



ST. GEORGE'S CAYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BULLETIN

2010 St. George's Caye Archaeology Project Report I - July 12-19, 2010

The 2nd Annual St. George's Caye Archaeology Project started July 12, 2010 and will run through mid August and will continue to look for pieces of the island's past. Leading the project are Dr. Jim Garber from Texas State University at San Marcos and Dr. Lauren Sullivan from the University of Massachusetts at Boston in partnership with Dr. Jaime Awe and the Department

of Archaeology and your Community Council of St. George's Caye.

The initial focus was to demarcate the exact locations of the historical burials and so the team began their research inside the cemetery boundaries. Several burials were found and the items presented here are some of the more interesting finds which includes buttons

from the 2nd and 5th West India Regiments, flintlock mechanisms and flint, pipes, and also turtle and manatee bones.

Jim & Lauren and 13 university students will be on the island through Aug 12 uncovering more of St. George's Caye's past. If you are interested in learning more about the project please ask anyone you may see digging holes on the island!

WEST INDIA REGIMENT ————— BUTTONS



**Private of the
5th West Indies Regiment**

Reference: The St. George's Caye Archaeology Project: Results of the 2009 Field Season (Garber 2010) cites *Costumes of the Army of the British Empire, according to the last regulations 1812*. Engraved by J. C. Stadler, aquatint by Charles Hamilton Smith.

The West India Regiment (WIR) was an infantry unit of the British Army recruited from and normally stationed in the British colonies of the Caribbean between 1795 and 1927.

The WIR soldiers became a valued part of the British forces garrisoning the West Indies, where losses from disease and climate were heavy amongst white troops.

The black Caribbean soldiers by contrast proved better adapted to tropical service. They served against locally recruited French units that had been formed for the same reasons. Free black Caribbean soldiers played a prominent and often distinguished role in the military history of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 1795 commissions were issued to colonels to raise 8 such regiments and in 1798 4 additional regiments were raised.



2nd West India Regiment

Center Image: Crown above 2



5th West India Regiment

Top Text: "Duke of York"

Bottom Text: W. India Regt

Center Image: Crown above V

The 6th WIR was reported to have been detached to fight in the Battle of St. George's Caye on Sep 21, 1798. (Chartrand & Chappell 1996)

History of the West India Regiment

Regiment	Date Formed		Original	Joined By	Year	Disbanded
1	24-Apr	1795	Whyte's Regiment of Foot	Carolina Corps & Royal Rangers	1796	1962
				2nd WIR	1888	
2			Myer's Regiment of Foot			1927
3	20-May		Keppel's Regiment of Foot			1870
4			Nicoll's Regiment of Foot			1869
5			Howe's Regiment of Foot			1865
6	1-Sep		Whitelocke's Regiment of Foot			
7	15-Sep		Lewe's Regiment of Foot	9th WIR	1802	1816
				10th WIR		
		12th WIR				
8		Skerrett's Regiment of Foot	Loyal Dominica Rangers	1798	1796, 1816	
			11th WIR	1802	1816	
9	Aug	1798	Trinidad Rangers or Drault's			1802
10	?		Soter's Island Rangers			
11			South American Rangers			
12			O'Meara's Rangers			
	Buttons found on St. George's Caye					

Compiled from the book *British Forces in the West Indies* (Chartrand & Chappell 1996) and the report *The 1st Bn. West India Regiment* (Williams 2008).

WEAPONS



Flint Lock Mechanism

Flintlock pistols, muskets and rifles were used through the 1800s. In the Historic Cemetery flint lock mechanisms and gun flint have been found. Dr. Garber will be dating these items and we'll keep you updated on when they may have been used on St. George's Caye.



Gun Flint

GAMES



Dice have been reported from throughout the world. This dice was found along with the other artifacts from the soldiers, but whether it was more recent will need to be determined by Dr. Garber and his team.

REFERENCES:

Chartrand, R & P Chappell. 1996. *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815*. Men at Arms Series, Osprey, London.

Garber, J. 2010. *The St. George's Caye Archaeology Project: Results of the 2009 Field Season*. Report submitted to Department of Archaeology, Belize.

Unknown. 1812. *Costumes of the Army of the British Empire*, according to the last regulations. Colnaghi and Co.

Please remember Dr. Garber & Dr. Sullivan would like to document all items that have been found on the cay. Please give Chairman Searle a call at 610-0840 if you have something to report, or send pictures to stgeorgescayebelize@gmail.com or visit the crew on the island!