

Appreciation

An African proverb says "It is in time of sharing a burden that you will know your true friends". For this year's convention, we needed prayers, you prayed for us; we solicited your support, you made your goodwill donation; we needed boots on the ground, you volunteered your services; and we asked for your presence at the convention, and you became our special guests. Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) is over-joyed by your gesture. We thank you individually and collectively for your support and for the sacrifices you made to attend this convention. We hope that you found your time at the convention fulfilling, refreshing and rewarding.

We pray for travelling mercies as you return to your destination and wish that the bonds we formed at this convention will continue to yield fruits in the years ahead.

On behalf of Bonny Island Foundation USA and Canada,
thank you (Omiebam) and God bless.

Engr. Norman Halliday
BIF President

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BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION USA & CANADA

Unity And Service

Aru bile bitem kuma mbapa bile bileghaa



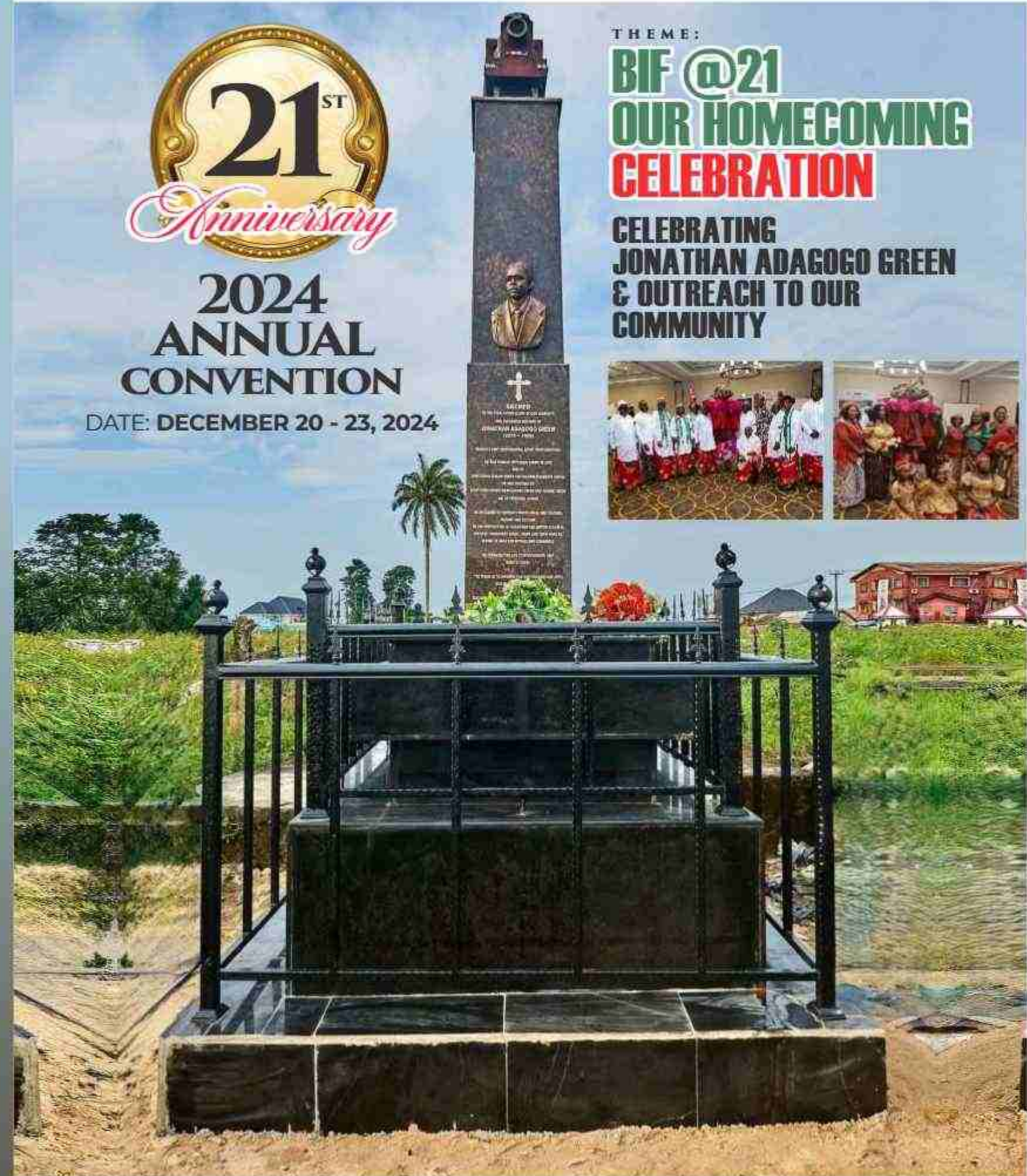
2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

DATE: DECEMBER 20 - 23, 2024

THEME:

BIF @21 OUR HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING
JONATHAN ADAGOGO GREEN
& OUTREACH TO OUR
COMMUNITY





HISTORY OF BIF

I will like to start by expressing my gratitude to God for making this day a reality as we gather together to celebrate our 21st anniversary as an organization. Glory be to God Almighty for helping the BIF meet and surpass, the odds notwithstanding, the goals we set for ourselves at the inception of this organization. On the 4th of July 2003, I convened a meeting of some very energetic and patriotic Bonny indigenes at the residence of Mr. Nengi Halliday in North Brunswick, New Jersey. The gathering was to fashion out solutions to the numerous problems that beset us as a people both at home and abroad. I chose that location for logistic and strategic reasons. Those present at that meeting were Nengi Halliday, Leslie Green, Dima Brown, Late Ted Allison, Maxwell Brown, Atedo Banigo, Gogo Brown, Chris Jumbo, Steve Benstowe, Norman Halliday and Adango Miadonye. At the end of the meeting, we resolved to form an umbrella organization for Bonny people in North America.

We had simple dreams. We resolved to live by choice and not by chance; to make changes and not excuses, to be useful and not be used. We were courageous enough not to follow where ever the path may lead, but instead to go where no path exists and leave a trail. We were on the right track as evidenced by our accomplishments.

The BIF was formed to be a catalyst for change, to promote education, Ibani culture and heritage, to foster unity and progress among Bonny people. I feel excited to say that BIF has lived up to its billing. With the wind on our back and God with us, we have achieved a few notable things which are, but not limited to:

1. Formation of the BIF on 4th July 2003 and its registration on 4th of February 2004, as the first and only registered Bonny organization in North America.
2. Organization of annual conventions, at which we form new friendships and cement old bonds.
3. Medical outreach to Bonny, during which lectures on topics of public health importance were delivered. A health clinic with distribution of free medical supplies to the indigent.
4. Donation of an ECG (Electrocardiogram) machine to the Bonny General Hospital for the diagnosis of Cardiac conditions.

5. Donation and distribution of protective face masks to all the Major Houses in Bonny, during the COVID -19 Pandemic.

6. Update of our Lord's Prayer in Ibani to encourage usage of Ibani language.

7. Formation of the first Bonny cultural groups (Owu ogbo and Eremina Ogbo) in North America.

8. Advocacy and campaigns towards the completion of the Bonny- Bodo Road.

9. Advocacy and campaigns towards the rebuilding of the Bonny landing jetty in Port Harcourt.

10. Award of Bursary/Scholarships to deserving Bonny students.

11. Recognition and presentation of lifetime achievement awards to notable Bonny citizens in the fields of History, Medicine, Law, Community advocacy, etc.

12. Launching of the Bonny Light House, an interactive internet forum for Bonny indigenes at home and abroad.

13. Interfacing with the Rivers State Government on issues of importance to Ibani people.

14. The erection of a new 17-foot-tall monument over the old one of Nigeria's first professional photographer, Late Jonathan Adagogo Green at the Bonny Cemetery.

15. The distribution of food packages (rice, geisha, and other condiments) to over 400 widows and the elderly, in the Bonny community, through BIF's outreach program.

It is evident from the forgoing that the BIF has and continues to play its role as the foremost community-based organization among the Ibani at home and abroad. The BIF in the years ahead, God willing, will continue to strive for the development and advancement of our homeland Bonny.

Leslie Minaibim, Green, MD.
Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees.



National Anthem

Nigeria, we hail thee
Our own dear native land
Though tribes and tongues may differ
In brotherhood, we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign
In peace or battle, honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

National Pledge

I pledge to Nigeria my country.
To be faithful, loyal and honest.
To serve Nigeria with all my strength.
To defend her unity, and uphold her honour and glory.
So help me God.





Mission Statement

- To project Ibani Cultural Heritage, language and history, and foster unity and progress in the cultural development of Bonny Kingdom.
- To provide an avenue for the discussion of cultural issues and dissemination of important information.
- To raise awareness about cultural issues that are pertinent to Bonny Kingdom.
- To promote unity and progress among the Ibani at home and abroad.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER IN IBANI LANGUAGE



Wamina Da Sobie finibo
ton fini iye ere piri
Miesi iye Asama kiribo
I tonye tumini kirimie
Sobie ani fini bara

Wamina ene mamgba finye pa wa piri
Pighi wa miesi mamgba barasi wa piri
Wa barasi pa si pa wamie apu piri piri bara
Minima si wa mu tibirimanye bie so
kuma si bu wa dua pagha mabo
Asama kirima iye ere si
Kuro na tumini na
Besa besa, Amen!



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY (12/20/2024)

5:00pm:	Arrival
5:00pm –	8:00pm Registration/Meet & Greet
Coordinators:	President & Protocol/Local Organizing Committee.
Venue:	Abalamabie, Bonny Island

SATURDAY (12/21/2024)

9:00am - 9:45am - Coordinators:	Unveiling of Jonathan Adagogo Green's Monument President Norman Halliday and Warisenibo Teddy Denton Banigo (Immediate Past President)
Venue:	Bonny Cemetery
9:50am - 10:15am:	Ceremony and Naming of Road after Jonathan Adagogo Green
10:30am – 5:30pm -	ALL EVENTS OF THE CONVENTION
Venue:	Banquet Hall, Dolphin Hotels, New Road, Bonny Island
10:30am-10:45am:	Introduction and seating of dignitaries and special guests by the MC - Sir Dave Banigo
10:45am-10:55am:	Chairman's Opening Remarks
10:55am-11:00am -	Invocation/Opening prayer by Venerable Peter Kiribo Blu-Attoni
11:00am-11:50pm:	Masquerade Display by JA Green's Family
11:50am-12:00pm:	Welcome Remarks - Dame Joyce Simon-Ogan, Chairman, 2024 Convention Planning Committee.
12:00pm-12:10pm:	BIF President's Address - Engr Norman Halliday (BIF President)
12:10pm-12:20pm	BIF Board of Trustees' Address - Dr. Leslie Minaibim Green (Chairman Board of Trustees)
12:20pm-12:30pm:	Goodwill messages from Special Guests of Honor and Dignitaries.
12:30pm-1:00pm:	Presentation & Discussion on the Life & Times of Jonathan Adagogo Green.
Presenters:	Emeritus Professor Joe A. Alagoa/Dr Leslie Green (BOT Chairman)
1:00pm-1:30pm -	Luncheon



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaicans' Achievements
& Contributions to Our Community

1:30pm-2:00pm:	Women's Cultural performance Cecilia Banigo (Deputy Leader)
2:00pm-3:00pm:	BIF Scholarship Fundraising Ceremony
Coordinators:	Mrs. Ibie Green (BIF Scholarship Chairperson)
3:00pm-3:30pm	Awards Giving Ceremony
3:30pm-3:45pm	Cutting of Anniversary Cake
3:45pm- 4:00pm:	Vote of Thanks - Prof Adango Miadonye (Co-Chair, Central Planning Committee, BIF 2024 Convention)
4:00pm-4:10pm:	Closing - Prayer by: Venerable Peter Kiribo Blu-Attoni
4:15pm-5:30pm:	Masquerade display at Industrial Unit, Bonny Island

SUNDAY (12/22/2024)

9:30am-1:30pm:	21st Year Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Venue:	St Stephen's Cathedral, Bonny Island
1:30pm-2:00pm:	Group Photograph
2:00pm-4:00pm:	LUNCH
4:00pm-5:00pm:	SIGHT SEEING OF SELECTED PLACES IN BONNY ISLAND
Coordinators:	Mrs. Ogunne Odulana (Treasurer)/Prof Joy Ben-Jumbo (VP West)

MONDAY (12/23/2024)

10:00am-1:00pm:	Outreach - Giving Back to Our Community Distribution of Food packets to Widows and Seniors
Venue:	Awanta Guest House, Ayambo, Bonny Island
Coordinators:	Mrs. Irene Brown (VP At-Large)/ Mr Emmanuel Dagogo Jumbo (Men's Coordinator)
1:00pm-2:00pm:	Meeting of Executive Committee & Board of Trustees
2:00pm-2:30pm:	Issuance of Communiqué.
Convention officially ends.	
2:30pm -3:30pm:	Lunch/Farewell



**2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

**THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION**

Celebrating
**21 YEARS OF BIF
& COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY**

BIF GRAND PATRON



HIS MAJESTY,

**KING DR. EDWARD ASIMINI WILLIAM DAPPA PEPPLÉ III,
EDWARD I, CON, JP, PEREKULE XI, AMANYANABO
AND NATURAL RULER OF ANCIENT GRAND BONNY KINGDOM**



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN HERITAGE
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY

BIF PATRONS



SE-ALABO (DR.) O. R. LONGJOHN
Deputy Grand Patron



SE-ALABO PROF EDWARD T.
BRISTOL- ALAGBARIYA KSC
Patron



WARI-ALABO ENGR.
HARRIGAN A. PEPPE
Patron



BIF BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DR. LESLIE GREEN
BOT Chairman & Member,
Scholarship Committee



DR. PETER D. HART
BOT Member & Treasurer,
Scholarship Committee



DR. GIBSON GREEN
BOT Member



PROFESSOR ADANGO MIADONYE
BOT Member & CPC Co-Chairman



BIF EXECUTIVES



ENGR. NORMAN
HALLIDAY
President



MRS. IRENE
BROWN
Vice President At-Large



MRS. MERCY
HALLIDAY
Vice President East



PROF. JOY
BEN-JUMBO
Vice President West



MRS. EREALIA
HALLIDAY-DOSUNMU
Secretary



MRS. IRENE
JUMBO
Financial Secretary



MRS. OPUNNE
FURO-ODULANA
Treasurer



MRS. CECILIA SAMUEL-
AKIBOADE (ILANIGBO)
Welfare Officer



DAME JOYCE
SIMON-OGAN
Assistant Secretary



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

BIF GROUP LEADERS



MS. MINA HUTCHFUL
Women Leader



MRS. MERCY NENGI HALLIDAY
Group Leader, BIF Prayer Support Group



MR. EMMANUEL DAGOGO JUMBO
Men Cultural Group Leader

BIF SCHOLARSHIP BOARD



MRS. IBIE GREEN
Chairperson,
Scholarship Board



**OPUSENIBO MACDONALD
I. BARA HART**
Secretary Scholarship Board



DR. PETER D. HART
Treasurer,
Scholarship Board



DR. LESLIE GREEN
Member,
Scholarship Board



BIF Convention Central Planning Committee, and Subcommittees

Central Planning Committee

Dame. Joyce Simon-Ogan (Chairperson)
Prof. Adango Miadonye (Co-chairperson)
Mrs. Irene Brown (Member)
Prof. Joy Ben-Jumbo (Member)
Mrs. Ala Halliday-Dosunmu (Member)
Dr. Peter Hart (Advisor)

Convention Activities Generation Committee

Mrs. Irene Brown (Chairperson)
Prof. Joy Ben-Jumbo (Co-Chairman)
Dr. Gibson Green (Member)
Ms. Ayaba Miadonye (Member)
Mr. Asona Green (Member)
Ms. Stephanie Halliday (Member)
Dr. Leslie Green (Member)

Protocol & Local Organizing SubCommittee

Sir Wari-Alabo Elect Sotonye Banigo
(Chairperson)
Warisenibo Atedough Denton Banigo (Member)
Engr. Norman Halliday (Member)
Mr. Boma Halliday (Member)

Program & Publication Subcommittee

Prof. Joy Ben-Jumbo (Chairperson)
Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo (member)
Mr. Norman Halliday (member)
Ms. Arito Pepple (member)
Dr. Leslie Green (Advisor)

Catering/ Entertainment Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce A. Halliday (Chairperson)
Mrs. Cecilia Banigo (Co-Chairperson)
Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo (Member)
Mrs. Ala Halliday-Dosunmu (Member)
Mrs. Gloria Papanye (Member)

Adagogo Green Monument Project

Warisenibo D. Banigo (Chairperson)
Amaopusenibo Sotonye Banigo (member)
Amaopusenibo Dennis 'Bob' Ezekiel-Hart (member)
Mr. Norman Halliday (member)
Dr. Leslie Green (Member)

Men's Cultural Activities Committee

Mr. Dagogo Jumbo (Chairperson)
Prof. Adango Miadonye (Member)
Warisenibo Atedough Denton Banigo (Member)
Dr. Gibson Green (Advisor)

Women's Cultural Activities Committee

Ms. Mina Hutchful (Chairperson)
Mrs. Cecilia Banigo (Co-chair)
Mrs. Ibinye Halliday-Olagoke (Member)
Mrs. Ibie Green (Advisor)



SE ALABO DR OSOBONYE ROGERS LONGJOHN

MBBS (LONDON), F.R.C.S, F.M.C.S, F.W.A.C.S, F.I.C.S

Email: osobsli@yahoo.com Tel: 08033118573

Goodwill Message from BIF Deputy Grand Patron, Chief (Dr) O. R. LongJohn.

It is with great honor and pleasure that I warmly congratulate the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) of the United States of America and Canada for hosting its 21st year anniversary convention in Grand Bonny, Rivers State, Nigeria.

All Bonny Indigenes at home join me in HAILING you for your homecoming to GRAND BONNY Kingdom having traveled thousands of miles to make this trip.

With the beehive of economic activities, Bonny is being steadily transformed into an ultramodern city by the joint efforts of the Local, State and Federal Governments and the Traditional Council of Se-ALAPU (Chiefs) and their agencies which consists of eminent titled citizens who render selfless and dedicated service to the Community. With gratitude to God, the "dream" of constructing the Bonny-Bodo Road has become a reality with an anticipated completion next year.

The theme of this year's convention "BIF at 21: Our homecoming, celebrating Jonathan Adagogo Green, and outreach to our community" is befitting and remarkable for the numerous achievements of BIF which is driven by its mission statement "to project Ibani cultural heritage, language, and history, and foster unity and progress in the cultural development of Bonny Kingdom".

Notable BIF achievements that come to mind are:

- Organized the First convention of Bonny in diaspora organizations in Ogugumanga, Bonny
- Organized Medical mission in Bonny and donation of medical equipment to the Bonny General Hospital.
- Donated over 1000 masks to all Major Houses in Bonny to mitigate COVID transmission.
- Awarded Scholarships to over 70 students for tertiary education to Bonny indigenes across the 34 Houses of Grand Bonny Kingdom to attend Universities at home.
- Organized successful annual conventions in major cities in the USA.
- Organized the First Bonny Women's cultural dance group (Eremina Ogbo) and Men's traditional Masquerade (Owu) display in the USA.
- Erected a new 17-foot-tall monument over the old one of Nigeria's first professional photographer, Late Jonathan Adagogo Green at the Bonny cemetery.

As you celebrate these remarkable achievements during the 21st year anniversary of your organization, I urge you to continue with your laudable outreach programs that touch many lives, and also "Promote UNITY and PROGRESS" among the Ibani at home and abroad and to engender in the present and future generations (The Youth), a worthy sense of identity and pride for their beloved Father and Mother land - BONNY (Okoloama).

