentee Sober family, ran the business so successfully that the owners changed the name to **Mount Gay**. The brand is the oldest continuous rum distillation in an island which boasts of being the **Birthplace of Rum**.

On the dark side, in the 1950's, two labourers, working in a molasses tank, were overcome by fumes and drowned in the molasses before they could be rescued.

Even more macabre, in that same period, was the ritual satanic murder of an infant in a parish cave. The main perpetrator was duly executed after his accomplice turned state's evidence.

St. Lucy's west coast was heavily fortified almost from Settlement, with hillside and beach cannon installed from its southern boundary with St. Peter, as far north as Maycocks and Harrisons. Starting from the south, Fort Rupert is now Little Good Harbour and on the hill almost directly above is Colleton House which was a two-gun lookout; Half Moon Fort might still have a few cannon in the earth and bushes near the primary school; and there was a substantial emplacement called Fort Maycock (sometimes Harrison) near the most visible Parish land mark, the Harrison Point Lighthouse (1925), the last of the four Barbadian Beacons. This site later welcomed the United States Naval Base (1956 -79) and even later accommodated the convicts from 2005 when HM Prison at Glendairy was partly destroyed by fire, until new lodgings were completed at Dodds in 2007.



## PEOPLE of St. Lucy

Easily the most celebrated St. Lucy family, however, is the Oneale clan of Garden Estate, Chequer Hall. This blue-blood Barbadian family has produced two National Heroes and a Governor-General, among other achievers: National heroes, Rt. Ex Charles Duncan O'Neale and his nephew, Rt. Ex. Errol Walton Barrow. Father of Independence; also Barrow's sister, Dame Nita Barrow who became a towering International figure and the first female Governor General of Barbados.

Other prominent parish families include agriculturists, the Wards whose land holdings are still immense in the parish. Their signature project since 1918 has been Mount Gay Rum, distilled in the parish from 1667.

Other large families include the Springers of whom Calvin became the Governor of our Central Bank, the Greaves family of whom Gilbert rose to be Chief Immigration Officer; the Bromes produced two senior clerics, Bishop Rufus Brome and Dr. Henderson Brome and two senior gazetted police officers named below.

St. Lucy has also gained the reputation of having produced an inordinate number of Senior Police Officers through the years. These include incumbent Commissioner Tyrone Griffith, and his Assistant Commissioner Erwin Boyce; retired Assistant Commissioners Alvin Griffith, Beresford

Brome, Gordon Maxwell and Morgan Greaves (ag); Deputy Commissioner Bertie Hinds and other Senior Ranks including Clovis Boyce, Leonard Brome, Valentine Brome and Carson Hinds.

There are countless other residents who have left their marks on society. These include Joseph Yearwood, longstanding teacher who became the most revered principal of the Coleridge and Parry School. At the tertiary level, Prof. Anthony Phillips was largely responsible for the introduction of Barbadian History to UWI Cave Hill. Others, including Bishop Brome; the Marville brothers, Wilmer and Revd Hally, Esbon Ifill, Edaline Dowding and Coreen Kennedy, Revds Keith Griffith and Luther Johnson, S Victor Johnson, Dr Karl Greaves, Gladwyn Greaves, Daphne Springer and the Bowen family including broadcaster Pearson and musician Julian, have all made indelible marks on community and Nation.

Other National personalities include Hospital Matron Enid Skinner, Trade Unionist Yvonne Walkes, DEM Chief Kerry Hinds, Insurance Supervisor Wismar Greaves, teacher then business executive Livvy Greaves, Journalist/promoter Al Gilkes, Lecturers Aubrey Grant and Stewart Bishop, Timber businessman Amory Phillips, Cricketer Sir Charles Griffith, Surgeon Mr Frank Ward and Director of the National Assistance Board Clayton Springer. St. Lucy has a solid connection with the



Carolinas: Families, including Colletons and Stroudes migrated from Barbados between 1660 and the 18th century. Most important of these was Lord Proprietor Sir Peter Colleton, second only to the Duke of York (future King James II) in the Company of Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa which was later redesignated 'the Royal African Company' and granted monopoly trading in slaves from that continent. Colleton's House is now a Heritage attraction.

The most wonderful Parish Attraction however is Human. It is the remarkably large proportion of St. Lucy born or raised Centenarians. Crab Hill resident Gileon Lescar Carrington, still very active and once a practicing Methodist Chapel Steward, celebrated his 100th Birthday in Feb 2019. He joined the ranks of at least twenty-two other Lucians, including his neighbour Ivy Ianthe Moore, who reached that coveted milestone one year earlier.

The others, some now living elsewhere and some elevated to glory, include Rosalie Ifill, Elvina Leacock, Elvira Rock, Sarah Boyce, Matilda Barrow, Rupert Springer, Millicent Ifill, Red C S Vincent Belle, Edna Waithe, Claudine Wooding, Lydia Johnson Richardson, Carlotta Strickland, Olga Barnett, Daisy Mahon, Ms Sydney Burke, Muriel Howell, Gwenyth Sandiford, James Springer, Lillian Walters Bishop, Christopher Smith, Hermione Parris and Ellerston Norville.

