

Elizabeth Alvarez

Fact File:

Name of Claimant	Elizabeth Alvarez
Claim Number:	87
Compensation:	£20 12s 10d-
Number of Enslaved in Claim:	2
Parish:	St George
Parliamentary Papers:	P.95

Family

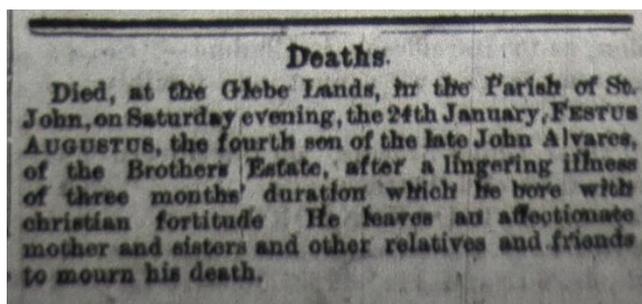
Little is known about Elizabeth's background. Her surname and claimant profile strongly suggest Iberian-Spanish heritage, most plausibly originating in Venezuela and transmitted through Trinidad following the British capture of the island in 1797. Trinidad functioned as a cultural and legal bridge for Spanish-speaking Catholic families, enabling their onward migration into Grenada.

It is interesting to note that while no records can be found for her, there might be some links to her family. **Festus Augustus Alvarez** was born 19 September 1867 to **John and Catherine Alvarez** in St John.

His death notice published in *St Georges Chronicle and Grenada Gazette* 31 January 1891

recorded that he was one of the 4 sons of John Alvarez and that he had sisters as well. It

also stated that John was from the Brothers Estate, St John.



Elizabeth had a small holding in St George where she kept a black enslaved woman called Fanny from 1821. Fanny had 2 children whilst under her control, Pomelia in 1823 and Abraham in 1825. Both were fathered by a white man.

Elizabeth gave Pomelia away as a gift to Miss Ann Burns when she was 4 years old in 1827 separating her from her mother and brother.

Elizabeth also acted as an agent for **Lydia BEATTIE** in 1830. In this capacity she gifted a 10 year old boy, **Robin**, from Barbados, to **Daniel CAMPBELL**.

Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Lydia Beattie in the Possession of Elizabeth

Names	Age	Colour	Country	Decrease		Remarks	Total
				in how disposed	Conspicuous Marks		
Robin	10 Yrs	Black	Barbados	Gifted to Daniel Campbell	"		1
One Male and One Female, on 31 st Dec ^r 1830				576	of 817	Decrease by death	1
				Increase by Sale or otherwise			

Lydia bought him back the following year.

Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Lydia Beattie in the Town of Saint George for the Year ending 31st December 1831

B: 264

Names	Age	Colour	Country	Increase		Conspicuous Marks	Mother's name	Remarks	Total
				How Acquired	Conspicuous Marks				
Robin	11 Yrs	Black	Barbados	Purchased of Daniel Campbell	None	None			1
				Increase by birth					1
				Increase otherwise					1
				Total Increase					1

Robin stayed with her up to the last slave register of 1834.

Compensation Claim (Grenada No. 87)

On 5 October 1835, Elizabeth Alvarez submitted an uncontested claim for compensation under the provisions of the Slavery Abolition Act, recorded in the Parliamentary Papers for Grenada. Her claim related to the legal ownership of Fanny and Abraham, for which she received **£41 5s 8d** in compensation.

Although modest in scale when compared to the large plantation claims that dominated Grenada's compensation landscape, Elizabeth Alvarez's award is significant for what it reveals about the breadth of slave ownership on the island. Claims such as hers demonstrate that enslaved people were held not only on major estates but also within small household or personal holdings, often by individuals whose wealth and status were far removed from the absentee planter elite.

The records list Elizabeth Alvarez as the sole claimant, with no named co-claimants or trustees. The absence of associated estates suggests that the enslaved individuals were likely held outside the framework of a large plantation, possibly in a domestic, artisanal, or small-scale agricultural context.

Elizabeth Alvarez reflects the British state's decision to recognise financial loss to enslavers, while offering no compensation, land, or material support to the formerly enslaved themselves.