I am confident that this 21st year anniversary convention, being hosted in Grand Bonny will lead to the meeting of the minds, on the best way forward for our great Island-the Grand Bonny Kingdom.

I therefore wish you all Happy and peaceful deliberations. God Bless you all.

SE-ALABO (DR). O. R. LongJohn



UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
FACULTY OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF LAW

Dean of Law:

Prof. Edward T. Bristol-Alagbariya, Esq.

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10th October, 2024

Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) USA and Canada

Thro: The President of the Foundation

12 Robertson Road, East Windsor

NJ 08520 USA

Attention: Our dear Very Respected Engineer Norman Halliday,

Re: 2024 Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) Annual Convention: BIF at 21 Years: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

I write to congratulate the entire members of the Executive Council, Board of Trustees and general membership of the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) USA and Canada, on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Foundation, with the theme, 'BIF at 21: Our Home Coming, Celebrating Jonathan Adagogo Green, and Community Outreach', which is scheduled to take place at the Dolphin Hotels and Industrial Park, Grand Bonny, Grand Bonny Kingdom, Rivers State, Nigeria, December 20 – 23, 2024.

Obviously, the theme of this year's BIF Annual Convention is apt. Firstly, it is exciting that BIF members are all travelling home from the USA and Canada, to Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom, to have your 21st Anniversary Celebrations. By so doing, in particular, young BIF members in diaspora, would have the opportunity to better know, understand, experience and appreciate their traditional homeland (Ancient Grand Bonny Island Kingdom), along with its very rich cultural heritage and people, as well as the ongoing state of affairs, among other things, in the Kingdom, which is strategically located in the Eastern part of the oil-rich Ancient Niger Delta region.

Ancient Grand Bonny Island Kingdom was founded by its Founding Ancestors and God-given (Natural) Traditional Owners (*Ibanise KoromaTaduapu cum Ibanise YanaTaduapu*), led by its Foremost Founding Patriarchs and Premier Monarchs (*Tari Amanyanapu*) Alagbariye, Opuamakuba and Asimini as well as Ndoli-Okpara, all of whom were Blood-descendants of



their Blood Ancestor, Ebeni, after whom they named the Kingdom (*Ibanise*). Ebeni hailed from the Isedani 'Aseme' (Royal) Lineage of Okoloba in Kolokuma (also called Kolokuma Okoloba or Kolokuma Okoloama), in Kolokuma-Opokuma LGA of Bayelsa State, Central Niger Delta. The Kingdom was founded before about 1000 AD. Consequently, during the primaeval, primordial or aboriginal era of the Kingdom, which covered from before 1000 AD to before 1740 AD, through the reign of thirteen Monarchs (*Amanyapanu*), the Kingdom became a classic primordial African sovereign state and civilization, as well as a great pride of Ancient Ijaw nation, the entire Primaeval Nigerian Delta region and beyond. From when Bonny Kingdom was founded (before 1000 AD) to present-day, the Kingdom, equipped from onset, with its Welfarist House System of governance, in the frameworks of its identified Three Landmark periods of history, Four Generations of 'Okoloama Ingie KiriFajie' (which means 'Bonny Kingdom, Ibanise, as comprised, constituted or made-up of its Fourteen Units/Wards/Sections/Lineages/Families/Houses), and the reign of Twenty Three Monarchs (*Amanyapanu*), has existed for more than Ten Centuries and Twenty Four Years.

It is commendable that BIF has thought it wise to celebrate Jonathan Adagogo Green, Nigeria's renowned first professional photographer, who is noted for his meticulous photo documentation of the culture and traditions of Ibani people and more, including the affairs of British colonial government in the country. I particularly commend the monument BIF has almost completed, in order to immortalize our country's Premier professional photographer of Ibani stock of Ancient Ijaw ethnic nationality.

Concerning Community Outreach programmes and projects, BIF is one of the outstanding Community-based Organizations of our Ancient Kingdom and Bonny LGA. I therefore greatly applaud the numerous, consistent and continuing Community Outreach programmes and projects of BIF, towards the wellbeing of our people and sustainable community empowerment and development in our Ancient Kingdom.

WELL-DONE BIF! CONGRATULATIONS BIF!! THANK YOU BIF!!!

Welcome and enjoy your stay in Grand Bonny, during your 21st Anniversary Celebrations.

May God Almighty, the God of our Founding Ancestors, Entire People, Houses as well as the Owner and Sovereign of the Entire Universe, continue to abide with you all and bless you most bountifully in return, in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, AMEN.

Aseme-Alabo Professor Edward T. B. A. Bristol-Alagbariya, Esq., Post-Docs, PhD, JP, Ksc
(Dean of Law, Professor of Sustainable Development Law & Multidisciplinary Sustainable Development-Oriented Practices: *Okoloamakoromabo XX*, Kuruama *Amadabo* & Patron BIF)



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY ENGR. NORMAN HALLIDAY
PRESIDENT OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION (BIF) USA/CANADA.**

Distinguished and special guests, it is with great pleasure, honor, and gratitude for your presence, that as President of BIF, I welcome you all to this occasion of our 21st year anniversary celebration at the Dolphin Hotels, here in Grand Bonny. The theme of this year's convention is BIF at 21: Our homecoming, celebrating Jonathan Adagogo Green, and Outreach to our community.

This year, we celebrate 21 years of our organization's existence. The number 21 represents different things to different people, and in different contexts. To some, it connotes coming of age, and independence; to others, it represents respect and honor. To us as a 21-year-old organization, it represents all these, as well as symbolizing bright new beginnings, partnerships, and the expansion of our organization's horizons.

Today also marks 28 years of the ascension to the throne of our Amanyano, King Edward Asimini William Dappa Pepple, III, Edward I, DSSRS, CON, JP, Perekule XI, doubling as BIF's Grand Patron. We extend our warmest and profound felicitation to His Majesty and wish him many more decades of reign in good health, wisdom, and fruitfulness.

On behalf of BIF, I want to also congratulate the Bonny Local Government Chairman, Dame Hon. Anengi Barasua-Claude Wilcox DSSRS, JP, on her history-making success in the recently concluded Rivers State Local Government Council elections, as the first duly elected female Bonny Local Government Council Chairman. We rejoice with you on this feat and thank you for your tremendous service to our homeland so far; we pray for God's continued guidance, wisdom, and strength, as you discharge your duties to your (our) constituency.

It is also noteworthy to recognize and congratulate The Honourable Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly (RSHA), Rt. Hon. Victor Oko-Jumbo on your history-making ascension to the speakership of the RSHA. We are gladdened by your elevation as the first Speaker of Bonny extraction and wish you a very successful tenure.

As an organization, with God guiding us, we have matured, and have achieved a lot; despite some challenges, we have come out stronger, and more determined in our quest to positively impact on our kingdom, and humanity at large.





Our homecoming to Grand Bonny as a team, was by God's divine grace, and I want to specially thank, and appreciate all BIF members, and friends of BIF some of whom embarked on long journeys to celebrate with us, as well as those who could not be with us today, but have helped in no small measures to make today a reality. Our homecoming is also an opportunity to reunite with our brothers and sisters at home, and to collaborate with you, on how we can create synergies in our quest to advance our people, and Grand Bonny kingdom.

We acknowledge the importance of language as an integral part of one's identity, while also recognizing the threat of our fading language. To this end, and as one of the key goals of this administration, BIF has concluded plans for the deployment of Ibani Language Lecture Series to our Ibani sons and daughters in Diaspora. Our goal is to ensure that all sons and daughters in Diaspora who avail themselves of the opportunity to learn Ibani language can do so, and be fluent in speaking and in writing, in no distant time.

Today is also remarkable as we celebrate the life, and works of a Nigerian icon of Bonny extraction, Jonathan Adagogo, Green, Nigeria's first professional photographer. So much has been written about him, yet many have not heard of this great man.

I will try to summarize some of the lessons learned from his life and works as follows:
Jonathan Adagogo Green was a trailblazer, by pioneering photographic artistry; he did not go where the path may lead, instead, he created a path and left a trail.

He lived an ordinary life but did extraordinary things. He took his professional calling seriously, and exemplified Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote "No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity, has dignity and importance, and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence".

He had an impactful career and died at the young age of 32 years (1873-1905). Though he lived a relatively short life, as Dr. Edwards J. Stieglitz posited, 'it is not the years in your life that counts; it is the life in your years'. Pericles also quoted "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it" Chuck Palahniuk, in corroborating Pericles's position said "We all will eventually die; the goal is not to live physically forever; the goal is to create something that will".

Jonathan Adagogo Green, whose monument we unveiled today, died 119 years ago (1905- date), and his life, and good works live on. May his soul continue to rest in peace, Amen.

Special thanks go to the Chairman of BIF Board of Trustees Dr. Leslie Minaibim Green; it was he, who with an incredible knowledge of Bonny history, brought the late Jonathan Adagogo Green's life and works to the fore. Also to be greatly appreciated is Warisenibo Atedoghu Denton Banigo (the immediate past President of BIF) who initiated the Jonathan Adagogo Monument project. With an



incredible force of will and unwavering determination, he raised a substantial amount of money for it through BIF, and executed this project successfully, with the immense support of Dr Leslie Green, Wari-Alabo-elect Sotonye Banigo, and Amaopusenibo Dennis (Bob) Ezekiel-Hart. On behalf of BIF also, I want to extend our special thanks to all others who contributed in no small way towards Jonathan Adagogo Green's successful monument project execution. May God richly bless you, and replenish your purses, Amen.

Outreach to our community is a way BIF gives back in support of our brothers, sisters, and community.

Some notable community outreach programs we have carried out over the years include:

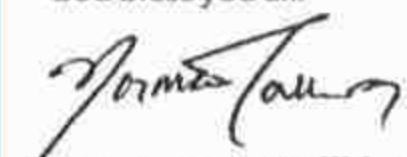
- Medical outreach; a health clinic with the distribution of free medical supplies to the needy.
- Donation of an ECG machine to the Bonny General Hospital for the diagnosis of cardiac conditions.
- Donation, and distribution of protective face masks to all major houses in Bonny, during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
- The award of over 70 scholarships for tertiary institutions to Bonny indigenes across the 34 houses of Grand Bonny Kingdom, in the areas of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Accounting, Political Science, Education, Mass Communication, Management, etc., about half of whom have successfully completed their programs.

This year, we will be giving away food packages to support widows and the elderly population in Bonny.

As we are gathered for this occasion, I want to urge you all to relax and have fun with the activities lined up for this convention. These activities will include speeches, our scholarship fund-raising drive, masquerade displays, Awards giving ceremony, and cutting of our anniversary cake. Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, at St. Stephen's Cathedral at 9:30AM., and on Monday, there will be an event "Outreach to Our Community" at the Awanta Guest House, Bonny at 10:00AM.

To conclude, I want to express my profound gratitude to the 2024 Convention Planning Committee Chairman - Dame Joyce Simon-Ogan, Professor Adango Miadonye (Co-Chairman), Chairmen and members of all convention planning sub committees, all members of the Board of Trustees, our Executive team, and BIF general membership for the successful planning, and execution of this convention.

God bless you all.



Engr. Norman Halliday
BIF President)



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DAME JOYCE SIMON-OGAN PRESENTED
AT THE OCCASION OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION (BIF) 21ST
ANNUAL CONVENTION HOLDING IN DOLPHIN HOTELS, BONNY
ISLAND, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA FROM DECEMBER 20-23, 2024**



We thank God Almighty for granting all of us journey mercies from the United States of America (USA), Canada and other parts of the world to Bonny Island, Nigeria.

It is therefore with a heart filled with gratitude and pleasure that I, on behalf of the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) 2024 Convention Central Planning Committee (CPC), warmly welcome all of you to this great occasion.

The Chairman and all present here today, please permit me to seize this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, Sir Siminialayi Fubara, GSSRS, the Executive Governor of Rivers State on his second year in office and to thank him for all the good works he is doing in Rivers State.

I also congratulate our Grand Patron and Royal Father, His Majesty, King Edward Asimini William Dappa Pepple III, Edward 1, CON, DSSRS, JP, Perekule XI, Natural Ruler and Amanyabo of ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom, and thank God who has sustained him on the throne of his fathers for these twenty-eight years. We pray that God will continue to uphold and grant him many more years of divine health, increased grace and wisdom.

To our Hon. Dame Anengi Barasua Claude-Wilcox, the Executive Chairman of Bonny Local Government Council, we thank her for all the support she has given us. Congratulations on her election victory. May God grant her good success. We also congratulate the Speaker of Rivers State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Victor Oko-Jumbo, the Member, Degema/Bonny in the Federal House of Representatives, Representative Warisenibo Cyril Godwin Hart, the Leader and Members of the 10th Assembly, Bonny Local Government Legislature and other Government functionaries.

The Chairman and Se-Alapu Bonny Council of Chiefs, our Deputy Grand Patron Se-Alabo Dr. Osobonye Rogers LongJohn, other Patrons, Royal Fathers, Erudite Scholar Professor Emeritus Ebiegberi Joe Alagoa, President and members of The Titled Citizens' Assembly of Grand Bonny Kingdom, Captains of Industries, The Clergy, Family members, Friends, and Special Guests, thank you so much for honoring our invitation to this epochal and momentous event. Our Theme: "BIF at 21: Our homecoming, celebrating Jonathan Adagogo Green, and Outreach to our Community" captures the essence of this year's Convention. In the 21 years of our existence, this is the second time it will be held in Bonny, our homeland, as at other times



we have held our conventions in the USA and Canada: and so we are happy to be home to celebrate with our kith and kin, to honor a great patriot who lifted the face of his community and stamped it in the history of the world, using his camera to capture memorable photographs. In this Convention, we shall also reach out with welfare packages to the Elderly (Seniors) and Widows in our Community.

The BIF was formed to be a catalyst for change, to promote education, Ibani culture and heritage, to foster unity and progress among Bonny People. As we celebrate, we can only give thanks to God who put this dream in the hearts of our founding Fathers and for upholding us these 21 years. Our annual convention affords us the opportunity to reconnect and socialize.

Highlights of this year's convention includes a courtesy visit to our Grand Patron and Royal Father, the Executive Governor of Rivers State and Executive Chairman of Bonny Local Government Council, and others; the unveiling of the tombstone of, and scholarly discussion on the life and times of J. A. Green; Masquerade (Own) display and cultural dances; Cutting of our Anniversary cake; Fundraising to support the BIF scholarship scheme; Gala night; and Youths panel. We shall give back to our Community through Welfare Packages to the Elderly (seniors) and Widows; visit and tour some memorable places in Bonny Island; and finally round up our programme with a Thanksgiving Service at our Ancient Cathedral of St Stephen's, the first Anglican Church Cathedral in Nigeria and the second Cathedral Church in West Africa, which has the throne of Bishop Ajayi Crowther, the first black African Bishop who established the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in 1864 in Bonny Island.

According to "The British Museum" and "Niger Delta Insider", the works of J.A. Green are held in a number of collections in the UK, USA and Nigeria. They cover colonial power and local culture. Though he lived for 32 years, his works were both energetically productive and remarkably adroit in serving both indigenous and colonial clienteles. His works spanned through decades and his professional stamp, 'J.A. Green' long concealed his African identity behind a British-sounding name. he is now recognized as Nigeria's first professional photographer. In the cause of our journey in these twenty-one years, we have faced challenges, but we have remained resolute, steadfast, flying our banner higher with each Convention. Though we live abroad, we have not lost sight of our root, hence through various programs - medical outreach, various forms of donations, welfare packages, and scholarships to Bonny students in Tertiary Institutions, we have reached out to our people.

We uphold our culture as is displayed in our various activities, especially during conventions. These include our native foods, Ibani language, Iria (mock) and Masquerade (Owu) and Ereminaogbo dances. We adorn our traditional attires - fashion styles and trends using our native fabrics for our conventions, marriages, as well as "fashion and talent shows"



championed by BIF Youths. Documentation of our rich history are also ways we are teaching our youths whom we are grooming for future transition.

Bonny (Ibani) Kingdom holds a strong place in history, and even now, which are hinged on leadership, Christianity, and its ability to welcome and accommodate strangers and visitors.

I appreciate the teamwork, commitment, guidance, and prayers of the following: Engr. Norman Halliday, BIF President; Warisenibo Teddy Denton Banigo, BIF Immediate Past President who championed the course of celebrating J.A. Green; the Executive Council Members; Dr. Leslie Green, Chairman BIF Board of Trustees; Prof. Adango Miadonye, Co-Chairman, Secretary and Members and Dr Peter Hart, Advisor of BIF 21st Year Anniversary Convention Planning Committee (CPC); Chairpersons and Members of Sub-Committees; and the entire members of BIF; and my dearest Husband, Prince Kalada Simon-Ogan.

It is my earnest prayer that this celebration will remain indelible in our hearts, spurring us to greater heights to leave our footprints in the sands of time. "In the end we all shall fade away, only to be remembered by what we have done", as noted by Horatius Bonar.

Thank you. God bless you all.

Dame Joyce Tamunoisuoala Simon-Ogan (Nee Hart)

Chairman BIF 21st Year Anniversary Convention Central Planning Committee, 2024.



Address by Chairman BIF Board of Trustees

My fellow compatriots, visitors and friends of Grand Bonny, it is with profound gratitude to God Almighty and ultimate humility that I welcome you all to the 21st year anniversary convention of Bonny Island Foundation holding today at the Dolphin Hotel Bonny.



The BIF was formed on the 4th of July 2003 by Bonny indigenes resident in the USA and Canada as the only registered Bonny organization, to be a catalyst for change, to promote education, Ibani culture and heritage, to foster unity and progress among the Ibani, and to advocate mutual understanding and cooperation between Bonny and all nationalities. The BIF has done an excellent job in keeping to these ideals.

The Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) organized a convention of Bonny organizations on 23rd December 2005 at the Ibanise Town Hall exactly 19 years ago, and we thank God Almighty for enabling us to undertake this second home coming journey the odds notwithstanding. During our last visit to the Island, we noted with dismay and discomfort the poor sanitation on the Island. We note the efforts being made to remedy this unfortunate situation and believe that a lot more still needs to be done, such as the clearing of drainages and construction of adequate storm water canals(drainages) to empty into the sea. The motor bikes on our streets and the attendant hazards they pose to our people is still a sore point. We will humbly appeal to the Local Government council to phase out this mode of transportation and acquire commuter Buses for transportation on the Island. The non-completion of the Bonny ring road and Bonny Bodo Road is worrisome to us and we will like to know why the Bonny ring road has remained a stalled project till date. We complained then of lack of a modern market in Bonny and will like to thank the Local Government council for the modern market we now have in Bonny. We also pointed out the absence of a sea wall or embankment to protect Bonny from coastal erosion. Bonny unfortunately lies below sea level and it is imperative that groynes, a sea wall and boardwalk must be built to preserve our Hometown from being washed away eventually. God forbid. The Rivers State Government should as a matter of urgency be engaged to fund the building of this wall. This wall will not be as costly as the Billion-naira projects being carried out in other communities that do not contribute anything near what Bonny contributes to the State and federal coffers.

It is my belief that on the issue of insecurity on our land, there are a few things we can do to bring about peace and tranquility among our people and discomfiture among our foes. Perhaps one of those will be the establishment within the ambit of the law, of a well-organized and well-funded vigilante system in Bonny Town and adjoining villages.

I pray for God's divine blessings on our King and Grand Patron of BIF King Dr. Edward Asimini Wiliam Dappa Pepple as he celebrates 28 years on the throne of his fathers, on our Deputy



Grand Patron Se Alabo Dr. O R LongJohn for attaining the enviable age of 90 years and on our Patron Se Alabo Professor Edward Bristol Alagbarya on becoming the first Bonny Professor of Law.

