

Book 1: Interrogations from the 4th of November 1878 – the 24th of December 1878

[notice 387]¹

The Commission of the 25th of October 1878 regarding the negro revolt in October 1878 on St. Croix

Court records. The 4th of November 1878 - the 24th of December. *[Folio 1, notice 388]*

This register, collected and sealed with the seal of the presidency, consisting of one hundred and twenty four folio pages, is hereby authorized as court records of the Commission of Inquiry which was appointed by the government of the Danish West Indian Islands, according to the very highest resolution of the 25th of October 1878, in order to examine and determine actions in the cases emerged and the crimes committed during the revolt of October 1878 on St. Croix, with participation of the insurgents, the troublemakers and all the participants in the revolt and the destruction of the same.

The government of the Danish West Indian Islands
St. Croix, the 28th of October 1878 *[Folio 2a, notice 389]*

In 1878, on Monday the 4th of November in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the appointed Commission consisting of Supreme Judge Ph. Rosenstand, Judge Counsellor C. Sarauw and Police Chief Counsellor A. Forsberg convened in St. Croix Arrest to examine and determine actions in the cases emerged and the crimes committed during the revolt of October 1878 on St. Croix, with participation of the insurgents, the troublemakers and all the participants in the revolt and the destruction of the same.

All Commissaries are present. The Commissorium established on the 28th of the previous month and the document from the government to the Commission of the same date² are presented.

The Commission's president Supreme Judge Rosenstand remarks that due to the requisite preparations, the Commission has not been able to convene earlier. The copies of interrogations which have been carried out at the Police Courts and which are to be handed over to the Commission have not yet been received. According to the announcement in St. Croix Avis on the 2nd of this month, it appears that the proclaimed state of siege was not lifted until the 31st of the previous month. *[Folio 2b-3a, notice 390]*

¹ The references to the Folio point to the pages in the original, hand-written document

² The Danish text uses the abbreviation s. D, which presumably means "samme Dag" (of the same day)

A transcript of a report from the Police Chief³ in Frederiksted describing the occurrences which took place during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October has been handed over from the Government to the Commission and is presented.

Furthermore, the protocol kept by the Court Martial, appointed on the 5th of last month⁴, is presented. Also, a register made out by Christiansted Police Chamber, listing people who have been arrested on occasion of the insurrection and noting for each of the detainees what had emerged during the preliminary Police Inquiry, is presented.

The Police Chief in Christiansted is present and declares for the Commission that except for two women who have suckling babies, all 151 arrested persons are placed in St. Croix arrest. However, whilst the list was underway, a few people about whom nothing in particular has emerged and whose names were on the list, were released. The list is then examined and it is found that 5 of the noted persons, namely no 8 William Bryan, no 15 Charles Søbøtke, no 29 A(...)⁵ Petersen, no 67 John Francis and N: 76 Thomas David have already been released.

It further appears that a noted person, no 28 Edward Petersen, is already noted as no 27. Regarding all the remaining persons, the Police Chief declares that the information on them is of such a nature that they have not been released, and he now consigns them to the Commission.

Then, the Commission arrests all the above-mentioned persons who are present in the arrest and have them appear, and it is remarked that no 100 Joseph Spencer and no 101 Peter Felix are hospitalized.

Regarding all which has come to light, partly regarding everything which has emerged against the individual detainees and partly in the particular case in which they are implicated as a whole and which has an extent which makes it impossible to form an opinion on each individual's smaller or larger guilt, all have been arrested.

The prison verdict is made clear to all the detainees except the above-mentioned absent individuals who are at the fort and the hospital, respectively⁶. [*Folio 3b-4a, notice 391*]

A list from Christiansted Police Chamber of detainees who have been consigned from Frederiksted Police Arrest to St Croix Arrest is presented, and the Police Chief in Frederiksted, to whom the prisoners were sent on the 29th of October, states that all detainees on the list were arrested in Frederiksted as participants in the riots or in the excesses which took place during the same, but he does not have the information which has emerged on each of them.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30⁷

³ According to texts from the period, the Police Chief was also called the "Policemaster"

⁴ The Danish text says "f.Md." (forrige Maaned) = the previous (last) month

⁵ Missing or unintelligible

⁶ The words "who are at the Fort and the hospital, respectively" are added in pencil

⁷ In the Danish text, all mentions of time are written as, fx 4 ½ (16:30)

In 1878, on Tuesday the 5th of November, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission was convened in St Croix Arrest; all Commission members were present.

It is remarked that the Commission has not yet received the awaited Interrogation Records from Frederiksted Police Chamber. The Commission's Chairman remarks that in his previous position⁸ during the Court Martial, he had negotiated with the Police Chief regarding those arrested for participation in the insurrection, particularly regarding releases, so that only those whom the Police Chief in Frederiksted did not presume could be released were to be sent up to St Croix Arrest, so that it was only those whom the Police Chief believed needed to be subjected to further inquiry who were sent up here.

Then, the Commission has all those detainees who were sent up from Frederiksted appear before the Commission. They are found to be in agreement with the list which was presented yesterday on which 127 persons are listed, but one of the detainees, no 27 John William from the town Frederiksted, has died here in the Arrest, and it is remarked that a baby, belonging to one of the detainees, is noted under its own number, so that 125 detainees appear.

On the basis of what is already available regarding the detainees, according to the above-mentioned, and when the case's particular circumstances are taken into consideration, [*Folio 4b-5a, notice 392*] it is not possible to form an opinion regarding each individual's bigger or smaller guilt, as the prevailing part of the country population, particularly in the western areas of the island, must be presumed to be more or less implicated in the occurred excesses – it is decreed that all the appearing detainees are to be kept in prison for the time being.

The arrest decree is made clear to all detainees, and they are then brought back to their arrest. Then, the Commission begins the interrogations.

Richard Lewis from Castle Coakly⁹. Richard Lewis, born at C. Coakly, assumed to be 22 years old, appears. It is noted that despite his being a kind of sub-manager or keeper¹⁰ at the plantation¹¹ C.C, he took active part in the excesses and in particular, he rang the bell at the plantation, and he let the gang¹² commit arson when it came to Castle Coakly as well as at Work & Rest. He admits that he was a kind of keeper but not a sub-manager at the plantation. He denies having known that a rebellion was imminent. It was not until Wednesday that he noticed the fires in the Westend area, and later in the day, manager¹³ Patterson from Manningsbay came

⁸ The Danish text says "i sin tidligere egenskab af Præces" (in his previous position as "Præces"). It is unclear what "Præces" means.

⁹ Elsewhere: Coakley

¹⁰ Danish: Opsynsmand

¹¹ Generally called "Estates" in the Danish West Indies, but "Plantations" in Denmark

¹² In 1878, the "gangs" were called "bands" ("gangs" were the labor gangs, working on the plantations)

¹³ Danish: Forvalter

to the plantation and brought with him the message that there were fires in Frederiksted and at Carlton, and he advised manager Nixon to come to town immediately, as the riots were moving east. The detainee continued his work at the plantation. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, manager Nixon returned home, and immediately after, he followed Patterson's advice and went to town. He denies having rung the bell at C. Coakly, even though he was threatened, and he did not point towards the rum cellar, and he did not set fire to the rum there. Regarding his complicity in the arson at Work & Rest, he admits that the rabble mob forced him to be present at the arson which destroyed Work & Rest's greathouse, but he assures the Commission that the house was on fire before he arrived, and he cannot identify who started the fire. Regarding his endeavors to get Emilia and Natelinde to join the mob which went to Annashope, he assures the Commission that he does not know Emilie¹⁴ and that he only encouraged Natelinda¹⁵ to go to Annashope with the others. It was not until the rabble arrived at C. C. [*Folio 5b-6a, notice 393*] on Thursday morning that he heard that the intention with the arson was to get higher wages and he heard that the battle-cry amongst the rebels was "our side"¹⁶. As far as he knows, it was Arnold from Upper Love who set fire to the manager's house at C. C. and it was William Barnes from Rust up Twist who set fire to the rum cellar. William Barnes had a bottle of petroleum. During further interrogation regarding whether he had taken any goods during the fire or whether he knew that any goods had been brought to his house, the detainee admits that he had taken what he calls "a portmanto", and he brought it back to his house where he left in a suitcase, so it must have been found by his wife Nancy¹⁷. Since it is said that during the last part of September, he had left the plantation during the nights while he otherwise always had been at home, he is asked if he knew anything beforehand or if he had an inkling about the riots, but he denies this. He did not participate in any meetings with negroes and he had not regularly been away during the nights, and he had not heard the laborers¹⁸ at the plantation - where no porters¹⁹ were employed - complain that they were not paid enough. The detainee is led back to his arrest.

Poor Fellow from Monbijou. William Holder, alias Poor Fellow, from Monbijou appears. According to the protocol from the Court Martial, he was interrogated at the Court Martial and there he stated that during the movement which broke out on the 1st of October, when he had been in the Westend with a cart for the plantation Wheel of Fortune, he heard a woman, who was employed as a "porter", say that on the 1st of October, the people "were going to fight for more Money"²⁰. He does not know the woman's name and he does not think that he could find her again, but he knows that she lives in Westend. He continues to assure the Commission that

¹⁴ Elsewhere: Emilia

¹⁵ Elsewhere: Natelinde

¹⁶ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

¹⁷ In the Danish text, this entire sentence is somewhat winding and unclear: "Efter at Arrestanten under den fortsatte Examination, havde taget til sig noget Gods under Branden eller vidste af at noget saadant var bragt i hans Huus, vedgik han, da hans Forklaring forholdtes ham at han havde taget hvad han kalder "en Portmanto" og bragt hjem i sit Huus hvor han efterlod den i sin Kuffert saa at hans kone Nancy maa være kommet i besiddelse af den..." (directly translated: After the detainee during the continued interrogation, when his testimony was presented to him that he had taken what he calls "a Portmanto" and brought home to his house where he left it in his suitcase so that his wife must have come to possess it...")

