

## (Albert) Edgar Tripp

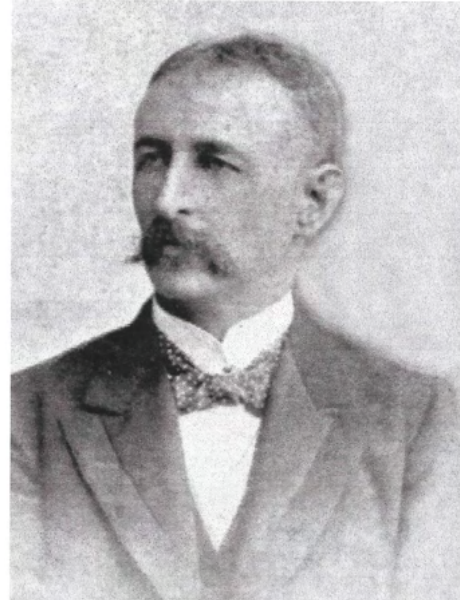
11 September 1847 to 4 November 1921

Merchant, businessman and Champion  
for Trinidad in the 1800's

Edgar Tripp is described, by Sir C.C. Knollys K.C.M.G. (Acting Governor of Trinidad) in the "Souvenir Album of the Centenary of Trinidad 1797 – 1897", as the "able and energetic secretary (of the Centenary Committee) who infused it with energy and enthusiasm". Tripp was a key person in Trinidad in the 1800's. This presentation describes his life and many activities.

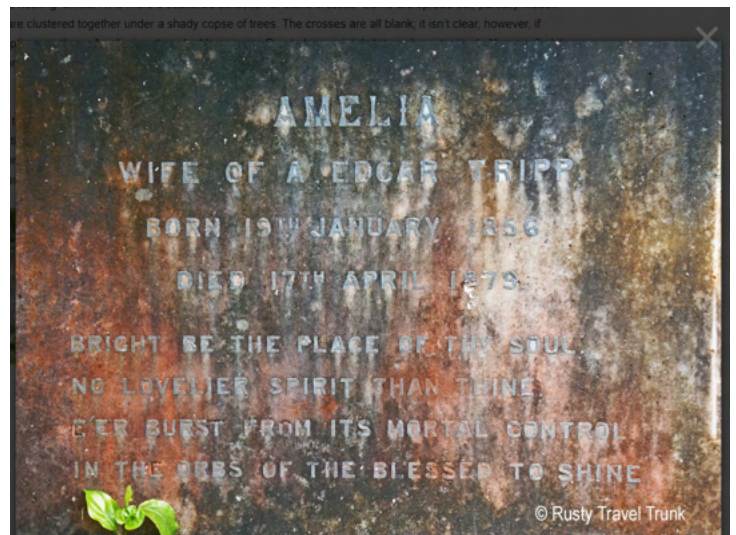
Tripp was at true visionary, and a fortune seeker. Born in Bexley Heath, Kent I on 11 September 1847 to Steven Tripp and Emily Ann Tucker; Edgar Tripp initially trained as a Merchant's Clerk with W.S. Tucker & Co. He arrived in Trinidad from England in the early 1870s and took up employment as a bookkeeper and estate manager.

In 1876 he married Amelia the daughter of the wealthy William Sanger Tucker, owner of La Cuesa Estate and Macqueripe Bay, but she died shortly afterwards, in childbirth, aged only 23 in 1879.