I on behalf of the Bonny Island Foundation felicitates with Hon Victor Oko Jumbo on his election as the first speaker of the Rivers State House of assembly of Bonny extraction. We note with pride the steps he is taking to support our amiable Governor in ensuring good Governance in the State. We as an organization also rejoice with you, Dame Hon. Alabota Anengi Barasua Claude Wilcox on your recent election victory as the first female Chairperson of the Bonny Local Government Council. You have made noticeable strides in the areas of infrastructure development, capacity building, poverty alleviation, provision of security on our land and water ways to name a few. Madam Chairperson the BIF is proud of you. We are ready, able and willing to partner with you in the task of moving our dear Homeland Bonny to enviable heights.

The BIF will unveil the new monument of Jonathan Adagogo Green at the Bonny cemetery as part of activities marking its home coming convention. JAG was not just a Patriot; he promoted the image of Bonny at home and abroad in a way no one else has done. The BIF decided to honor this Giant of his time to remind all of us that no matter our station or position in life, that we can all leave a good legacy behind if we make the effort. We are grateful to God Almighty for giving us the ability to carry out this project. We also thank all those who in one way or the other contributed to the completion of this project.

There will be a fund raiser to support the BIF scholarship scheme during this convention. We encourage you to support this effort that is geared towards the educational advancement of our undergraduates.

At the end of this gathering, we should rededicate ourselves, to the long and difficult but beautiful struggle for a new Bonny, our sunny beautiful island paradise on the Atlantic Seaboard. This is our duty as the descendants and inheritors of the Ibani Heritage. We owe Bonny a huge debt and the Ibani nation is eagerly waiting on us to redeem this debt.

I thank our President Eng. Norman Labonimigha Halliday and members of his executive council, members of the BIF Board of Trustees, Chairperson of the convention planning committee, Dame Mrs. Joyce Simon Ogan and co-chair Prof. Adango Mieadonye, members of the convention planning committee and sub committees, general membership and friends of BIF and Bonny for making this convention a success. May God Almighty bless the Land and People of Okoloama. Amen.

Dr. Leslie Minaibim Green.

Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees.



THE TITLED CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY (TCA) OF GRAND BONNY KINGDOM

No. 1 Tuotamuno Close, Akiama, Bonny Island.

Tel: 08036709352, 0803 309 1219

Email: bonnytitledcitizensassembly@yahoo.com

President

Amaopusenibo Barr. Furosia Julius Wilcox
furojaywilcox@gmail.com

General Secretary

Amasenibo Anthony T. Fombo
anthony.fombo@gmail.com

November 28th, 2024

The Chairman
Central Planning Committee
Bonny Island Foundation
USA and Canada

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



GOODWILL MESSAGE ON THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION, USA AND CANADA

It is a thing of great joy to know that you, our brothers and sisters, have remained together under the umbrella of Bonny Island Foundation, USA and Canada, for 21 years and counting.

The Titled Citizens' Assembly (TCA) shares in the delightful occasion of your homecoming for the celebrations and annual convention. It is our hope that the deliberations during your convention will be unifying, fruitful and supportive to the efforts of the Amanyanabo-in-Council, TCA, Bonny Kingdom Development Committee (BKDC), Bonny Women Forum and other patriotic groups in advancing the interests, development and wellbeing of the Kingdom generally.

While assuring you of our best wishes for a successful convention and pleasant homecoming, we hope that you will find time to enjoy our time-honored cultural activities in the season also.

Welcome home! Óbómá!

Yours faithfully,

FOR: TITLED CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY OF GRAND BONNY KINGDOM

AMAOPUSENIBO BARR. FUROSIA JULIUS WILCOX
President

AMASENIBO ANTHONY T. FOMBO
General Secretary



BONNY TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Bonny was founded before 1000 AD. It was structured along the lines of the Greek city states, with a strong central capital and surrounding satellite towns and villages. The King or Amanyabo is the head of traditional authority in Bonny Kingdom. Next in authority are the district heads or Amadapu and the Chiefs or Se-Alapu. The King has a Chiefs council comprising the Chiefs and district heads, with whom he rules the Kingdom. The Chiefs or Se-Alapu are the heads of the component houses of Bonny.

The administrative units or houses in Bonny are classified into three categories: Duawari which are the aboriginal houses, the Opuwari or major houses derived from the Duawari houses and the Kalawari or minor houses which are branches of the major houses. Their Chiefs are selected or elected based on the tradition of their individual houses.

The Chiefs have a council composed of branch heads called Ikpangi Sibidapu or Wariseniapu, with whom they rule their houses.

The Ikpangi Sibidabo (Head of the family branch) is the head of the family unit within the larger house. A Warisenibo (House elder or representative) represents his House during meetings of the house and before the Chief of the house. The Matriarch of the family unit or Burusu normally appoints her eldest son to be the head of her family unit. The Chief can also appoint a warisenibo as a reward for service to the community. The position of warisenibo is therefore attained by heredity or honorary appointment. The Ogbokoroama, Bonny's club of Mask dancing artists was formed by Queen Kambasa of Bonny. They put on masquerade displays in Bonny for entertainment. They are also part of traditional governance and act as Police in the Kingdom. Ibanise Kubiri or the Peoples parliament is convened during times of emergency, war or when important decisions affecting the Kingdom needs to be taken. The meeting is presided over by a chairman assisted by a secretary. The Ibanise Kubiri is the highest decision-making body in Bonny Kingdom.

Archived by Leslie M. Green, MD.

THE BONNY TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

-By Mrs. Ibie Green



The Bonny Groom



The Bonny Bride

The Bonny traditional marriage is one of the customs that has withstood the test of time; it is still performed in Bonny today as it was in the Bonny of yore. Naturally, certain aspects of this tradition have changed with the influence of religion and education but one thing remains unchanged, it is the most acceptable form of marriage in Bonny today.

There are three types of Bonny Traditional Marriage known as the Yaa marriage, the Igwa marriage and Concubinage.

- The Yaa form of the traditional marriage is the most complete and expensive one, because the bride price is usually paid in full and all the

marriage rites, performed. The benefits of this marriage form include full rights for the woman in her husband's house and her children will have full inheritance of their father's property.

- The Igwa Marriage, is known as the incomplete marriage because here, the marriage rites have not been completed due to partial payment of the bride price or dowry. Sometimes, this is due to financial difficulties.
- Lastly, The Concubinage form is a different kind of union, more like the common law marriage. The woman engaged in this kind of affair has limited rights in her partner's house. When she dies, she will not be buried



in his home. Suffice it to say that the man and woman will have no in-laws in this kind of arrangement because no marriage rites have been performed.

The Yaa form of the Bonny Traditional Marriage is done in three stages.

In the first stage known as the 'Knocking on the Door', the suitor goes with his father to the parents of the would-be- bride to ask for her hand in marriage. The parents of the girl gives them an appointed time while they verify from their daughter if this is her Mr. Right.

After verifying and researching the potential groom's background, if found suitable, he is invited back to return with his parents. According to the custom, the suitor, his parents and some relatives will return with drinks to present to their potential In-laws.

At the second stage, the Bride Price is named and a list of things to present to the parents of the girl is handed over to the groom and his father.

"The List" varies according to the different families and this normally would include gifts for the parents of the girl. The types of gifts that are normally requested on the List are the bowler hat, Jumper, walking stick and george wrapper for the man. For the woman, it would be a george wrapper

or wrappers, blouse and head tie. After this stage, the Groom and his parents can confidently announce the upcoming marriage to their relatives and friends!

The last stage is the marriage proper, where the Chief and elders of the community are seated on the high table to witness the union in the presence of the parents, relatives, and guests. During the marriage ceremony, the groom and his bride are required to dress up in the appropriate Bonny traditional attires.

Marriage in the Bonny tradition is simple and beautiful, here the In-laws play important roles like negotiating the bride price. While noting that there is no amount of money that can compensate the parents of the bride for raising a daughter, the "Bride Price" is very necessary as it symbolizes her importance in her paternal home and secures her place in her marital home.



BY MRS. IBIE GREEN.



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



On behalf of The Wariseniapu and people of Banigo
Chieftancy House of Grand Bonny Kingdom

**We congratulate the
Bonny Island Foundation
on her 21st annual convention**
holding in Bonny Nigeria,
from December 20th - 23rd 2024.

Elder Alfred and Koko Iringere, Dr. Diari Banigo, Dr. S. Adonye Banigo, Datuo Banigo,
Dienye A. Banigo, Cecilia Bangio, Kinika Owhonda-Hailsham, Peggy Banigo,
Dr. Tumini May Sekibo PHD, Dr. May Banigo, Warusenibo Sotonye Banigo and
Warisenibo Atedoghu Denton Banigo.



2024 ANNUAL
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CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
& COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

DUBLINGREEN ROYAL HOUSE OF



GRANDBONNY

CONGRATULATIONS

*We the chiefs, Elders, Lineage Heads, Women and Youths
of the Dublin Green Royal House of Bonny happily congratulate
The Bonny Island Foundation (BIF)
on its 21st year Anniversary Convention
holding in Bonny, Nigeria From December 20th - 23rd 2024*

👉 *LonglivetheBIF*

👉 *LonglivetheDublinGreenRoyalHouseofGrandBonny*

👉 *Longlive thekingandpeople ofgrandBonny*

👉 *LonglivetheFederalRepublicofNigeria*

👉 *LonglivetheUnitedStatesofAmericaandCanada*

May God be with you always and may your prayers never go in vain.



Dr. Gibson Green, Mrs. Doris Odoemene, Mrs Opanne Odulana, Mr. Hamilton Green, Dr. Leslie Green, Mrs. Ihie Green, Mr Asona Green, Ms. Arito Pepple, Mrs. Mercy Halliday, Mr. Chuks Igosibo Odikpo, Mrs Nduba Kio - Michael



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaican Heritage
& Community



HALLIDAY ROYAL HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY KINGDOM.

*Represented by her sons and daughters residing
in North America, joined the*

***Bonny Island Foundation (BIF)
USA & Canada,***

to celebrate with her on the occasion of her

21ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

We heartily congratulate BIF, on its numerous achievements in the past 21 years. Wishing her even greater success in the years ahead, in contributing towards the advancement of the Bonny Kingdom and her people. Also, we wish BIF & all participants a very memorable and successful Convention.

*Long Live Bonny Island Foundation.
Long Live Halliday Royal House Of Grand Bonny.
Long Live Grand Bonny Kingdom.*

- Wariopubo Reginald & Mrs. Tonye Halliday and family.
- Senibo Nengi & Mrs. Mercy Halliday & family.
- Senibo Norman & Mrs. Harriet Halliday and family.
- Mrs. Ibinye Otagoka (née Halliday) & family.
- Mrs. Iderima Akeju & family
- Ms. Joyce A Halliday & family.

- Mrs. Ala Halliday- Dosumu & family.
- Ms. Tumini Halliday & family.
- Mrs. Kalanne Onochie.
- Mrs. Minadiri Banigo (née Halliday)
- Mrs. Stella Eugene Halliday and family.
- Ms. Stephanie Halliday.
- Ms. Megan Halliday



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JONATHAN ADAGOGO GREEN
& CONSTANCE IBIWARI MESHACK-HART



CAPTAIN HART MAJOR HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY

B.I.F

Congratulations

We, the Sons and Daughters of Captain Hart Major House of Grand Bonny, Kingdom, resident in the USA and Canada hereby congratulate Bonny Island Foundation (B.I.F) USA/CANADA on its 21st year Anniversary Celebration (2003 – 2024) & Unveiling of the Jonathan Adagogo Green Memorial Tombstone.

Long live Bonny Island Foundation! Long live Hart Major House of Grand Bonny!

Long Live the Amanyababo of Grand Bonny Kingdom!!
Long live a United and Peaceful Grand Bonny!

Signed:

Senibo Samuel A. James and Family, Senibo Joseph Bara-Hart and Family, Engr. Ilabie Bara-Hart and Family, Dr. Sodienye D. Hart and Family, Bishop Inye S. Hart and Family, Mrs. Irene Gogo Brown (nee Abbey) and Family, Mrs. Asigha M. (Hart) Briggs, Mrs. Inyingierefa M. (Hart) Peterside, Mrs. Abelebara Wosu (nee Hart) and Family, Dr. Mrs. Princess Benstowe (nee Abbey Hart) & Family, Ms. Margaret Hart, Ms. Iderema Hart, Dr. Peter D. & Mrs. Mina S. Hart and Family, Prof Mrs. Joy Ben-Jumbo (Ibiaso-Hart granddaughter) and Family. Mrs. Elsie Tamunosa Hart, Mrs. Elsie Hart Williams, Dame Joyce Simon-Ogan (nee Hart) & Family, Dr. Ernest and Constance Ibiwari Meshack-Hart.





**2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUMBO FAMILY AKA OGBA LIVES
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY

HAPPY 21ST ANNIVERSARY!

**OKO JUMBO FAMILY
USA/CANADA**

**CONGRATULATES BIF ON THE
OCCASION OF HER 21ST ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!!!**

**&
UNVEILING OF THE JONATHAN
ADAGOGO GREEN MEMORIAL
TOMBSTONE!!!**



Emmanuel Dagogo Jumbo & Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo & Family
Prof. (Mrs.) Joy Elizabeth Tamunotonyesia Ben-Jumbo & Family
Prof. Minabere Ibelema & Family
Dr. Charles T. Jumbo & Mrs. Edith Aberetou Jumbo & Family
Mrs. Fortune Bello (nee Jumbo) & Family
Mrs. Edith Cline & Family
Mrs. Viola Inyingiwarifa Odusote (nee Jumbo) & Family

CHIEF LONGJOHN MAJOR HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY



Chief LongJohn in 1869
Amonibienyeofori I (1868-1895)

Amonibienye-ofori



FELICITATES WITH

BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION

on the

**Occasion of their 2024 Annual Convention
at Bonny Kingdom, Rivers State, Nigeria.**

Long Live Bonny Island Foundation

Long Live Chief Long John Major House

Long Live Grand Bonny Kingdom

Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:

Wari-Opusenibo (Prof.) Adango and Martha Miadonye & family; Amasenibo Dawari and Data LongJohn & family; Mrs. Boma Simon-Hart & family (nee LongJohn); Senibo Sopirinye and Peace LongJohn & family; Ms. Ilanye LongJohn; Miss Dienye Miadonye; Mrs. Mina Komonibo & family (nee Amoniofori); Mr. Dawari and Cynthia Miadonye; Mrs. Ibitorn Seaton & family (nee Miadonye); Mrs. Martina Nwuchukwu (nee LongJohn); Mr. Kalada Cecil Miadonye; Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo & family (nee LongJohn); Ms. Nengi Elizabeth Miadonye; Mr. Fubara and Ibelema G. LongJohn & family; Ms. Ayaba Jessie Miadonye.

for: LongJohn family in diaspora



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

**TOBIN (KONIBO-YE-AWANTA)
CHIEFTAINCY HOUSE**



THE PERE OF FINIMA, BONNY KINGDOM

Congratulate
Bonny Island Foundation (BIF)
on her 21st years annual convention
holding in Bonny Island, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Long live Bonny Island Foundation
Long live Konibo-Ye-Awanta Chieftaincy House
Long live Grand Bonny Kingdom
Long live the United States of America and Canada

Signed:

Warisenibo Asamawari Tobin & Mrs. Ngozi Ibeh- Tobin
Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo (nee Tobin)
Mandela Tobin
Victor Tobin



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
& CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY

WILCOX MAJOR HOUSE PETERSIDE BONNY



ON BEHALF OF OUR CHIEF, ELDERS, WARISENIAPU & MEMBERS
OF THE WILCOX MAIN HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY,

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE
THE BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION ON THEIR

**HOMECOMING AND
21ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**

*May God grant you the fortitude to continue
In your effort, to make Bonny proud!*

Viva bonny kingdom! Viva Wilcox House! Viva BIF!

Strive to leave behind, a lasting legacy for our children.

DR. BALA EVWARAYE, DR. YOMI OJO, MRS. IBIE GREEN, DR. IWARILAMA ELLIS WILCOX,
MRS DATUO BANIGO, MR. GIFT WILCOX, DR. ONIMI WILCOX, DR. OLIVE WILCOX, MR. SOWARI
WILCOX, MR. ASONA GREEN, MS. KRYSTAL WILCOX, MS. KIMBERLY WILCOX, MS. KATELYN WILCOX,
MRS. TONYE HALLIDAY, MRS. FLORENCE LAWSON, MR. CALLISTUS DURUJI.



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JWA'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Congratulatory *Messages*

BUSINESS ADVERTS

MEMORIAL

CELEBRATION



**2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

THEME:
**BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION**

Celebrating
**21 YEARS OF BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**

28-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

**TO OUR ROYAL FATHER, THE AMANYANABO OF
BONNY, AND BIF GRAND PATRON
- KING EDWARD ASIMINI DAPPA WILLIAM PEPPE.**



The Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, the 2024 Convention Planning Committee (CPC), and members of the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), USA and Canada, felicitate with our Royal Father, and Grand Patron of Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), King Dr. Edward Asimini Dappa William Pepple III, Edward 1, DSSRS, CON, Perekule XI, Amanyanabo of Grand Bonny Kingdom on the 28th Year Anniversary of your reign.

Your Majesty, we share in the joy of the entire Grand Bonny Kingdom in celebrating Your Majesty's 28-year reign, as a commemorative ceremony. We express our gratitude for Your Majesty's service, and dedication, and pray that God continues to grant Your Majesty, wisdom, strength, good health, prosperity, and a long, and fulfilled life. We also pray that your reign continues to be filled with progressive accomplishments, and your path paved with grace; may we continually celebrate accomplishments that will bring prestige to your throne, and a bright and prosperous future for the people of Grand Bonny, and Grand Bonny Kingdom.

LONG LIVE THE AMANYANABO OF BONNY, AND GRAND PATRON, BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION.

LONG LIVE GRAND BONNY KINGDOM.

LONG LIVE BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION



90th BIRTHDAY FELICITATION MESSAGE TO OUR DEPUTY GRAND PATRON, SE-ALABO (DR) O.R. LONGJOHN, AMONIBIENOFORI 1X.

BIF Deputy Grand Patron, Se-Alabo (Dr) Osobonye Rogers LongJohn, JP, DSSRS, MBBS, FWACS, FMCS, FICS, Amonibienofori 1X, Chief and Head of Longjohn Chieftaincy Major

House of Grand Bonny

The Executive committee, Board of Trustees and members of the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), USA and Canada, proudly congratulate our beloved Deputy Grand Patron, Se-Alabo (Dr) Osobonye Rogers LongJohn, JP, DSSRS, MBBS, FWACS, FMCS, FICS Amonibienofori 1X, Chief and Head of Longjohn Chieftaincy Major House of Grand Bonny, on reaching the incredible milestone of 90th year birthday. You have touched countless generations of Bonny Indigenes at home and in Diaspora with your wisdom, courage, kindness, and generosity. Your life has been an inspiration to all of us and we are honored to celebrate this special day with you.

"The measure of a man is not determined by his show of outward strength or the volume of his voice or the thunder of his action or his intellect or academic abilities. It is seen rather in terms of the love he has for his family, his friends, his community and for everyone. The strength of his commitments, the genuineness of his friendship, the sincerity of his purpose, the quiet courage of his convictions. The fun, laughter, joy and happiness he gives to his family, his community and to others. His love of life, his patience and his honesty and his contentment with what he has" - Grady Poulard.

Our beloved Deputy Grand Patron, and Se-Alabo, you embody all these virtues and more.

Sir, as we rejoice with you on your 90th birthday, we would like to use this occasion to thank you for being a guiding light and support to Bonny Island Foundation from its inception to date. You are indeed a big part of the achievements recorded by BIF.

