

Transcripts

Report of the 16th of October 1878

Manager¹ William Wilson from Pl: River has been summoned and appears. He was born in Ireland, is 36 years old, English. He is presented with the Presidency's document of the 14th of this month no. 1526 and enjoined to be truthful, and he then states that he was informed by the following people, Sonny Dick, Henry Patrick and Sam William, all from the plantation River, that William Henry alias Rogerer from plantation Upper Love had set fire to the plantation River's rum cellar on the 2nd of this month.

On the 11th of 12th of this month, manager Wilson² (*added: according to the 3 others' testimony of the 12th*), he does not exactly remember which of the two days, went with manager Wm Clark from plantation Castle, manager Hewitt from plantation Bethlehem, overseer³ Mc Kay and one of the above-mentioned people, to plantation Upper Love. When they arrived at Upper Love negro village, William Henry was not to be found there, but they met him outside the negro village, hiding in the bushes, and when they called out to him, he ran away, and then the 4 – Wilson, manager Clark, manager Hewitt and overseer Mc Kay shot him, and he fell to the ground. They rode up to him [notice 726], and since they assumed that he was dead, they left him. From there, they went to plantation Jealousy to arrest a woman called Rose from the same plantation, who had been seen destroying Wilson's⁴ possessions at Pl. River and setting fire to the rum cellar and the allowance cellar, of which the last-mentioned is situated below the manager's dwelling, which was therefore also burned, and also, she set fire to the shed in the mule fold, all at plantation Castle. They met her and arrested her, and then they brought her along to pl. Castle, and whilst allowance was distributed, whilst they were there, several of Pl. Castle's laborers told them that Rose had set fire to the aforementioned places. Those of the laborers from Pl. River who stated that they had seen Rose destroy Wilson's⁵ possessions at Pl. River are the following: Henry Patrick and Thomas Machew, both from pl. River. Manager Clark from Pl. Castle cannot point out which of the laborers from Castle stated that they saw Rose set fire to the various places at the same plantation as stated.

On request, William Wilson⁶ states that whilst they were at Pl. Jealousy, manager Hewitt left them to go to Pl. Bethlehem where they were all going to meet up later.

¹ Danish: Forvalter

² The Danish text says "Komparanten" (the person who appears in court)

³ Danish: Underforvalter

⁴ The Danish text says "Komparanten" (the person who is present in court)

⁵ The Danish text says "Komparanten" (the person who is present in court)

⁶ The Danish text says "Komparanten" (the person who is present in court)

After the distribution of allowance at Pl. Castle, William Wilson⁷, manager Clark and overseer Mc Kay, with Rose, went up to the road which leads to Pl. Bethlehem; Rose showed much fear and tried to escape several times, wherefore they warned her to be calm or else she would be shot, and when they had travelled the distance of a couple of sugarcane fields, Rose ran into a sugarcane field, and all 3 of them shot at her. She fell to the ground, yelling that she was wounded. However, she was able to stand up and walk some steps, whereupon she fell to the ground again, presumably dead, and they left her lying there. Then, they rode to Pl. Glynn to arrest Moses from the same plantation, who had been seen plundering and setting fire to the manager's house at Pl. River. Also, he apparently set fire to and burned down all the carts, except 2, and all the harnesses, some new wheels, and finally, the shed over the mule fold, burning a mule to death. This information has been given to him by the following people, belonging to Pl. River, namely Samuel Ruthly?, Henry Patrick and Thomas Allen. They arrested Moses, who was delivered to them by manager Knight, at Pl. Glynn. Then, they went [notice 727] on the road into town with Moses, and before they left Glynn, he admitted that he partook in the mentioned allegations. When they approximately reached Fredensborg Gutt, he escaped from them and ran into a sugarcane field, and they all fired at him. Moses fell to the ground, jumped up again, but crashed down again at the edge of the sugarcane field by the road, and they left him there without determining whether he was dead or not. F.R.⁸

It is remarked that on Saturday evening on the 12th of this month, William Wilson⁹, along with manager Hewitt from Bethlehem, overseer Mc Kay and several others, brought in a man called William Joseph from Pl. Mt. Pleasant de Pont and they handed him over to the police, and as the man was in a very doubtful condition, he was immediately admitted to hospital, where he died shortly after.