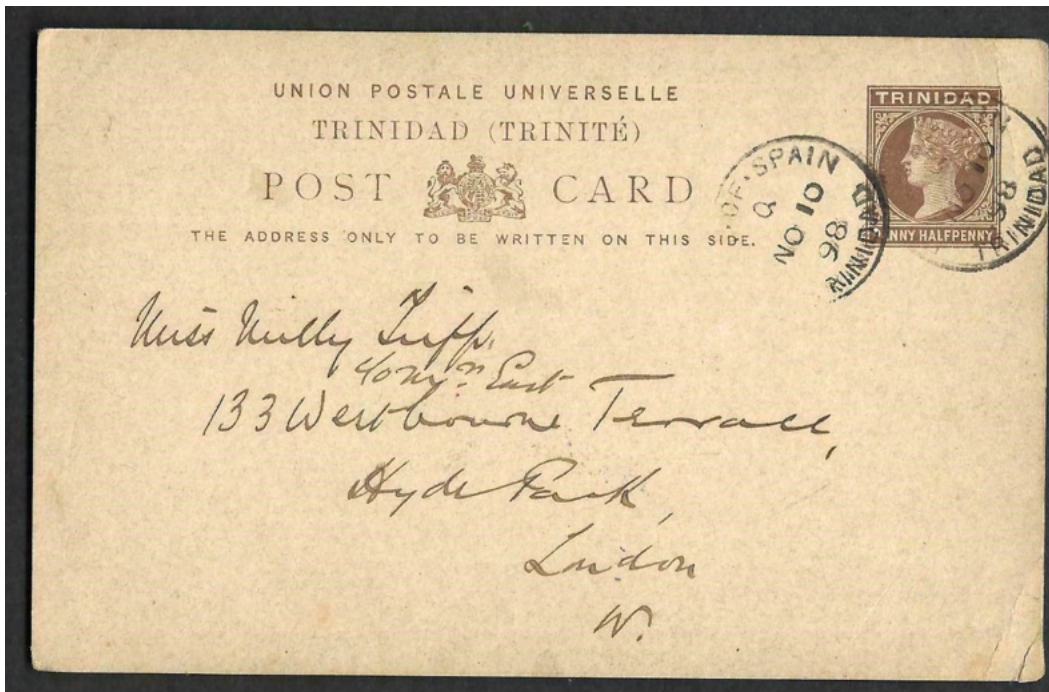


Bright be the place of thy soul;  
No lovelier spirit than thine  
E'er brush from its mortal control  
In the Orbs of the blessed to shine

*(Inscription on Amelia Tucker/Tripp's tomb)*



Amelia's tomb may still be seen in the churchyard of the ruined St. Chad's Chapel in the Valley; which Tripp helped to establish. They had a daughter, Milly (b.1877) and there is a postcard Tripp sent to Milly on 10 November 1898 about postage costs and singing lessons. Milly appears on the 1891 UK Census, living with her sisters and Grandmother in London. Edgar subsequently married Emma Petronella Graham (ne Perez), a widow, in 1880, as per the below wedding certificate.



*9affin* 10/11/98.  
 On 25<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> the postage to & from West India will be 1- so you had better put past too fresh with the 2 1/2 stamps you have all right about the singing lessons. Long love from a  
 Fern -  
 Y. A. F.  
 Edg. Tripp