May God Almighty, reward you with many more fruitful years, in good health, faith, hope and Love. AMEN.





CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

IN HONOR OF OUR PATRON
PROFESSOR EDWARD T. BRISTOL-ALAGBARIYA, ESQ.

Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), USA and Canada, wish to congratulate our Patron Professor Edward T. Bristol-Alagbariya, Esq., Post-Doctoral Certificates (Aberdeen & Dundee, UK); PhD (Dundee, UK); MILD (Lagos); LLM (Port Harcourt); BL (Lagos); LLB (Hons) (Port Harcourt); BA (Hons) (Port Harcourt); JP, KSC on his Promotion (Effective from October 1, 2023) to the Rank of Full Professorship; Professor of Sustainable Development Law & Multidisciplinary Sustainable Development-Oriented Practices.

You have exceptionally distinguished yourself as the Dean of the Faculty of Law and a Multidisciplinary Scholar. You have been doing exceptionally well as a Multidisciplinary University Teacher of the Faculty of Law, the Diplomacy Unit of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, and the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy & Strategic Studies (EEI), University of Port Harcourt, NIGERIA; as well as a Visiting Research Fellow, CENTRE FOR ENERGY, PETROLEUM & MINERAL LAW AND POLICY (CEPMLP), Graduate School of Natural Resources Law, Policy & Management, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, Scotland, UNITED KINGDOM. BIF USA and Canada, and the rest of the global community would continue to benefit from your enormous wealth of knowledge and experience.

Our beloved Patron and Aseme-Alabo, Founder of Ancient Grand Bonny (Okoloamakoromabo) XX, Kuruama Amadabo, CONGRATULATIONS!

May God Almighty continue to abide with you and forever guide you, to the glory, honor and adoration of His Holy Name, AMEN



**2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBA TRIBE ANCESTRAL ROOTS
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



The family of
late Rev Tamunotonye Gogo Brown of
Kalaomuso Brown Compound in Opobo town,
celebrates
**with BIF on the home coming
of 2024th annual convention.**
Long live our king, long live BIF,
Canada and USA

Wishing Bonny Island Foundation [BIF] a joyful 21st Anniversary and many more years of making an indelible difference in our community.

In the spirit of celebration I say a big congratulations to my incomparable sister (Mrs. Mercy Halliday) on her forth coming Iria/Bibite ceremony and trusting God it will end in praise.

Grace Akwe



Akwe Dynasty joyfully celebrating one another on distinct milestones achieved. On the flip side we are wishing our loving Aunt (Mrs. Mercy Halliday) a successful Iria/Bibite Ceremony coming up on the 28th/29th December, 2024 and also Bonny Island Foundation [BIF] a magnificent 21st Anniversary.

Prayers Akwe





**2024 ANNUAL
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THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBA TRUST ASSOCIATION'S
21st ANNIVERSARY TO OUR COMMUNITY

Heartily congratulates
Dame Joyce Simon-Ogan and
Bonny Island Foundation, USA & Canada
on their 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION
HOLDING IN BONNY ISLAND, RS NIGERIA



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Bonny Island Foundation Women's Group

Congratulates our sister,

Pastor Mrs. Princess Benstowe nee Abbey
on her Egerebite & Bibite Iria ceremony (Ibani Womanhood)

in Grand Bonny Kingdom. Wishing you great fulfilments in your new role.

Love & Peace, BIF Women.



The family of :
Chief/Mrs. Emmanuel Chidi Nwachukwu.

Joyfully invites you to the

Celebration of **IBANI WOMANHOOD** (Egberebite/Bibite)

of our dear beloved Daughter/Wife

Lolo Mrs. Martina Emmanuel Nwachukwu

Friday 20th December 2024

Morning Session 8:00am - Evening Session 2:00pm

At Obinatiti Ground, Abalamable Longjohn's Compound,
Bonny Island, Rivers State.

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Thanksgiving Service @ St. John's Christ Army Church
Abalamable Parish, Bonny Island.

Reception @ Late Iria Clement Longjohn's Compound.

Culture of the

Original Iria

Gold

White

THE B.I.F WOMEN'S CULTURAL GROUP
HEARTILY CONGRATULATES OUR BEAUTIFUL MEMBERS ON THE
OCCASION ON THEIR IRIA CEREMONIES! BEST WISHES!



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& CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**IRIA &
BIBITE
CEREMONIES**

**December
28, 2024**

**Holding in
Bonny Island**

Mrs. Mercy Halliday

LOOKING FORWARD TO
CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

THE B.I.F WOMEN'S CULTURAL GROUP HEARTILY
CONGRATULATES OUR BEAUTIFUL MEMBERS ON THE
OCCASION ON THEIR IRIA CEREMONIES! BEST WISHES!



It is time to Celebrate the Culture/Tradition of Bonny Kingdom

Celebration of

IRIA (IBANI WOMAN HOOD)

- Kala Egerebite
- Opu Egerebite
- Bibite (Bighibite)

On December, 26th, 27th & 29th, 2024

In Bonny Kingdom, Rivers State, Nigeria

Please Come Celebrate with the families & Friends of

Mrs Tamunotonye Mercy Halliday Nee Wilcox
Mrs Rachael Givans (Megan Halliday)
Ms Abigail Sotonye Halliday
Ms Mirabel Ibifini Halliday



BIF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

-SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON (MRS. IBIE GREEN)

The Bonny Island Foundation set out to accomplish the goal of awarding scholarships to Bonny students as a means to help them stay in college and graduate. The implication of such a decision is to make a positive impact on Bonny society and the country as a whole.



Helping our youths stay in college will help them achieve a higher education and create endless opportunities for them. It means that our youths can now be empowered to compete in the ever-evolving global world. The benefits of achieving a higher education cannot be over emphasized, the rewards can be immediate and far-reaching. President Nelson Mandela once said that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." "The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation."

It is in this spirit of community service that the Bonny Island Foundation Scholarship Fund (BIF) was formed. In 2012 when I was the Vice President-At- Large , and Dr. Peter Hart was the president of The BIF, the debate as to how best to celebrate the BIF 10th anniversary came up in one of our general meetings, it occurred to me then that it would be very charitable if the organization could develop a scholarship award scheme to benefit Bonny Students at home. Needless to say, that the idea was well received by Dr. Peter Hart and Dr. Leslie Green (B.O.T Chairman) who encouraged me to form the Scholarship committee. The BIF committee comprises 4 members who have kept the engine of the scholarship fund fully in gear. These gentlemen are Dr. Leslie Green, Advisor Dr. Peter Hart, Treasurer. Engr. Macdonald Bara-Hart, secretary and my humble self, Mrs. Ibie Green, chairperson.

So far, we have started to realize our dream because the first batch of scholarship awards, we gave out was to 30 students, and today that number has increased to a total of 75 awards. Our beneficiaries have written letters of appreciation to say how much their lives have changed with the funds they have received from the BIF Scholarship. Some of them have signed an undertaking committing to support this scholarship scheme when they enter the work force. This gives us much joy, but it will take all hands-on deck to continue this charitable project.

It is an empowering tool that allows us to improve and change our environments. Too many times we depend on the government to do everything for us, but we can resort to self help if we pull our resources together.



This was how the Late Amaopusenibo Spurgeon. A. Green founded the first Bonny Scholarship Board. He was also the first secretary of the scholarship board. The Amaopusenibo pulled off a huge fund-raising effort which gave rise to an educational giant like the Late Amaopusenibo N. A. I Waribere who went on to study at The University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Upon graduation, he headed many institutions. His major accomplishment in Bonny was the outstanding leadership role he displayed as the principal of the Bonny National Grammar School, popularly known as Bonagrams! It was during his tenure that the Bonny National Grammar School Students made the best result in the West African School Certificate Examination in the Rivers State of Nigeria.

Bonny National Old Students who trained under him have continued to advance Bonny intellectually. This gift keeps on giving as is evident in BIF, because most of the BIF members today were Amaopusenibo Waribere's old students.

Giving back to society has a big reward, and it should behoove us all to be charitable, especially when it comes to giving back to your community.

Charity begins at home as the saying goes were it not so Prophet Nehemiah (from the bible) would not have rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem. As the trusted Cup bearer of King Artaxerxes of Persia, he was comfortable in his newfound country, yet he was not happy that his people, the Jewish people were suffering.

The bible tells us that one day When Nehemiah's brother and other men from the land of Israel paid him a visit, he asked to know about the condition of his country, then they told him about the trouble the Israelites were having, and how the walls of Jerusalem were still broken down. This was not welcome news to Nehemiah, so he prayed to God about it. One day the king noticed that all was not well with Nehemiah and when he asked why he wasn't himself, Nehemiah told him that Jerusalem was in such a bad condition and the walls were broken down. 'What is it that you want?' asked the King. 'Let me go to Jerusalem,' Nehemiah answered, 'so that I may rebuild the walls.' King Artaxerxes did not only give him permission to go to Jerusalem, he equipped him with some wood to help him with rebuilding the wall.

After the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, Nehemiah did a remarkable thing; he documented the names of all who helped to rebuild the wall and inscribed them on the wall for posterity. The lesson to take away from this story is that God wants us to never forget where we come from. Most of us would rather give to some other cause than that which concerns us, and too many times have we heard our brothers and sisters condemn and damn their own hometown at every opportunity they get.

Brothers and Sisters, I implore you to put your money where your mouth is and let's all answer the call of "Do something".



NAMES OF THE FIRST BONNY SCHOLARSHIP BOARD 1962

They were namely:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (1) Albert Ezekiel Hart (Chairman) | (16) Samuel T. Allison (Ikpali) |
| (2) Ama-Opu-Senibo Spurgeon A. Green (Secretary) | (17) Erasmus B.A. Blue-Jack |
| (3) Abel D. Brown (Treasurer) | (18) Owen J. Brown |
| (4) King Captain O.S. Pepple (Perekule I) | (19) Anomia B. Banigo |
| (5) Chief Roland T.E. Wilcox | (20) Ernest O. Ibiama |
| (6) Chief Lawrence Willie Pepple | (21) Philip W. Aminiokuma |
| (7) Justice Barklay B. Pepple | (22) Sonny Alex Hart |
| (8) Chief Alfred D. William Jumbo | (23) Finidi Stowe |
| (9) Reginald F. Jumbo | (24) Charles S. Banigo |
| (10) Sir Alfred B. Jamaica | (25) Rodgers D. Long John |
| (11) Rodgers S. Halliday | (26) Alfred S. Blue-Jack |
| (12) Theodore F. Allaputa | (27) Isaac Jeapudoari |
| (13) Jonathan W.T. Pepple | (28) Joel T. Kondo |
| (14) Frank D. Green | (29) Levi S. Fenibo |
| (15) Geoffery S. Blue-Jack | (30) R.D. Jumbo |

BIF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES 2016/2017

BOMA GOGO HALLIDAY	EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
KAREN BLUEJACK	CIVIL ENGINEERING
BOMA TOLOFARI	BIOCHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
DABOYINGI OBU GREEN	ANIMAL AND ENVIRON BIOLOGY
HARTINA EZEKIEL - HART	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
CHARLES BONYE BANIGO	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
LANCELOT ALLISON	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
TRACY FINECOUNTRY	MANAGEMENT
HAMILTON GIBSON HALLIDAY	MATHS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
GEORGE P. ALLAPUTA	CIVIL ENGINEERING
REGINALD PETER JUMBO	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
TAMUNO DOUGLAS LONGJOHN	ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
DANIEL IBIENE TOLOFARI	MASS COMMUNICATION
ABINYE S. AMONIOFORI	ACCOUNTANCY
PRINCEWILL P. JUMBO	PETROLEUM ENGINEERING
PATRICK M. JACKMAY	CHEMICAL/PETRO CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
GEORGE K. BENJAMIN BROWN	COMPUTER SCIENCE
OWUPELE IBIENE BROWN	MARKETING
GIFT A. WILCOX	COMPUTER ENGINEERING
IBIEBELEM ANARI BENSTOWE	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
TAMUNOPATOMA ALLAPUTA	CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
IBIWANGI REBECCA GREEN	POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
KENNEDY M. HART	GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
TUOTAMUNO ISAAC PEPPE	HISTORY AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES
PRINCESS NADA ONU PEPPE	MANAGEMENT
RAPHAEL TAMUNODIEPRIYE WILCOX	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
ALFRED TAMUNOENE ALLISON	SOCIOLOGY



BIF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - 2023/24

1. Precious G. Allaputa - Com Health
2. Fubara H. Allison - Electrical Engineering
3. Steve Jamaica - Electrical Engineering
4. Sonia Benstowe - Education & Integrated Science
5. Favour Banigo - Biochemistry
6. Dipiriyee Godsgreat Bristol - Medical lab Science
7. Jocelyn Bristol - Human res mngt
8. Divine D. Bristol - Electrical Engineering
9. Shalom C. Brown - Diplomacy
10. Wisdom Tobin - Chemical Engineering
11. Constance Green - Civil Engineering
12. Sandra T. Green - Management
13. Ifuroiyala Frank Green - Microbiology
14. Peace Halliday - Marine Engineering
15. Stephen I. Halliday - Civil Engineering
16. Queen Halliday - MGT
17. Mercy T. Akwe Hart - Education
18. Daba T. Hart - Engineering
19. Negni Ezekiel Hart - Comp. Science
20. Mary Jane Ibiene Jumbo - Anatomy
21. Victor I. Jumbo - Surveying
22. Glorious LongJohn - History
23. Tammy LongJohn - Human Physiology
24. Uniques S.K LongJohn - Surveying & Geometrics
25. Christian Pepple - Chemistry
26. Queeneth Pepple - Education Psychology
27. Victoria Pepple - Economics
28. Lilly Nungo Pollyn - Marketing
29. Franklin P. Pollyn - Electrical Engineering
30. Kelcy B/ Miejene - Mechanical Engineering
31. Benita Tolofari - Human Physiology
32. Jonathan R. Tolofari
33. Ruth Tolofari - Guidance and Counseling
34. Graham Wilcox - Office & info Management
35. Destiny Wilcox - Pol Science
36. Israel Martins Osene-Wilcox - Mass Communication

MEMORIAL & LAW AWARDEES

37. Rhoda Dappa - Allison - Medicine
38. Sonia Green - Medicine & Surgery
39. Favour Halliday - Law
40. Mitchell Hart
41. Nengi Tobin - Law



Scholarship Awardees Courtesy of Memorial Funds

MEDICINE

COVENANT LONGJOHN
GIFT LONGJOHN
VANNESA GREEN

LAW

DEINABO GREEN

Mr. & Mrs. Mini Hart Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. PETER D. HART)

Amaopusenibo & Mrs. Spurgeon Green Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. LESLIE GREEN)

Mr. Ellis Wilcox Memorial Fund & Mr. Tonye Wilcox Memorial Fund. (DR. IWARILAMA ELLIS WILCOX)

Mr. Sam Peterside Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. CHAMBERLAIN PETERSIDE)

APPRECIATION:

THE BIF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL THE BIF DONORS.

FROM THE RECIPIENTS

Nada Pepple <nadapepple@gmail.com>

To: ibie green

Hello good afternoon. My name is Onu-Pepple Princess Nada, I was a beneficiary of the BIF scholarship during my school days. Life after school has been good. I can't thank God enough for the great persons behind this scholarship. Because of the scholarship, I was able to pay my fees and part of my rent till I graduated. One unique thing this scholarship did was to help motivate me to study harder and better since I had to maintain a certain CGPA to remain a beneficiary of the scholarship. I pray the sponsors continue with this kind gesture as they are preventing alot of persons from dropping out of school. Thank you. Best regards.

From: Patima Allaputa allaputapatima@gmail.com

Good day Sir thank you i have recieved the scholarship funds ...i really appreciate the prompt payment ..thank you very much

Boma Hart



From: "Boma Halliday" <bomahalliday83@gmail.com>

Date: Jan 23, 2018 18:13

Thank you very much sir, I have received the money. By tomorrow my school fees and other payments will be made. God bless you.

Long Live BIF scholarship.

From: "Charles Bonye Banigo" <charlesbonyebanigo@gmail.com>

Subject: APPRECIATION

Good morning Sir, i have received the alert confirming that the money has been transferred to my account.

I want to express my profound gratitude to you and the entire BIF team, my prayer still remains that as you all have thought it wise

to put smiles on the faces of Students, thus smiles will never cease to be on your faces respectively.

Indeed you all have made my 2018 with this gift, and i Promise to use it judiciously and study my books meticulously to as to join

you in making students life better.

Once again i'm saying thank you very much.

Precious Benstowe

I want to use this opportunity to thank all members of bonny island foundation (BIF) for the unexpected educational support fund given to me, it came as a shock at the time when I had nothing but you gave me something and has taking away the Borden. I can never thank you enough but may God bless you all and your families and businesses, you shall never lack in your life and businesses and I promise to use my money wisely.

Appreciation from Ezekiel Hart Hartina

I'm grateful to you sir for your great effort in ensuring that I receive my payment and sorry for any inconvenience I might have put you through.

And I'm also grateful to the Board of directors of the BIF scholarship fund for this opportunity And I pledge to do my part by being a good student in making sure this opportunity is not wasted.

I'm highly grateful sir

Thank you



BIF RECIPIENTS LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Dear sir/ma,

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for being awarded the BIF Scholarship. This is one of the greatest gifts I received this year and a gift that will grant me a stress-free academic life in school, not just for me but for my family at large. I will ensure that this favour that was granted to me will be duplicated in the lives of others in the near future. As an orphan, I understand how difficult it is to pursue academic pursuits in any field of endeavour, not to talk about medicine and surgery. I make no light of this opportunity at all, and I will not fail to keep my academic flag flying high to make this association proud and be part of their goals someday.

CAREER GOAL

One of my future goals, and the most important one, is to become a doctor. It is my life dream and the only thing I am seeking. A doctor is someone who is capable of saving and helping others lives in ways that are not possible in other careers. Being a doctor for me is not just like any job; it is achieving a dream I have had since I was 6 years old. My dad told me that this job is not for making money as much as to help people and save their lives. "He taught me that people don't have to pay to check their health; if they are not able to pay, it is not a problem; you do your job as you should do, and he always says if you care about money in this career, you won't be successful at it. That is how I initially began picking this major. Second, another reason that made me pick this major is that I feel inside of me that I can do something useful for humanity with this job. I have the feeling that I can probably add something to this career. I am always wishing to wear the white coat and be called by a doctor; it is not just a dream; it is my life for me. I believe I have the ability to deal with patients and help them. Medicine has many branches and fields. Personally, I love dealing with the heart and helping people with my job. I will change their lives like a celebrity changes people's lives by being a role model for them. Perhaps the most compelling reason for my desire to become a doctor is the potential to make a tangible difference in people's lives. The privilege of being entrusted with the health and well-being of individuals is a responsibility I wish to undertake. It is this human impact that gives the profession its profound sense of purpose.

In conclusion, my aspiration to become a doctor is driven by a deep-rooted interest in the human body, the intellectual challenge that the field offers, the commitment to continuous learning, and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on individuals and society. I believe that the journey to becoming a doctor, while demanding, will be an enriching and fulfilling one.

Yours sincerely,

Favour Halliday.



APPRECIATION

Dear Bonny Island Foundation,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible honor of being selected as a recipient of the scholarship from bonny island foundation.

Receiving this scholarship is a tremendous blessing, and I want to convey my sincere appreciation for your generosity and belief in my potential.

This scholarship holds profound significance for me as it not only eases the financial burden associated with pursuing higher education but also serves as a powerful affirmation of my dedication and hard work. Your support is not just a monetary contribution; it is a vote of confidence that fuels my determination to excel academically and contribute meaningfully to my community.

The impact of this scholarship extends far beyond the financial realm. It instills in me a sense of responsibility and gratitude, motivating me to strive for excellence in my studies and future endeavors.

