

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Inter-island  
Connections in the  
Lesser Antilles: Family,  
Friends, and Institutions  
across the Sea**

**THE CARIBBEAN GENEALOGY LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND THE IN THE SAME SEA RESEARCH  
PROJECT, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN**

**IN PERSON LOCATION: ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER BUILDING  
(ACC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. THOMAS CAMPUS**

**VIRTUAL: VIA ZOOM**

Feb 23-25 2023

This conference is being held in person on St. Thomas, and virtually via Zoom. It is a three-day conference, from February 23rd through February 25th, 2023. Sessions include "Making Connections in the Early Lesser Antilles", "The Challenges of Doing Family History in the Lesser Antilles", "Antillean Family Histories in the Twentieth Century", "Food Ways, Survival and Resistance in the Lesser Antilles", "The Islands of Green Gold" and "Migrants and Their Communities in the Lesser Antilles and Beyond".

In this conference, we gather Caribbean historians and genealogists of the Lesser Antilles to ask how the archipelagic setting of the Lesser Antilles shaped island existence in the past and how it influences families, friends, and institutions today. Twenty talks are expected, including topics related to the Virgin Islands and other neighboring islands of the Caribbean.

For centuries, islanders living on small islands, in close proximity and with a limited resource base, have turned towards their neighbors across the sea. They have crossed formal and informal borders to carve out places for themselves and their loved ones. It is this dynamic of inter-island movement that we wish to explore at the conference. We ask what conventional historical and archaeological evidence tells us about inter-island movements and how family histories and genealogical research can enrich, complicate, and qualify the historical record.

Organized by the Caribbean Genealogy Library, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the IN THE SAME SEA research project, University of Copenhagen.

**Days/Times:**

February 23rd, 2023; from 1pm to 5pm

February 24th, 2023; from 9:00am to 3pm

February 25th, 2023; from 9:00am to 4:30pm

**List of Speakers:**

Dante C. Beretta, Family Historian

Michele D. Bertrand, Family Historian

Dr Vincent Cooper, Linguist, UVI Professor, Family Historian

Mary Draper, Assistant Professor of History, Midwestern State University

Stephanie Duzant, Family Historian

David Knight Sr., Historian, Author

Cush Cuthbertson-Sewer, Family Historian

Enrique Corneiro, Family Historian, Author

Jon Euwema, Conceptual Artist

Astrid Girault, PhD Student at the University of Montreal

Timothy A. Hodge, Family Historian

Jacklyn Lawrence, Family Historian

Joy D. Lewis, Assistant Professor at Morgan State University, Maryland

John Angus Martin, completing PhD in Heritage Management in the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University

Costantino Nicolizas, BA. Archeology, MA. in social anthropology

Mary-Jane Roth, Family Historian

Gabriëlle La Croix, PhD Student, University of Copenhagen

Martijn M. van den Bel, Archaeologist working for INRAP in Outre-Mer

Don E. Walicek, Professor of English and Linguistics at the University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras)

Senator Myron D. Jackson, Family Historian

**February 23, 1 pm – 5:00 pm**

1.00 – 1.20 pm	Welcome (Senator Myron D. Jackson)	
	CGL (Sophia Aubin)	
	In Same Sea (Gunvor Simonsen)	
1.20 – 2.20 pm	“A United Virgin Islands?” Keynote lecture by Assistant Professor Joy D. Lewis, Morgan State University	
2.20 – 2.30 pm	(Coffee / refreshments)	
<b>Session 1</b>		
<b>Making connections in the early Lesser Antilles</b>		
2.30 – 3.00 pm	Costantino Nicolizas Virtual	Amerindian navigation in the Antilles: From mobility to structure
3.00 – 3.30 pm	Martijn M. van den Bel Virtual	The Prize Papers revealing the social network of Dutch merchants on St Christopher, Guadeloupe and Martinique in 1664
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Astrid Girault Virtual	Baptismal and wedding parties as ways for slaves to create and maintain family ties
4.00 – 4.30 pm	David W. Knight Sr. STT	Daughters of Eden; The Role of Creole Women in the Founding of the Danish Colony on St. Thomas in the Seventeenth Century
Moderator: Gunvor Simonsen Zoom moderator: Felicia Fricke		
4.30 – 5.00 pm	Coffee / refreshments	

**February 24, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

9:00-9:30	Welcome & coffee / refreshments	
<b>Session 2</b>		
<b>The challenges of doing family history in the Lesser Antilles</b>		
9.30 – 10.00 am	Jacklyn Lawrence Virtual	The Gerard-Crameaus and Me: Finding My Free-Colored Family in the Danish West Indies
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Stephanie Duzant STT	The Importance of Cultural Identity for a Stateside born St. Johnian: Living a Virgin Island life in the Continental States
10.30 – 11.00 am	Michele D. Bertrand Virtual	“The Bertrands Between the World Wars”
11.00 – 11.30 am	Myron D. Jackson STT	Red Peas Soup: The Collective Memory and Cultural Heritage of a People
Moderator: Nadine Marchena Kean Zoom moderator: Heather Freund		
11.30 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
<b>Session 3</b>		
<b>Antillean family histories in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries</b>		
1.00 – 1.30 pm	Dante C. Beretta Virtual	How Ms. Verna’s ancestors came to settle on the island of St. Thomas
1.30 – 2.00 pm	Gabriëlle La Croix STT	Heyligers in Power: The influence of Johannes Heyliger Pieterszoon, and his family network, on the Leeward islands
2.00 – 2.30 pm	Mary-Jane Roth Virtual	An Inter-Island Merchant Family
2:30 – 2:40 pm	Asbjorn Hellum & Ruth Hedegaard, STT	Introduction to Digitization Project
Moderator: Sophia Aubin Zoom moderator: Felicia Fricke		
2:40pm to 3pm	Coffee / refreshments	

**February 25, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

9.00 – 9.30 am	Welcome & coffee / refreshments	
<b>Session 4</b>		
<b>Food ways, survival, and resistance in the Lesser Antilles</b>		
9.30 – 10.00	Enrique Corneiro Virtual	“How Did I Get Here?”: Fugitives in the Danish West Indies
10.00 – 10.30	Cush Cuthbertson-Sewer Virtual	Food, Farming, and Black Resistance in the Virgin Islands: 1733 & Food Sovereignty
10.30 – 11.00	Mary Draper STT	“Dry Weather”: Drought and the Inter-island Water Trade in the Eighteenth-Century Leeward Islands
Moderator: Elizabeth Rezende Zoom moderator: Heather Freund		
15 min Break	Coffee / refreshments	
<b>Session 5</b>		
<b>The Islands of Green Gold</b>		
11.15 am – 12.00 pm	Jon Euwema STT	The Islands of Green Gold
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
<b>Session 6</b>		
<b>Migrants and their communities in the Lesser Antilles and beyond</b>		
1.00 – 1.30 pm	Don E. Walicek STT	Difference and Belonging in Nineteenth-Century Samaná: the Significance of Inter-Island Connections
1.30 – 2.00 pm	John Angus Martin Virtual	The “Mount Moritz Bajans”: Grenada’s Lost White Tribe
2.00 – 2.30 pm	Timothy A. Hodge STT	The migration of Anguillians to neighboring Caribbean islands: its impacts on Anguilla and contributions to the islands they migrated to
2.30 – 3.00 pm	Vincent Cooper STT	Nineteenth Century Colonial Capitals: Mobile Labor and the Cooper Family in the VI
Moderator: Susan Laura Lugo Zoom moderator: Felicia Fricke		
3:00 – 3:30pm	Conclusion /Thank you	
3:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Coffee / refreshments	