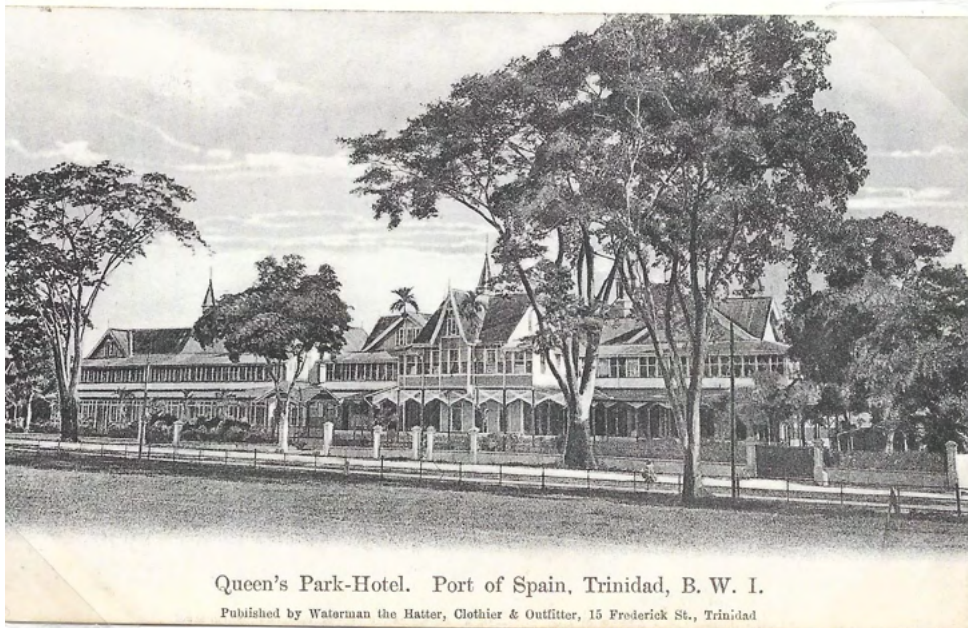
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1880. Marriage solemnized at Saint Luke's Church in the Parish of Hammer-smith in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
217	September 8 <sup>th</sup> 1880.	Albert Edgar Tripp	32	Widower	Merchant	5, Cornwall Terrace Thebridge Road	Stevens Tripp	Solicitor
		Emma Petronilla Graham	24	Widow		5, Cornwall Terrace Thebridge Road	Crispino Perez	Merchant

Married in the District Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Edgar Campbell Channer after Edg. Tripp by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Albert Edgar Tripp in the presence of us, Walter Charles Woodbridge Ministry Small  
Emma Petronilla Graham



In 1890 Tripp became a Special Commissioner to Canada. The following year he was instrumental in claiming damages from the Gov. of Venezuela for the seizure of the British Barque 'Lydia Peszhu'.

In 1891 Tripp was also Hon. Sec. of the Reception Committee for the visit of Prince George.

In 1893, Tripp led a consortium of local businessmen to establish the Queen's Park Hotel, opened in 1895. It was established at the address of 11 Wellington Terrace and had previously been the ornate, rambling home of the prominent barrister, the Hon. Frederick Warner.

In the same year Tripp was appointed a Commissioner on Trinidad's Railroad and Road enquiry by Governor Sir Napier Broome.

In 1895 Tripp opened livery stables with horses and carriages for visitors on Woodford St., Newtown. In 1896 Tripp attended the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London and in 1897 he was Hon. Sec. of Trinidad's Centenary Celebration Committee.

Edgar established a mercantile firm in POS, backed by the money of Tucker, his father in law, and other key persons. He clearly understood that no great commercial undertaking could be done by a sole proprietor and thus management boards and joint-stock companies needed to be established.

Enthralled by the innovation of electric lights, he was soon locked in discussion with the Borough Council of Port of Spain, established a coal-powered steam generator on Shine's Pasture off Ariapita Ave. and on March 5 1895, Port-of-Spain was lit by electricity. The present-day T&TEC plant stands on the same site and this presentation is timely, for the four towers of Port of Spain's Power station were destroyed in w.c. 16 August 2021. The Trinidad Electric Board which took over the operations from the Tripp concern also introduced electric tramcars in the city which lasted until 1950.

**POWERGEN**  
Port of Spain Power Generation

**DON'T MISS THIS HISTORIC LIGHT SHOW!**

The PowerGen Up-Lighting Event –  
“Farewell to the Silver Sentinels of Port of Spain”

After six decades of watching over the city, the Port of Spain skyline will be changed. The four stacks – “the Silver Sentinels” at our Port of Spain Power Station, will begin to be demolished next week as part of Phase 2 of the PowerGen POS Decommissioning Project.

As we say farewell, we will be uplighting the stacks as part of a three-day tribute light show.

