

A Brief Chronicle of the Principal
Local Events in 1879

Transcribed by Sharon Anderson from scans of book from Tim Smellie, February 2007

January

- 1 Rifle competitions, and Distribution of prizes by Mrs. Kortright
- 4 Court of Policy; Address of condolence and sympathy to the Queen on the death of the Princess Alice; Berbice Volunteer Corps constituted by proclamation of the Governor; Dr. J.T. ALEXANDER died at Barbados
- 5 Governor and Mrs. KORTRIGHT left in R.M. Steamer *Tiber* for Antigua
- 6 Meeting of Court of Policy; The Hon. Wm. A.G. YOUNG sworn in as Lieut.-Governor
- 6 Meeting of the Town Council; Mr. B. V. ABRAHAM elected Mayor of Georgetown in the place of the Hon. R. P. DRYSDALE, whose term of service expired
- 10 Board of Education; A committee appointed to revise the rules of the Board
- 13 Court of Policy; Discussions on navigation of the port, the W. I. & P. Telegraph Co.'s Charges and recovery of overdue acre-money
- 15 Mr. Donald CURRIE elected Town Councillor for Werk-en-Rust Ward
- 18 Half-yearly Meeting Demerara Rifle Association; Mr. N. ATKINSON elected President
- 21 Return of Governor and Mrs. KORTRIGHT from Antigua
- 21 Arrival of Sir David Chalmers (Chief Justice) and Lady Chalmers from England
- 22 Barque *Suffolk* arrived from Calcutta with 506 coolie immigrants
- 23 Barque *Berar* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants
- 27 Fatal accident on the Demerara Railway
- 28 Opening of the Criminal session in Georgetown

February

- 1 Slight shock of earthquake felt in Georgetown
- 5 Mr. Alexander WINTER appointed Sub-Administrator General for Berbice
- 7 The Bargue *Malabar* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants
- 8 Mr. In Thurn and Mr. Edwardes-Moss left town on an expedition to the Kaieteur Falls
- 10 Death of Mr. G. C. BROADHEAD of H.M. Custom House
- 12 Rev. George ROBB resigned the office of Minister of St. Mark's Parish
- 17 Telegraphic communication with Trinidad interrupted
- 26 Mr. Edmund Thornton HENERY of Pln. Providence, Berbice, elected a member in room of Mr. A. C. McCALMAN; The Rev. J. GREATHEAD and Mr. H. WATSON elected members of Board of Education

March

- 1 Mr. Robert SMITH and Mr. R. T. A. DALY appointed members of the Central Board of Health; Mr. A.M. ABBOTT appointed provisionally to be clerk to the Magistrate of the Mahaica Judicial District; Mr. R.L. GREAVES appointed to act as a Commissary of Taxations attached to the Georgetown District
- 4 The ship *Poonah* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants; A disturbance occurred on the Corentyne Coast between the coolies of Skeldon and Eliza and Mary during the celebration of the tadjah festival; Messrs. Im THURN and Edwards-MOSS returned to town from the Kaieteur Falls
- 12 Anniversary Meeting of Guiana Diocesan Church Society
- 11 Mr. Alex. FRASER provisionally appointed Sub-Accountant of Essequibo; Mr. R. S. F. LAMBERT, Commissary of Taxation, appointed Aid-Waiter in the Customs Department; Mr. John SOLOMON appointed Commissary of Taxation of the Essequibo River District; Mr. A. E. BOWEN appointed sixth clerk in the Receiver General's Office
- 14 Meeting of the Court of Policy: An application received from Mr. Quintin HOGG, that Government should advance him \$43,000 in consideration of the wall built at Pln. Bel Air, referred to the Combined Court
- 15 A coolie named MOOLTAN was run over by the Demerara Railway at *Bachelor's Adventure* and died in the Colonial Hospital; Arrival of the Bargue *Dartmouth* from Hong Kong with 52 Chinese immigrants
- 16 Arrival of the ship *Howrah* from Calcutta with 525 Indian immigrants; The Governor and Mrs. Kortright visited the Penal Settlement
- 19 Loss of the yacht *Madge* off the East Coast; the crew rescued by the police
- 22 A coolie named RAMDEEN executed at Essequibo for the murder of his wife
- 23 Destructive fire in Robb's Town. The premises of Bourne and Co., W.B. Jamieson, C. Cahuac and the wholesale department of Playfair & Co. were destroyed