On request, William Wilson¹⁰ states that William Joseph alias James William from Pl. Mt. Pleasant de Pont was arrested by them on the mentioned plantation because he was accused of being the ringleader of the rebel gang which set fire to several places in the yard at Pl. River and he partook in several destructions at the plantation. The informers are Henry Patrick, James Patrick and Thomas Mathew, all from Pl. River. On the way to town, he put up resistance several times, wherefore Wilson¹¹, manager Hewitt, the overseer Mc Kay and several others whose names he does not recall, hit him over the backside with the saber. He further states that he asked the Police for assistance on Saturday the 12th of this month, but he was told that they had no horses, and when he asked the undersigned whether he could shoot at arrestees when they escaped, the undersigned is to have replied yes! F. R.

⁷ The Danish text says "Komparanten" (the person who is present in court)

⁸ Unclear what "F.R." stands for

⁹ The Danish text says "Kompt."

¹⁰ The Danish text says "Kompt."

¹¹ The Danish text says "Kompt."

It is further remarked that yesterday, manager Field from Pl. Jealousy submitted a written complaint stating that manager Wilson from Pl. River is to have arrested one of his laborers by the name of Francis William for no reason and that he mistreated him.

The Police Doctor's certificate regarding the above-mentioned Francis William is attached.

When presented with the above-mentioned complaint and medical certificate, manager Wilson states that Francis William alias Napoleon came to the plantation River on Thursday the 3rd of this month. At the time, the manager's dwelling and the hospital had not yet burned. On Friday, he returned, blowing a horn or a conch, and directly after, the fleet arrived, and it burned the manager's house and the hospital buildings. This information [notice 728] was given to them by the laborers Morris, Sam William, Thomas Mathew and Fosset, wherefore they arrested Francis William and sent him here. He remarks that when he was about to arrest Francis William, he put up resistance, wherefore Wilson¹² gave him some blows to his shoulder with the rifle butt. He is of the impression that Francis William was also at Pl. River on Wednesday. F.R.A.¹³

Manager Wiliam Clark from Pl. Castle has been summoned and appears. He was born in Ireland, is 24 years old, English. He is enjoined to be truthful and then he is presented with the Presidency's document of the 14th of October 1878 no. 1526. He then states that he and manager Wilson from Pl. River had gathered information that William Henry from Pl. Upper Love and Moses from Pl. Glynn had set fire to Pl. River's works and other buildings there, and that Rose from Pl. Jealousy was to have set fire to Castle's allowance cellar thus causing the manager's dwelling to burn down, and also that she set fire to the shed in the mule fold, and therefore, Clark¹⁴, along with manager Wilson from Pl. River, manager Hewitt from Pl. Bethlehem and overseer Mc Kay from Pl. Carlton, went to Pl. Upper Love on Saturday the 12th of this month in order to arrest William Henry. They came across him in the bushes outside the negro village, and they called out to him. He ran, and then, as far as he remembers, all 4 of them shot at him, whereupon he fell to the ground. They left him lying there. Then, they all 4 went to Pl. Jealousy where they arrested Rose. Manager Hewitt left them and rode over to Pl. Bethlehem, and the three of them now rode, bringing Rose with them, over to Pl. Castle, where Clark¹⁵ distributed allowance, and in the presence of all three of them and also the 2nd Class driver David Frankling, Rose admitted that she had set fire to the allowance cellar and the shed in the mule fold at the same place. Then, all three of them, with Rose, embarked onwards on the road towards Bethlehem. On the way, she escaped, even though they had warned her that if she tried to escape, they would shoot her. When she escaped, all three of them fired at her, and she fell to the ground in a sugarcane field. However, she got up again and reached the edge of the sugarcane field, where she fell down again, presumably dead, and they left her there. From Bethlehem, all three of them rode to Pl. Glynn to arrest Moses, who had been arrested by manager

¹² The Danish text says "Kompt."