¹⁸The Danish text says "Folk", which can denote both "people" in general and "laborers" (staff, employees, workforce) at a farm or on a plantation. Here, "laborers" is used.

¹⁹ "Porters" were paid 20 Cts. a day besides allowance, whilst 'regular' laborers were paid 10 Cts., causing some dissatisfaction.

²⁰ In the Danish text, the words "where going to fight for more Money" are written in English

this is the only talk of trouble he has heard beforehand. He was not in Westend on the 1st of October, but he has heard from Ferdinand Ludvig, after he had been brought here, and [*Folio 6b-7a, notice 394*] the detainee himself has heard him say that he was the one who started the trouble in Frederiksted, but he does not know whether he had any actual intention. He has heard that Ferdinand Ludvig was employed as a “porter” at Mt Steward. Ferdinand Ludvig has stated that after he had the squabble with Police Officer Glasgow, he picked up the conch up at the (...) ²¹ and threw it at the Fort. He was the first to attack the Fort and he called the crowd, but the detainee did not hear him say how many people were in the crowd. He has not talked about whether he took part in setting fire to the town. Ferd. Ludvig also told him that John (...) ²² was present during the riots in Frederiksted. Regarding his own actions during the insurrection, the detainee states, as he has done previously, that he was indeed at the arson at Fredensborg and Slob and also at Belvedere, Lt. Fountain, Canaan, La Vallee and Rust up Twist, but he maintains that he was just a “common soldier” ²³, and that he did not set fire to anything. Even though he was present at the fires at all these places, he is not able to name anyone who started the fires. However, after giving it some thought, he claims that it was Emanuel ²⁴ who was the ringleader of the arsons at Little Fountain, Lebanonhill, Canaan, La Vallee and Rust up Twist. There were other Captains in the gang which, when it came to Little Fountain, mostly consisted of laborers from Mt Pleasant /: Conquehoun:/. This gang was one of the worst, and after Emanuel, Fritz Richardson - cf. the Court Martial interrogation of the 7th of October - and Edward Lewis were prominent, but Emanuel was worse than any of them, and he was the one who, as he says, “did all the work” ²⁵. He did not see Emanuel being active at any other places than at the mentioned (...) ²⁶fires, but he has continuously heard that he was one of the worst during the excesses down in Frederiksted. He has not heard that Emanuel should have (...) ²⁷ with them some time before the unrest, but then again, Emanuel is not part of his ring of people. Without any particular [*Folio 7b-8a, notice 395*] reason, he states that laborers from Lebanonhill were also “walking about” ²⁸, and that they were no better than anyone else and certainly not better than the detainee who repeats that he was part of the aforementioned gangs when they started fires, but that he did not start any fires himself. He completely blames Emanuel for all his participation in the unrest. The detainee is placed in the arrest again.

Ferdinand Ludvig from Frederiksted. The detainee Ferdinand Ludvig, born at Pl. Sprathall, estimated to be 25 years old, appears. Lately, he has been employed as a “porter” at the plantation La Grange. During further interrogation based on what has been established previously, particularly in the protocol of the Court Martial, and also in response to Poor Fellow’s testimony, he states different, mutually contradictory things about what he did on the 1st of October. At approximately 12 o’clock, when he was standing on the street, speaking to a young man from the country, he was attacked by Police Officer Glasgow for no reason, and he ²⁹

²¹ Missing or unintelligible

²² Missing or unintelligible

²³ In the Danish text, the words “common soldier” are written in English

²⁴ James Emanuel Benjamin (from Pl. Mount Pleasant)

²⁵ In the Danish text, the words “did all the work” are written in English

²⁶ Missing or unintelligible

²⁷ Missing or unintelligible

²⁸ In the Danish text, the words “walking about” are written in English

²⁹ Police Officer Glasgow

beat him and ripped his shirt apart. The detainee fled up to the hills by the Catholic Church and from there to La Grange, wherefrom he did not return to town until 10 o'clock in the evening when he saw that it was burning. Later, however, he admits that he was in town when the Fort was attacked, but he did not participate in the arson. On the contrary, he did his best to salvage what he could when the goods from John Moore's shop were burning in the street. The detainee gives both Commissaries Rosenstand and Forsberg the impression of complete animal indifference and it seems that it makes no difference to him what he states, and he is then led down and placed in the arrest again.

James Emanuel Benjamin³⁰ from Mt Pleasant /: Colq³¹ :/. James Emanuel Benjamin from Mt Pleasant /Colquehoun:/. He was born on Antigua³², but he has resided in this country for 10 years and he states that his age is 23 years. He is subjected to close interrogation on the basis of what has emerged against him during different inquiries, interrogations and reports. He then admits that he was part of the gang from Mt Pleasant which set fire to [Folio 8b-10a, notice 396] Hermitage and the frequently listed plantations, but he did not start fires and he was not the leader of the gang. He was in Frederiksted on the evening of the 1st of October, but he left the town before the fires started. However, a man called Mason gave him a horse and a piece of red cloth, and he assumed that both had been robbed. The detainee is led back to his arrest.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 7th of November, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest.

Commission member Bailiff Sarauw has announced that he has government business in Frederiksted and is unable to be present. The other two Commission members are present.

Nancy Lewis from Castle Coakley³³. Nancy Lewis has been summoned and appears before the Commission. Detainee Richard Lewis' wife from Pl. Castle Coakley. She states that while the negroes ravaged Castle Coakley, she was lying under her bed along with the manager³⁴'s cook and two children, so she did not see what happened. Her husband had brought overseer³⁵ Julian's things into their house to save them, and then he had left the house again. As far as she has been told, he had gone up to the mule fold to let the mules and the sheep loose, and she heard that he rang the bell when the gang came in, but she has heard that they forced him to do

³⁰ This is presumably the person often referred to as simply "Emanuel"

³¹ The abbreviation "Colq" refers to "Colquehoun" as the estate (the plantation) was called Colquehoun/Mt Pleasant

³² Islands under Colonial rule are introduced with the preposition "on" (not "in")

³³ Elsewhere: Coakly

³⁴ Danish: forvalter

³⁵ Danish: underforvalter

it by threatening him with a manure fork and a saber, but she did not see him again until later in the day. She knows that he came back from Work & Rest, but she doesn't know what he did. She was so flustered herself that she did not notice whether he looked excited or disturbed when he returned. She did not see that he had anything with him when he came back from Work & Rest. In the house, she found a little Safion cigar case which belongs to planter Hvid from Work & Rest, but she thought it belonged to Julian's things, and she gave it to the little boy Alfred so that he could ask Julian if it was his, and in this way, it has made its way to manager [Folio 9b-10a, notice 387] Nixon, who then handed it over to the police. She assures the Commission that she did not receive any plundered goods, and she doesn't know if it is the cigar case which her husband calls a Portamanto. According to what she has heard, Lewis went with the gang to Work & Rest to get them to leave Castle Coakley quicker.

Richard Lewis from Castle Coakley. Detainee Richard Lewis appears. He maintains that he did not bring anything with him from Work & Rest apart from the thing which he calls a "portmanto" which he found in the yard and which he describes as a rather small leather bag with a rubber band around it, almost like a wallet, but he does not know what it contains. When shown the cigar case belonging to planter Hvid, which contains a photographic image of a boy, he declares that this is indeed the item which he has called a "portmanto", and it turns out that he is completely familiar with its appearance and even knows that it contains a picture, so he did actually open it. He maintains that he found it in Work & Rest's yard and that he was not inside any of the houses at Work & Rest. When he came there, the actual greathouse was in flames. All Work & Rest's laborers were in the yard trying to rob flour and herrings. He says that it was the procedure all over that the leaders broke the lock off the cellar's door and then the plantation's laborers helped themselves to allowance. The detainee claims that he is very ashamed of having followed the gang from C. Coakley, but it was impossible for him to avoid it because they forced him to go along. It was the previously mentioned Arnold and Barnes and Bradshaw and Francis who used force against him. Arnold, or, as he later says, Francis and Bradshaw, even tickled his throat with the saber and would have killed him if Edward from Diamond & Ruby had not prevented it by holding his arm. They wanted to set fire to his house because he had salvaged some of the manager's things, and it was laborers from Diamond, [Folio 10b-11a, notice 398] particularly the mentioned Edward, who stopped them. They knew that the detainee was not on their side, and it was because he would not yell "our side"³⁶ that they finally forced him to follow them. The above-mentioned Bradshaw was later shot. Of other ringleaders of the gang which came to Castle Coakley, he mentions William Howell and Marshal, but Marshal was shot at Annashope. Monsieur at Cliftonhill was also one of the worst leaders, but as far as the detainee knows, he was later shot. During various further examinations, the detainee states that, as he says, "the whole St. Croix has been walking"³⁷ /: In the negro-language it means that something wicked is going on :/ so that, when the original gang or one of the side-gangs which were gathered later, reached a plantation, the plantation laborers joined the gang. Some troublemakers probably joined voluntarily, but many others were forced. The leaders of the gangs always tried to ensure that those negroes who had greater importance than the others at a plantation joined the gang, whilst negroes who had less importance could easily escape. It only occurred

³⁶ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

³⁷ In the Danish text, the words "the whole St. Croix has been walking" are written in English

exceptionally that laborers from those plantations which were situated towards the east went down into the country and sought out the rebels, and when it happened, it was always the bad seeds. Thus, not a single one of C. Coakley's laborers went down country to meet the rebels, but after the gang had come to Castle Coakley and the allowance cellar had been opened and they had participated in the plunder, and when the gang was finished at C. Coakley, they followed it to Peters Rest. He does not think that any of them physically participated in starting fires. According to what he saw, it was "the Captains"³⁸ who saw to it. Thus, the detainee did not hear the battle cry "our side"³⁹ until the gang came into C. Coakly's yard under this cry. Some of C. Coakly's laborers replied with the same cry, but many of them did not know what it was, and they were beaten by the Captain. The entire gang which came to C. Coakley consisted of approximately 100 people, and there were only 3 women amongst them, and this gang burned Castle Coakly, Peters Rest and Work & Rest and they had started at Annashope when the military force came out. [*Folio 11b-12a, notice 399*] He does not think that this gang grew particularly on its course, because whilst, surely enough, quite a few people joined from the plantations which they passed, also a lot of people defected.