- 26 Trial of rioters at New Amsterdam
 29 Mr. E. Horace REYNOLDS provisionally appointed clerk in the sub-treasury and saving's bank at Suddie, Essequibo; Mr. S. R. PONTIFEX's invention of the prevention of the spread of fires by means of the use of carbonic acid gas, provisionally protected for twelve months
- April 30 Mr. Luis E. SCHMALZ, a native of Switzerland, committed suicide
- 1 Mr. George Anderson FORSHAW elected Mayor Georgetown; Pln. *Smithson's Place*, Berbice, sold at execution sale for \$8,050
 2 Mr. Thomas FITZGERALD, Commissary of Taxation, appointed a Special Justice of the Peace for the colony of British Guiana and Acting stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the East Bank Demerara River
 5 Governor and Mrs. Kortright sailed for Southampton; The Hon. W.A.G. YOUNG Lieut.-Governor assumed the administration of the Government
 9 Mr. H. SPROSTON, Jr., elected Town councillor for North Cumingsburg, West Municipal Ward
 12 Mr. J.N.L. BACKER appointed Acting Auditor General
 16 Mr. F. A. GALL provisionally appointed Superintendent of the Reformatory at Oaderneemina; Mr. George Thorne WHITE provisionally appointed assistance Superintendent of H.M. Penal Settlement
 24 Mr. D.M. GALLAGHER appointed Acting Comptroller of Customs during the temporary absence from the Colony of Mr. H. W. AUSTIN; and Mr. F. O. KING appointed Acting Registrar of Demerara and Essequibo during the temporary absence of Mr. E.H.G. DALTON
- May 1 Mr. W. S. BOURNE arrested on a charge of arson
 6 H.M.S. *Blanche* arrived from Barbados
 7 & 8 Georgetown Races
 14 Opening of the first Biennial exhibition in Georgetown
 15 Sudden death of Dr. C. B. BOTT from apoplexy, at Pln. *Skeldon*, Berbice
 28 Barque *Lightning* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants
- June 1 A man named Joshua CUMINGS run over by the railway train at Cuming's Lodge and killed
 2 Whit Monday – Public holiday
 4 Barque *Silhet* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants
 7 Mr. Thomas Scott HALLIDAY appointed Chief Clerk and Accountant in the office of the Administrate General
 17 Mr. Thomas Henry MACKEY died
 18 Mr. P.H.R. HILL appointed acting magistrate of the West Coast, Demerara Judicial District; Mr. F. E. DAMPIER appointed Magistrate of the West Bank, Demerara Judicial District
 20 Mr. G. H. RICHTER elected Town Councillor for Robbstown Municipal Ward
 21 Mr. Edwin JAMES elected Town councilor for Kingston Ward; Mr. W. S. BOURNE referred to the Supreme Criminal Court for trial on the charge of arson
 25 Mr. P. C. HAREL provisionally appointed Ass. Com. Of Taxation of Essequibo District; Mr. G. A. LAMB appointed Inspector of Police
- July 2 Dr. G. SNELL appointed Ass. Med. Sup. Of Lunatic Asylum, Berbice
 3 Mr. D. C. CAMERSON elected Financial Rep. For Essequibo
 5 Mr. T. H. GLENNIE elected Financial Rep. For Georgetown; Mr. A. J. PITMAN elected Financial Rep. for Essequibo; Murder of a seaman named GORDON; Death of Mr. Charles Louis FRASER, overseer of Pln. *Friendship* and *Sarah*, in the Colonial Hospital from the injuries inflicted on him by coolies at Pln. *Belle Plaine*
 12 Arrival of the Dutch gunboat *Aruba* from Paramaribo, on a cruise
 18 Death of Mr. John THOMPSON, proprietor of the *Berbice Gazette*
 26 The Rev. S. Coode HORE provisionally appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Parish, Essequibo, in the room of the Rev. W. H. BRETT

30 Depositing of the old colours of the 2nd West India Regiment in St. George's Cathedral

August

2 News received of the death of Mr. Henry Tinne GARNETT onboard Royal Mail Steamer *Don* on the passage to Southampton
4 W. S. BOURNE acquitted of the charge of arson in the Supreme Criminal Court
18 Mr. Ernest E. FRANCIS appointed analytical chemist in this colony
25 Death of Mr. W. B. EDDY, second master of Queen's College at St. Vincent
27 Arrival of the new Colonial steamer *Guiana* from London
29 First appearance of *A Verdade* (The Truth), a Portuguese newspaper, in Georgetown
30 The barque *Lightning* left the river with 566 returning immigrant for Calcutta
31 Death of Mr. Nathaniel CHAPMAN, 61 years a resident of this colony, in his 80th year