Elizabeth Alvarez's claim therefore forms part of the wider Grenadian compensation record that exposes the everyday normalisation of slavery across social classes. Her case reminds us that the system was sustained at all levels from powerful plantation families through to smaller, more intimate forms of ownership that embedded slavery deeply within domestic and social life on the island.



The Enslaved

Slave Registers

Name	Sex	Where born	Colour	Date of Birth	Parish	1821	1823	1825	1827	1829	1833	1834
Fanny	F	Grenada	Black	1797	St George	P	P	P		P	P	P
Pomelia	F	Grenada	Cabresse	1823	St George		B	P	S			
Abraham	M	Grenada	Cabre	1824	St George			B	P	P	P	P

Key P=Present, B=Born, S=Sold

Fanny

Fanny first appears in the Slave Register of 1821 under Elizabeth's control. She was not new to this ownership but her prior history is not known. She had 2 children: **Pomelia** in 1823 and **Abraham** in 1825. They are described as Cabresse and Cabre which is the term used for having being the child of a black person and a mulatto. It would appear, in this case that the father was a mulatto.

Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Elizabeth Alvaras in the Town of Saint George's for the year 1823.
N^o 136

Increase							
Names	Age	Colour	Country	How acquired	Conspicuous marks	Master's name	Remarks
Pomelia	Mmo.	cabresse	Grenadian	By Birth	None	Fanny	

Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Elizabeth Alvaras in the Town of Saint George for the year 1825.
N^o 143

Increase							
Names	Age	Colour	Country	How acquired	Conspicuous marks	Master's name	Remarks
Abraham	Ymo.	cabre	Grenada	By Birth	None	Fanny	

For some reason, Pomelia was handed to **Ann Burns** in 1827 as a gift at the age of 4. This effectively broke the Fanny's family unit.

Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Elizabeth Haines, in the town of Saint George for the year 1827							
N ^o 214							
Increase							
Name	Age	Colour	Country	How acquired	Impressure marks or other	Particulars or other	Male female
						Increase by birth	
						Increase otherwise	
						Total Increase	
Decrease							
Name	Age	Colour	Country	How acquired	Impressure marks or other	Particulars or other	Male female
Pomelia	4 years	Calico	Georgian	Gift to Mrs Ann Burns			1
						decrease by death	
						decrease by sale or otherwise	1
						Total decrease	1
						Increase	
						Nett Mark	1 2
						N ^o of Slaves at last return	1 1
Annual Return of the Increase and Decrease of Slaves belonging to Ann Burns in the town of Saint George for the year 1827							
N ^o 215							
Increase							
Name	Age	Colour	Country	How acquired	Impressure marks or other	Particulars or other	Male female
Pomelia	4 years	Calico	Georgian	a gift from B		Charming	1
						Increase by birth	
						Increase otherwise	1
						Total Increase	1

Pomelia stayed with Ann up to 1834 as the only enslaved person under her control. She was almost 12 at this time and most likely stayed with Ann until emancipation in 1838.



A List of Slaves, belonging to Ann Bruno of the Town of Saint George up to the 31 st July 1834						
N ^o .	Names	Supposed Age	Colour	Country	Conspicuous Marks	Remarks
Males						
None						
Females						
	Pomelia	11 years & 7 months	Leban	Grenada		N.P.

When abolition came, Elizabeth recorded ownership of Fanny and Abraham aged around 37 and 10 respectively.

A List of Slaves, belonging to Elizabeth Alvarez of the Town of Saint George up to the 31 st July 1834						
N ^o .	Names	Supposed Age	Colour	Country	Conspicuous Marks	Remarks
Males						
	Abraham	10 years & 4 months	Leban	Grenada		N.P.
Females						
	Fanny	36 years & 7 months	Black	Grenada		N.P.
No Increase or Decrease since last Return up to 31 st Dec ^r 1833						
One Male and One Female, 31 st July 1834						
Elizabeth F. Alvarez Mar ^r 15 th August 1834						

Emancipation would follow 4 years later. Could this see a family reunion with Pomelia?

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Dr. John Angus Martin of the [Grenada Genealogical and Historical Society](#) Facebook group for his editorial support.

References

Festus Augustus Alvarez birth record "Grenada, Church Records, 1747-1930", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6KSH-SPD3> : Sat Mar 09 01:59:17 UTC 2024)