The stacks will be illuminated every night this weekend...  
From Friday 13th August to Sunday 15th August, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Join us virtually to witness when the lights go on this Friday 13th August, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. live on our Facebook page – [pgcpowergen](#)

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) #pgcpowergen  
[www.powergen.co.tt](http://www.powergen.co.tt)

Tripp was, by 1906, Consul for Sweden and Norway, the Commercial Agency for the Government of Canada for Trinidad and Tobago and operating in partnership with many other organisations—as per the below advertisement. Communications from Tripp’s business were always clearly marked with the ‘Edgar Tripp, & Co, Merchants, Trinidad’ hand-stamp, sometimes even on postage stamps:



*Pictures of covers courtesy of Nigel Mohammed*

**EDGAR TRIPP & CO.,**  
*Trinidad, B.W.I.*

*Commission and Shipping Merchants, Consulate of Sweden and Norway, Commercial Agency for the Government of Canada for Trinidad and Tobago.*

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<p>All descriptions of Commission Business for Produce or Manufactures, import or export promptly attended to.</p>	<p>Exporters of Trinidad Asphalt and Manjak, Cocoa, Coconuts and other Produce.</p>
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**Special Attention to Chartering of Vessels.**

Steam Coal always in Stock.

→\* AGENCIES. \*←

Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd., London (Fire, Marine, and Accident).  
 Dunville & Co., Royal Distilleries, Belfast and Glasgow.  
 Lochrin Iron Works, Wm. Bain & Co., Coatbridge, Scotland.  
 Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd., Reading, England.  
 The Trinidad Match Manufacturing Company.  
 " " Soap " "  
 " " Brewery Company, Ltd.  
 Marabella Manjak Company, Ltd.

**Cable Address: "TRIPP," PORT-OF-SPAIN.**

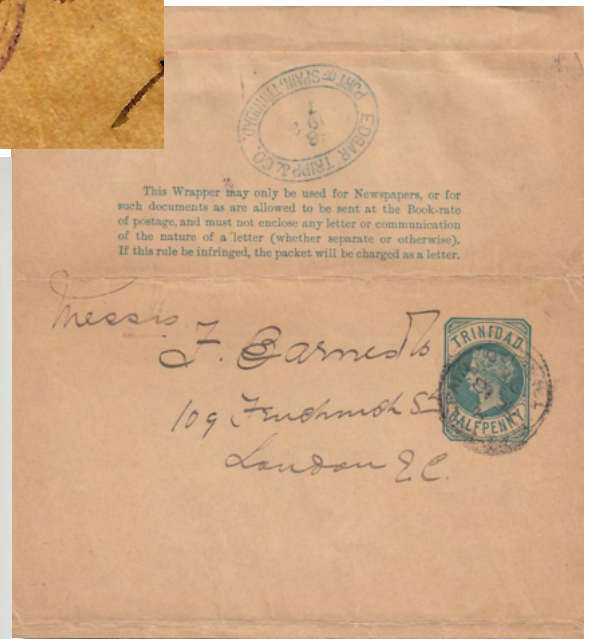
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→\* CODES. \*←

**NOTE.**—For directions to Captains of Vessels proceeding to Trinidad, see Special Code Words:—  
 WATKIN'S—Zucconal. Zueconanno. Zueconando.  
 SCOTT'S—Behoof. Bendlet. Besom. Betel. Bery.

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**BANKERS:** Armstrong & Co., London; Colonial Bank, and Union Bank of Halifax, Trinidad.  
**LONDON AGENTS:** Musgrave & Co., 7, Great St. Helen's.  
**NEW YORK AGENTS:** G. F. Lough & Co., 118, Produce Exchange Building.  
**MONTREAL:** Robert Crookes & Co., Stock Exchange Building.