William Arnold from Upper Love. Detainee William Arnold from Pl. Upper Love appears. Born on Antigua, estimated to be 22 years old, belongs to the congregation of the English Church. He states that on the occasion in question, he followed James de Silva and Parris⁴⁰ in their gang to Jealousy, Mt Pleasant /: Colquh :/ and Monbijou on the road which leads past Slob up to La Reine, where the gang split up. The one section under Parris' leadership went to Fredensborg and Slob, whilst the other section under the leadership of Marshal followed the road which divides Slob from La Reine, and they entered Barrenspot. After the fires were started, the gang moved towards east, but before it reached Diamond & Ruby, it came across a smaller gang which came from the South side road /: probably from Cliftonhill :/ to the road, and this caused it to split up, so that a smaller section went in to Diamond & Ruby which was set ablaze, whilst the other section went to Castle Coakley and from there on to Peters Rest and from Peters Rest to Work & Rest. When asked, the detainee says that when he came to Annashope from Work & Rest, he found the military there, they had attacked a gang which had probably arrived at Work & Rest earlier, and they put it to flight, so there was a general confusion. From Annashope, the detainee walked to his home at Upper Love, where he was later arrested. All the plantations to which the detainee thus came, that is, Jealousy, Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/, Monbijou, Barrenspot, Castle Coakly, Peters Rest and Work & Rest, were set on fire. Marshall, who led the gang from the Slob Road to Barrenspot was the one who started the fire there, but he - the detainee - admits that at Castle and Peters Rest, he gave the people who were with him the order to start the fires. He does not know who started the fire at Work & Rest, because everything was more or less burned down when he came to the place. Regarding the beginning of the unrest, the detainee states that on Tuesday the 1st of October, as is tradition, he went to Christiansted to spend his money /: "to have a spree"⁴¹:/ . The day passed without the detainee hearing any rumor about unrest, and he came home to Upper Love in the afternoon, before sunset, and he stayed there for the night, [*Folio 12b-13a, notice 400*] and it was not until Wednesday morning - on

³⁸ In the Danish text, the words "the Captains" are written in English

³⁹ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁴⁰ Elsewhere: Paris

⁴¹ In the Danish text, the words "to have a spree" are written in English

the 2nd of the previous month - that he heard that there had been a fireburn⁴² in Frederiksted town. At this time, no one talked about the insurrection, and it wasn't until Wednesday afternoon at about 3 o'clock that the first rabble mobs turned out. Then, they came to those plantations which are situated west of Upper Love and in particular the plantation Grove Place, which burned during the afternoon. The detainee adds that what he has stated in his testimony about that he did not hear anything about the unrest in town before in the afternoon, is not completely accurate, because as early in the morning at 7 o'clock, he had met Emanuel who was driving with a red scarf wound around his waist. When the detainee asked him what was going on, he replied that they were fighting for money in Frederiksted /: fight on West End for money⁴³ :/. Emanuel was not followed by any rabble mob, and he was perhaps headed for River and Fountain to persuade the laborers there to stop working. It was not until the evening or in the late afternoon that the rabble mob came from the west, and River and Fountain had been set ablaze. The detainee did not see Emanuel with the mobs there, and he did not see that he returned to River from his expedition. When the rabble mob which had set fire to Fountain and River returned to U. Love, the laborers told them that a gang had already been there earlier, which prompted them, without examining the situation further, to pass U. Love on their way to Jealousy, where the detainee joined the gang. The detainee became Captain at C. Coakly, when Marshal became tired. In this position, he tried to force two people, one was a fisherman from Sionfarm called Julius Jackson and the other was a man from town called Wilhelm Paulsen, to join them. The detainee did not directly force Jackson⁴⁴ to blow the conch, but someone else in the gang did, but when Paulsen did not want to yell "our side⁴⁵", he was attacked with blows, partly with a manure fork and partly with a saber and with axes. The detainee only had a wooden saber in his hand, so he could not subject Paulsen to any substantial harm. This forced Julius Jackson to follow them up to Work & Rest, where he escaped them. Jackson was straight out forced to follow them, [Folio 13b-14a, notice 401] and the detainee did not see him participate actively in any arson. Regarding Richard Lewis, whom he does not know personally, he has only heard that he is a black overseer and that he plays the violin, but he doesn't know anything about him being active during the fire at either C. Coakly or Work & Rest.

The testimony given by Richard Lewis prompts the appearance of William Barnes from the plantation Rust up Twist whom Richard Lewis, when they appear together, immediately points out as being the Barnes whom he has stated was the Captain of the gang which set fire to Castle Coakley. Also, the detainee William Arnold states that it is the presented detainee, whose name he does not know, who was one of the Captains of the gang which was at Castle Coakley.

William Barnes from Rust up Twist. William Barnes, who was born at the plantation Clifton Hill, estimated to be 25 years old, of the Moravian Church, admits that he was in the gang which burned at C. Coakley, Peters Rest and Work & Rest. He had left Rust up Twist on Thursday morning at dawn and did not come across any rebels before at Diamond & Ruby. He joined them, and Charles Bradshaw from the farm gave him a manure fork and a big bottle of

⁴² The Danish text uses the word "Ildebrand" (directly translated: Fireburn)

⁴³ In the Danish text, the words "fight on West End for money" are written in English

⁴⁴ Elsewhere: Jackson

⁴⁵ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

petroleum. At C. Coakly, he set fire to the top end of the magass⁴⁶ stack using the petroleum and matches which Bradshaw gave him. Inside the rum cellar, he took part in breaking a rum barrel, but he did not participate in setting fire to the rum cellar. At Peters Rest, he did not take any active part in the destruction, whilst at Work & Rest, he set fire to a little house which was situated between the stable and the negro village. He did not take part in the burning of the greathouse, because there were so many people there, breaking and starting fires, that he did not get a chance. He followed the gang from Work & Rest to Annashope, but he was in the back, so he did not get to participate in anything there, and he avoided getting shot. He did not rob or steal anything at any of the places where he was. The laborers [*Folio 14b-15a, notice 402*] at Castle Coakly were very slow to join the rebels, whereas the laborers at Peters Rest and Work & Rest were ready to greet them and willingly joined them. The detainee warned the gang against attacking Work & Rest, because it was a royal plantation, so there would probably be soldiers there, but Bradshaw said that it was nonsense, they just had to keep going until the town was set on fire⁴⁷.

Richard Lewis from Castle Coakley. Richard Lewis is presented with the content of detainee Barnes' testimony, and he says that according to what he knows, it is more or less an accurate account of what Barnes did. He remarks that Barnes did not harm him or threaten him with violence, but he stood about as the others did.

William Barnes states that he did not see anyone threaten Richard Lewis, neither Bradshaw, Arnold nor Francis. He heard that general threats were uttered towards C. Coakly's laborers if they did not hurry to come along. He did not hear that Richard Lewis was threatened in particular, but he did not see him do anything bad. When the detainee is then asked what he did onwards, he starts to explain where he had been for the rest of the day Thursday and Friday, and it is clear that he was active in the unrest. However, since the time is almost 5, his further interrogation is postponed.

After each detainee has been interrogated and had their testimonies presented to them, they are led back to their arrest.

It is remarked that the Wilhelm Paulsen who was mentioned during the interrogation today, is still hospitalized due to the abusive treatment he received.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 5 o'clock

Ph. Rosenstand
Forsberg

⁴⁶ Magass: the spent stalks of sugarcane, after the juice has been extracted. Magass was dried to be used as fuel

⁴⁷ Presumably Christiansted

In 1878, on Friday the 8th of November in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission convened and interrogation was carried out by the undersigned Commissaire Police Chief Forsberg, in the presence of Police Principal B. Dendler, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. P. Nielsen.

William Barnes from Rust up Twist. Detainee William Barnes from Pl. Rust up Twist appears. He states that he did not leave Rust up Twist on Thursday morning at dawn as he has previously stated, but actually as early as on Wednesday evening, right after sunset, but he did not go further than to Betzys⁴⁸ Jewell, where he has previously been employed and where he heard, during the night, that there was a message to the laborers that a gang, which was employed at Monbijou, would bring the manager /: Friis :/ "a light"⁴⁹ during the morning, meaning that they would burn Canaan, which is adjacent to and is managed under Betzys Jewell, and he walked up the country road up to Cliftonhill, where he met a gang which was led by Arnold, and from there, they went to Barrenspot, Strawberry Hill, Diamond & Ruby. The gang stopped when they came to the works⁵⁰ at Sionfarm, while the steam plough⁵¹ was laid across the road to stop wagons from passing, and it was during this stop that Bradshaw gave the detainee a manure fork and a bottle of petroleum. The gang, and the detainee with it, then went to Castle Coakley and onwards, as explained yesterday. From Annashope, the detainee started to go back again, and when he came to Anguilla on the southside country road, he saw a gang coming up from Manningsbay, which was ablaze. The gang was led by a man called Party⁵² - from L. Bethlehem - and it was the biggest gang the detainee had seen yet, and several of the men were armed with guns. The works were set on fire first, and then the greathouse was plundered and set on fire, either by "Party" himself or on his order, even though Parris was there and was in command. From Anguilla, the gang moved towards the Police Station on Kingshill, where all those in the mob who were armed with guns were sent up to the gate which faces south, whilst a gang carrying sabers gathered outside the gate facing east. A boy who was found hiding in the grass field told "Party" that there was no military at the Station, so he led the gang into the yard, and the buildings were set on fire on Party's order. The detainee doesn't know who did it, but he thinks that [Folio 16b-17a, notice 404] Sonny Dickr and Thomas Allen - both from River - can give information on the matter. While the buildings at the Station burned, "Party" removed himself and went over to Pl. Kingshill, where he set fire to the old manager's dwelling. Then, he joined the gang again and led them to Pl. Lower Bethlehem's new greathouse and manager's dwelling, which were both set on fire. In "Partys'" presence, Little Bethlehem's works were set on fire by a section of the gang which removed itself from the gang which "Party" had left at the Station. From Bethlehem, the gang went to Mt Pleasant & Plessens' greathouse, even though "Party" seemed to have hesitations. However, it was set on fire by a man, Allick's, demand, and the storehouses nearby were plundered. The works, which were situated on the other side of the country road, were not set on fire on this occasion. After the greathouse was destroyed, the gang dissolved, and the people

⁴⁸ Elsewhere: Betsys

⁴⁹ In the Danish text, the words "a light" are written in English

⁵⁰ The "works", also called "the factory" consisted of the mill, the curing house, the cooking house, and sometimes a distillery

⁵¹ Some letters are missing or unintelligible (the Danish text says Damp(...)gen) . However, in the interrogation of William Barnes on Friday the 8th of November, he states that they placed a "steam plough" across the road.

