

Sturge Town - You are right on top

Lyrics and music by
Rev. Lindsay
Moncrieffe, J.P.,
O.M.

Sturge Town is a
district,
In the parish of St.
Ann;

It may not be
considered
important,

By many people
on this land,

And we have
asked for good
roads,

Over these years
from modern men,
But we are proud
of our district, For
the recorded hist'ry
is great.

(Chorus)

Celebrate! Sturge
Town you are "right
on top"

Celebrate! Shake
your body line;

Shake your body
line, I say shake
your body line,

This is a day of
love peace and joy.

It was made a
Free Village,
In year 1840;
After the abolition
of slav'ry,
In the year 1838;
And a man named
Joseph Sturge,
Gave money to
Pastor John Clarke
Who bought some
land for the people,
Which he
subdivided into lots.

(Chorus)

Our fore-fathers
and our fore-
mothers,
Who lived on this
hill,

Worked hard with
church, school
And the
community
They did their
very best...

To develop this
place,

Let us follow their
example

And help make
Sturge Town a
better place

(Chorus)

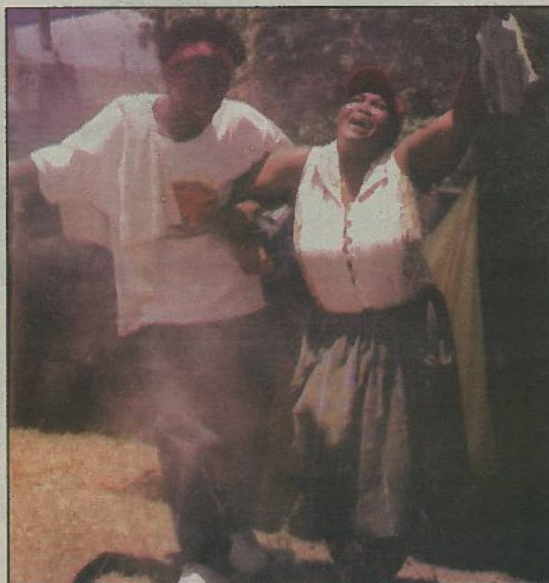
Sturge Town Back-A-Yard Emancipation Celebration

A reunion for many

Jovel Johnson

It was like a family reunion at the Sturge Town's Annual Homecoming/Back-A-Yard Emancipation Celebration on Emancipation Day, Monday, August 1 at the Sturge Town All-Age School. Old time friends who grew up in the community happily greeted those they had not seen in a long time. Food, music and merriment penetrated the air and a feeling of great history was felt in the second oldest free village in Jamaica.

A food lover would have been in heaven if he or she was in Sturge Town on Emancipation Day. Jerked chicken, fried chicken, curried goat, manish water, corn rice and peas, roasted breadfruit, pudding, coconut drops, and other snacks were available for the eating. Old time tunes were played and



A happy pair of dancers having a 'fling' around the cooking pots.



Members of the Sturge Town Youth Group enthralled the audience with a beautifully choreographed dance.



A historical display of items used in slavery days. This include calabashes and a piece of limestone.

the older folks seemed to relate more to the songs. The children were in a world by themselves, as they "abandoned" their adult counterparts and went to play and dance by themselves.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

Inside was a somewhat detailed display of some historical items used in the days of slavery. These included limestone, various sizes of calabash, horse shoes and pieces of iron pots used by the slaves. Also, there were photographs of current and former members of the community who have branched out into the wider society and made great contributions. This includes Richard James, principal of the Ocho Rios Primary School; George L. Hall, retired public health inspector, Rev. Frank Lawrence and Frank B. Ricketts, former Federal Minister of Agriculture, former chairman of the St. Ann Parish Council and former Councillor for the Sturge Town area. There were also portraits of John Sturge, the man partly responsible for the emancipation of the slaves in the area and after whom the community was named.

Angella James and Samantha Newby of Jamaica National from Brown's Town were on hand to give information about their services. "We are here to just give basic information on and promoting Jamaica National. It's information on anything in savings, loans, mortgages and other services we have," Ms. James said.

CULTURAL CONCERT

Despite mishaps with the microphone, each performer pushed on with their performances. The students of the Sturge Town Basic School gave a heartwarming performance as they told us about our history and our national heroes. The Sturge Town Youth Group's item stood out as they danced to a song by Gospel group Katalyst. Their performance showed the tremendous time they took to practice the dance piece.

Rev. Lindsay Moncrieffe performed his original song, "Sturge Town, you are right on top", and had the crowd singing. To the crowd's delight, he was dancing like nobody else and showed everyone how to "shake their body lines". It was after his performance that Rev. Frank Lawrence joined him on stage to share the good news of Sturge Town being the winner of the Michael Manley Annual award for Community Self Reliance and a cheque for \$200,000. He proudly held up the plaque and cheque. The senior citizen group gave a spiritual performance as they re-enacted a "nine night".

Even though there was a drizzle, the crowd did not dare die down, as they stayed and enjoyed themselves to learn about the history and catch up on old times.