¹³ Unclear what F.R.A. stands for

¹⁴ The Danish text says "Kompt."

¹⁵ The Danish text says "Kompt."

George Knight from the same plantation and he handed him over, tied up, in order for him to be taken to Frederiksted Police. When they came up to the country road, approximately by Frederiksborg Gut, Moses, who was insufficiently tied up, had the opportunity to escape into a sugarcane field, wherefore all 3 of them fired at him [notice 729]. He fell to the ground but got up again but crashed again at the side of the country road. They assumed that he was dead and left him there. F.R.A.

On today's date, Francis William from Pl. Jealousy has been examined by me. He has light marks from beatings on his left shoulder and side, and the marks are of no consequence. It is determinedly assumed that the harm had no consequences for his future state of health.

H. Hansen

Frederiksted Hospital, the 16th of October, 1878.

Mr. Police Chief Petersen

The 17th of October 1878

F. D¹⁶. Mc Kay has been summoned and appears. He was born on Tortola, is 33 years old, English. He is enjoined to be truthful and is presented with the Presidency's document of the 14th of this month no. 1526, whereafter he states that on Saturday the 12th of this month, along with manager Wilson from River, Clark from Castle, and J. Hewitt from Bethlehem, he went to Pl. River to distribute allowance to the laborers. Manager Wilson encouraged all the laborers at the plantation to tell him the names of the ringleaders of the rebel gangs which burned and destroyed buildings etc. at Pl. River, and one of the laborers of Pl. River, he does not remember his name, came forth and said that Wm Henry alias Rogeres from Upper Love was the one who had set fire to Pl. River's rum cellar. Then, all 4 of them, along with the man, went from River to Pl. Upper Love. Outside the negro village, they came across William Henry alias Rogeres. The laborer from Pl. Upper Love, who had gone along with them, pointed him out as the one who had set fire to Pl. River's works. They called out to William Henry. He admitted to them all 4 that he had set fire to Pl. River's works, and at the same time, he ran off, and all 4 of them fired at him. Then, they went to Pl. Jealousy to arrest Rose from the same plantation, about whom they had also received information about at Pl. River, that she was to have set fire to Pl. Castle's works. They arrested Rose at Pl. Jealousy and brought her

¹⁶ Unclear what "F. D" stands for

to Castle, where Jane and several other laborers from Pl. Castle came forth and declared that Rose had set fire to the allowance cellar which is situated beneath the manager's dwelling, and also the shed over the mule fold. In the presence of these people, Rose admitted to have started the fires as mentioned. Then, they went, with Rose, to Pl. Bethlehem, to meet manager J. Hewitt, who had left them whilst they were at Pl. Jealousy. On the road between the sugarcane [notice 730] fields, Rose tried to escape, wherefore Wilson and Clark fired at her. She fell, jumped up and ran to the edge of the sugarcane field, and then she fell down, dead. Then, they went to Pl. Glynn to arrest Moses from the same plantation, about whom they had also received information from Pl. Rivers' laborers that he burned the carts, the harnesses and some new cart wheels at the same plantation. When they arrived at Glynn, manager Knight handed over Moses, who was tied up. On the way into town, they warned Moses not to escape as he would be shot. When they came to the vicinity of Fredensborg Gut, he had loosened himself from the rope and he escaped, and Wilson and Clark fired at him. He fell to the ground, jumped up again, and when he reached the edge of the sugarcane field, to where he had run, he fell to the ground as if dead. Mc Kay¹⁷ remarks that he has nothing further to add. F. R. A.