⁵² Elsewhere: Parti

went home. The detainee looked up a friend, Bamberg⁵³, who works at Mt Pleasant once in a while, and who has some acquaintances who gave him night lodgings with one of Bamberg's friends. During the night, in the negro village, the alarm sounded, and it was yelled that the works were on fire. The detainee and many of the laborers left the negro village and went down to the burning works, but after a short stay, they went back to the negro village, on which occasion the detainee became aware that some of the laborers had robbed sugar from the works. On Friday morning, the detainee went with Bamberg who stated that he wanted to visit a relative at Clearmont on the way towards his home, but when they came to L. Love, a friend of Bamberg's, Henry, invited him to lunch, and the detainee joined them. During the meal, Henry said that he intended to send a gang consisting of laborers from Lowe Love, Castle, Jealousy and River, and when he had enough people, he would go to Christiansted and burn down the town. On that occasion, the detainee pointed to the fact that the gang which was at Annashope on the previous day got a harsh treatment by the military, and to that Henry just remarked that he had seen far worse at [Folio 17b-18a, notice 405] Crab Island. Parris, who was with Henry, now encouraged L. Love's laborers to come out of their houses and follow along. He threatened that if they did not obey, he would set the negro village on fire. The threat caused some of the people to come out, but then they went to Castle where 3-4 gunshots were fired outside the negro village as a signal to the people, whom Parris then led over to Jealousy. Here, the laborers in the negro village were called together, and the whole gang was led down to the country road which leads to the plantation River, where the laborers, who had already heard the alarm down at Jealousy, had moved up onto the road which leads there, after having met the gang which came towards them, they went to River's yard, where the big hospital was set on fire. Shortly after, a command of volunteers arrived at the plantation and dispersed the gang by firing some gunshots. The detainee further states that when the hospital was set on fire, as mentioned, the laborers from River had not yet come up to the spot. In the belief that the expedition was to go to Christiansted, they had gone past Jealousy by a field path, and they came all the way up towards Mt Pleasant. Parris, who was on horseback, saw this, and he caught up with them and got them to go back to River, where they were later dispersed by the volunteers. From River, the detainee went home, and when he came home, he found the greathouse and the works burned down. The detainee assures the Commission that apart from the magass stacks at C. Coakly and the little outhouse at Work & Rest, he did not start any fires, but he was only present at the places where arson took place, as he has explained. Before his stay at Betzys Jewell during the night between Wednesday and Thursday, he had not heard anything which indicated that there was discontent amongst the laborers, and nothing indicated that an insurrection was intended. Read aloud and affirmed, whereafter the detainee is led back to his arrest.

Bamberg from Frederiksted. Johannes Samuel, called Bamberg, appears and states that he came from the town Frederiksted to the plantation Mt Pleasant & Plessens when the greathouse burned there. He left Mt Pleasant & Plessens along with William Barnes, and it was his intention to go [Folio 18b-19a, notice 406] to Clearmont, but already at Lower Love, the detainee became aware that Parris was planning an expedition to Christiansted, which was to be set ablaze, and it was with this intention that laborers from L. Love, Castle, Jealousy, River and the adjacent plantations had been called together. The detainee followed as far as to the road which runs a bit

⁵³ "Bamberg": Johannes Samuel

to the east of Jealousy towards the part of the negro village which is called “new works⁵⁴”, where his aunt Netta lives. He adds that he kept himself in hiding when the volunteers were at River and dispersed the gang which was gathered there. It was not until later that he went to his aunt in the negro village. Regarding what happened at Lower Love, according to William Barnes’ testimony about the intended expedition to Christiansted, the detainee explains that he did not hear Henry mention what had happened at Crab Island, and he can testify that Henry had to be active in the gathering of the laborers because Parris forced him. Read aloud and affirmed, whereafter the detainee is led to his arrest.

Detainee William Henry, guardsman at Lower Love. He states that he was born on Antigua, is estimated to be 30 years old and belongs to the English Church. On Friday morning the 4th of the previous month, two persons of whom the detainee only knew the one, Bamberg, came to John Charles at Lower Love and asked for something to eat, and because John Charles had some furniture belonging to planter Farrelly in his house, which he didn’t want Bamberg to see, he gave him the desired food. During the meal, the man whom Bamberg called Barnes started to blow the conch which he had brought with him, and when the detainee would not allow him to continue, he went outside the door, picked up a handful of stones and threatened to burn down the negro village if the laborers did not come out and participate in the upcoming expedition. When the people present heard this, some of them said that to avoid the negro village being burned, they would go on a tour on the country road with Barnes /: take a walk⁵⁵ :/. Parris, who was the gang’s [Folio 19b-20a, notice 407] actual leader, threatened the detainee with death if he didn’t procure people and also participate in the tour himself. Thus threatened, the detainee followed the laborers from Lower Love up to the bridge which borders Pl. Castle’s negro village to the west. Here, they paused, and another gang joined the laborers from Lower Love, and this caused some movement in the crowd, during which the detainee managed to escape and hide in one of L. Love’s sugarcane fields⁵⁶. The detainee adds that Parris was the real leader of the gang, but Barnes was equally active and seemed to be more intent on destruction, and on the way from L. Love to Castle, he set one of the first mentioned plantation’s sugarcane fields on fire at different places, but the sugarcane was so green that it wouldn’t catch fire. The detainee asks to change his testimony so that it was not at the aforementioned Castle Bridge that he had the opportunity to escape the gang, but not until the gang had come to the road which runs west of Jealousy’s negro village, from where he slipped in to one of Lower Love’s fields of sugarcane. During the entire uprising, the detainee was only away from his home at L. Love twice, namely on Thursday, when he was forced to follow a gang to the plantation Adventure under the leadership of James de Silva. There, two boys broke the lock off the door to the rum cellar, and later, Christian Martin, Wren Gittens and Lucas set fire to the rum, thus destroying the works. It was Christian Martin who filled the cellar with straw and it was Gittens who set fire to the straw, and then the door to the cellar was closed and the works burned down. The other time, the detainee, threatened by Parris, followed the gang to the road which leads to Jealousy’s negro village, where he escaped and went to his home. Read out and affirmed, whereafter he is led back to his arrest.

⁵⁴ In the Danish text, the words “new works” are written in English

⁵⁵ In the Danish text, the words “take a walk” are written in English

⁵⁶ also called “cane-pieces”

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 15:30

Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 9th of November, in the morning at 11:30, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. The Commission's member [*Folio 20b-21a, notice 408*] Bailiff Sarauw had announced that he was unable to attend, due to government business in the town Frederiksted. The Commission's other two members were present.

W^m Henry. Detainee William Henry from Pl. L. Love appears and repeats his previously given testimony that on Friday, he only followed the gang from L. Love as far as to the country road to the west of Jealousy's negro village. Thus, he was not present when the hospital at River was set on fire. When it is stated in Barnes' testimony that the detainee, as an encouragement to make the laborers from Lower Love go along, had said that he had seen worse things on Crab Island, the detainee states that he was on Portorico⁵⁷ for 3 years, but that he is not aware of having said the above-mentioned. Moreover, the detainee calls in aid what he has also stated, that on Thursday, he was only at⁵⁸ the plantation Lower Love, whereas he was present during an arson at Pl. Adventure, and on Friday, he was with L. Love laborers at Jealousy.

W^m Barnes. Detainee William Barnes appears again, and regarding the fact that the manager from River has accused him of both ordering others to set fire to the big hospital at River and doing it himself, he declares that along with laborers from River, he arrived too late, and Parris and his gang had already done the deed. Amongst those who were active, he mentions Thomas Allen from River.

Th. Allen. Detainee Thomas Allen from Pl. River appears. He states that on Friday, he was as far away from the plantation as at the road to Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ along with Henry Samuel and Ferdinand Joseph, but they stood calmly and did nothing. Later, he stood on the Mill hill in River's yard and watched the hospital burn. That is all he had to do with the insurrection, and he was particularly not away from the plantation on either Wednesday or Thursday.

Samuel Berly from Pl. River appears. Manager Wilson has called him as a witness against Thomas Allen. He says that he did not personally see Thomas Allen do anything, but he was present when Andrew Fosset and John Henry, both from River, explained to manager Wilson that Thomas Allen had been one of the instigators in the burning of the manager's dwelling [*Folio 21b-22a, notice 409*] and the hospital. According to the two witnesses' testimony, Allen had almost continuously been alongside Henry Samuel, also from River.

Henry Samuel from Pl. River appears and states that he was present in plantation River's yard when the hospital was burned down and that there was a big crowd, but that he did not know

⁵⁷ Puerto Rico

⁵⁸ Here, the Danish transcription says "from" (fra), which does not make sense, so "from" is altered to "at".

any of them. He states that he was at home all day, and that Thomas Allen was at home all day. Then he states that he and Thomas Allen were out, and during further interrogation, no sensible explanation comes from the detainee.