September

1 The *Berbice Gazette* purchased by Mr. C. E. HOOTEN
2 The barque *Malabar* left the river with 551 returning immigrants for India
3 Mr. John A. DAIZIEL appointed First Marshal in the office of the Provost Marshal
4 News received of the death, at Plymouth, of Mr. Samuel BOOKER
9 Death of Mr. D. SCRUBY
11 A Portuguese shopkeeper named PERES, arrested on a charge of arson; acquitted
14 The new lightship *Georgetown*, built at Amsterdam, arrived in the harbour
15 Mr. G. C. B. MULLER, Manager of *Taymouth Manor*, died at Martinique
19 Death of Mr. Robert SANDLAND, of the firm of Pasley, Templeton & Co.
20 Serious fire in Russell and Saffon Streets, Charlestown; Sudden death of Mr. A. B. MORRISON at Pln. Everton, Berbice
24 Mr. B. V. ABRAHAM elected Town Councillor for Stabroek ward
27 Death of Mr. F. F. CAMACHO, an old Portuguese colonist; Formal opening of the Georgetown Tramway by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor
28 The barque *Victoria* of London burnt in the port of Georgetown
30 Pln. *Goedverwagting* was purchased by Mr. Edmund FIELD on behalf of Messrs. LAMBERT, the mortgages, for \$41,000

October

1 Mr. B. S. BAYLEY re-elected Town Councillor for South Cumingsburg and Albert Town East Ward; The wreck of the barque *Victoria* was sold at auction for \$730; a megass logie on Pln. *Ogle* destroyed by fire; Colonel George Foster FOSTER appointed Magistrate of the West Coast (Demerara) Judicial District
14 Concert in the Philharmonic Hall, in aid of St. Philip's Church Fund
19 The shop of Mr. John JONES, in Water Street, was broken into and about \$750 in gold stolen
22 Fire on Pln. *Ruimveldt*- two megass logies burnt; Fire on Pln. *Goedverwagting* – a megass logie burnt
23 Fire on Pln. *Farm*, East Bank – two megass logies burnt. A coolie was accidentally run over by a tramway car in Water Street and killed
29-30 Georgetown Races

November

1 The steamship *Benona*, the first of a new line of steamers to run between this colony and Liverpool, arrived here
10 The *Lassa* and *Plassey* arrived from Calcutta with immigrants
11 The German carrette *Medusa* (training ship) arrived from Bahia; Mr. Josias BOOKER elected a member of the Court of Policy in the room of Mr. A. C. McCALMAN, who has left the colony
12 Mr. H. BARCLAY Temporarily appoint S.J.P. of the Demerara River District; Mr. Im THURN, Curator of othe Museum, and Mr. JENMAN, Government Botanist, returned from a two-months' stay up the Corentyne River
14 A megass logie on Pln. *Ogle* was burnt
15 The Troopship *Tamar* arrived from Barbados with a detachment of othe 1st. W. I. Regiment; Mr. Ernest E. WIGHT appointed to act as Assistant Crown Surveyor
16 Mr. Henry BALDWIN, clerk with Messrs. BOOKER Brothers and Co., committed suicide
17 The Troopship *Tamar* sailed for Honduras with a detachment of the 2nd W.I. Regiment

- 19 The sloop *Exelina*, bound from Berbice to Nickerie, was upset – two persons drowned
- 20 Demerara Regatta; The steamship *Para* sailed for London but as detained on the bar
- 21 Mr. ASHBURY, M.P. for Brighton, arrived in his yacht *Iberia*, from Surinam
- 23 The Right Hon. Mr. CHILDERS and family arrived by *Solent*
- 25 The Right Hon. Mr. CHILDERS and party sailed for Trinidad in the Royal Mail Steamer
- 26 The Islands of Antigua, St. Christopher and Guadeloupe declared to be infected places for the purposes of the Quarantine Ordinance, 1870; Pln. *Blenhem* (Leguan) bought by the British Guiana Bank for \$19,100
- 27 Tramway extension to the Railway Station; Two Portuguese Barques arrived from Madeira with 120 passengers and immigrants
- 28 Setting in of the rainy season
- 29 Mr. James ASHBURY, M.P., sailed for Tobago, Trinidad and Barbados, in his yacht *Iberia*

December

- 3 Governor Kortright and Mrs. Kortright arrived from England
- 6 Mr. H. Stanley BURROWES died at Two Friends, in Essequibo; Mr. Charles Piercy AUSTIN, Assistant Government Secretary, appointed Received General of British Guiana
- 13 The ship *North* arrived from Calcutta with 518 coolies
- 14 Heavy rainfall, upwards of six inches recorded in some parts of the colony
- 17 Battean accident on the river; one life lost
- 18 The Steamship *Bel Air* arrived from Glasgow via Trinidad; Messrs. PETERS and MONTEITH, the Sugar Trade Delegates, arrived in the *Bel Air*, from Trinidad
- 26 Steamer excursion to Zeelandis, Wakenaam
- 27 Mr. William WIETINZ appointed to act as Consul for the German Empire, during the temporary absence of Mr. Arthur WEBER
- 31 Fatal accident on the Demerara Railway