Saturday the 19th of October 1878

John Hewitt from Pl. Bethlehem has been summoned and appears. He states that he was born in Ireland, is 31 years old, English. Enjoined to be truthful and presented with the Presidency's document of the 14th of this month no. 1526, he states that today eight days¹⁸, he went along with the Gentlemen Wilson, Clark and Mc Kay to Pl. River. There, allowance was distributed to the laborers. Manager Wilson encouraged the laborers to tell him who had burned the works etc. at Pl. River. To that, several of the laborers answered that a laborer from Upper Love, he does not recall the name, has set fire to the rum cellar at Pl. River. They set out towards Pl. Upper Love where they came across the mentioned laborer. They called out to him and he ran away, and then all 4 of them fired at him, and he fell, dead, to the ground. Then, they set out towards Pl. Jealousy, where he left the 3 Gentlemen, and then he went to Pl. Bethlehem.

F. R. A

Asst.

G. Gyllich.

¹⁷ The Danish text says "Kompt."

¹⁸ here, "...ago" must presumably be added

To the Police Chief in Frederiksted

Real

Transcripts H. Hauschill

[Notice 731] Copy

Mads Ros Nyssum

Police Chief appointed ad interim and Scribe

In

Christiansted Police District on the island St. Croix in America

Proclaims that anno 1878, on Thursday the 17th of October, in the morning at 9 o'clock sharp, Christiansted Police Court convened and was seated in former Christiansværnfort, administered by the below-mentioned in the presence of the Police Assistant and Officer P. Jensen.

And then commences

Interrogation No. 217/1878 regarding vigilantism committed by manager Patterson from the plantation Strawberryhill.

The Police Chief presents a document from the Presidency dated the 15th of this month according to which document interrogation is to be obtained regarding that manager Patterson from the plantation Strawberryhill on the 13th or 14th of this month, after calm had settled, had shot a defenceless laborer from the plantation Barrenspot.

(The presented document sounds as following)

The Presidency of St. Croix, the 15th of October 1878.

No. 1536

It is brought to the attention of the Presidency that on the 13th or 14th of this month, after calm had completely settled [notice 732], manager Patterson from Strawberryhill shot a defenceless laborer, apparently from plantation Barrenspot – and therefore, the Police Chief has been requested to summon the person in question to a Police Interrogation to collect information regarding the circumstances of the case, and also whether the person in question might have committed other deeds of a similar nature, and following, a transcript of the interrogation is to be sent out.

J. A. Stakemann

/van Brakle

To the Police Chief in Christiansted

Presented in Christiansted's Police Court on the 17th of October in the case no. 517/1878

M. R. Nyssum est.

Then, the Police Chief presents a report of the 14th of this month written by the Police Assistant regarding this case, in which it appears that the laborer John Simonds¹⁹ from the plantation Barrenspot has been admitted to Petersfarm's hospital for cure and care following the revolver shot and other abuse afflicted by manager Patterson.

(The presented report sounds as follows)

Report

John Simmonds from the plantation Barrenspot was sent her on today's date by manager G. Pattersen from the plantation Strawberryhill, and he has particularly broken the lock to the cooking house door. John Simmons admits that he broke the lock off the cooking house door at Strawberryhill, but he says that Rose from Cliftonhill, who was the leader of the gang, forced him to do so.

¹⁹ Elsewhere: Simmons or Simmonds

Then John Simmons states that²⁰ he went to work in the field at the plantation Barrenspot, and when he came out of the field in order to go home for dinner, manager Patterson came after him and fired 2 revolver shots at him, of which one hit him in the back, and the other under the left side of his chest, and when Simmons²¹ tried to escape, manager Patterson dashed²² after him and beat him on the head with a saber, and he also gave him a stab in his left thigh with the saber. He was then brought to manager Kirk at plantation Barrenspot where he was tied up, and when he was then brought from Barrenspot to Strawberryhill, manager Patterson continuously beat him with his saber.