Edward England and Henry England, father and son, appear. They are accused of serious participation in the above-mentioned arsons at River, but they both deny having had anything to do with it. The boy states that he was at home at Jealousy throughout the riots, whilst the father did not leave Mt Pleasant's /: Colq :/ yard.

During further interrogation, however, Edward England states that he was at River on Friday. In the morning at 10-11 o'clock, Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel came up to /: Colq :/ Mt Pleasant where the detainee was, and they called out the negroes; they had to come down to River where the manager's dwelling and the hospital were still standing, and they were to burn it down. Mt Pleasant's laborers followed them, and simultaneously, Parris' gang came up from Jealousy, and Allen and Samuel called to them that they should come down to River, and then they followed this gang. Parris was on horseback and had a gun, and another man, a tall, black man, had a long saber and was Captain of the gang.

Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel deny the truth of Edward England's accusation, which is confirmed by Henry England who heard them say the same things. Edward England remarks that most of the laborers at Mt Pleasant have seen and heard it and can testify to it.

In this regard, John Lewis and George Francis, who are both placed in custody, appear. They are accused of having been part of a gang which on Friday set fire to [*Folio 22b-23a, notice 410*] River. They both explain, in agreement, about Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel in the same way as did Edward England; they all followed the gang which was led by Parris and a man called Henry from L. Love, who had a big saber. Though they followed the gang, they did not partake in the arson.

William Henry, who appeared this morning, from Lower Love, appears again, and is emphatically pointed out by the two Englands and by John Lewis, George Francis, Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel as being the man who was at Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ in Parris' gang, and William Henry now admits that he was part of Parris' gang up at Mt Pleasant and that he got the laborers there to come out, but he says that he did not follow it all the way to River. However, since all the above-mentioned categorically declare that he walked in the lead along with Parris, all the way to River, he also admits to this, and that it was the gang which burned down the hospital and the manager's dwelling, but he has no idea as to how the fires were started. Parris was on horseback right until the planter corps came down to River, when he jumped off the horse and left it in the yard.

Old England states that he only followed the gang to avoid that Mt Pleasant's negro village, in which he had hidden some of planter Holm's belongings, was burned down.

Based on the information given to the Police Chamber and from there to the Commission, John Robert appears. He states that he is usually called John Charles, and he is accused of having been particularly active in the arson of River's works on Wednesday, and of the arson of the hospital

and the manager's dwelling on Friday morning. He denies having been at River on any of the mentioned occasions. The only day he "took a walk⁵⁹" was on Thursday, when he saw that Negro Bay was burned, but he took no part in it. Thomas Allen is [Folio 23b-24a, notice 411] brought in and states that he did not see the detainee John Robert at River on Wednesday evening when the works burned.

He who led the gang on Wednesday evening was a negro called Robert Tayson or something to the like, and the detainee does not know where he is from, and it was a negro from Good Hope who yelled that they were not to pass by River's works when the driver asked the gang not to set fire to them and Robert Tayson was about to heed him. After some consideration, Thomas Allen remembers that the negro from Good Hope was called Bastian.

William Barnes states that John Robert did not follow Parris' gang after they had had lunch together at William Henry's. He said that he was going to go down to Diamond to see his woman.

All the detainees are led away one by one after having been interrogated as it appears above.

The Commission's Chairman concludes by presenting a document written by G. D from Frederiksted Police Chamber, a copy of Frederiksted's Police Court-Protocol, containing interrogations which were conducted in Frederiksted on occasion of the riots, and also a list of persons who because of participation in the riots are currently held as prisoners in Frederiksfort.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Tuesday the 12th of November in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest; all the Commission's members were present.

W^m Henry. William Henry from Lower Love who has appeared previously, appears, and when asked about John Robert /: John Charles :/, he states that at some time on Wednesday, he had escorted a manager up to Christiansted and then returned to Lower Love, where he was busy salvaging and hiding planter Farrelly's furniture, and he was thus not present when the gang came up and burned down Lower Love. Since River burned before Lower Love, the detainee cannot deny that it is possible that [Folio 24b-25a, notice 412] John Charles could have participated in the arson of River's works.

William Barnes, who also appears, further states that the only place where he saw that John Charles was present was on Thursday at Anguilla, from where he followed the gang up to Kingshill Station, but the detainee did not see him do anything particularly evil. The detainee adds that William Henry was also active at Anguilla and in the Kingshill gang, and on that day, he

⁵⁹ In the Danish text, the words "took a walk" are written in English

carried his saber. The detainee also believes that he saw him at L. Bethl., where the gang went from Kingshill and then parted in two sections, of which the one section burned the upper buildings and the other burned the works, whereafter the gang joined again and went to Mt Pleas. & Plessens. The detainee does not know whether William Henry was present at Mt Pleasant. John Robert /: John Charles :/ was also present at L. Bethlehem where, as he had already done at Anguilla, where he saved a man whom Parris wanted to have killed, he saved either a man or a woman who, after manager Hewitt's house had been set on fire, was busy pouring water on it. As mentioned previously, the detainee slept in Mt Pleasant's negro village during the night between Thursday and Friday, and thus he was in the negro village when Mt Pleasant's works burned during the night. The buildings on the other side of the road had, as it is known, already been burned down in the afternoon - he does not know how that fire came about, because he does not believe that the fires were started by Mt Pleasant's own laborers, and after the gang had burned Mac Dermoths's house - that is the greathouse - it dispersed, so there was no collected gang before Parris again gathered the mentioned gang at Lower Love on Friday morning.

John Robert /: John Charles :/ appears again and first denies that he was at Anguilla or L Bethlehem on the day in question. However, when William Barnes explains how he, when Parris wanted to kill the above-mentioned people, had prevented it. He has to admit that he was present, but just like at Negrobay, he did not do anything [*Folio 25b-26a, notice 413*] evil. From Bethlehem he went straight home to L. Love and did not go out again later.

Detainees led away.

Peter William, a fisherman from Frederiksted, born at Spratt Hall, appears. Based on what has been explained about his person in Frederiksted's Police Court /: Interrogation of the 15th of October :/, he has been charged with having been, if not been a participant, then certainly in accordance with the rebels. He states that he does not want to pronounce the attribution which has been brought forth in the interrogation as his own⁶⁰ but he has only wanted to say that that is what the laborers said and meant. On request, he explains that he was not in town all day Tuesday, as he was at his fishing enterprise out by the plantation Northside, and he would also have slept there if he had not heard that there was unrest in the town, to whence he arrived at about 9 o'clock. Thus, he knows nothing of what happened during the day Tuesday, and he had never heard anything about there being a brewing discontent amongst the laborers or that they intended to cause trouble on the 1st of October.

Based on what has emerged regarding Peter William, the Commission finds that he can be released.⁶¹

⁶⁰ The Danish text says "Han forklarer, at han ikke har villet udtale den ham i Forhøret tillagte Mening som sin egen..." (He explains that he has not wanted to pronounce the to him in the Interrogation attributed as his own"). The meaning is presumably that Peter William said something (on the 15th of October) which was an interpretation of what the laborers felt and meant, but that it does not mirror his own feelings

⁶¹ In the margin it is added: released on the 12th of November '78

William Grant from Pl. Mt Pleasant & Plessens appears, born on Barbados, belongs to the English Church. He states that on Thursday the 5th of the previous month, he was at Pl. Upper Love with a man, Cadday, who is now deceased, and who ordered him - the detainee⁶² - to threaten the plantation's laborers to come out of their dwellings and join the gang. During this incident, the detainee was armed with a sugar-ax, but even though the detainee did as he demanded, in fear of Coday, no one except one man, that is George Mace, obeyed him, and therefore, without doing anything at all at Upper Love, he went to Mt Pleasant & Plessens where he stayed until the greathouse was set on fire by a gang and it burned down. During the night between Thursday and Friday, the works at Plessens burned down, but the detainee does not know who did it. The detainee says that Alexander Griffith, who is a guardsman at Pl. Upper Love, can attest to the truth of what he has stated. On request, the detainee admits that in order to encourage the laborers from U. Love to join the gang, [Folio 26b-27a, notice 414] he did say that they should not work for 10 Cts any more.

Christian Coulsen appears. During the Police interrogations from Frederiksted, he was charged with being out during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday. As previously, he maintains that he got drunk as soon as he came into town, which was shortly before dawn, when Samuel Henry /: shot :/ and Emanuel gave him a bottle of rum.

John Emanuel Benjamin whom Coulsen recognizes as the person whom he met along with Samuel Henry outside Brown's rum shop. He is usually, also by Coulsen, called Maney⁶³.

Coulsen then states that on the night in question, Maney had his head bound with a scarf, whilst Samuel Henry was wearing a hat. Both Brown and Reuter's shops, which are situated opposite each other, were ablaze, and a large crowd of people were causing trouble and went up and down yelling "our side⁶⁴", a cry which the witness only just heard, because immediately after, he became drunk and crept under a rum barrel.

Ferdinand Ludvig, who has appeared before, appears again, and he had been there in the beginning of the night of the fireburn in Frederiksted.

The detainee is presented to him, and he declares that he knows him well, he saw him in Frederiksted on Tuesday morning, but he did not see him during the night of the fireburn. He was not present at Brown's & Reuter's rum shops, because he was busy further down the street at John Moore's shop.

William Arnold from U. Love, who has appeared before, appears again, and he is presented with the detainee Emanuel. Arnold declares that he knows him well as Emanuel, called Maney, from Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ and he recognizes him as the person who came driving a "Lowcart"⁶⁵

⁶² The Danish transcription says "som befalede ham i Arrest - " (who ordered him in arrest). This does not make sense in the context. However, if the text says "som befalede ham - Arrestanten" (Who ordered him - the detainee -) - it does make sense

⁶³ also: Emanuel

⁶⁴ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁶⁵ In the Danish text, the word "lowcart" is written in English

round U. Love on Wednesday morning, talking about that he had been in the Westend all night “to fight for more money⁶⁶”.

