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## WELCOME TO OUR Year in Review Newsletter

*We couldn't have done it without you!*

### Note from the Executive Director

2024 has come to an end and we are very proud of all that we have been able to accomplish at NHCS over the past year with your support. In 2025, NHCS will be turning 45 years old!... continuing our tradition as one of the oldest and most active non-profit organizations in the Federation. We hope you'll be along with us for the ride.

We have a busy year ahead of us with exciting ventures including:

- The re-launch of our Hamilton Scholarship Fund, thanks to a grant from BNY (previously known as BNY Mellon).
- Launch of our new and improved website!
- Continued conservation of the Bath Hotel thanks to a second round of funding from the US Embassy's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant.
- A ceremony/cocktail commemorating the return of the St. John's Parish Register and the donation of a replica of Lord Horatio Nelson's uniform.
- And so much more!

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved in the work that we are doing. We depend on your support whether financially, via in kind donations, or through volunteering of your time or expertise. I also want to encourage you to help spread the word and get others in your network involved in our organization. The work we do not only benefits Nevis as we know it but has the potential to benefit the island for generations to come. We are counting on the renewed commitment of our members and supporters to help fulfill our mission! I hope to see you all in 2025!



*Happy  
New Year*

Warm Regards,



WELCOME TO OUR

# Year in Review Newsletter

*We couldn't have done it without you!*

## What's Inside

### Title

### Page

Note from the Executive Director	1
What's Inside	2
Feature Article: The Folk Architecture of Nevis	3-5
Membership Renewal Reminder	5
2024 In Review	6-11
In Memoriam	11
Shop Talk!	12
Upcoming Events	13-14
A Blast from the Past	15
Our 2024 Partners	16
Meet the Team	17

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# Feature Article: The Folk Architecture of Nevis

BY SUZANNE GORDON



Folk architecture--Nevis style--has its own nuance dictated by climate, materials and heritage. Disappearing at an alarming rate, these delightful, sometimes ramshackle structures, are quickly being replaced by concrete homes throughout the island.

The homes are truly remnants of the past, when the wood was dried properly and lasted for decades. They were products of imagination, creativity and common sense. They relied on leftover paint, random wood, and the artistic prowess of the builders. They were quaint, often whimsical, and fun.

Throughout the Caribbean, the styles are an amalgam of many influences--African, English, French, Dutch and Spanish. This blending or "creolization" of societies produced a rich and colorful architectural environment throughout the region.

The advent of the typical Nevis vernacular house came in the early 18th century with the emancipation of the enslaved population, who needed homes, so the idea of chattel, or moveable homes, came into being. The small houses were perched on rocks, stones, or wooden slabs and could be moved if necessary. There are still some on the island, and occasionally you can still see houses being moved, often on Sundays, when the traffic is lighter.

On Nevis, the basic one-room house was 10 by 12 feet in size with a center door and windows on each side. It was built up and set on stones above ground level. This allowed good air flow to cool the interior, kept vermin at bay, and allowed rain water to run off unimpeded. Builders created makeshift gutters and downspouts, sometimes using an old bucket attached to the side of the wall to collect water and when second house was added, a valley was created so that water could be collected into a cistern.

## The Folk Architecture of Nevis Continued



The roofs were high enough to let the heat rise inside, and sometimes room partitions were open at the top with artistic cutouts that let the air flow throughout the house. Other decorative elements were added as the homes evolved, such as lattice interior shutters for privacy and ventilation, and solid exterior shutters for storm protection and security.

Expanding the original charming cottages to meet the needs of today's families has happened in several ways. Some of the original wooden homes remain and have been expanded by adding concrete additions. In some cases, the original homes were first encased in concrete and then an addition created. In other cases, people have sold, removed, or just demolished the original homes and built out of concrete.

The introduction of concrete as a building material in the Caribbean has definitely changed the character of homes, though many builders still add fretwork, artistic patterns for wooden railings, shutters and lattice to try and retain some of the original West Indian vernacular character--many with great success.

Continued on page 4.

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Have an article you'd like to share with the  
general membership?

Send an email to [director@nevisheritage.org](mailto:director@nevisheritage.org) 4

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## The Folk Architecture of Nevis Continued

Concrete today is preferable since it withstands the stress of hurricanes, salt water deterioration and infectious insects, like termites. It also means newness and affluence, and signs of a more promising future.