John Simmonds was admitted to the hospital Petersfarm for cure and care.

I hereby do not omit to report the above to your Honor.

Christiansted's Police Chamber, the 14th of October 1878

Respectfully²³

To the Police Chief in Christiansted

[Notice 733]

Presented in Christiansted Police Court on the 17th of October in the case no. 517/1878

M. R. Nyssum est.

²⁰ The Danish transcription adds "idag" (today), which is omitted

²¹ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

²² The Danish text says "galloperede" (galloped)

²³ The Danish transcription says "ærbødigst Idskovdammen". "Ærbødigst" translates "Respectfully", but "Idskovdammen" makes no sense whatsoever. It might be the name of the Police Assistant?

Manager Patterson from the plantation Strawberryhill appears and when presented with the present report, he admits the truth of the report regarding his own person. Patterson²⁴ then remarks that because of the uprising which erupted on the 1st and because he knew that John Simmons had been one of the ringleaders of the destruction and plunder of the plantation Strawberryhill, he considered his actions towards John Simmons to be justified. He also adds that he received the Governor's circular letter of the 13th, in which it is emphasized that the inhabitants of the island should only use weapons in self-defense, some hours after he had fired at John Simmons. Patterson²⁵ is then asked whether he has committed similar actions after the outbreak of the rebellion, which he firmly denies. Read aloud and affirmed.

The interrogation then ends and is followed by description and forwarding to the Presidency.

Court adjourned

M R Nyssum est.

Conformed with the minutes of proceedings of Christiansted District's Police Court and the presented documents, validated by my hand and the seal of the Court²⁶.

M. R. Nyssum, est

Real transcript H Hauschill, Fm

Transcripts.

Thomas Severin Rübner Petersen

Constitutional Police Chief in Frederiksted District on St. Croix in America

²⁴ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

²⁵ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

²⁶ The Danish text says, " Conform med Christiansteds Districts Politirets Forhandlingsprotokol og de fremlagte Dokumenter, bekræftes under min Haand og Rettens Segl"

Proclaims: that in the year 1878, on Monday the 14th of October, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock sharp, Frederiksted Police Court was convened by the undersigned at the usual place in the presence of acting Police Scribe Henderson and Officer Frederiksen as witnesses.

And then commences

New case

No. 449/1878 The Police's examination regarding the death of driver Robert Joseph from Pl. Becks Grove following a gunshot wound.

The Police Chief remarks that on Saturday evening, Major Wm F. Moore approached him and complained that the driver at Pl. Becks Grove who, according to manager J. C. de Chabert, had particularly helped to save the plantation's works from being burned, had been wounded or shot by some volunteers on the same afternoon, but he could not provide the names of the volunteers.

The Police Chief promised him to examine the case, and during the day yesterday, Sunday, he received information from various people that the driver, who died yesterday morning from a gunshot, had [notice 734] been wounded by manager Wm Fleming from Pl. St. Georges. Then, on the same morning, the Police Chief sent a patrol to fetch the mentioned manager Fleming, who accompanied the patrol and presented himself before the Court to explain his circumstances regarding this case.

He, whose name is Wm Fleming, born in Ireland, 38 years old, English, states that on Saturday, he went along to Pl. Grove with some volunteers in order to arrest a person, John Thomas Sobers, from the mentioned plantation, as he was one of the ringleaders of the arson at St. Georges and Allendale. Fleming²⁷ spoke to the driver whom he knew well, and during the conversation in which he tried to excuse J. Th. Sobers, a revolver, which he had in his hand, went off, and the driver was wounded. Fleming²⁸ had not heard that the driver had died until late last evening, as he would otherwise have reported the case himself here in Court; he declares that he feels very unhappy about what has happened, and that he would never have shot the driver, as he knew him to be a decent man. Read aloud and affirmed.²⁹

²⁷ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

²⁸ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

²⁹ The Danish text uses the abbreviations "Opl. Rat" : Presumably that the testimony is read aloud and affirmed ("Oplæst og Ratificeret")

The case is adjourned and will be more closely examined.

