

Scotiabank Collaborates on the Commemoration of the Zong Massacre



Caption 1: Scotiabank Black River Branch Manager, Keisha Brown (centre), poses with students from the Black River Primary school after viewing the newly restored Zong memorial. The children had come out to be part of the historical presentation by Political Ombudsman Donna Parchment and the Institute of Jamaica, on the 1807 massacre of 133 slaves aboard the Slave ship.

Caption 2: Scotiabanker Keisha Brown (right) joins Michelle Faubert (back centre), Associate Professor of Romantic-Era Literature at the University of Manitoba in Canada, and presenter on the history of the Zong, as they pose with students who had gathered to be part of the memorial event. Faubert would also launch an exhibition of an 18th-century letter on the Zong, to be housed at the Institute of Jamaica.

History was made real for students from a number of schools in Black River as they were educated on the story behind the Zong Memorial that's was initially installed in the town in 2013.

The Zong Memorial located not far from the Scotiabank branch in Black River, stands as a monument that immortalised yet another atrocity associated with slavery. Etched in granite are the words that read "in honour of our 133 Africans ancestors who were massacred by drowning".

"When we received a letter requesting assistance to fund the restoration of the memorial, and to facilitate a presentation on the history of the Zong, we saw it as a unique opportunity to contribute to the history of the island" said Yanique Forbes Patrick, Vice President Scotiabank.

The Zong massacre was the mass killing of 133 African slaves by the crew of the slave ship Zong. The crew who had taken out insurance on the lives of the slaves as cargo, threw the slaves overboard to cash in on the monies from the insurance, they would have lost had they died due to the lack of drinking water.

The presentation was made by Donna Parchment, The Political Ombudsman along with Michelle Faubert Associate Professor of Romantic-Era Literature at the University of Manitoba in Canada, who was also on the island to launch an exhibition of an 18th-century letter on the Zong, to be housed at the Institute of Jamaica.

