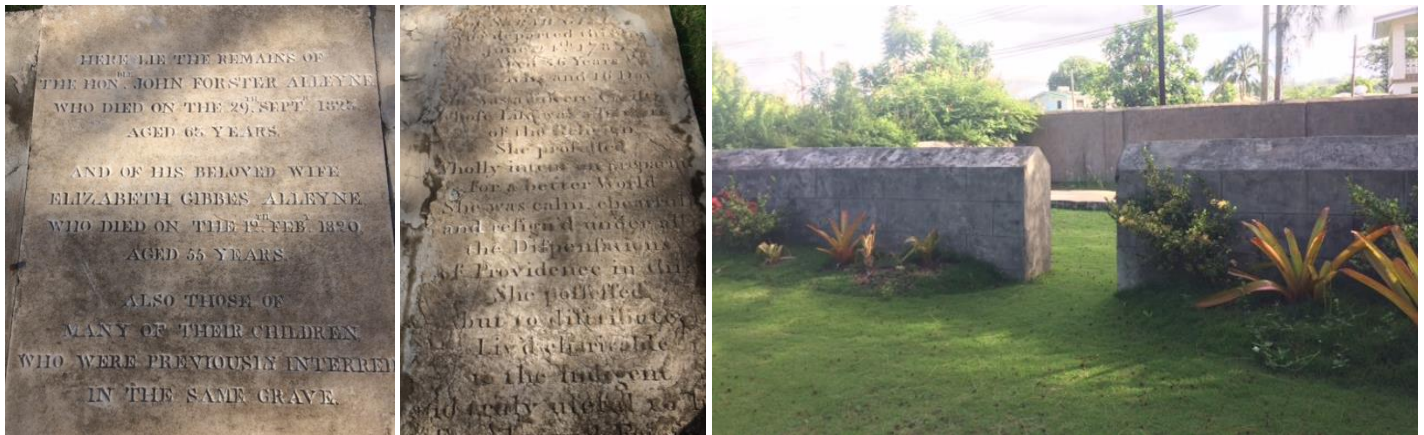


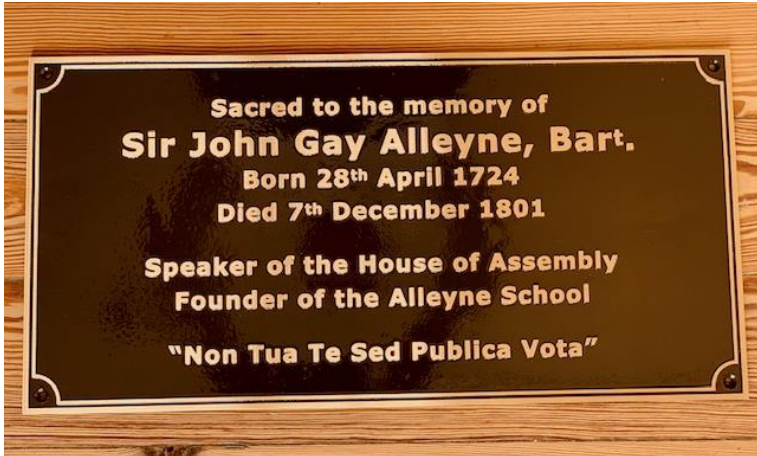
Dear Alleyne Family and Friends,

2019 is nearly upon us and we would like to update you on the progress of **Alleyne Barbados Inc.** during the year.

- 1) Restoration of the Alleyne grave stones in the walled enclosure at St. James' Church has been completed. The slabs were cleaned, re-etched and sealed. The outcome is very pleasing as you can see from the attached photographs. Unfortunately, the inscription on one of them is badly damaged and we were unable to re-etch the lettering. Should we find the inscription documented in the future, we will be sure to restore the inscription on that remaining slab. At the same time, we had the enclosure pressure washed, planted shrubs around the outside of the wall, and are in the process of replacing the little wrought-iron gate which had rusted off its hinges, so the area will be fresh and attractive.