Envelope addressed to Messrs Lloyd Watson & Co, London

Dated 17 November 1892



Tripp advertisement taken from a booklet for the West  
 India Committee, 15 Seething Lane, London.  
 Early 1900's

**EDGAR TRIPP & CO.,**  
**TRINIDAD, B.W.I.,**  
 COMMISSION AND SHIPPING MERCHANTS,

Consulate of Sweden and Norway. Commercial Agency for the Government of Canada for Trinidad and Tobago. All descriptions of Commission business for produce or manufactures, import or export, promptly attended to. Exporters of Trinidad Asphalt and Manjak, Cocoa, Cocoatina, and other products. Special attention to the chartering of vessels. Steam Coal always in stock.

AGENCIES :

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO., Ltd., LONDON (Fire, Marine, and Accident).  
 DUNVILLE & CO., Royal Distilleries, BELFAST and GLASGOW.  
 LOCHRIN IRON WORKS, WM. BAIN & CO., COATBRIDGE, Scotland.  
 PULSOMETER ENGINEERING CO., Ltd., READING England.  
 THE TRINIDAD MATCH MANUFACTURING CO.  
 " " SOAP MANUFACTURING CO.  
 " " BREWERY CO., Ltd.  
 THE MARBELLA MANJAK CO., Ltd.

Cable Address: "Tripp, Port of Spain."

CODES: A. B. C. Editions—Watkins—Scott's—A. I.—Lieber's—Agers and K. K.  
 NOTE. For directions to Captains of vessels proceeding to Trinidad, see special code words:

Watkins	{ ZUCCONAI.	Scott's	{ BEHOOF.	BESOM.
	{ ZUCCONAMMO.		{ BENDLET.	BETEL.
	{ ZUCCONANDO.			BEVY.

BANKERS:—Armstrong & Co., London; Colonial Bank, and Union Bank of Halifax, Trinidad.  
 LONDON AGENTS:—Musgrave & Co., 7, Great St. Helens.  
 NEW YORK AGENTS:—G. F. Lough & Co., 118, Produce Exchange Buildings.  
 MONTREAL:—Robert Crooks & Co., Stock Exchange Buildings.



Tripp handstamp on a wrapper posted to 19 Whitehall,  
 New York 1892



Tripp thought the calm waters of Chaguaramas Bay were a fine deep-water harbour. He petitioned governors to establish a facility there and began plans for the extension of a railway line to the area. Tripp's idea fell on deaf ears, so in 1900, he formed a company and established an innovative floating dock at the entrance to Tucker Valley for the careening of vessels. It was constructed in England with backing from Ellis Grell and hauled to Trinidad in 1907. The dock moved under its own steam-engine power. It comprised a main hull and a pontoon which could be enclosed by mitre-lock gates, forming a drydock wherein ships could be serviced. De-fouling and re-sheathing of hulls as well as patching could be done. Sadly, not many boats used the facility, preferring instead to go down to the POS docks where neither deep -water harbour nor dry dock existed.



Dry Dock  
Opening



Dry Dock  
in use





Edgar Tripp's efforts as Honorary Secretary of the 1897 Trinidad Centenary Celebrations are worthy of special mention. He brought all of his organisational skills to the arrangements, and published a ' Souvenir Album'.

The *Colonies and India Paper* in January 1898

By the courtesy of Mr. Edgar Tripp, we have received the "Souvenir Album of the Centenary of Trinidad." Mr. Paget has prepared the work with a view of bringing more prominently before the notice of strangers and tourists the varied attractions and natural resources of Trinidad, which for tropical scenery is unsurpassed. As a frontispiece, the genial and clever-looking face of His Excellency Sir Hubert Jerningham, the Governor of the island, looks out at us. This is followed by photos of Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, Mr. Edgar Tripp, and a photographic group of the Trinidad Centenary Committee. A short but interesting outline is given of the history of the island, which is illustrated by a number of finely-produced views of the island, including St. Ann's Road, a lovely scene in Caura, an avenue to a country residence, a coconut walk, and one showing zebu cattle. Equally good are those of the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals, St. Vincent Street, the Governor's residence, and the Government buildings; of King and Frederick Streets, and Queen's Park Cricket Ground. More beautiful winter quarters for the invalid or tourist could not be imagined. A wealth of lovely tropical scenery on one hand, and on the other all the modern conveniences of fire brigades, police, hospitals, libraries, art and science institutes, with splendid sporting and dramatic clubs, choral societies, hotels, and delightful botanical gardens and park. The Centenary Committee are to be highly commended for their enterprise in publishing such a very attractive album.