In very recent months, there has been a new twist on local architecture--the advent of the boxy concrete house with a flat roof. These structures really have little to do with traditional Caribbean architecture, particularly in their inability to collect water to refill cisterns. Flat roofs can collect water easily, but shouldn't as it can cause deterioration of the concrete. However, they are intrinsically resistant to high winds and flying debris. And with the advent of modern air-conditioning system to cool the interior, the louvered windows and doors and high roof to draw up the heat may no longer be needed.

As for the old homes, despite the effort to fix them up, each house saved is another step towards remembering the heritage of this small island, when creativity and inventiveness were the rule rather than the exception, and concrete was only a twinkle in some contractor's eye.



**Its membership renewal time!**  
**Please note: your annual membership will expire on December 31st, 2024.**

**Renew your membership now!**

5

[\*\*Click Here to Renew!\*\*](#)



This includes highlights of this year's activities and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the happenings at NHCS.



### January Hamilton Tea Party

On January 11th we continued the tradition of hosting our annual Hamilton Tea Party, which serves as a fundraising activity with all proceeds benefiting our Hamilton Scholarship Fund. See below for details for 2025.



### January Public Talk: The History & Future of the Nevis Banjo

Thank you to Dr Kevin Meehan for his fascinating talk focused on the Nevis bango. The presentation took place at the Bath Hotel with over 50 persons in attendance. Guests were also treated to a surprise performance by the Honeybees Stringband.



### January Meet the Artist: Mavis Parris

Mavis Parris showcased her fabulous "Vicki Knorr" children's clothing line and her other fashion collections. David Davis also showcased his "Antiques Roadshow", which is always a hit! Thanks to Miriam Knorr and Nicola Scott Taylor for organizing this event.



## 2024 in Review continued...

### February Annual Jumble Sale

Our annual Jumble Sale and single largest fundraising event was a hit as usual! Unfortunately we will not be able to host our annual Jumble Sale in 2025, but we are always accepting monetary donations.



### March Public Talk: Archeology in Nevis

Drs. David Barker and Rob Philpott discussed respective archeological research conducted on island. Dr. Barker's presentation expounded on the role of ceramics historically found in Nevis and



their role in archeology and the history of Nevis in General. Dr. Philpot discussed the archeological work done at two plantation sites in Gingerland, one at Fern Hill and the other located in Upper Rawlins. His presentation offered insights regarding the layout and functionality of plantations.



## April Earth Day Island Clean Up

This year for our 21st Annual Clean Island Sweep, we teamed up with the Ministry of Health and Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority with financial support from the Ocean Conservancy. Over 17,000 pounds of white goods and debris were collected from around the island!

7

# 2024 in Review continued...

## May V.I.P Visit: Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe



We welcomed His Excellency Cecil Toendepi Chinenero to our museums for the first time. He was especially pleased with the exhibit portraying the connection of Nevisians to our African Heritage.



## June World Ocean Day Beach Clean Up

In collaboration with Blue Conscience and with financial support from the Ocean Conservancy, we conducted our first World Ocean Day Beach and In Water Clean Up. Over 50 volunteers participated in this activity. Thanks to volunteer Miriam Knorr for spearheading this activity!

July

## Director Terysia Herbert joins NHCS



The NHCS appointed a new Executive Director. Ms. Terysia Herbert came to us with a background in public health, research, and program planning. Before coming to us she was employed by the Ministry of Health. Prior to that, she spent 5 years as a Research Coordinator and Program Manager at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY.



8

# 2024 in Review continued...



## August International Association of Caribbean Archaeology Conference

For the first time ever, the IACA Conference, co-hosted by NHCS was held in Nevis. Over 60 archeologists and researchers from all over the world attended. Thanks to the organizing committee: Prof. Neal Ferris, Lorna Abungu, Gillian Hobson and Terysia Herbert for making this conference a reality.

## August NiCaR Team Visit



A team from the Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NiCaR) - a program of the US Forestry Service - paid us a visit in August. Through support from NiCaR, we have furthered our work in coastal and wetland protection at Nelson's Spring and Fort Ashby. The team was impressed with all we have accomplished and offered feedback for future efforts. Special thanks to Project Leads: Keithley Amory and Jenny Lowery.