The detainee Emanuel denies both Coulsen’s and Arnold’s statements.

All detainees are led away after they have been interrogated and in accordance with the indicated [Folio 27b-28a, notice 415] (...) ⁶⁷ confronted.

The Commission’s Chairman remarks that according to a document from Chr. Police Chamber, dated the 9th of this month, but only received by the Commission this morning, as the Commission convened, it has received the following detainees:

1. John Simmens from Barrenspot who is charged with having participated in the destruction at Pl. Strawberryhill.
2. Thomas Boins from Pl. Hermitage, who is arrested for having been present at the arson of Pl. Wheel of Fortune.
3. Laurentius Williams from the plantation Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ who is charged with having been present at the arson of Monbijou, Little Fountain, Lebanonhill etc.
4. Frank Lucas from the plantation Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ who is charged with having been present at the arson of Monbijou, Little Fountain, Lebanonhill etc.
5. Maria Emanuel from the plantation Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ who is charged with having been present at the arson of Monbijou, Little Fountain, Lebanonhill etc.

They are all presented before the Commission and informed of the charges against them. Except for Thomas Boins who states that he was not present at the arson of Wheel of Fortune and that on Tuesday, he was at the outskirts of Frederiksted town where from he returned to Hermitage, the others admit that they had been part of the gangs which they are charged with having joined, but they did not take part in the crimes committed by the gangs.

Then, after the emergence of the 4 detainees and regarding Thomas Boins, due to the circumstances of the case and the general circumstances of the time which necessitates particular caution, it is found to be vital to secure him until there is further information regarding the charges, and it is declared that the 5 detainees are to be placed in remand.

The prison verdicts are made clear to all the detainees, and they are led to their arrest.

The Commission’s meeting is adjourned at 5 o’clock.

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

⁶⁶ In the Danish text, the words “to fight for more money” are written in English

⁶⁷ Missing or unintelligible

In 1878, on Wednesday the 13th of November, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest; all the Commission's members were present. [*Folio 28b-29a, notice 416*]

Planter Christian Holm, owner of the plantation Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears before the Commission. On request, he states that on the 2nd of October, when the riots spread out into the country, he was at home at his plantation until 15:45 in the afternoon. The witness⁶⁸ remarks that in the morning, a bit after 5 o'clock, Edward England, who had moved to the plantation from River, had been notified that there had been trouble and fireburn in Frederiksted during the night. His son, Henry England from Jealousy, had told it to his father around midnight. A bit later in the morning, the driver told the witness the same thing, but the witness pretended that it did not occur to him that it was something which would spread out into the country, and he let his laborers start work as usual, and he put them to work in a remote sugarcane field which belongs to Pl. Solitude. There, the laborers worked in a completely calm and irreproachable manner until 11 o'clock. The witness did not sense the slightest movement amongst them which could indicate that they knew anything about the approaching events. The witness did not give any further thought to what he had heard. When the witness returned home at about 11 o'clock, he saw that the sugarcane fields at St Georges and Mt Pleasant & Plessens were on fire, and it became clear to him that the arsons had moved out into the country, and immediately after, he had the bullocks harness to the carts in spite of the order that they were to work through noontime, and an old black overseer, whom he has, told him that the cartmen had unharnessed and had gone into the negro village. Shortly after, the witness saw that the 4 cartmen, John Lewis, William Joseph, Frank Lucas and a 4th, whose name the testifier cannot remember at the moment, emerged from the negro village, not wearing hats as usual, but with their heads wound with scarfs and with thick balls⁶⁹ in their hands, and they left the plantation. However, the witness called them back and ordered them to remain at the plantation and then, as the witness had also heard that work had halted at the surrounding plantations, he sent out the message that work was to halt at Solitude. From his house, he had seen one of his [*Folio 29b-30a, notice 417*] laborers, Edward Lewis, whom he did not immediately recognize, because he was wearing strange clothes, come slinking home. Shortly after, Edw. Lewis, who had now changed into his work clothes, appeared in the yard, where many of the laborers, who had come back from their work, were gathered. It was now clear to the witness that there was an actual uprising in the country, and he ordered the driver to keep the laborers at the plantation. However, around noon, a man whom he had previously sent to Frederiksted informed him of the actual situation, that most of Frederiksted was burned down and that the road from Castle and all the way down was full of negroes who made all sorts of trouble and quarreled and fought amongst themselves, and that at Carlton, there were two dead soldiers on the road. However, the witness hoped that the Police and the Military would come and stop the rebellion, just as he hoped that his own plantation laborers would be loyal. During the afternoon, however, it got worse and worse, and the witness's laborers came to him several times and asked him to remove himself and his family from the plantation because they did not believe that they could defend him. When the witness

⁶⁸The Danish text uses the abbreviation "Comp." It is unclear what this refers to, but it points back to planter Christian Holm. This is the case throughout most of the questioning of planter Holm, but towards the end of the questioning, it changes to "Dep" (deponent = witness)

⁶⁹ The Danish text says "Kugler", which translates: balls/ pellets/marbles.

also eventually saw that not only the sugarcane fields but also the works and the greathouses were burned down, - he saw the works at St Georges, Grove Place and River burn down within 2 hours - it became clear to him that everything was going to be destroyed. He did not have the weapons to defend himself, and when he heard that the residents at all the surrounding plantations had left and when he also began to doubt whether his laborers were actually loyal or whether they really advised him to leave because they wanted to be rid of him, he finally decided, between 5 and 6 o'clock, to leave the plantation and drive into town. During the day, the witness had noticed that Emanuel - called Many - was not at home, and a boy, Fritz Richardsen, who should have moved to the Pl. on the 1st of October, had not turned up at all, and right before the witness left the plantation, he saw Many in the yard in a frightful condition, excited and drenched [*Folio 30b-31a, notice 418*] with sweat, and he stood up as if he wanted the witness, who had kept an eye on his laborers throughout the afternoon and had asked for Many, to see him. At the time, Many did not wear a red scarf or a new hat. Regarding these items, the witness remarks that a while after, when the driver searched Emanuel's house on the suspicion that Emanuel had hidden some robbed goods, he found a board⁷⁰ in the floor. When the witness returned to the plantation on Saturday morning, he found everything burned down, including carts and harnesses. The witness heard that many of his laborers had participated in the destruction at other plantations, but he cannot safely say how they actually behaved at the plantation⁷¹. However, Emanuel is said to be the one who rang the bell, and on this occasion, he used a piece of rope which he must have taken from the works. On Friday, the carpenter Fritz Vallentine is to have been eager to get the carts burned, because on Friday, that which was spared on Wednesday evening by a smaller gang which came from Lower Love consisting of 20-30 people - the gang which has been mentioned frequently previously - but this little gang is to have been much more wild and gruesome than the big gang, consisting of a couple of hundred people, which burned the works and the greathouse on Wednesday⁷². According to what the witness has heard, the big gang on Wednesday was led by a Robert James - shot at the Court Martial - whom only a single man at the plantation knew, and on the whole, it was mainly people who were not known at the plantation who ravaged it. James de Silva - shot at the Court Martial - is to have been the one who first set fire to the greathouse, apparently along with Emanuel. On Friday afternoon, when the gang was under the leadership of Parris, James de Silva was also there, and according to what the horseman Richard Addam has said, Bamberg. Based on everything his laborers have told him, the witness has no doubt that both Edward Lewis and Emanuel were in Frederiksted during the fires there and that they extensively partook in the goings-on, but the witness does not know whether they, or anyone else, knew, considered or planned [*Folio 31b-32a, notice 419*] anything beforehand. He has not sensed any bad mood amongst the laborers who worked well in both August and September. Around October, the witness did lose some people, but those people got employment at other plantations, mainly at River, and the witness himself has employed several people from the 1st of October without them causing any trouble regarding the entering of the annual contracts, so the witness is completely taken aback at what has happened. In April, he sensed some dissatisfaction, but only on one occasion, when the driver told him that the laborers were working poorly at the cane

⁷⁰ The Danish text says "a Fjæl", which is an old word for "a board", presumably a "loose floorboard"?

⁷¹ Mt. Pleasant

⁷² This sentence is slightly unclear

cutting, and they talked about that come October, they would all become “porters”. The witness remarked to the driver that they would soon be sorry about having to move from plantation to plantation without a dwelling, but this could be discussed later. The witness did not give it any thought afterwards. However, he adds that for a week or so, prior to the 1st of October, a laborer came, seeking employment, and the witness asked him whether he thought that a lot of laborers would leave the island come October, and he replied that there was no way that they could leave the island if they didn’t have 5 \$, and when the witness objected that that was nonsense, because a pass only cost 32 Cts. etc., the laborer, whose name was John Burnet, said that it was true that the Police had demanded that. When the witness has nothing further to tell which can further the inquiries in the case, he stands down.

Nancy Lawrence, born at Bettys Hope but residing in Frederiksted, appears before the Commission. She states that at the moment, she is employed as a day-laborer at Pl: La Grange and that she worked there on Monday and Tuesday. She is presented with the fact that she is charged with having goods which were robbed during the fireburn night, the night between Tuesday and Wednesday in Frederiksted, hidden in her house, and that she was taken up⁷³ with burns on her arm, and that she is therefore presumed to have been active on the night in question, at the arson, but she denies the charges. She only knows that a box of starch has been found in her oven, and she doesn't know how it came to be there or where it came from. The supposed burn wounds have now healed, and she states that it was ringworm, and during the night, she had nothing to do with the fire apart from putting out the fire in Peter [*Folio 32b-33a, notice 420*] Cornelius' house, which is situated next to her own.

Police Officer J. P. Nielsen, who, at the moment, serves as an inspector-in-charge here at the Arrest, appears and states that when the detainee was sent up here from Frederiksted, she had a hidden wound on her arm, and he has no doubts that it was a burn.

Detainee led away.