TRINIDAD  
Centenary Celebration Committee.  
**NOTICE.**  
*Centenary Medals*  
ARE NOW FOR SALE  
By WILSON, SON & Co.—Bronze at 3/- each; Metal at 6d. each.  
By SMITH BROS. & Co.—Metal at 6d. each.  
By J. SKEOCH & Co.—Bronze at 3/- each, Metal 6d. each.  
By A. G. PORTEOUS, care of Edgar Tripp & Co.—Silver at 15/- each; Bronze at 3/- each; Metal at 6d. each.  
Certificates in respect of the Silver and Bronze Medals will be handed to purchasers.  
EDGAR TRIPP, Hon. Sec.  
15th March, 1897.



Centenary Medals were also sold to mark the event.



1877

# SOUVENIR ALBUM



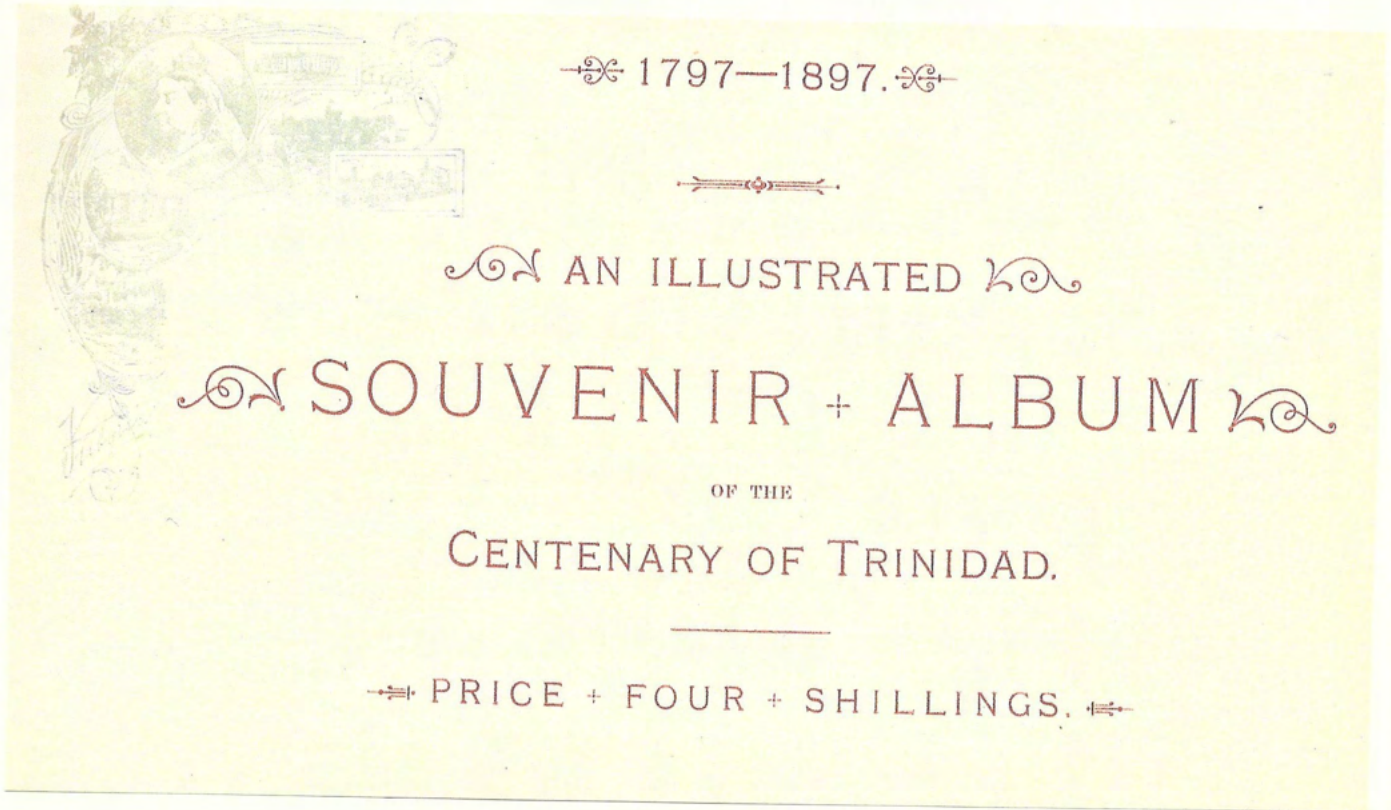
OF THE

## Centenary of Victoria

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



Trinidad Centenary Booklet 1797—1897  
First Page



Trinidad Centenary Medal 1797—1897



Edgar Tripp was Secretary of Trinidad's Agricultural Society for twenty-five years; he was the Honorary Vice President at the time of his death. This Society represented the interests of the Plantation owners and other agriculturalists of the island. It shared information about methods and disease, discussed problems such as labour shortages, and it lobbied Government about issues such as sugar prices. Following Tripp's passing a resolution of sympathy was discussed and supported by members of the Society. It stated: *"The loss to the Colony is great and that to the Agricultural Society still greater..."*. (*Port of Spain Gazette* 6 November, 1921).

A Mr. Wyatt, one of the members, who had himself been invited to join the society by Tripp fifteen years previously, said he wished to express appreciation on behalf of the peasant people: *"...the deceased was a true man. He was not activated by any feeling of prejudice, racial or otherwise. He was always willing to do anything for the peasant people of this colony"*. ('Peasant people' would be a reference to freed slaves on the island)