Your investment in my education is an investment in my dreams, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity.

I am truly humbled and honored to be chosen for this scholarship, and I want to assure you that I take this privilege seriously. Your belief in my potential inspires me to work diligently, not only for my own success but also to contribute positively to society.

Yours gratefully,

BRISTOL DIVINE DIEPIRIYE

The Chairman,
Bonny Island Foundation,
Bonny Island,
Rivers State.

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I am writing to express my gratitude for the scholarship I have been awarded. This scholarship means so much to me because it will allow me to pursue my educational goals without worrying about financial constraints.

This scholarship will help me to focus on my studies and achieve my full potential. I am grateful for the committee's generosity and for this amazing opportunity.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours Faithfully,

Queenneth Pepple



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Jama's 21st Anniversary
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

BIF AWARDEES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD MEDICINE:

CHIEF DR. O.R. LONGJOHN

Born on the 24th of October 1935 at Abalamabie in Bonny Local Government Area of River State, he had his formal education at Government School Bonny, King's College Lagos and University College Ibadan, graduating MBBS, London on April 1962. After post graduate education at the Royal College of Surgeon, England, and ASCON Bagauda Kano, he obtained FRCS Edinburgh 1970, FMCS Nig 1972, FWACS 1973 and FICS 1978. He devoted his life for service to humanity. Dr. O. R. Longjohn is an illustrious and multi talented Ibani man. He excelled in anything he put his mind into. He is being specifically recognized for being the first Bonny Surgeon, and for plying the trade in such a way that made all that came in contact with him, to say that he was arguably the best surgeon amongst his peers. He was Chief Medical Director of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital Port Harcourt and chairman of Amin Kano University Teaching Hospital. He brought honour and recognition to his homeland Bonny through his profession. Chief Longjohn is a cultural icon and a solid community advocate.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HISTORY THROUGH ART:

J.A. GREEN

Jonathan Adagogo Green was the first professional Photographer in Nigeria, born in 1873. His works of art adorn museums and art collections in Nigeria and around the world. The photographs he took in the 1800's are reputed to compare favorably with digital photographs of today. His works have helped to preserve much of the history of pre-colonial and colonial Nigeria. He was a brilliant Ibani star. He continues to bring honour and recognition to Bonny through the art he practiced so well more than a century ago! He was the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green, who worked closely with foreign traders and missionaries. His works are in major collections in the British Museum, London; Rhodes House, Oxford; Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool; Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight; Manchester University Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the National Museum of African Art, in Washington D.C USA.



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BIF AWARDEES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SERVICE TO GOD AND HUMANITY:

BISHOP E.T. DIMICARI

Bishop Ebenezer Tamunoteghe Dimicari, a distinguished Bonny Bishop, nationalist, parliamentarian, theologian, philanthropist and ecumenical leader, was born at Georgekiri, Bonny on the 27th of September 1890. On April 27th 1952 he was enthroned as the inaugural Diocesan of the Niger Delta Diocese. He was the first indigenous Bishop of the Niger Delta, the first Nigerian to be appointed CBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England in 1956. He later went on to electrify the Diocesan Cathedral at a personal cost to him. He adopted well over 85 children from around the country and called them his rainbow. He labored for the benefits of the oppressed and will always be considered our most reverent Bishop.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD EDUCATION:

AMAOPUSENIBO N.A. I. WARIBERE

Born 5/16/1924 a Arugbanama, Bonny. Educated at Bonny Government school, Bonny, St. Mark's College, Awka and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. His academic Brilliance made the First Bonny Scholarship Board and SPDC to sponsor his education at the University level. Waribere a true Bonny patriot, put his soul, mind and body into his work as Principal of Bonny National Grammar School. At BNGS his first batch of students in the WASC exam had a passing score of 98.4%, the best in the state! He is with good reason regarded as the best Principal of BNGS. His former students at BNGS constitute the largest group of Bonny youth doing well today in different walks of life in and outside the shores of Nigeria.



BIF AWARDEES



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - LAW:

CHIEF R.T. E. DAPPA WILCOX

Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox was born in 1901 at Peterside, Bonny. He was the father of Chief Dappaa Birive. Some of his notable achievements were: Spearheading the formation of the Ijaw people's league in 1943 at Enitonna High School in Port Harcourt. He was elected as the first President General of the Ijaw People's League. He rightly is the father of Ijaw nationalism and Consciousness. He Studied law in the United Kingdom and graduated with an LLB in June 1948, and became the first lawyer of Ijaw ethnic Stock. In 1952 he was made the first Chancellor of the Niger Delta Diocese. He is the first Nigerian to be awarded the MVO by the Queen of England. He was the first Chief Magistrate of Ijaw Origin. He later passed to the bosom of the Lord on May 8th 1964.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - CULTURE:

AMAOPUSENIBO WILSON JUMBO

Wilson jumbo is a traditionalist and lover of Ibani songs and cultural performances. He revived and continues to maintain the Abara dance group in Bonny. Many young men and women in Bonny have been encouraged by him to develop an interest in Ibani cultural dances. He is a patriot.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-BUSINESS:

CHIEF REGINALD F P ABBEYHART

Chief Reginald Abbey Hart trained as a Banker. He excelled in his chosen career and rose to the headship of several Banks and financial institutions in Nigeria. He is for good reason often called banking giant and a captain of industry in Bonny. He is a traditional ruler with many accomplishments. He is an urbane and fine gentleman. He is a modern Bonny patriot.



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

BIF AWARDEES



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD- HEALTH: SIR ELLIS A. WILCOX

Ellis A.L Wilcox was Born on the 12th of April 1924, at Peterside Bonny. He graduated from the Yaba College of Pharmacy in 1947. Ellis Wilcox trained as a Pharmacist, who put excellence into everything he did both in and outside his profession. He was called the "Peoples Doctor" because he treated all the common illnesses that were brought before him. He freely gave his services and medicines to the indigent among us. He was a rallying point and inspiration to the Pharmaceutical profession in Rivers State. He is credited with the formation of the Pharmaceutical society in Rivers State. He was a philanthropist and a Bonny patriot.



BIF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - EDUCATION:

AMA OPUENIBO SIR PROFESSOR EDWARD OPUADA IWO NTE BANIGO.

The First citizen of Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom to attain the rank of Full Professor in the academia: Ama-Opuenibo Sir Professor Edward Opuada Iwo-Nte Banigo, B.Sc. (Special) Chemistry (London), Ph.D. Food Science & Technology (Leeds), Diploma in Chemical Engineering (Aston, Birmingham), Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Food science and Technology (ENIFST), Knight of the Sacred Order of Saint Christopher (KSC,

Anglican Diocese of Owerri). Professor Banigo, born 23 November, 1939, is the third son (fifth child in a family of six of Ada James Iwo Nte Banigo and Mrs. Lucy Iparamuma Nte Banigo (nee Akan Pepple), both of blessed memory. He attended Duke Town School, Calabar, Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar, the University College, Ibadan/University of Ibadan, the University of Leeds, England and the Aston in Birmingham, England. He is the Pioneer/Foundation Professor of Food Processing Technology (and one of the founding fathers of the renowned Federal University of technology, Owerri (FUTO) First Professor in Bonny Kingdom and Second Vice-Chancellor/Chief Executive, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Former President of Bonny Community Front (the Bonny Think-Tank), A licensed lay reader in the Anglican Communion. An intellectual asset of the Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom, an erudite scholar and researcher, an accomplished administrator/technocra



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THEME:
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OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

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JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
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BIF AWARDEES



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - BONNY COMMUNITY ADVOCATE:

AMAOPUSENIBO S. A. GREEN

Amaopusenibo. Spurgeon A. Green was born at Peterside on September 17th, 1915. He attended Bonny Government School (1930-1937) GCE, Overseas Postal Tuition, Bennett Airmail College, London, 1940-1942) Associate Chartered Institute of Secretaries ACIS. Joined the Royal West African Frontier Force as an Orderly (1942-1944). Employed by the United African Company (UAC) of Nigeria, Port Harcourt-1970. Rose to the rank of Area Manager, Western Region of Nigeria before retiring in 1970.

Appointed Area Manager, Nigeria Cold Stores, Port Harcourt, 1970-1985. Now a Contractor with Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC Bonny 1985 till date. For many years the leader of Bonny communities in Port Harcourt, Lagos, Kano, Jos etc where he served as President of the BIA. During the Civil war, he prevailed on the Federal Government to allow food to be shipped to Bonny to avert starvation in the land. He was for many months made to personally unpack and repack every parcel in front of federal troops to prove that such parcels did not contain arms before shipment to Bonny. He started the erection of the first concrete steps and shelter for travelers at the Bonny waterside jetty in Port Harcourt. He and twenty nine others formed the first Bonny Scholarship Board. He was the first Chairman of the Bonny Employment Bureau, and Chairman of many conflict resolution committees in Bonny. He is a community advocate per excellence. He is chairman of the Bonny Historical Society and lead author of the most comprehensive book on the history of Bonny to date. In carriage, dress, speech and manners, he represents the quintessential Ibani man. He is a foremost Bonny patriot.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-HISTORY:

AMAPUSENIBO ADADONYE FOMBO

Adadonye Fombo was an author, historian, Philanthropist and a true Bonny patriot. He was a man of many accomplishments. His book 'A Chronicle of Grand Bonny' is a brilliant account of Bonny history. He was a community advocate with a sense of history. A chronicle of Grand Bonny is probably the first attempt at writing a complete history of Bonny.



**2024 ANNUAL
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**THEME:
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**21 YEARS ADVANCEMENT
& COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY**

BIF AWARDEES



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-EDUCATION:

PROF. ROSEMOND GREEN

Born into the family of Warisenibo, Victor Klagbo Green and Elfrida Aselebo Green of Greens Iwoama town is the Grand Bonny Kingdom of Rivers State, holds the following educational qualification; PhD (Lagos, 1995) M.Ed (Jos, 1983), B.Ed (Wales, 1981) all in science education; Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) in Chemistry and Biology combination and many other professional qualifications. Has put in creditable public service in the education sector, most note-worthy is the Rivers State College of Education where she served as Head of Department, Integrated Science through four tenures, Dean of Faculty, Science Education through three tenures, Deputy Provost, Acting

Provost till the College was upgraded to a University Status in 2009. Very prominent member (fellow in some cases) of several learned bodies, Science

Teachers Association of Nigeria (MSTAN), Nigerian institute of management (FNIM), Institute of Corporate Administration (FCAI), Institute of Public Management (FIPM) etc. Have chaired many government and institutional committees and panels and has been conferred with several national and international awards for excellence in public educational leadership and managerial role modeling. Still actively researching and credited with over a hundred (100) substantively scholarly works, spanning the full range of professional peer-reviewed and reputedly published book chapters, whole books, thoroughly assessed local and international university-based learned society journal articles and conference presentations. Prof. Rosemund Diene Green-Osahogulu is specifically the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru (Rivers State) University of Education, Rumuolumeni, and Port Harcourt. She is also the first female Vice Chancellor of Rivers State extraction, happily married to Prof. Dele Joshua Osahogulu and blessed with children.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - EDUCATION:

PROF. HOWELLS I. HART

Prof Howells Idaerofagha Hart holds a B. Eng, M. Sc and PhD from University of Benin; Oklahoma State University and University of Nigeria respectively, all in Mechanical Engineering. He has had a wide experience in the private and public sectors in Nigeria, Europe and the United States of America both, in industry and the academia. At the Rivers State University of Science & Technology (RSUST), Port Harcourt, Nigeria, he has been the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He has served in the last four Governing Councils of RSUST and is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rivers State Bureau for Public Procurement. Prof. Hart is an accomplished professional engineer. He is an Ibani Patriot. Prof. Hart is happily married to Mrs. Faustina Hart, also an engineer and, they have four children.



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A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

AWANTA

Guest House

SONNY'S FINEST HOTEL

ESTD 1983

Ayambe, Off Hospital Road,
Bonny Island,
Rivers State, Nigeria

+07064938509

Fully Air-Conditioned Rooms
Fully Air-Conditioned Wine Bar
Fully Air-Conditioned Restaurant
Reception Hall
24 Hours Water & Electricity Supply
CCTV
Electric Security Fencing
E.T.C

Looking For A Quality Hotel? Come Check Out This New Hotel In Finima!

- Fully Air- Conditioned Rooms
- Fully Air- Conditioned Wine Bar
- Fully Air- Conditioned Restaurant
- 24 Hour Water & Electrecity Supply
- 24 Hour CCTV



Location
Zone 6 GRA, Finima

08055550432





*In
loving memory
of*

our beloved husband, father and grandfather,

Mr. Femi Odutola Odulana

*Love leaves a memory no one can steal. God has you
in His keeping and we will have you in our hearts
forevermore. Rest well.*

Ogunne, Yemi, Yinka, Tomi, Remi & Seyi Femi Odulana.





2024 ANNUAL
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OUR HOMECOMING
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Celebrating
Jamaican Heritage
& Community

IN MEMORIAM

You served God and your community for which you will always
be remembered. Continue to rest in peace.



Amaopusenibo Spurgeon Adawari Green 1915 -2014.
& Mrs. Esther Ibinye Green (Nee Bara-Hart). 1930 -2011



Warisenibo Ellis A. Wilcox 1924-1998.
& Mrs. Dorah Taba Wilcox 1930-2023.

COURTESY: MR ASONA GREEN - GRANDSON



BONNY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



**A GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
BONNY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAME. HON. (ALABOTA)
ANENGI BARASUA CLAUDE-WILCOX DSSRS, JP.**

On behalf of the government and the good people of Bonny Local Government, I honour and celebrate the life, times and legacy of Late Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green, the first professional photographer in Nigeria, and a distinguished son from Bonny Kingdom.

Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green's pioneering work in photography not only showcased the creative brilliance of Bonny but also positioned our kingdom as a hub of innovation and cultural excellence. His artistry preserved the beauty of African heritage and told stories that transcended time and geography, making him a trailblazer in his field.

As Bonny People, we remain proud of his pioneering spirit and will continue to celebrate his invaluable impact on our history and heritage. May his story encourage others to aim for greatness and purposeful service as well as poise as a reminder the talent and ingenuity embedded in our land.

We are proud of his achievements and grateful for the path he carved for generations of photographers and creativeness across Africa. As we remember and celebrate him, may his life remind us all of the power of vision, determination and creativity.

Late Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green's legacy will remain etched in the annals of history and his contributions will forever be cherished by Bonny Kingdom and beyond.

(Signature)
* Date: 01/12/2024 *
* Dame Hon. (Alabota) Anengi Barasua Claude-Wilcox DSSRS, JP *
* Chairman *
* BONNY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA *

Bonny Local Government



2024 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNIA TRUMB AKAACHUKI TAYLOR
& CONTRIBUTORS TO BIF COMMUNITY



BIF 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN PICTURES





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNIA TRIBE ANNUAL CONVENTION
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNA TRIBE ADVANCEMENT
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ANNUAL CONVENTION
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNA TRIBE ANNUAL CONVENTION
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaican Heritage
& Community





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaicans Abroad
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNA TRIBE ANCESTRAL WISDOM
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN ANCESTRAL ROOTS
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNA TRIBE AFRICAN HERITAGE
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JANIS TRAVIS' 21ST BIRTHDAY
& HER CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ANNUAL CONVENTION
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY





REMEMBERING A PIONEER AND LEGEND JONATHAN ADAGOGO GREEN (1873 – 1905) FIRST NIGERIAN PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green was born in the village of Ayama (Peterside) in the year 1873 to Chief Sunju Dublin Green and Madam Idamienye Dublin Green. He had two siblings his elder brother Chief Christopher Biebelembabo Dublin Green, who was Chief of Dublin Green house at Ayama from 1895 to 1899 and his sister Ms. Ayanne Dublin Green. Jonathan's father died while he was still a toddler, necessitating his uncle Chief Oruasi Dublin Green who was Chief of Dublin Green house from 1875 to 1895, to take over his care and training from a tender age. Jonathan could be said to have had aristocratic beginnings as his father and uncle who raised him were prominent figures in one of Bonny's four founding houses.



Jonathan's wealthy and influential uncle allowed his nephew to apprentice with G.F. Packer, a British missionary sent to Bonny to design and build the CMS school Jonathan later attended. An accomplished photographer, Packer is credited with training J. A. Green in the workings of the camera—still a novel device at the time—and the tedious process of making albumen prints. He is said to have also had additional training in photography in Sierra Leone under the tutelage of an older African Photographer before returning to Bonny to set up his studio in 1891. His studio was set up close to the King's quarter, an area reserved at the time for the most esteemed in the society.

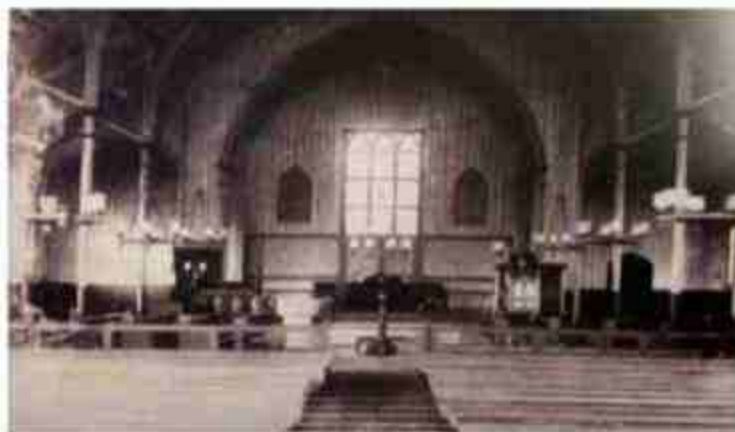
Jonathan Adagogo Green was Nigeria's first Master Artist Photographer and Historian. J.A. Green's works preserve a vanishing past. His hands on the shutter button of his camera, a new technology at the time, ensured that the old ways did not vanish. He had a calling, which was to properly document the political, commercial/industrial, and social life that surrounded him. He was a sensitive human being who used his medium and profession to the highest levels and responsibly observed and documented his environment, the people, and their activities for posterity. He found himself straddling two worlds: one as an Ibani young man born into an elite trading family, and the other as the British colony of Nigeria's chief photographer. His photographic work, mostly around the Niger Delta and Southern Nigeria offers a unique window into late nineteenth-century West Africa, capturing the intricate interplay between traditional customs and colonial influences. He used photography as a medium for cultural expression and historical documentation.

The region where he resided was incorporated into the British Oil Rivers protectorate in 1884, later renamed the Niger Coast Protectorate in 1893, and eventually became part of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate from 1900 until the end of J A Green's life.