September





## Meet the Artist: Tafari Ayinde

Nature photographer and poet, Tafari Ayinde showcased his stunning photography featuring local flora and fauna as well as historic landmarks and other landscapes.

9

# 2024 in Review continued...

## September

### International Coastal Clean Up



This year marked our 32nd consecutive year being a part of the International Coastal Clean Up. With participation from over 20 teams as well as continued support from Ocean Conservancy and the Nevis Solid Waste Management Agency, we were able to significantly reduce the amount of trash that would have eventually made its way to our oceans.



## September AFCP Grant Signing Ceremony

The NHCS was once again awarded the prestigious Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) Grant funded by the US Embassy. During an official grant signing ceremony held at Bath Hotel, NHCS Director, Terysia Herbert and U.S. Ambassador, Roger Nyhus, signed the grant documents marking the NHCS' official acceptance of the grant. With joint effort by the NHCS and Ministry of Tourism, the grant will support continued conservation of Bath Hotel. Efforts to resume in January 2025.

## November

### NHCS represented at Museum Associations of the Caribbean (MAC) Conference



Executive Director, Terysia Herbert was awarded



one of eight travel fellowships sponsored by the Smithsonian Museum to attend this year's Museum Associations of the Caribbean conference in Panama City, Panama. Director Herbert was the sole attendee from the Federation.



10

## 2024 in Review continued...



### November Biodiversity Committee Celebrates Arbour Month

In honour of Arbour Month, observed annually in November, the Conservation & Biodiversity Committee organized multiple outreach activities including: youth-targeted radio quizzes, weekly Tree-at's (providing information about local flora), as well as a tree labeling activity at Fort Ashby. Kudos to Isabel Byron, Pam Barry, Jenny Lowery and Kendra Pemberton for leading these activities. Many thanks also to intern, Unique Clarke for added support.

### December NHCS members meet with Dept of Marine Resources (DMR)



Director Randel Thompson as well as Deputy Director Cory Maynard and other members of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) met with members of the NHCS to discuss ongoing initiatives aimed at curbing overfishing. Dr. Janice Daniel-Hodge from the Newcastle Bay Foundation was also in attendance. We look forward to continued collaboration with the DMR in 2025.



## In Memoriam

Throughout this past year, valued members and friends of NHCS transitioned. We take this moment to honour their lives and recognize their contributions towards the Society.

John Snell  
Lloyd Hezekiah

## Shop Talk!

### FEATURED ITEM

Now available at our museum gift shop are exquisite 2025 Calendars featuring local birds, insects, etc. This calendar was 100% produced by members of the NHCS Conservation and Biodiversity Committee. It includes original photographs by member Cheng-wei Liu (Jack) and was designed and produced by veteran members, Pam Barry and Isabel Byron.



All proceeds will support environmental preservation work being done by the society!

Stop by our gift shop to purchase!



Cost: \$55 EC or \$20 US

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## Upcoming Events



Join us on Friday, January 10th, 2025 from 4:30pm-6:30pm at the museum grounds for our annual Hamilton Tea Party and Hamilton Scholars Reception. Tickets are currently on sale at the Museum of Nevis History or via PayPal for \$100 EC or \$40 US.

Can't attend in person? Your contribution is still welcome.  
**100% of proceeds support our Hamilton Scholarship Fund.**

[Click here to purchase tickets/donate](#)

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## Upcoming Events Continued



### Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

We are gearing up to host our 2025 Annual General Meeting. Stay tuned for further details.

Please note, only current (paid up) members are allowed to participate and vote at the AGM.