The Commission’s Chairman remarks that today, the Commission has received a document from G. D. from Christiansted Police Chamber, stating that manager Foster from Pl. Monbijou has charged fisherman Joseph Simmons from Pl. Northstar with participation in the destruction at Monbijou and particularly that he broke open the lock to the allowance cellar.

The detainee appears and states that he lives with a woman at Monbijou whom he was with on Wednesday evening when the gang came to Monbijou and forced all the people who were in the negro village, including the detainee, to come out and participate in the riots. He admits that he broke off the lock to the allowance cellar, but he denies that it was (...) ⁷⁴ because he was forced to do it. The detainee cannot say who forced him in particular or who led the gang, and he remarks that he used a little walking cane /: approximately a finger’s thickness :/ which he had himself, to break the lock.

⁷³ arrested

⁷⁴ Missing or unintelligible

Based on what the detainee has admitted himself, it is declared that he is to be held in custody.

The verdict is made clear to the detainee, and he is led to his arrest.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Ph Rosenstand

C Sarauw

Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 14th of November at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. The Commission's member Bailiff Sarauw announced that due to government business in the town Frederiksted, he was unable to be present. The Commission's two other members were present.

Laurentius William⁷⁵, guardsman at Pl. Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church, was born at La Vallee and is 30 years old. He states that he was at the plantation all day Wednesday. The first he heard about the insurrection was when he got up at approximately 5 o'clock in the morning and saw that the sky towards the west was red like from a big fire. On request, he states that Emanuel had not been at home all night after he had gone to Westend [*Folio 33b-34a, notice 421*] during the day Tuesday. He came home at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, looking wild and disturbed, he was wearing a black coat, and apart from that, he had a piece of red cloth, and on his head, he had a new straw hat, and in his hand, he held a new riding whip, his eyes were red and his face was swarthy with smoke and soot, he did not speak about where he had been or what he had done; he came over Hermitage from the River area. At approximately 11 o'clock, he left the plantation again and went down country to, the witness assumes, burn it off. Since the laborers were already at work, none of them saw him, and shortly after he had left, Edward Lewis came home. Emanuel did not return home until right before Mr. Holm left the plantation, and he did not leave again until the gang arrived at the plantation at approximately 7 o'clock, and at this time, he was sitting by the pond in the yard whilst Edward Lewis was sitting in a tree where the road bends off from the country road to the works, as if waiting for the gang. As soon as the gang came in, Emanuel and Lewis left their positions to show the gang, which they joined, the way to the buildings. After De Silva /: shot :/ had broken open the cellar door and they had stolen the provisions, the gang now went with Edward Lewis and De Silva in the lead up to the greathouse which was first entered by Edward Lewis. The gang followed, and the detainee, who had gone down to the negro village, heard how everything was broken, and shortly after, he saw that the house was in flames. He does not know who first set fire to it or how it was done, but many members of the gang had kerosene cans on their heads, and the cans looked like they had just been taken from a shop. The detainee did not see how the works were burned down because he did not dare to show himself, as he had heard that the leaders had asked for him and a couple of other people who were on

⁷⁵ Elsewhere: Williams

their master's side, and he found it reasonable to assume that they really wanted to get hold of him, because he had hidden a lot of Holm's goods in the negro village, and he had Holm's suitcase hidden in his own house. During the march up to the house, Emanuel must have rung the bell, but when the gang embarked on its destruction up in the house, he caught up with them and participated. There was a horrendous din all the way through, and the continuous yell "our side"⁷⁶". The detainee assures the Committee that it was the first time he heard this battle cry. Regarding Emanuel, whom he is certain [*Folio 34b-35a, notice 422*] was one of the ringleaders throughout, he further states that a person called George Mace /: shot :/, the same person whom Emanuel has previously stated gave him the red item of cloth and a straw hat - came out to the plantation on the following Sunday morning, asking for Emanuel and Edward Lewis whom he wanted to join them on their course to Concordia, where the 3 of them, together, are to have hidden goods, which they had stolen in Westend, in a sugarcane field, but neither Emanuel nor Edward Lewis were present, because they had hidden themselves in the hills, from where Edward Lewis was picked up⁷⁷ as the first on the 15th of October, whilst Emanuel handed himself in to the ploughman Timoth Adam a few days later, and he sent for him, because he did not dare come down to the plantation, fearing that the other laborers would abuse him because of all the misfortune he had brought upon them. On Wednesday evening, the detainee was at no time tempted to join the riot-gang, and he did what he could to keep Mr. Holm's things secret and salvage them. There was nothing he could do for the plantation itself. The following day - Thursday - however, he was part of a gang himself. He had spent all night calmly in the negro village, but not in his own house, where he did not dare stay because he had hidden Mr. Holm's things there. On Thursday morning, at approximately 10 o'clock, Fritz Richardson came to him in his house and asked for the driver, who shortly beforehand had been with the detainee, but since the driver was not there, he asked the detainee if he was "our side"⁷⁸", and the detainee, who did not dare answer anything else, replied "our side"⁷⁹". Fritz, who was armed with a saber, then drove the detainee out into the yard, where a great number of people, most of the plantation's laborers, were gathered. The only men whom the detainee believes were not there were Timoth Adam /: ploughman :/ Thomas Charles /: black overseer :/ Martin Simmons /: driver :/ Francis and Barry /: carpenters :/ and Edward England who had just moved to the plantation on the 1st of October. Fritz had tried to use force with some of them. He even hit Joseph Francis, and others had gone into hiding. Most of the plantation's women, at least all the younger ones, were also there, it was only the elderly and, as the detainee says, the respectable women, who had been left alone. When Fritz, Emanuel and Lewis had thus gathered the laborers, they placed themselves in [*Folio 35b-36a, notice 423*] their lead and marched to Hermitage. Fritz gave the detainee a conch, but the detainee declared that he did not know how to blow it, and then Fritz gave it to Mingo, who, like the detainee, was forced to go along. At Hermitage, this plantation's laborers joined them. The gang then first burned this plantation's house and then Little Fountain's house, Lebanonhill and Canaan, and then they walked over the hills where the detainee, who, along with John Lewis, had tried to escape directly after the goings-on at Hermitage but had been stopped by Fritz Richardson, deserted and went back to Mt Pleasant, where he arrived a bit before 6 o'clock in the afternoon, whilst the gang, as far as he knows,

⁷⁶ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁷⁷ arrested

⁷⁸ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁷⁹ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

continued onwards and burned down La Vallee and Rust up Twist. The detainee vehemently maintains that he did not himself participate in starting any fires, and likewise, he did not rob or steal anything at all. For some of the way, he had a little bell in his hand which he rang, and he states that one had to do something, otherwise one would be beaten by Fritz or one of the other leaders. During further interrogation about how things went about on such a large expedition, the detainee explains that as soon as they were drummed out of the negro village, the people received a drink which was a mixture of rum and gunpowder. It was mixed in the ordinary red tin-gunpowder bottles, and one drank from the bottle. At the plantations, when the rum cellars were broken open, an amount of rum was drunk, but no one ate anything all day. However, they threw themselves at water, when they came across it, in ditches or water troughs, because they were thirsty all the time such as “they were sweating and harassing themselves⁸⁰”. Wherever they came, they tended to hoard as much flour⁸¹, herrings and saltfish as they could carry in scarves and bundles, and whilst they broke furniture and larger items, they stole clothing, glass and porcelain. Silverware and such valuables the detainee did not see anywhere⁸²; it was mainly the women who stole or at least took care of the stolen goods which they either ran back with, immediately, or which they, more commonly, hid in sugarcane fields and grass meadows until they could collect it on the way back. In that manner, a lot of robbed goods were led from Lebanonhill to Mt Pleasant, but as far as the detainee knows, it was handed over after the encouragement to hand in stolen goods had been declared. [*Folio 36b-37a, notice 424*] From the hills, where he still was, the detainee saw that the big steamship /: “Arno” which sailed from Christiansted to Frederiksted on Thursday afternoon, passed Rust up Twist and put the gang to flight because they were afraid that it would “send something” in amongst them. Regarding the manager’s charges against him, that he was supposedly at Monbijou on Wednesday evening, he declares that this was most certainly not the case. The detainee does not know where Emanuel was during the night between Wednesday and Thursday, he did not see him until Thursday morning when he had a new, long butcher’s knife in his hand, which he must have stolen down in the Westend, and later, as stated, he was the leader of the gang.

Regarding what occurred on Friday, he states that as early as on Friday morning, two people from River, Henry Samuel and Thomas Allen, were at the plantation. The detainee saw them, but he did not himself hear what they wanted, but other people have told him that they came to fetch Mt Pleasant /: Colq /: laborers to go down to River, where the manager’s dwelling and the hospital had still not been burned, which they complained about. Later in the day, around noon, a gang came from Jealousy and L. Love, led by Parris along with Joshua Collingmoore⁸³ and a tall, thin guy from L. Love whose name the detainee does not know. This gang, whose size the detainee estimates to be approximately that of 5 plantations’ laborers, was very wild and determined to cause destruction. In a short time, they burned everything which had been spared on Wednesday: the manager’s dwelling, the stable and all the outhouses along with the carts. The

⁸⁰ In the Danish text, the words “they were sweating and harassing themselves” are written in English

⁸¹ The Danish text says “Meel” (flour) - presumably cornflour

⁸² It is difficult to work out how this sentence is to be understood in the Danish transcription, which says: “... hvor de kom bjergede de sig gerne saameget Meel, Sild og Saltfisk, som det i Tørklæder og Byldter kunde føre med sig, og medens det sloge Møbler og større Ting i stykker, stjal de gjerne Klædningsstykker, Glas og Porselain, Sølvtoi og slige Værdisaager saa saae Arrestanten ingen Steder noget til”. However, if a period is inserted after “Porselain” (Porcelain), it makes sense.