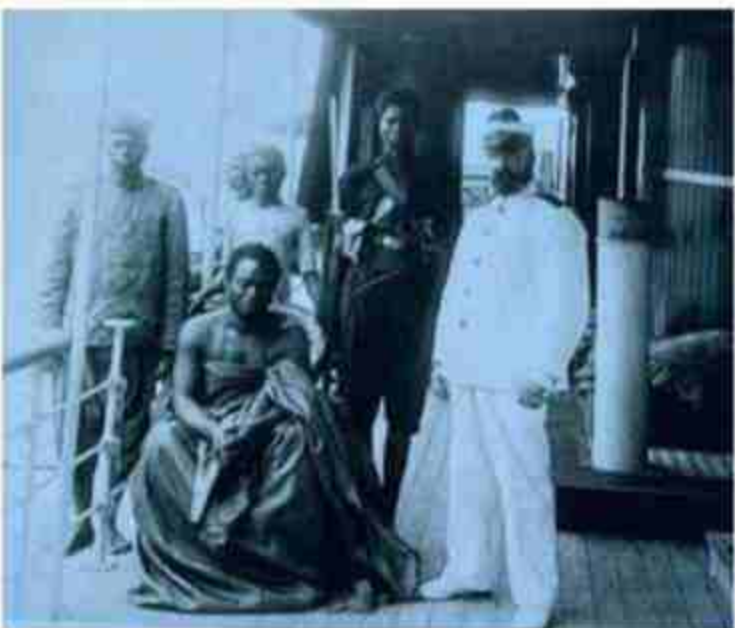
His work is so seminal that no history of African photography can be discussed without mentioning his name and his works. The iconic pictures and scenes that he recorded provide us with a unique and maybe only insight into what precolonial and colonial Nigeria looked like. Nigeria and indeed all patriots owe Jonathan Adagogo Green a debt of gratitude for recording and preserving our history through Photography. Jonathan Adagogo Green practiced his art for only 14 years in and around southern Nigeria. He died in 1905 and left behind an enduring legacy of Pictorial history. The pioneering role of Jonathan Adagogo Green's photographic artistry was painstakingly resurrected and documented in the book 'African photographer J A Green' edited by Martha G Anderson and Lisa Aronson with guidance from Prof. E J Alagoa and was published by Indiana University press in 2017. A few of the iconic pictures he took are:



The Bonny consulate building (left) which the British used for the administration of the southern protectorate formed in 1884. The British designated the coastal town of Bonny as the administrative center for the newly formed Oil Rivers Protectorate. Warri consulate is on the right.



St. Stephen's Cathedral (interior and exterior) in 1897. The Church is the oldest Anglican Cathedral in Nigeria and the second oldest in west Africa. J. A. Green was among the students that built and offered Bishop Ajayi Crowther his seat/throne at the Cathedral which he accepted. He thereafter made the Cathedral his permanent seat.



Oba Ovonrami of Benin on his way to exile in Calabar

Brides returning from Church Peterside, Bonny 1902



Professor E.J. Alagoa and Amaopusenibo Spurgeon Adawari Green standing behind the Old tomb of J A Green at Bonny cemetery.



Chief Nana Olomu with officers of SS Batanga, Bonny River 1894



British vice-consul Harcourt with Bonny Chiefs, Bonny 1897



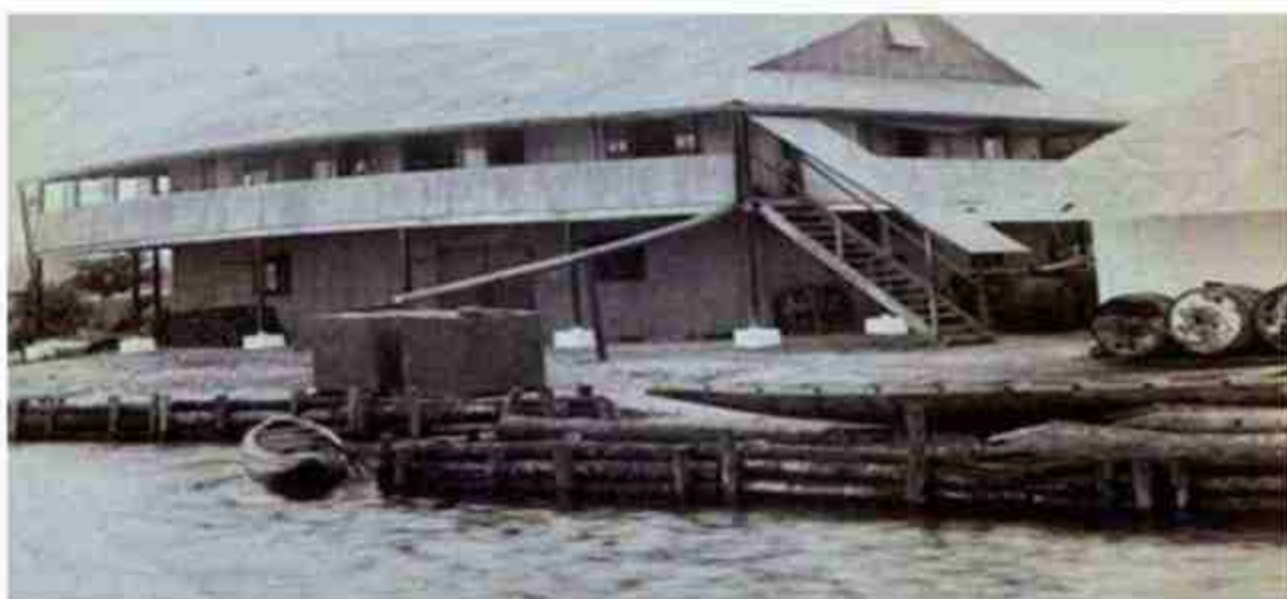
Chief Oruasi Dublin Green and some of his wives 1889



Chief William Brown 1900



Chief Young Briggs of Abonoma



The Mimosa Factory Bakana



Bonny High School at Ogugumanga with Principal Craig, staff and students. 1903



Marriage ceremony of Chief William Abobo Brown's daughter 1897.



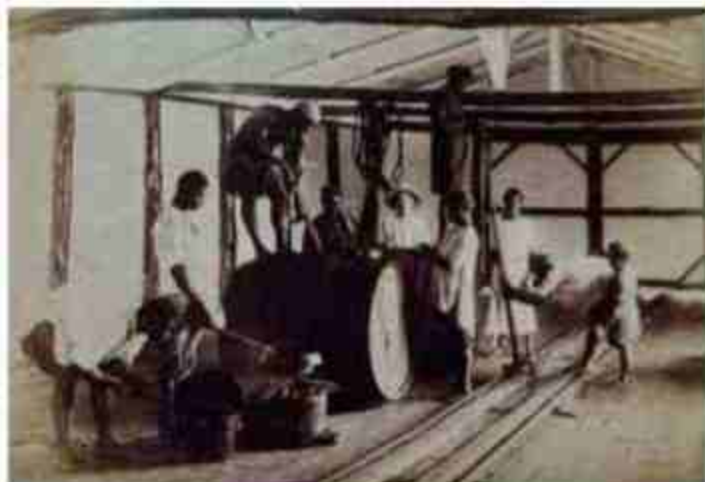
Tanda ceremony (sitting in state) for Chief Long John.
His son Chief Henry Ogbulu is seen supporting his jaw.



View of native town Bonny



Abonnema Iriabo (Akenta Bob Manuel) in 1898



Palm Oil traders sampling a cask of palm Oil at Bonny in 1896.



Capt. R D Boler at work in his office at Bonny 1892.



Opobo Consulate in 1894



Chief Will Braide of Bakana with his soldiers 1899



Women weaving baskets at Bonny in 1897



Blacksmiths at work in Bonny 1903



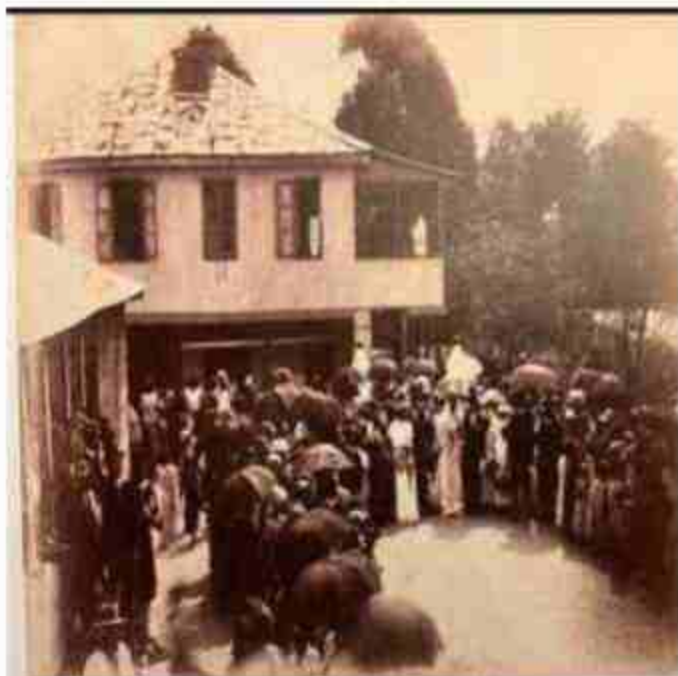
Capt. Ringer with detachment of Niger Coast Protectorate troops



SS Ivy docked in Bonny 1900



Chief LongJohn's wives and family



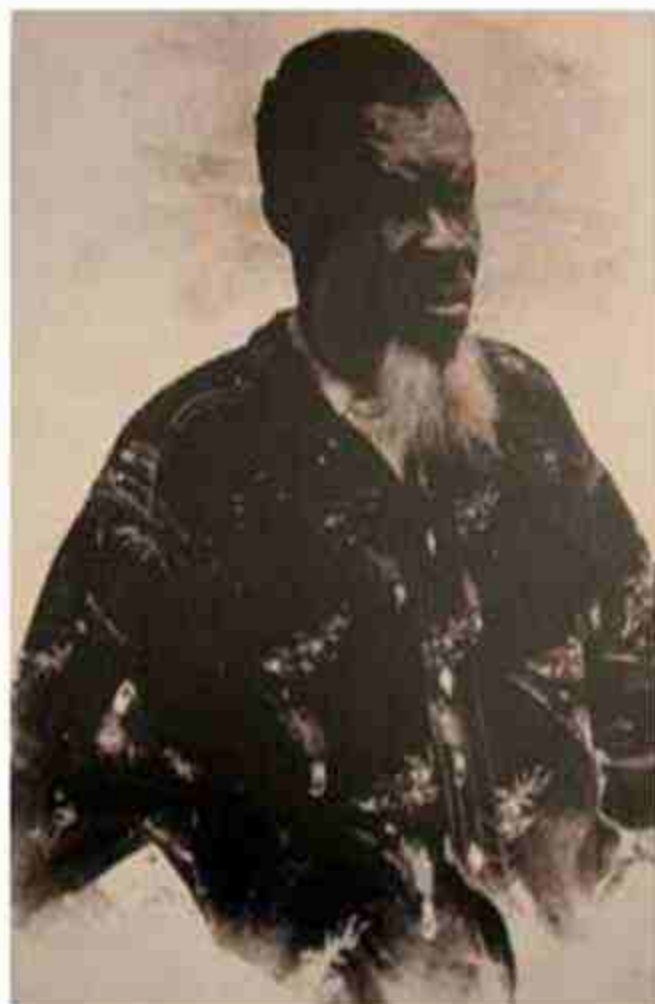
Church wedding at mission House Bonny



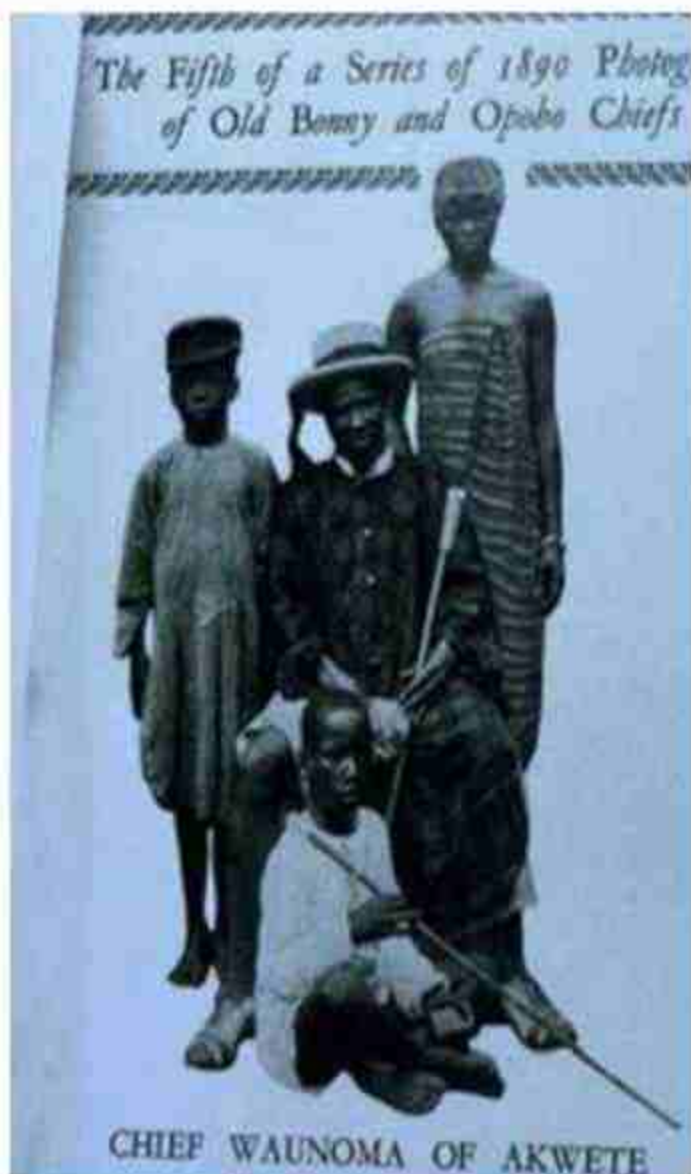
*Mission boat passing through Bonny River
near the KCP*



Prince Sunday Jaja Opobo 1893



Chief Waribo manilla Pepple



Chief Young Briggs and
Chief Frank Briggs of Abonnema in 1902



Front row, Lady Mac, Miss Mary Kingsley,
Sir Claude Mac Back row, Mr. Loche,
Dr. Shekleton, D Phillips, Commissioner Harcourt, Roger
Casement.



Chief Abbey Hart in group Photograph
with Bonny Chiefs and Europeans
after dinner in 1905



Daughter of Chief William Brown
in her wedding dress



Bonny Chiefs and Kalabari Chiefs with Sir Ralph Moor during the Slave conference of 1901



Chiefs and elders of Bonny with consul of Grand Bonny in a group photograph.



School in Opobo 1890



Azumini Palm Oil Market 1895



Chiefs and people of Bonny with the corpse Chief Oko Jumbo sitting in state (tanda)



Chief Charles Horsfall ceremonial canoe



Abbi Amachroe of Abonnema 1898



New Calabar cricket club



Bonny Children on Christmas day 1894



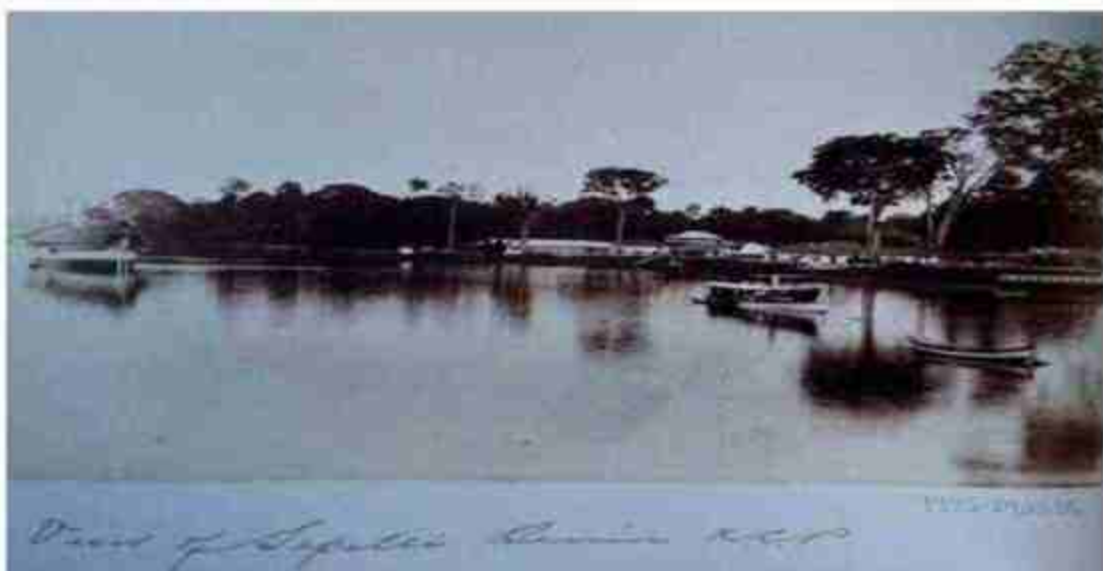
Newly wedded brides Bonny in 1902



Chief William Abobo Brown's war canoe



Palm Oil traders at Warri



View of Sapele in 1895



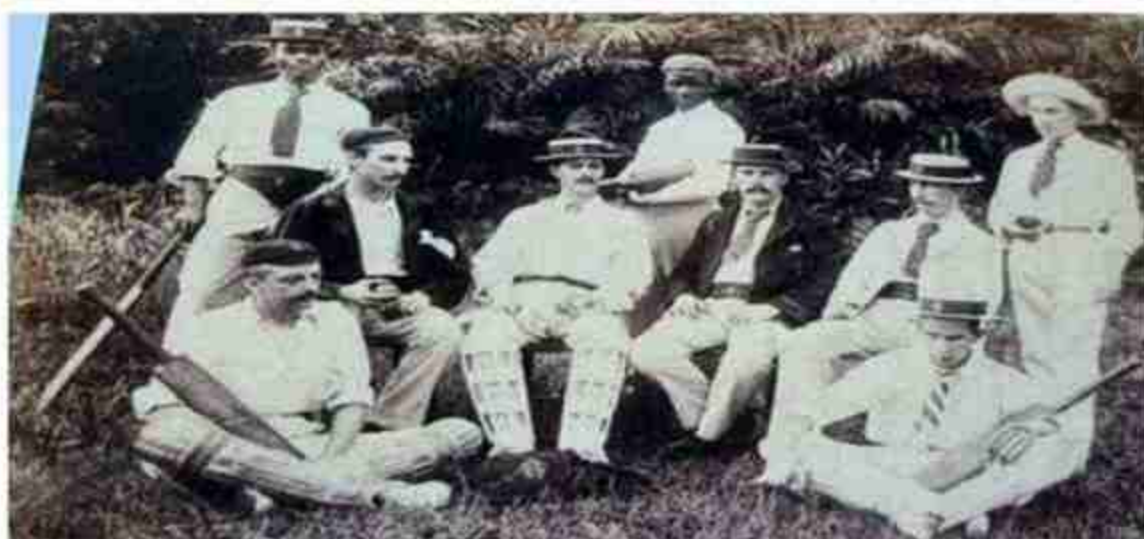
Chief Abbey Hart and his wives.



Major A G Leonard with Protectorate Troops



Chief Koko of Brass in his war canoe



Bonny Cricket club



View of vice- Consulate Beach Degema 1897



Before the year 2013, majority of Nigerians in Diaspora did not pay much attention to the life and times of Jonathan Adagogo Green. The BIF in 2013 gave a posthumous lifetime achievement award to J A Green during its 10th anniversary celebration in Atlanta Georgia. This award was in recognition of the monumental work he did more than a hundred years ago to promote Bonny, the Ijaw nation and indeed our country Nigeria.

In preparing the citation on J A Green I relied heavily on information made available to me by late Amaopusenibo Spurgeon Adawari Green who was Chairman of Bonny Historical Society at the time. After the presentation ceremony Warisenibo Atedo Denton Banigo mentioned that he was hearing of Jonathan Green for the first time and suggested that the BIF should rebuild JAG's monument, which was visibly in need of repairs. The idea of rebuilding the monument was accepted by all members of BIF as worthwhile and a decade of fund raising for the project followed thereafter. Warisenibo Atedo Denton Banigo not only suggested we rebuild the monument; he was tenacious and dogged in raising funds for this project. After raising funds for the project, the BIF was lucky to have Warisenibo/Amaopusenibo Sotonye Banigo on ground to direct and supervise the work. He was assisted by Amaopusenibo Dennis Ezekiel Hart.

