

Barbados Family Research Reference Guide

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Barbados Department of Archives

The Barbados Department of Archives was established in 1964. It’s housed in the old Lazaretto (Lepers Hospital) built in 1907, in the Black Rock section of St. Michael parish. It’s the official location for all parish documents (**Parochial Registers**) such as baptisms, marriages, burials, wills, and deeds. It contains many original documents as well as hand-written documents copied from originals dating back to the 1600s. None of the materials can be checked out, but you can research, read and copy any information that you find. The staff is friendly, helpful and very knowledgeable. The Archives is the key place to trace your Barbadian roots or any other type of historical information that’s related to the island.

Records that can be found at the Archives include:

- Baptism Records – 1637 to 1903
 - Each entry gives the name of the child, the names of parents, the date of baptism, sometimes the date of birth, and a variety of other miscellaneous data.
- Marriage Records – 1643 to 1912
 - A typical entry gives the date of the marriage, the names of the bride and groom, their age and sometimes their parents’ name.
- Burial Records – 1643 to 1912
- Probate Records – 1647 to early 1900s
 - Each entry gives the name of the testator, the names of all heirs, and all dates, titles, relationships, place names, references, land owners, burial locations, slaves and vessels mentioned in the will.
- Deed Records – 1636 to 1949

The Archives do not charge a fee to search their records. They will do preliminary research for you or can provide you with names of persons who, for a fee, can research the Archives on your behalf.

Barbados Department of Archives
Black Rock
St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies
Tel: 246.425.1380 or 246.424.1270
Fax: 246.425.5911
Email: bda@caribsurf.com or archives@sunbeach.net

Barbados Museum and Historical Society

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society was established in 1933. It collects, preserves and publishes materials, relating to Barbados' history, and seeks to promote knowledge of Barbadian history and culture. The society has over 1,000 members.

The museum is housed in the historic Military Prison of St. Ann's Garrison, erected to accommodate the British Army between 1790 and 1853. In addition to its permanent displays, the museum also has a gallery for temporary exhibits. Its library of current and historical publications is open to the public for research purposes.

The museum's Shilstone Memorial Library contains books, old maps, journals, **family genealogies** and other information that chronicles the life and people of Barbados. Key publications to research include "Caribbeana" and "The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society".

Barbados Museum and Historical Society
St. Ann's Garrison
St. Michael
Barbados, West Indies
Tel: 246.427.0201 or 246.436.1956
Fax: 246.429.5946
Email: museum@caribsurf.com
Web site: <http://www.barbmuse.org.bb/>

Barbados Registration Department

Created in 1890, the Records Section of the Registration Department maintains records (**District Registers**) relating to the births, deaths, and marriages of Barbadians going back to the 19th century. Records for the years prior to the 20th century are archived, but 20th century records must be kept readily available to the Section so that staffers can verify information as required.

Records that are readily available at the Registration Department include:

- Baptisms - 1904 to the Present
- Marriages - 1913 to the Present
- Burials - 1913 to the Present

The Registration Department charges a fee to search their records.

Barbados Registration Department
Supreme Court of Barbados
Law Courts
Coleridge St.
Bridgetown, St. Michael, Barbados
Tel: 246.426.3461 or 246.426.2131

Barbados Land Registration Department

The Barbados Land Registration Department contains current information on land deeds and titles (1950 to the present). Older records can be found in the Department of Archives.

Barbados Land Registration Department
Chelsea House
Chelsea
St. Michael, Barbados
Tel: 246.436.5978
Fax: 246.435.0433
Email: landreg@caribsurf.com

FamilySearch.org

The FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service is maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Web site contains Parochial Baptism and Marriage records originally compiled by the Barbados Department of Archives. However, records do not provide the same level of detail that can be found at the Archives.

Web site: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

American Family Immigration History Center (EllisIslandRecords.org)

American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island contains the records of more than 22 million passengers and members of ships' crews that entered the United States through Ellis Island and the Port of New York between 1892 and 1924. Passenger records give names, dates of arrival, ship of travel, age on arrival and more. Records may provide valuable information about the passenger's home or destination

Web site: <http://www.ellislandrecords.org/>

Hinson Family Research

Web site includes information on Ghyll, Hinson, Sobers and Williams families. Also includes links to Barbados Genealogical resources online.

Web site: We Sailed Great Ships: Ancestors of Donald L. Hinson, Jr.
<http://greatships.dlhjr.com/>

Sources:

1. The Barbados Department of Archives
2. Encyclopedia.com (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/>)
3. Centre for Barbados Studies in History and Genealogy (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~brbwgw/Archives1.htm>)
4. Government of Barbados Information Network (<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/>)