- 2) One of our main objectives during the year was seeking permission from St. James' Church to mount a plaque in memory of Sir John Gay Alleyne on the wall in the chancel. We know for sure that Sir John Gay is buried in this Churchyard but we are not sure exactly where. It is generally felt that, due his prominent status, he was probably buried in the chancel near the altar, but when that flooring was replaced years ago, graves and inscriptions under the area were unfortunately covered over. There is also a chance that he might have been placed in the Alleyne Vault. Regardless of where his remains lie, the Church agreed that a plaque was fitting. We agreed on the inscription and the size and had the plaque crafted in bronze in the UK. It arrived in Barbados in November, was quickly mounted, and was dedicated during the 7:30 a.m. service on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 by Rev. Bev, the priest at St. James. Richie, Linda and Janice attended the service. We hope you will agree, from the photographs below, that it was money well spent and will be a lasting memory to Sir John Gay.



3) We have confirmed that an unmarked vault in St. James' Churchyard is indeed an Alleyne vault. Now that this is a certainty, we intend to repair the external damage, clean it up, label the structure as an Alleyne Vault and mount a plaque with the names of the family members interred therein. Much of this information we have learnt from a booklet written by the late Nancy Seale who worked at the Church for several years and documented some of her findings.

We urge you to visit St. James' Church and see these three bits of our family history for yourself.



4) We continue to support the Alleyne School and again this year we donated money for prizes at Speech Day. We always receive an invitation to their annual events and like to have a representative/s from the family attend when possible. If anyone would like to attend events next year or in the coming years, please let us know. The school board, teachers and students are very proud when we take time to attend their functions.

- 5) Our website has been revised by Dale Alleyne in Victoria BC and should now be more user-friendly. If you Google 'Alleyne Family Barbados' it should pop up but you can log in and navigate it on "alleynebarbados" There is a password needed to bring up the Family Tree. The password is only available to family members. Dale would love to hear any comments you may have on the website and can be contacted at d.alleyne@shaw.ca .
- 6) Our invitation still remains for Sir John (now enjoying life as a nonagenarian!) to visit us again with his family. His trip to Barbados in 2013 went a long way to rekindle our Alleyne family ties. He has recently moved to Winchester and his wife, Honor, has not been in good health this past year, so we have not heard whether Sir John will be able to make the trip anytime soon. We certainly plan to keep in close contact with Sir John and his family. He was recently hoping to attend a service at St. Mary's Church in Stowting, Kent from where the then Rector's son, Richard Alleyne, came to Barbados in 1630 and started our Alleyne name locally.
- 7) We have been approached by a researcher acting on behalf of Mount Gay Distillery to help them with whatever historical information we can provide on Sir John Gay. As you may know, available records indicate that Mount Gay was the first rum distillery *in the world*. To take you back, Mr. John Sober, the owner of Mt. Gilboa Distillery, was a close friend of Sir John Gay Alleyne. At Sir John Gay's death, Mr. Sober (not the most appropriate surname for a rum distiller!) wanted to rename the distillery in his honour. As there was already a Mount Alleyne in Barbados, he decided on Mount Gay Distillery ... and so it began. Mount Gay wants to showcase its product's history at their St. Lucy facility. They are commissioning a prominent local artist to paint Sir John Gay's portrait and will have his Coat of Arms and other significant bits of historical information on display to educate visitors to the Distillery. When it is open to the public we will certainly let you know, and hopefully have an Alleyne Event there!

As you would have gathered from some of the above, funds are desperately important in order for us to continue our restoration efforts and assist in maintaining the Alleyne name in a positive light for the sake of our children and future generations. Our annual subscription fee has not increased since we formed **Alleynes Barbados Inc.** and we urge you to send your BD\$100 (US\$50) per person for 2018 subs. This can be done by cheque in Barbados Dollars payable to "**Alleynes Barbados Inc**" sent to our Treasurer, Andrew Alleyne, Overdale, Graeme Hall Terrace, Christ Church or can be paid by credit card through Pay Pal (if you are not familiar with this, details are on the website under 'Membership')
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY - do this while it is fresh in your mind!

One of our Directors has offered their home for an informal fund-raising Mix & Mingle in the New Year, and we hope when we announce further details you will come out in large numbers and support the event.

Before closing, here is an interesting bit of Alleyne trivia: When British explorer, Captain George Vancouver, sailed the west coast of North America in 1792 he chose to name various significant landmarks to honour his dear friends, one of whom was **Lord Alleyne-Fitzherbert** whose official title was 'Baron St. Helens'. **Mount St. Helens** in Washington State (its massive eruption of 1980 was the largest and most destructive volcanic eruption in U.S. history) was named after our ancestor!



Happy Christmas and all the best
for 2019 everyone!!