The defendant stands down with the order to appear here in Court when summoned. Stands down.

Court adjourned. R. Petersen, const.

Conformed with the minutes of proceedings of Frederiksted District's Police Court and the presented documents, validated by my hand and the seal of the Court. R. Petersen, cst.

(L. S) executed on the 14th of October 1878.

Presented in Frederiksted Police Court on the 29th of November 1878 in a continued³⁰ case no. 449/1878.

P. Petersen, cst.

Report of Thursday the 17th of October 1878

School teacher James Stewart has been summoned and appears. He was born on St. Thomas, is 26 years old, Lutheran. Enjoined to be truthful. On the occasion of having been present on the plantation Becks Grove on the 12th of this month, when manager Wm Fleming from St. Georges shot the driver Robert Joseph from Pl. Becks Grove, he states the following:

On Saturday the 12th of this month, James Stewart³¹, along with manager William Fleming and A. Ruthledge and manager Farelly [notice 735], had ridden to plantation Becks Grove to arrest John Thomas from the same plantation, who had been accused of committing arson at Allendale and

³⁰ The Danish text says "reassumeret" (re-assumed)

³¹ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

Mountain; when they arrived at Becks Grove, James Stewart³² went into the manager's dwelling to get something to eat, and outside the house, he heard that William Fleming and the man who got shot were having an argument. When the argument climaxed, he heard people outside yell, "don't shoot him he is innocent"³³. Stewart³⁴ went to the window and yelled to Fleming, "don't shoot"³⁵. Fleming was standing with a lifted gun, and in the same instant, the gun went off, and the man fell dead to the ground. The man was standing at approximately 30 steps distance from Fleming. He remarks that the gun with which Fleming shot the man is of a particular construction, as it is self-tightening³⁶. F. R. A.

Emanuel Simpson from this town has been summoned and appears. He was born at Pl. Prosperity, Lutheran, 42 years old. Enjoined to be truthful, he states that on Sunday the 13th of this month, he was at the funeral of Robert Joseph at plantation Becks Grove, and the brother of the deceased, whose name he does not know, told him that William Fleming and several others arrived at Pl. Becks Grove to arrest John Thomas from the same plantation, as he was accused of setting fire to the plantations St. Georges and Allandale. On that occasion, the deceased and William Fleming had a heated exchange. The driver claimed that John Thomas had been at the plantation all the time during the insurrection. William Fleming claimed that John Thomas had set fire to Allandale and St. Georges, and that the deceased was lying and that he deserved a bullet. Then, Flemming raised the gun. Overseer Farrelly rushed to and took hold of Fleming's arm to prevent him from shooting, but the gun fired and hit the deceased. F. R. A.

Friday the 18th of October 1878

Manager William Fleming from Pl. St. Georges has been summoned and appears. When presented with Emanuel Simpson's statement, he refers to the testimony which he gave previously. However, he remarks that it was not his intention to shoot the deceased. It was an accident³⁷, he did not know that the gun was loaded. F. R. A.

Tuesday the 22nd of October 1878

³² The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

³³ In the Danish text, the words, "don't shoot him he is innocent" are written in English