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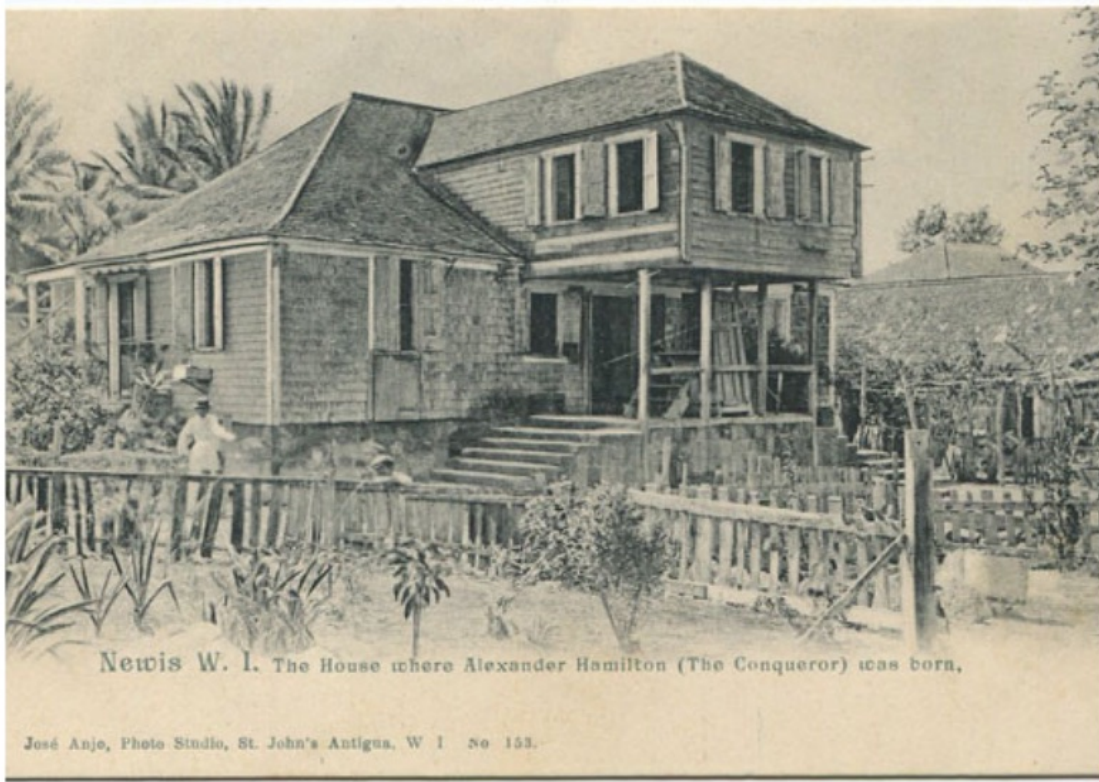
### Return of St. John's Register/ Lord Nelson's Uniform Unveiling

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2025

Thanks to our UK partners, the 1805 Club and the Borthwick Institute at the University of York, we are expecting the return of the St. John's Parish Register, which includes the marriage license of Lord Nelson and Fanny Nisbett as well as a donation of a replica of Lord Nelson's uniform and tricorne hat. NHCS in collaboration with the St. John's Anglican Church will host a joint ceremony and cocktail to celebrate this momentous occasion. Save the Date for March 9th, 2025. Details to follow shortly.

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## A Blast From The Past



### LOOK FAMILIAR?

This image of Trott House taken by Jose Anjo, of Antigua in 1880. It is captioned "*Newis, W.I. The house where Alexander Hamilton (The Conqueror) was born*".

Submitted by Stacey Tyrell

Have historic images you'd like to share with the general membership?

Send an email to [director@nevisheritage.org](mailto:director@nevisheritage.org)

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International Association of Caribbean Archeology  
Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) Program  
San José State University

A huge thank you to these organizations (and numerous unmentioned individuals) for their partnership and support over the past year.

16

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## Meet the Team!

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NHCS Staff

TERYSIA HERBERT- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GILLIAN HOBSON-FINANCE OFFICER  
GAIL DORE-GIFT SHOP SUPERVISOR/ARCHIVIST  
ELMON CORAM-GROUNDSMAN  
JOHNATHAN WARD-GALLERY ATTENDANT (PART-TIME)  
UNIQUE CLARKE-INTERN  
PATRICK HOWELL- AV SUPPORT

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

RICHARD LUPINACCI-PRESIDENT  
TODD MILLER-VICE PRESIDENT  
WARREN MOVING-TREASURER  
DESYL HAMILTON-ACTING SECRETARY  
AUDRA BARRETT  
ISABEL BYRON  
ALTHEA CAMPBELL  
NEAL FERRIS  
CAMERON GILL  
NYKEISHA HENRY  
SYLVESTER MEADE  
DEVON PEMBERTON  
MAURISHA ROBINSON-GUY  
LESLIE WADE  
CHARLES WARD  
CAROL WILLAUER  
KEITHLEY WOOLWARD

Do you know someone who would be ideal to  
serve on our board of Directors?

The Nominations Committee needs your help!

17

[Click here to nominate!](#)