As we unveil this monument today, I will like to give all glory and honor to God Almighty who made it a reality, appreciation to Late Amaopusenibo Spurgeon Adawari Green who opened our eyes to the past, encomiums to Warisenibo Atedo Denton Banigo for being laser focused on issues concerning the completion of this project, gratitude to Warisenibo Sotonye Banigo for directing and supervising this work. We say a big thank you to Warisenibo Emmanuel S. Green, Head of Jonathan Adagogo Green family for granting us permission to undertake this project. To members of the Bonny Island Foundation USA/CANADA, patriots and friends of Grand Bonny who contributed to this project, know it that you have left your footprints in the sands of time. According to the psalmist "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us-yes, establish the work of our hands". God bless you all. Amen.

Leslie Minaibim Green. **MD, MPH, DABFM.**



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& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



OLD MONUMENT



NEW MONUMENT



CONTRIBUTORS J. A. GREEN'S TOMB REBUILDING PROJECT 2023/2024

1. MR. CAIN BALJIAN \$500
2. DR. LESLIE M GREEN & MRS. IBIE GREEN \$800
3. AMAOPUSENIBO DENNIS BOB EZEKIEL-HART \$100
4. WARISENIBO ATEDOUGHU DENTON BANIGO \$500
5. MR. EDWIN OGOLO \$100
6. MRS. OPUNNE ODULANA \$200
7. PROF. MIEADONYE ADANGO \$500
8. DR. PETER HART \$500
9. DR. DIARI BANIGO \$100
10. MR. EDMOND YOUGHAN \$40
11. MR. ALFRED IRINGERE BANIGO \$200
12. WARISENIBO DARLINGTON COOKEY-GAM \$100
13. SENIBO REGINALD HALLIDAY \$150
14. AMAOPUSENIBO SOTONYE BANIGO \$600
15. SENIBO CHUKS ODIKPO \$100
16. MR. & MRS. PHILIP CHUKUEKE \$100
17. MRS. ARITO PEPPE \$100
18. MRS. FORTUNE BELLO \$100
19. AMAOPUSENIBO / PASTOR JONATHAN TOBIN \$500
20. SE-ALABO ELLIOT HALLIDAY N100,000
21. MR. ASONA GREEN \$100
22. DR. ADONYE BANIGO \$300
23. DR. MAY LOLO BANIGO \$300
24. MR. EMMANUEL JUMBO \$150
25. MRS. IBIENE JUMBO \$150
26. MR. & MRS. AMAKO \$100
27. MRS. IRENE BROWN N200,000
28. MRS. MINA HUTCHFUL \$100
29. DR. REUBEN UKU \$200
30. MR. DAGOGO COOKEY-GAM \$100
31. MR. INYE DENTON BANIGO N100,000
32. DR. GIBSON GREEN \$100
33. MRS. EDITH CLINE \$100



34. PROF MRS. JOY BEN-JUMBO \$500
35. NENGI MIEADONYE \$100
36. MR. BABAFEMI ODULANA \$200
37. MR. GIFT WILCOX \$100
38. DAME JOYCE SIMON-OGAN \$100
39. MR.& MRS. NORMAN HALLIDAY \$300
40. MRS. TONYE M WILCOX HALLIDAY \$50
41. MRS. MEGAN HALLIDAY GIVANS \$20
42. MR. HENSLEY PIRINYE HALLIDAY \$20
43. MR. REGIS ADONYE HALLIDAY \$20
44. MR. ELLIS IBIFUBARA HALLIDAY N20
45. MS. STEPHANIE FAIBI HALLIDAY N20
46. MS. MIRABEL IBIFINI HALLIDAY \$10
47. MS. ABIGAIL SOTONYE HALLIDAY \$10
48. MS. SOPHIA HALLIDAY \$10
49. MS. MADISON HALLIDAY \$10
50. MR. SEBASTIAN HALLIDAY \$10
51. MRS. JOYCE HALLIDAY \$200
52. MRS. CECILIA AKINBOADE BANIGO \$100
53. MRS. VIOLA ODUSOTE \$100
54. DAWARI & CYNTHIA MIADONYE \$100
55. MS. AYABA MIADONYE \$50
56. MRS. MERCY HALLIDAY \$50
57. LOLO MARTINA NWACHUKWU \$50
58. AMAOPUSENIBO SPURGEON ADAWARI GREEN FOUNDATION \$100
59. WARIALABO HARRIGAN ADANGO PEPPELE N120,000.00
60. DR. IWARILAMA ELLIS WILCOX \$150

B I F **HISTORY** IN PICTURES





2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaican Heritage
& Community



BIF Convention Ibanise Hall Bonny, 2005



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



First BIF Reception Chicago, 2005



BIF Convention New Jersey, 2010



Dr. & Mrs. Ellis Wilcox, (DC 2007)



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaicans Abroad
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Jumbos in Washington DC (2007)



BIF Seminar at Ibanise Hall Bonny, 2008



BIF Inaugural Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Seminar Ibanise Hall 2008



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE AFRICAN LIVES
& CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Baltimore MD, 2012



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ANCESTRAL ROOTS
& CONNECTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010

BIF Convention Houston Texas, 2018



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007

BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ANCESTRAL TIES
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Edison NJ, 2019



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Ewing New Jersey, 2014



BIF Convention Houston Texas, 2018



BIF Convention Edison NJ, 2019



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ADVANCEMENT CENTER
& DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



Prof. & Prof. (Mrs.) Ewvaraye (DC 2007)



Late Capt. Sowaribi Tolofari Westampton NJ 2010



BIF Convention Westampton NJ 2010



Late Harrington Pepple Speaking (DC 2007)



Chief Dr. O. R. LongJohn (Westampton NJ 2010)



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Some members of the Bonny Eremina-ogbo (USA) in pictures:
Top L-R: Joyce A Halliday, Ilanye LongJohn, Clara Pepple, Oruene Odikpo, Beauty Jumbo, Ala Halliday
Bottom L-R: Mercy Halliday, Fortune Bello, Atonye Wilcox, Kieaibi Wilcox, Ibie Green,



BIF Convention Atlanta Georgia 2013



Iriabo Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Cross Section of Women and 2018 Iriabo



Members of Mbase United of New Jersey



BIF Women 2018 Outing



BIF Women Leader and President



BIF Women in 2019 Convention



BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



Cross Section of BIF Men



Women with 2019 Iriabo



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN ANCESTRAL ROOTS
& CONNECTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



Women 2019 Convention in New Jersey



2019 Convention in New Jersey



2019 Iriabo and Mrs Minadini Banigo



BIF Convention in New Jersey 2010



2019 Masquerade Display by Men



2019 Convention Check-in Table



2019 BIF Men Masquerade Display



BIF Members on tour in New York City 2019



Some BIF members with Hon. Wladimir Gomez Abrego
© 2019 BIF Convention



2019 BIF Men Masquerade Display 2



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN AMERICAN TALENT
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



BIF NY trip



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN AMERICAN TALENT
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022

BIF Convention Guest 2022



Galveston TX Tour 2018

White House Tour Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMAICAN ANCESTRAL ROOTS
& CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY



2019 BIF Convention in New Jersey





BIF YOUTH AMBASSADORS



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY
& COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



**BIF Youths & Young Adults
at Germantown MD 2022**



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUBA TOWN ANNUAL CONVENT
A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Jennifer & Erica Odoemene

Ms. Adata A. Miadonye

Boma Gogo Brown



Joshua & Joseph Benstowe

Emmanuel Gogo Brown

Emmanuel Dan Jumbo



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JUNIA TRINE AKADEMIK SAKES
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY



Regis & Ellis Halliday



Asona Green



Madison Halliday



Abigail & Mirabel Halliday



Ayaba Jessie Miadonye



Shalom Hutchful



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
Jamaicans Achieving Success
in Business and the Community



Caleb & Debbie Dienye-Atemie

Chinasa Hart

Claude Hutchful



Iyesa & Lolita Halliday

Ibitamuno Halliday

Sydney Pepple



2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
BIF AT 21:
OUR HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION

Celebrating
JAMA TRIBE ADVANCEMENT CENTER
& COMMUNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY



Stephanie Faibee
Halliday



Ibifuro & Benjamin
Ben-Jumbo



Romeo & Nelson Douglas Hart



BIF Children, Germantown 2022

Divineangel Benstowe

IRIA CEREMONY AND EREMINOGBO IN GRAND BONNY KINGDOM



**IRIAPU SHOWCASING DIFFERENT
BONNY TRADITIONAL WRAPPERS**

The people of Grand Bonny Kingdom in the Rivers State of Nigeria are called Ibani. They are known to be gentle and graceful, and this extends well into their rich cultural heritage. The geographical location of the town connects it to the Atlantic Ocean, a great advantage that put her at the crossroads of the Atlantic trade in the 15th century. Needless to say, Bonny saw a lot of sea merchants who brought in gold, silver and other colorful merchandize to her shores. The influence of western civilization has its imprint all over the fabric of the Ibani culture, and this is evident in their traditional garbs and way of life in general.

Howbeit, the advent of Christianity and education did not take away the traditional way of life from the Ibani people, rather it enhanced it. Such traditions as marriage and the Iria ceremony have all withstood the test of time.

In Ibani culture, the iria ceremony is the rite of passage from girlhood to womanhood. It is a colorful ceremony that involves the tying of different beautiful wrappers, donning expensive jewelry, and dancing in the town square. To witness the ceremony are the chief, elders and other members of the community.

The Iria ceremony is a requirement for all women in Bonny, including those that marry into the culture. It is considered a taboo for a Bonny woman to die without performing her iria. When the former is the case, tradition demands that the ceremony be carried out on the death bed before the body could be buried. Over the years, the iria ceremony has become more popular, one reason could be because it is a "show off" culture! There is so much that goes into planning, and carrying out the ceremony that it takes years for most women to save up for it.

There are certain privileges that come with performing the Iria ceremony, such as: gaining acceptance into certain women's clubs and the right to tie the Erebu and Mbudu in the Bonny township. The Erebu and Mbudu are Ibani words which stand for the bottom and top wrappers. The Erebu is the first piece of wrapper tied from the waist to the ankle, and the mbudu is usually tied on top of the Erebu, from the waist to just below the knee. This traditional outfit is for women who have completed the Iria Ceremony.

In the Grand Bonny Kingdom of old, when a young teenage girl reached the age of puberty, her mother prepared her for the Iria ceremony. It was the responsibility of her parents to buy, acquire or borrow the necessary materials which she would need for the celebration. If the girl was

already engaged to be married, then the responsibility was shared between the fiancé and her parents.

THE FATTENING ROOM: In the past, the pubescent girl was confined to a room called the fattening room, where she did nothing other than eat and sleep, and she was not even allowed to take a walk outside of the house. In the fattening room, she would be attended to by women who have gone through the iria ceremony. While the woman is going through this stage, she is referred to as the Iriabo. The period of confinement in those days could be up to six months. Today, the fattening period for the modern day Iriabo is about one week. The belief is that the Iriabo looks well and radiant when her body is full.

During her confinement in the fattening room, the Iriabo is dressed with a hand-woven cloth called the Suu, which drapes her from her chest to the knees. She receives beauty treatments, and massages with special oils and emollients such as the cam wood, palm oil, and Shea butter leaving her skin shiny and radiant. At the end, her skin is tattooed with ink which washes away with time.

During the last week of the fattening room stage, a group of women traditional dancers known as the Ereminogbo, will come to the house to do a dance rehearsal with the Iriabo. This exercise is known as the buodi. If she already knows how to do the traditional dance moves, then their job becomes easy, otherwise they would go through a period of dance lessons with her.



STAGES IN THE IRIA CEREMONY AND NAMES OF THE WRAPPERS

The tying of cloth is done in stages: The first stage is known as the tying of the Kala-egerebite. In the olden days, this stage was done when the young woman reached between the age of 10 and 15. The second stage called the Opu-egerebite was done between the age of 18 and 21, and the third and last stage called the Bighibite was done from the age of 40. The age limit has changed today, when the woman is of age these 3 stages can be done in one or 2 days.

The Iria ceremony is divided into the morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning, the Ereminogbo who have performed this rites, and are experienced in dressing the Iriabo, will meet to dress her up in her parent's house. The wrapper tying in itself is an art form: Usually, two women from the group will do the dressing whilst the others watch and make merry. Two hand woven wrappers are tied on the waist of the Iriabo to make them look full, before tying the colorful ikaki wrapper on top to look like a long maxi skirt. After the first rounds of dance, the Iriabo undergoes a wardrobe change into another colorful hand woven wrapper called the popo. In the evening, her Ereminogbo attendees will dress her up with the beautiful damask, followed by the Awomiebite. The last wrapper change will be the george.

The Awomiebite is a plain george, hand dyed in cam wood. It is the most important wrapper amongst the ensemble, because when a Bonny woman dies, it is the first wrapper that is tied on her

body underneath any other clothing she wears to the grave. Due to this reason, this wrapper cannot be borrowed.

To finish the look, a beautiful lace blouse will be fitted over her top wrapper at each change. Chunky coral beads adorn the woman's neck, with matching earrings, bracelets, and gold rings on the fingers. The gold jewelry would be pure weighty gold. On the top of her hair, she wears a crown made with coral. While dancing bare footed, she holds flowers decorated with little jingle bells on both hands to add to the music.

The Kala-egerebite : Kala means small in the Ibani language. During this stage the Suu wrapper is tied in a mini form, from the waist to the knees of the Iriabo by her attendant Women. Suu is a hand woven cloth.



IRIABO DRESSED IN DAMASK WRAPPER AND GOLD JEWELRY.

The Opu-egerebite: Opu means big and as you can guess, this means that the wrappers worn at this stage are big. They are also hand woven and colorful. Examples of this type of wrappers are the Ikaki and Popo. The Ikaki wrapper has triangular designs on it, whilst the Popo wrapper has square designs.

The Bighibite: This is the George tying stage and the last stage of the ceremony. The george wrapper named appropriately, is said to have been introduced into the Bonny culture from India by King George Pepple of Bonny in the 19th century. In the past, this stage was done when the Bonny woman had attained the age of 40 and above. Today it can be done on the same day or the next day after the Kala-egerebite and Opu-egerebite stages. Without the Bighibite ceremony, the Bonny woman is prohibited from tying the up and down (erebu and mbudu) george wrappers in the Bonny Kingdom.



IRIABO AND SAUCER GIRLS

On the day of the celebration, the Iriabo is expected to dance around the town square led by two good Ereminogbo dancers, one in front and another behind. In the middle of the square, a table is prepared for the elder statesmen, where they would sit, chat, and drink during the celebration. A young girl dances besides the Iriabo holding a saucer for collecting gifts from guests who generously and lavishly "spray" her with money. Other gift items include traditional Bonny wrappers. For her part, the Iriabo throws candies and little packets of cookies to the children in the crowd.

When the dance has gotten to a frenzy, the parents of the celebrant present her with gifts as they dance along with her. If she is married, her husband will do the same. This usually kicks off the gift-giving session as friends and relatives follow suit.



At the ceremony, guests are entertained to an all day feast of traditional dishes, fine wines, and spirits. This ceremonial dance usually takes place on a Saturday in the dance square. It will be worthy to mention that the friends and relatives render support to the Iriabo and her family. Such help as cooking, serving, decorating, and running of errands are very much appreciated by the Iriabo family. In most families, a heirloom of gold and coral beaded jewelry are kept in preparation for such a time when a daughter from the family might need to borrow them for their iria ceremony. This is a very good idea because these preparations (as aforementioned) can be very expensive.

The dance square is usually decorated with banners and buntings by men folks in the village, they also build a small gazebo-like house with the colorful ikaki wrappers in the corner of the square. A chair and foot stool are provided for the Iriabo to rest on, in- between dances. The chair and stool are also covered with the ikaki cloth.

The Ereminogbo group and some male drummers provide music for the dance. The Ereminogbo clap their hands and sing familiar dance songs, while the male folks punctuate the songs with their deep baritone in agreement with its message. At each wardrobe change, the Iriabo would display at the arena.

At the end of the celebration, the iriabo is carried off to her parent's or husband's house on top of the shoulders of able bodied men. The next day, which is on a Sunday, the iriabo can rightfully tie the Eregbu and Mbudu in form of, either the Popo cloth or the ikaki, and this time she ties a head tie with her outfit. Accompanied by friends and relatives, she goes to church to give thanks to God.

After the Thanksgiving Service, the Iriabo walks around the town with relatives greeting friends and neighbors. The iria ceremony is usually characterized by pomp and elegance. It is said that in those days, on such occasions, many suitors found their brides.



IRIABO DRESSED IN AWOMIEBITE WRAPPERS AND CORAL BEADS.



BY MRS. IBIE GREEN.

BONNY UKEMKPA NWAOTAM SOCIETY OF NIGERIA 1968 GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



Standing From Left To Right: Madam Agbolo Green, Mr. Jacob Dupu Harry, Dr. Eldred Green, Mr. Lawrence Dagogo Jumbo, Mr. Edward William Jumbo, Mr. Godwin William Jumbo, Mr. Denton O. Banigo, Mr. Andrew Jumbo, Madam Sarah A. I. Allison, Mr. Apaibi Jumbo, Mr. Ebenezer Manilla Pepple, Mr. Justus Green, Mr. Reuben Orumbe, Madam Abie Green.

Sitting Down: Justice Barclay Pepple, Mr. Joshua Ezekiel Hart, Mr. Reuben Okai Banigo, Chief Alfred Dagogo William Jumbo, Mr. Henry Nwoke Brown, Mr. Ikpo Nathan Sunju, Mr. Gogo Fila Hart, Mr. Joseph Nwoke Jumbo.

Sitting On The Floor: Mr. Emmanuel Chuckukiri Jumbo, Mr. Charles Ekette Halliday, Mr. George Wilcox, Mr. Dagogo Kio, Mr. Dagogo Dappa, Mr. Ibidoughwari Hart, Chief Emman Jack Wilson Pepple, Mr. Frank K. Allison (Sacramento), Mr. Omoni Blue-Jack (Siri)

Squatting: Mr. Diepiri Pepple.