³⁴ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

³⁵ In the Danish text, the words, "don't shoot" are written in English

³⁶ Danish: selvspændende

³⁷ In the Danish text, the words, "it was an accident" are written in English

Thomas Farrelly, overseer at Pl. Brook Hill, has been summoned and appears. He was born on St. Croix, is 27 years old, Catholic. He is enjoined to be truthful and on request, he states that on Saturday eight days ago, when he was at Pl. Becks Grove, manager [notice 736] William Fleming arrived along with James Stewart and manager Rutledge from Pl. Høgensborg in order to arrest John Thomas from the same plantation, and he accused him of having set fire to Allendale and Mountain. Thomas Farrelly³⁸ told him that whilst Allendale and Mountain were burning, he himself and John Thomas had gone up to the hills of Becks Grove to see where the fire was. The driver Robert Joseph was summoned as a witness, and he gave the same account as Farrelly; but Fleming replied that it was a lie. The driver also remarked to Fleming that he, Fleming, came to plantation Becks Grove on Wednesday morning of the 2nd of this month for protection. Fleming repeated to the driver that he was lying. The driver replied that he saw Fleming go into Christian James' house at Becks Grove on Wednesday morning for protection. Fleming answered the driver that he should be ashamed of himself for producing such a lie about him, and that he ought to be shot. Fleming aimed the gun at the driver. Fleming³⁹ took the gun in his other hand and fired. The driver Robert Joseph fell dead to the ground. F. R. A.

G. Gyllick, Asst.

To the Police Chief in Frederiksted.

Presented in Frederiksted Police Court the 29th of November 1878 in a continued⁴⁰ case no.
449/1878 R. Petersen, cst.

Thomas Severin Rübner Petersen

Acting Police Chief in Frederiksted District on St. Croix in America

³⁸ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

³⁹ The Danish text says "Comparenten" (the person who is present in court)

⁴⁰ The Danish text says "reassumeret" (re-assumed)

Proclaims that in the year 1878, on Monday the 29th of November, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock sharp, Frederiksted Police Court was convened by the undersigned at the usual place in the presence of acting Police Scribe Henderson and Officer J. F. Thomas as witnesses.

And then commences

The reassumed case

No. 449/1878 Police inquiry on account of the death of driver Robert Joseph from Pl. Becks Grove following a gunshot wound.

The acting Police Chief presented the Presidency's document of the 16th of this month no 1679 with 2 supplements. The presented document sounds as follows:

No. 1679.

The Presidency of St. Croix on the 16th of November 1878.

By handing to Mr. Police Chief the submitted description of the obtained interrogation in the case no. 449/1878 of the 14th of last month, which was sent here, informing that the driver Robert Joseph from Pl. Becksgrove has died [notice 737] as a consequence of a gunshot wound caused by manager Wm Fleming, and also a report from the police Assistant of the 17th, 18th and 22nd of October, which was sent in, you are officially requested to seek further illumination of this case through continued interrogation. A description of this is then expected to be sent here.

J. A. Stakemann

/van Brakle

To the Police Chief in Frederiksted.

Presented in Frederiksted Police Court on the 29th of November 1878 in the reassumed case no. 449/1878.

R. Petersen, const.

The presented supplements are attached.

School teacher James Steward from this town, born on St. Thomas, appears. He is 26 years old, Lutheran. He is enjoined as a witness and affirms the testimony of the 17th of last month which is enclosed in the presented report. When questioned whether he saw manager Wm Fleming move the pistol from one hand to the other before he fired, the witness answers no, the shot went off in the same moment as the witness came to the window, and Fleming held the revolver in his right hand. O. R⁴¹. stands down.

Case adjourned.

Court adjourned.

R. Petersen, cst.

In the year 1878, on Saturday the 30th of November, in the morning at 9 o'clock sharp, Frederiksted Police Court was convened by the undersigned at the usual place in the presence of acting Police Scribe Henderson and Officer Larsen as witnesses.

And then commences

The reassumed case

No. 449/1878. Police inquiry etc.

Overseer Thomas Farrelly from Pl. Brook Hill appears. He was born on St. Croix, is 27 years old, Rom: Catholic. Enjoined to be truthful as a witness, he affirms the testimony which he gave on the 22nd of last month and which is enclosed in the presented report. When questioned whether he saw manager Fleming move the pistol from one hand to the other, he answers yes, Fleming first held the pistol in the right hand, and when the witness took hold of the right hand, he moved the pistol from the right hand over to the left hand and then fired it. O. R. stands down.

