



# Guyana Genealogical and Biographical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1

Issue: 1

June 2005

### Guyana National Archives Crisis

Members have no doubt read the posted Stabroek News article of June 7th regarding the demolition of the building currently housing the National Archives. If you haven't yet read this article you can view it here:

[http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_general\\_news?id=21377308](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=21377308)

In the article, Sister Mary Noel Menezes (professor at the University of Guyana, pictured at left) expressed her alarm at the handling and care of the documents. The article was alarming as it appears there is no knowledgeable caretaker or conservationist on hand to supervise the move and with no temporary facility to house them, many are quite concerned for the endangered documents.



Photo: *Stabroek News*

Many of our members have written letters about the National Archives to Stabroek News of their concern. They have posted member John Wilmer's excellent letter which you can read at: [http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_letters?id=21639402](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_letters?id=21639402)

On Sunday, June 12, 2005, Stabroek News printed another article concerning the National Archives (<http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article?id=21784377>). This article, entitled, "Govt discussing investor's offer to build new National Archives" appears to be a news release from the Ministry of Culture officials in response to the June 7th article. The article doesn't make clear if this new "investor" who offers to build a new National Archives building is the person who apparently has already been approved to purchase of the current National Archives building.

The article does state that there is a National Archives Advisory committee who are capable of overseeing the move and care of documents. It is hoped that the reporter for Stabroek News will continue to pursue what is or is not being done.

### State of the Le Repentir Cemetery

Citizens of Guyana have written to Stabroek News about the care of Le Repentir Cemetery. (see letter written June 10, 2005 at [http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_letters?id=21784432](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_letters?id=21784432)). This is another subject which we, as genealogists, should watch.

### Website Construction Continues

The Officers and fellow Society members Selwyn, Jon and Sharon are collaborating on constructing our Society's website. Jon and Selwyn are lending their knowledge of Guyana and its history and Sharon is building the site. We hope to obtain server space for our new site on the Rootsweb WorldGen Project, and SouthAmerican GenWeb, representing Guyana or failing that, as a Genealogical Society. We are awaiting a positive reply from Rootsweb, and looking at alternative sites just in case.

The site could use more short (1 paragraph or so) biographies to display on the site and we would very much like to welcome yours. Photographs for the biography or for the Photo Gallery page are welcomed as well. You may send your submission to: [GuyanaGenealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:GuyanaGenealogy@yahoo.com)

### Members Lending a Helping Hand

As members meet at our meeting site, Guyana Genealogical and Biographical Society's Yahoo Group, those who are seeking help in finding their ancestors are getting answers.

### What's New???

--- A website is currently being constructed to be ready to go when we get a host site. The website is at a temporary site until then - <http://members.cox.net/~sharander/index.htm>

--- A newsletter to members (this first issue) has been created. Members, let us know how often you'd like a newsletter (quarterly, monthly?) and would you prefer a PDF or HTML file via E-mail?

--- A temporary logo has been created [top of page at left] (The National Coat of Arms is centered within the logo, however, copyright permission is being pursued. Another graphic may need to be substituted - suggestions are welcome!)

---The Society has it's own E-mail address!  
[GuyanaGenealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:GuyanaGenealogy@yahoo.com)

---The founder of the Guyana Genealogical & Biographical Society Yahoo Group has been appointed President of the Society, Jon Budhram as Secretary/Treasurer for purposes of establishing our website.