Courtesy: Warisenibo Atedoghu Denton Banigo

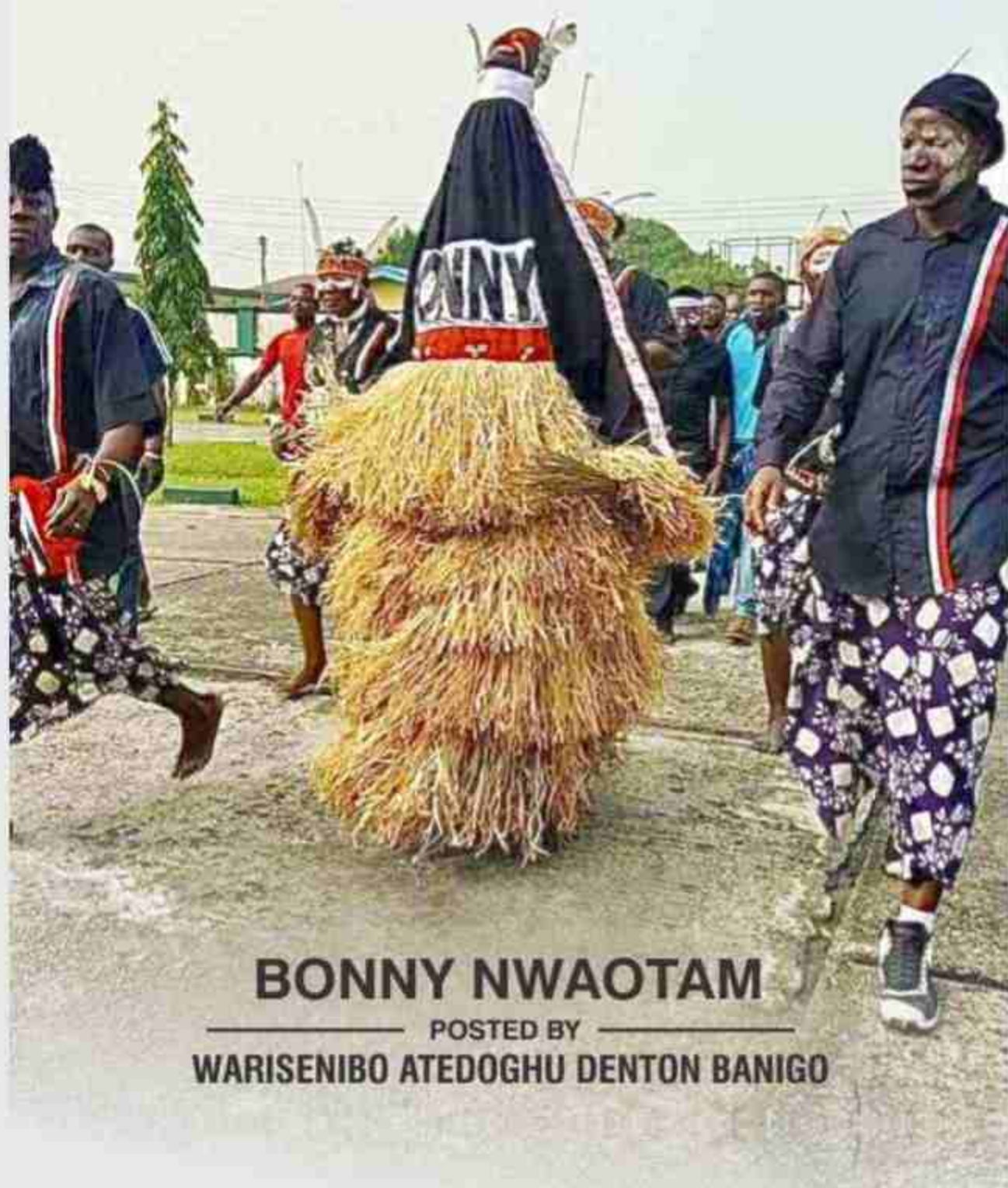


2024 ANNUAL
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JUBA TOWN ANNUAL CONVENTION
& CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

BONNY NWAOTAM



BONNY NWAOTAM

POSTED BY

WARISENIBO ATEDO GHU DENTON BANIGO



MASQUERADES IN BONNY CULTURE



In the traditional religion of the Ibanis, veneration of ancestors was observed while water spirits known as owuamapu were honored and celebrated. They also believed that water spirits had special strengths and shortcomings like human beings. Humans were believed to live among the water spirits before birth. The Ibanis held celebrations to honor the water spirits and masquerades featured prominently in these celebrations. These masquerades wore elaborate outfits with carved masks as headgear. The head gear were often replicas of particular water spirits or animals. The masquerades dance to beat of drums and mimic the steps and mannerisms of animals or water spirits. With the coming of Western civilization, Ibanis changed from traditional worship to Christianity. Masquerades are now played in Bonny mainly for historical and entertainment purposes.

Leslie Minaibim Green, MD.



IBANI MEN TRADITIONAL DRESS

By Dr. Leslie M. Green

Our style of dressing was influenced a great deal by our interaction with European traders and Missionaries who traded and mingled with the Kings, Chiefs and people of Bonny before the creation of the entity known as Nigeria. Being the first within our region to make contact with the outside world, it became inevitable, that Christianity, education and our mode of dressing would spread to our neighbors in due course. The different styles of dresses in and around the south south and south east of Nigeria are all modifications of the Ibani style of dressing. The Ibani cap is acknowledged by all to have been worn and introduced by Bonny People to the Nigerian fashion scene. The cap is an adaptation of the smoking cap or lounge cap worn in Victorian England to keep the hair from smelling of tobacco after smoking. It was also worn in winter and by sailors for warmth. The design of the 'two for a bob shirt' worn in 15th century England by commoners and workers was adopted and renamed Etibo by the Ibanis. The Feni material became popular in Bonny after English sailors who used them as warm clothing during their voyages, gave them out as gifts or 'dash' while trading at Bonny. The George wrapper now widely used all over Southern Nigeria is named after King George Oruigbiji Pepple of Bonny. King George Oruigbiji Pepple introduced the George wrapper to Bonny in 1870 after his return from England.

ETIBO

ETIBO is generally worn by young men and adults in the community as informal wear. The two-for-a-bob shirt which later became known as a two-bob shirt and was eventually named the Etibo shirt by the Ibani People. The Etibo is an elongated free flowing shirt, extending to the knee and usually made of white cotton material. It has a short rounded hard collar with a single stud at the neck and is worn over a trouser or wrapper. It is never tucked in. It can have a long or short sleeve. Socks are not worn with shoes when wearing the Etibo.





REGATTA SHIRT

The Regatta shirt is worn by young men and adults as a semiofficial dress and is also worn on festive occasions. It is similar to the etibo but has a pleated or other design on the breastplate area of the chest, with a three-stud button hole and is often a long-sleeved shirt. It is worn with a matching fedora hat, boater straw hat, bowler hat or Ibani cap.

HALF DON

Half Don is worn by adults, men of substance, titled citizens, Chiefs and the King. The Half Don is pretty much like the Don with the only difference being in their respective lengths. The Don extends below the ankle while the Half Don does not extend to the ankle.



JUMPER

This is the formal or official dress of the Ibani man. It is worn by adults, men of substance, titled citizens, Chiefs and the King. It is usually made of more expensive material and extends to the knee. It is worn over wrapper or matching trousers, walking stick, bowler hat, fedora or Ibani cap. The front of the garment is designed with a ladder or fish grill design. It accommodates three stud button holes with an attached chain-link.

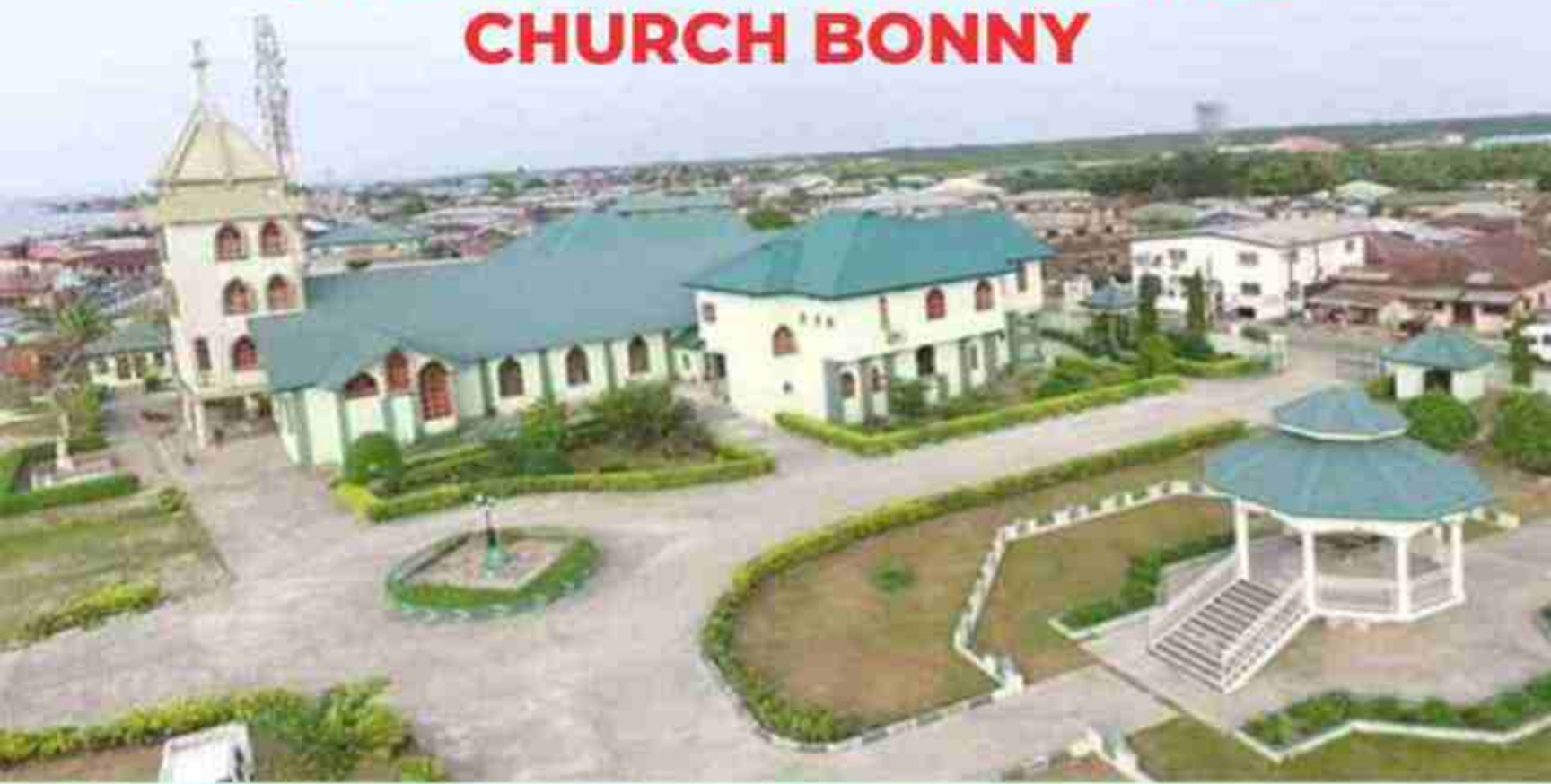
DON

The Don is worn by men from the age of 50 years and above, heads of households, men of substance, Chiefs and the King. The Don extends from the shoulders to the space between the feet and the ankles. It is made of silk or other expensive material. It has a short front collar, a pleated or other design on the breast plate area extending to the lower abdomen and four stud button holes connected by a gold or silver chain. A white shirt with a short round hard collar with a single stud button hole is worn under the Don. The Don has long sleeves which are folded back at the wrist to expose the bright cotton or lace shirt worn underneath the Don. The Don can be worn over wrapper or matching trousers with an Ibani cap, Bowler hat, Boater straw hat or Top hat.





ST. STEPHENS CATHEDRAL CHURCH BONNY



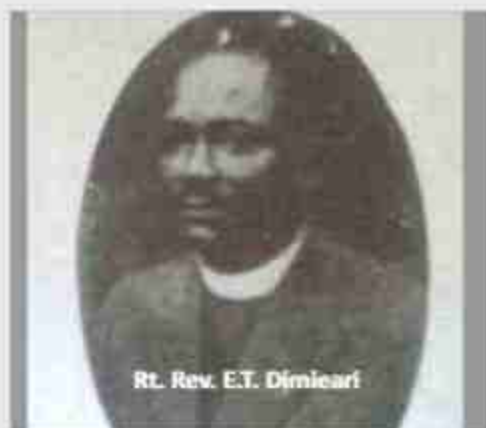
The Ibani people are Christians. Majority of the inhabitants of the area converted to Christianity in the early 1800's. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny elected to become a Christian while in England, so that God will grant him power and wisdom to rule his people. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny was baptized by Reverend G H McGill and later confirmed by Bishop Tait, the Bishop of London. At the behest of King William Dappa Pepple the Church Missionary Society in London sent Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first black African Bishop to Bonny in 1864 to establish the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bonny.

From Bonny Christianity spread to the neighboring communities of Twon and Nembe in 1868, Kalabari and Okrika in 1878, and thereafter to Andoni, Ogoni, Ikwerre and the hinterlands of Eastern Nigeria. On 24th January 1889, Bonny Christians presented their beautiful church to Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther as his Cathedral. Students of St. Stephen's Day School also presented a throne(seat) to his Lord for use in the Church. He accepted the throne and St. Stephens Church as his Cathedral. The Church was eventually dedicated by the Bishop on 27th February, 1889. St. Stephens Cathedral thus became the first Anglican Cathedral Church in Nigeria and the second Cathedral Church in West Africa.

Excerpts from the Book "Bonny Trail Blazers"

By Dr. Leslie M. Green

On April 27th 1952 The Rt. Rev. E.T. Dimieari was enthroned as the inaugural Diocesan of the Niger Delta Diocese. He was the first indigenous Bishop of the Niger Delta.

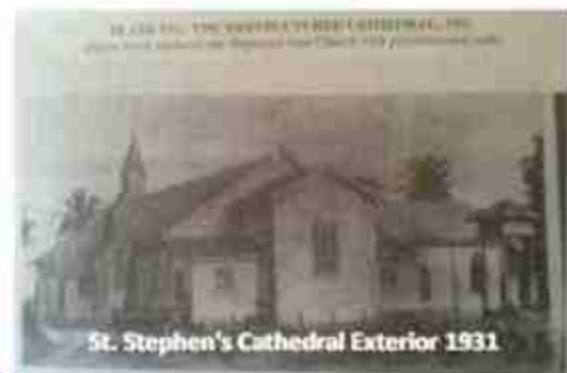


St. Stephen's Cathedral Interior 1887

Interior of St. Stephen's Cathedral in 1887. On January 24, 1889, during a grand occasion of receiving Bishop S.A. Crowther, the Bonny Christians presented their beautiful new church to his lordship as his Cathedral. This the bishop accepted gratuitously, and since then St. Stephen's Church turned out to be the first Cathedral in Nigeria and second in West Africa. The Cathedral was eventually dedicated by the bishop on 27th February, 1889



Do you know that the first Anglican graduate Priest east of the Niger, was Rev. Canon T.T. Green? In 1958 he was selected to study at St. John's College Dunelm, UK. He graduated with a B.A. Honors (ancient history, philosophy and religious studies). This illustrious son of Bonny thus emerged as the first graduate pastor in the Niger Delta Diocese.

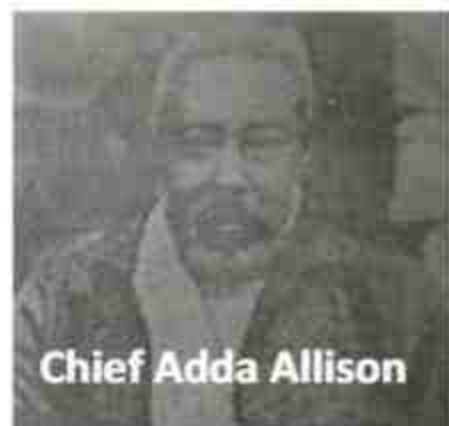




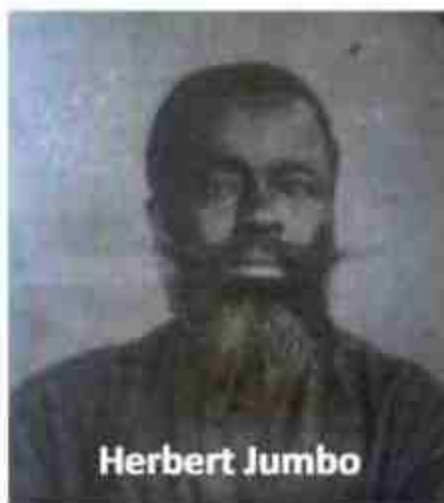
Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox

Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox was born in 1901 at Peterside, Bonny. He was the father of Chief Dappa Biriye. Some of his notable achievements were: Spearheading the formation of the Ijaw people's league in 1943 at Enitonna High School in Port Harcourt. He was elected as the first President General of the Ijaw People's League. He rightly is the father of Ijaw nationalism and Consciousness. He Studied law in the United Kingdom and graduated with an LLB in June 1948, and became the first lawyer of Ijaw ethnic Stock. In 1952 he was made the first Chancellor of the Niger Delta Diocese. He is the first Nigerian to be awarded the Member of Victorian Order (MVO) by the Queen of England. He was the first Chief Magistrate of Ijaw Origin. He later passed to the bosom of the lord On May 8th 1964.

The first Court of equity in Nigeria was Setup in 1854, In Bonny and the first indigenous Chairman of the Court was Chief Adda Allison who took Over from Capt. R.D. Boler.



Chief Adda Allison



Herbert Jumbo

Do you know that the first graduate east of the Niger was a Bonny man? Ijaw people had their pioneer University Graduate in 1856; he was Herbert Jumbo who obtained his degree from the University of London in 1856. Chief Herbert Jumbo was instrumental in the establishment of the Church in Burukiri.



Chief John Jumbo

Chief John Jumbo of Bonny was the second Ijaw University Graduate. He graduated from the University of Durham in 1878.



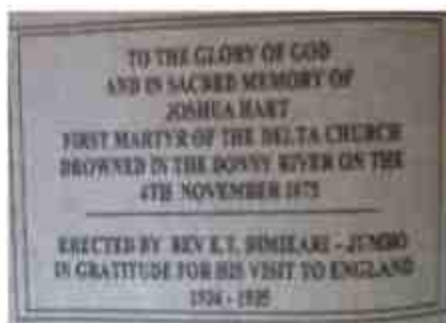
George T. Kurubo

Do you know that the first indigenous head of the Nigerian Air Force was a Bonny man? Named George T. Kurubo who was born at Peterside, Bonny in 1934. He was the Chief of staff of the Nigerian Air force from 1966 to 1967 and was later appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to the then Soviet Union. Before retirement, he attained the rank of Brigadier General. General George Kurubo died in the year 2000.



King William Dappa Pepple

King William Dappa Pepple was a unique King. He was a shining West African Monarch who introduced Christianity into Bonny and the remotest parts of Eastern Nigeria.

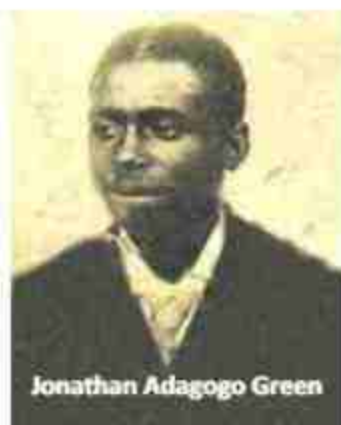


Joshua Hart

Do you know that the first Christian Martyr in the Niger Delta was a Bonny Man in the person of Mr. Joshua Hart?



In 1897 a British Consulate was established in Bonny. It was manned by a District Commissioner, an Assistant, Police Officers, and Officers of the Medical, Marine, Works, and Education Departments. Today a new Bonny Consulate has been built in 2022.



Jonathan Adagogo Green

Do you know that the first professional photographer in Nigeria was born in Bonny, in 1873? He was Jonathan Adagogo Green the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green, who worked closely with foreign traders and missionaries. His works are in major collections in the British Museum, London; Rhodes House, Oxford; Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool; Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight; Manchester University Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the National Museum of African Art, in Washington D.C USA.

Queen Kambasa of Bonny was a Nigerian ruler who was the first queen of Bonny and considered the first queen from the Niger Delta. Kambasa was a successor of King Edimini, her father, while her grandfather, King Asimini, was a famous Amanyabo or ruler in Bonny. Asimini introduced the trade with Europeans in Bonny and created Bonny's first royal line. Prior to Asimini, kingship in Bonny was given to the oldest man, a priest or very important person. She was crowned king when she seized the symbol of kingship, the "Ivory Tusk" and was able to make the king makers crown her. Demonstrating her knowledge of survival politics, she surrounded herself with loyal palace guards. As queen, she created a military unit and served as an arts patron. She is also associated with the cult of the war god, Ikuba.



Queen Kambasa



Ogugumanga High School was established at Bonny in 1890 and was headed by Rev Hugh Stowell Macaulay. That was the first Secondary School in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The school was discontinued after about ten years and the Bonny Government School was established in its place in 1904.

Ogugumanga High School was later to be transferred to become Government College, Umuahia. Before 1909, only two government secondary schools existed in the southern provinces, and these were the Hope Waddell Institute in Calabar and the Ogugumanga Industrial Institute, Bonny.