Jacob Williams, driver at Pl. Becksgrove, appears. He was born at the same place, is 31 years old, Moravian. He is enjoined to be truthful as a witness and states that when he first arrived [notice 738], after the dispute between manager Wm Fleming and the driver had begun, he could not hear the words, but immediately after, he saw manager Fleming aim at the driver with the revolver in his right

⁴¹ Unclear what "O. R." stands for

hand, overseer Farrelly took hold of Fleming's right arm, but he moved the revolver over to his left hand, and then he aimed at the driver again and shot him down. O. R. stands down.

Case adjourned.

Court adjourned.

R. Petersen, const.

In 1878, on Monday the 2nd of December, in the morning at 9 o'clock sharp, Frederiksted Police Court was convened by the undersigned at the usual place in the presence of acting Police Scribe Henderson and Officer Anker as witnesses.

And then commences

The reassumed case

No. 449/1878. Police inquiry etc.

Thomas Joseph from Pl. Becks Grove appears. He was born at the same place, is 23 years old, Lutheran. He is enjoined to be truthful as a witness and states that he was present on the day when manager Fleming, Ruthledge, School teacher Stewart and overseer Farrelly came riding in to Pl. Becks Grove. Shortly after their arrival, a dispute between manager Fleming and the witness' brother, driver Robert Joseph erupted regarding John Thomas, whom manager Fleming claimed had set fire to the plantations Allandale and St. Georges, whilst the driver declared that he had seen J. Thomas at Becks Grove right until 5 o'clock in the afternoon on the 2nd of October, and the two plantations had burned down before that. The dispute ended with manager Fleming declaring that the driver deserved to be shot, and he aimed at him with the revolver in his right hand. Overseer Farrelly, who was standing next to manager Fleming, grabbed him by the arm and pulled down the revolver, but manager Fleming fired a shot over overseer Farrelly's shoulder, and the driver fell dead to the ground. When asked whether manager Fleming moved the revolver from his right to his left hand when overseer Farrelly pulled down his arm, he answers no, he fired the revolver with his right hand in which he held it from the beginning. Read out, affirmed, stands down.

Abel Francis Shepherd from Pl. Becks Grove appears. He was born on Barbados, is approximately 45 years old, English. Enjoined to be truthful as a witness, he states that he, along with the driver, had just come home from the Fort to which they had brought 4 prisoners, when [Notice 739] the driver's brother told him that overseer Farrelly wanted to see him, and when they entered the yard, manager Fleming, Ruthledge, overseer Farrelly and School teacher J. Stewart were here. Manager Fleming wanted to shoot John Thomas for having set fire to the plantations Allandale and St. Georges, but overseer Farrelly opposed it and declared that if he was guilty of anything, he should be brought to the Fort, men and he called the driver to witness that John Thomas had been at the plantation Becks Grove right until Wednesday the 2nd of last month at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The driver confirmed this, and then commenced a dispute between manager Wm Fleming and the driver which ended with that Fleming, who accused the driver of lying, aimed at him with his revolver and said that he deserved to be shot. The driver tried to run into the manager's house, and overseer Farrelly grabbed manager Fleming by the arm and bended it back, but Fleming stretched his arm straight out, fired, and shot the driver through the neck, so the bullet exited through the eye. The driver immediately fell dead to the ground. Manager Fleming did not move the revolver from his right to his left hand, he had it in his right hand all along whilst holding the reins in his left hand. O. R. Stands down.

Interrogation ended, described and sent in to the Presidency.

Court adjourned

R. Petersen, const.

Carried out on the 3rd of December 1878. P⁴².

Conforming the register of the Police Court of Frederiksted District and under the document presented in the case, this is thus affirmed under my hand and the seal of the Court.

R. Petersen, const.

(L.S).

Real transcripts

H. Hauschill

⁴² Unclear what "R" stands for