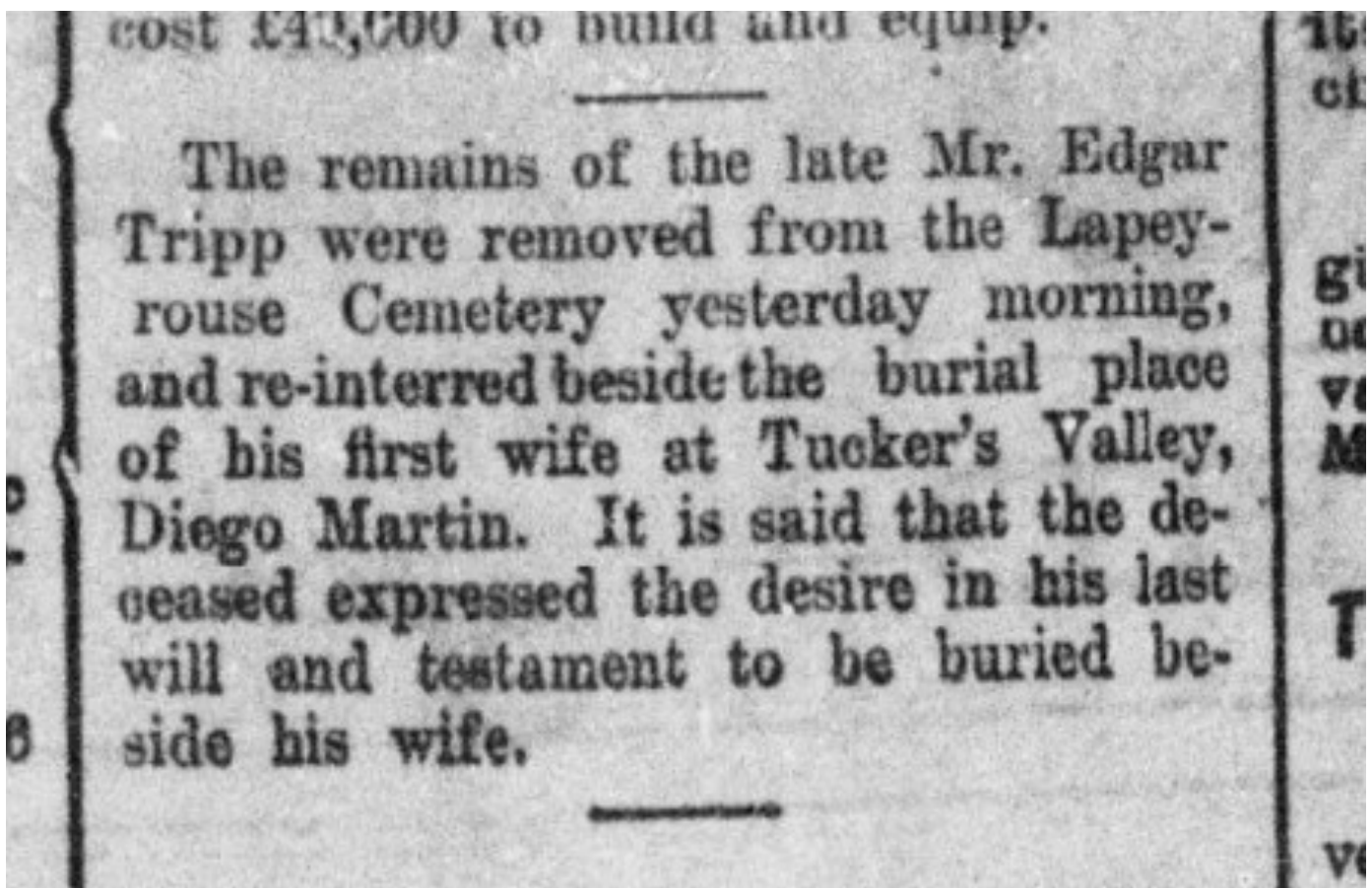
CENTENARY GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Tripp remained active throughout his life. In June 1919, aged 68, he travelled from Port of Spain to New York on business and he visited Canada in 1920 ...on "Business of a Canadian Agent". On 2 November 1921 the Port of Spain Gazette reported that Edgar Tripp had suddenly become seriously ill. He died on the following day, and was buried on 4 November.

Edgar Tripp's funeral was a grand affair. His body was transported to All Saints Church, where a choral service was attended by Counsel Representatives for Panama and Peru, Portugal, Spain, the Argentine Republic, Mexico, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Brazil, The United States of America, Cuba, and Columbia. Also present were Tripp's three daughters and their families, Mr. T. Tucker, and other notaries such as the Hon. A. Cipriani, Commander Oldershaw RNR, Lieut. Col. Johnstone, Hon. W.C. Huggard and Hon. D. Slyne. Three "Victorias" carried the many wreaths, and there were large numbers of mourners. There were floral tributes from many of the societies and organisations that Tripp had been associated with: the Management Committee of the Queens Park Club, the Fire Association of Trinidad, the Trinidad Turf Club, The Agricultural Society, the Trinidad Trading Company, the Consular Body of Trinidad, plus others.

Edgar Tripp's obituary described him as a "hard and indefatigable worker" with a "gift of organization". "of high intellectual ability" and "a keen and ready debater".

The body was Interred with Masonic rites by the Royal Prince of Wales Lodge in Lapeyrouse Cemetery. However, there was an interesting development a few days later:



Few people, visiting the ruins of St Chad's Chapel, and viewing the grave of Amelia, Edgar Tripp's first wife, will realise that the husband she pre-deceased by forty-two years lies beside his beloved wife. The 100th anniversary of Tripp's death falls on 3 November, this year. Wouldn't it be fitting if Trinidad and Tobago's Chamber of Commerce...or the Masonic Community saw fit to erect a memorial stone to a man who did so much for the island?