⁸³ Elsewhere: Collingmoor

plantation's laborers joined the gang during the destruction, except respectable people, as previously mentioned - the detainee himself did not participate. The detainee does not know which individuals started fires, because he had gone into hiding in the grass field. The gang went from Mt Pleasant over Hermitage to River, but the detainee did not follow it. He adds that on that day, the gang wanted to burn the negro village, and that particularly William Henry swore that it was to be burned, but Joshua Collingmoore intervened and hindered it. On that day, the detainee did not hear the gang threaten to go to town, but on Wednesday evening, the Orange Grove man - Robert James, shot - yelled that they would not rest before they had burned down the town.

Detainee William Heinz from Lower Love, who has appeared before, is presented to the detainee, and the detainee declares that he is the man whom he has described as the long, thin guy from Lower Love. William Henry admits that he was part of the gang and that he was armed with a saber, but he denies that he intended to burn down the negro village.

Joshua Collingmoore appears and confirms the detainee Laurentius' statement regarding William Henry, who then states that he does not remember having issued such an order regarding the negro village.

The detainees are led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30.

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on the 15th of November, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had announced that due to government business in the town Frederiksted, he was unable to attend. The Commission's two other members were present.

Thomas Pelgrime⁸⁴ from Pl. Mt Pleasant/: Colq :/ appears and states that on Wednesday evening, when the gang entered Mt Pleasant's yard, he was up by the greathouse, so he does not know the details as to what went on in the yard, he particularly does not know who rang the bell. He was standing next to guardsman Laurentius, but unlike him, he did not see who was the first to break into the greathouse after first having broken Mr. Holm's Phaeton⁸⁵. Most of the people who came to the Pl. that evening were strangers, so the detainee does not know what any individual person did; he did not partake in the destruction himself. The next day, when the plantation's own laborers went on an expedition in their own gang, he went into hiding, so he

⁸⁴ Elsewhere: Pilgrime

⁸⁵ Phaeton: a light four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle

was not part of it, and as such, he did not take part in pushing the carts into the fire at Hermitage, of which he is charged.

Laurentius, who appeared yesterday, appears again, and he states that Thomas Pilgrime, as well as the others, were part of the Thursday gang, as he explained yesterday. Emanuel, Edward Lewis and Frits⁸⁶ Richardson, the 3 leaders of the gang who all appear, all decidedly state that he was also part of the gang, which he [*Folio 38b-39a, notice 426*] continues to deny, stating that William Watts /: Scotty :/ from Monbijou can testify that he was not in the gang.

Scotty. Then, William Watts from Pl. Monbijou, appears and states that he came across Mt Pleasant's gang when it came over to Fountain after having been at Hermitage, and that he joined it himself and that Thomas Pilgrime was in it.

James William from Pl. Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears. He states that he was not part of the Thursday gang from Mt Pleasant except for a short while after it had gone out and particularly after it had burned Hermitage, at which time he, along with Thomas Pilgrime, was forced to follow it. The other above-mentioned detainees from Mt Pleasant accuse him just as decidedly of having been part of the gang from the outset, as soon as it was gathered at Mt Pleasant. James William states that it was John Lewis who actually had the gunpowder-bottle with rum and that he - James - gave it to Laurentius to drink, but he says that it did not contain gunpowder, and that John Lewis had had the bottle for a long time.

Emanuel is presented with the fact that he is charged with having rung the bell at Pl Mt Pleasant on Wednesday evening, but he then accuses Edward Lewis of being the one who rang the bell, and the Commission remarks that these two detainees keep blaming each other. Emanuel explains that until he heard the gang approaching Mt Pleasant with blowing conches, he was in the negro village, and then he went to sit by the pond where he was when the gang came marching up. Edward Lewis had gone to greet them and he led them, along with the to them unknown leaders Joshua Collingmoore and Robert Tayson.

All detainees led away.

Manager James Foster from Pl. Monbijou appears before the Commission. Regarding his charges against some of the laborers from Mt Pleasant who partook in the arson there as early as on Wednesday evening, he states that he cannot tell the Commission about what he has seen himself, because at the time, he was not at the plantation, which he left at approximately 12:30 on Wednesday afternoon as arson was being committed further down in the country. He received the first information that something was amiss on the island on Tuesday evening at around 9 o'clock from manager Ramsay [*Folio 39b-40a, notice 427*] from Pl. Punch, who received a letter from the Police Chief in Frederiksted to the President, which was to be distributed. In the note from Ramsay to the witness, it said that there was trouble in Frederiksted and that the negroes had beaten the Police. The witness immediately sent the letter forward with a man called Aaron, ordering Aaron to ride to the Fort. However, as is known, he did not reach it until

⁸⁶ Elsewhere: Fritz

around 1 o'clock. Since the witness thus knew that there was rebellion in the country, he kept an eye on his laborers on Wednesday morning, but they started work as usual, and none of them were missing, and they worked all morning until 12 o'clock, and the witness did not hear any other comments in the field except from the common exclamations, that there were violent fires out in the country etc., and nothing indicated that they had been prepared for anything. At Bethlehem, however, whereto the detainee rode in the morning, after having set his laborers to work, there was no one there to work. The witness has not since heard anything amongst his laborers, through conversations or words, which could indicate that they knew anything beforehand. Witness stands down.

William Watt⁸⁷, called Scotty, from plantation Monbijou, appears, and on request, he states that on Wednesday evening, he did not see any of Mt Pleasant's laborers at Monbijou. Joshua Collingmoore who led that gang along with De Silva and the man from Orange Grove /: Robert James :/, was on horseback, and the detainee himself saw that he changed horses at Monbijou so that, instead of the horse he was riding, he took one which belonged to manager Hewitt from L. Bethlehem. The gang was not at Monbijou for a long time because it wanted to continue. Particularly Joshua Collingmoor yelled that they should all finish off⁸⁸ and destroy things quickly, because they had to continue to Fredensborg and further onwards. They wanted to see if they could reach the town /: Christiansted :/ between 2 and 3 on the same night. The detainee himself did not participate in the destruction at Monbijou and did not follow. The gang continued its course as intended. The detainee does not know the details about its progression, but he knows from Johannes Sylvester, who was with the gang all the way, that they were split up on the next day at Annashope. Sylvester did not return home [*Folio 40b-41a, notice 428*] to Monbijou until Saturday morning, but the detainee does not know where he was on Thursday afternoon and all the day Friday. On Thursday, the detainee followed Mt Pleasant's gang on its route over the Northside, but he did not take part in any arson.

Johannes Sylvester from the plantation Monbijou appears, about whom detainee Scotty declares that he is who he meant. He is certain that Sylvester came with the gang to Monbijou, and he is certain that he partook in the riots all the way from Frederiksted, because he left Monbijou on Thursday morning, right after he had received his allowance.

Sylvester maintains, as he has done continually, right from when he first appeared in the Court Martial, that he is innocent.

William Watt further states that on Wednesday evening, when the gang came to Monbijou, the laborers were at home at the plantation. He does not know more than that Charles Aron came with the gang from Mt Pleasant, but he does not know how far Aron went to greet them. When asked whether John Jacob Sylvester, who is charged with having answered the gang's signal by blowing the conch himself, did indeed do it, he says that John Jacob was standing with the others at the pond, but the detainee did not see or hear him blow the conch. Also, he states that Aaron

⁸⁷ Elsewhere: Watts

⁸⁸ Here, the Danish transcription adds the word "bedende" (begging/pleading), which does not make sense in the context. Perhaps the Danish word should be the archaic "be-ende" (to end/finish up): which is how it is used in this translation.

was the first to set fire to the magass house, and he was also the one who broke open the rum cellar.

Charles Aaron from the plantation Monbijou appears. He says that he was riding down the Lebanon Hill road towards Christiansted with the letter which he was to deliver. He was afraid of riding in the dark, and perhaps that is why the horse walked really slowly. Regarding what is said against him, the charge that he set fire to the magass house, now strengthened by Scotty's testimony, he declares that the gang forced him to do it.

Detainees led away.

It has been declared to the detainees that since it is not possible to go through the charges against each of them right away, they can apply to appear before [*Folio 41b-42a notice 429*] the Commission with what they have to state. On that basis, one of the detainees, Edward Petersen from Pl. Diamond & Ruby has applied to appear and states that he did indeed follow the gang from Diamond & Ruby over to C. Coakly and halfway to Peters Rest, but that he did nothing evil. He has been summoned and now appears.

William Harper, driver at Peters Rest, who is the person who has accused the above-mentioned Edward Petersen, appears. He states that he did not himself see Edward Petersen in any gang, but that the laborers told him about it, but they have not told him whether he did anything bad.

Detainee Edward Petersen appears and then states that he was forced to go to Castle Coakly. In that regard, as Richard Lewis has stated / the 7th of Novbr. of this year :/ that he prevented Francis Lennard /: later shot :/ from cutting Richard Lewis' throat, he states that it is not true; the only thing he did to Richard Lewis was to stop him from ringing the bell, which he was doing when the detainee came into the yard.

After what has emerged, the Commission finds that Edward Petersen can be released, and he is then released. Edward Petersen is released 15/11 '78⁸⁹.

The driver William Harper then states, on various requests, that when he heard the gang yell that they wanted to kill him, he had to hide in the negro village. He particularly heard Arnold from Upper Love yell that he needed 7 men to bring him the driver, and Aaron Martin yelled that if he got hold of him, he would kill him and throw him into the fire. Overall, this little Arnold acted like the "Captain". However, he (...) ⁹⁰ came out when they started to destroy the greathouse, but they all began to threaten him and jostle him, so he took advantage of an unguarded moment and slipped away from them, and he ran into a sugarcane field. He says that in this area of the country, they either forced the drivers or other keepers at the plantations to yell "our side"⁹¹ and follow them, or else the drivers and keepers had to run away and hide. Particularly questioned, he says that he really believes that Richard Lewis was forced to ring the bell at Castle Coakly; also,

⁸⁹ The last sentence is added later

⁹⁰ Missing or unintelligible

⁹¹ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

he believes [*Folio 42b-43a, notice 430*] that the previously mentioned fisherman from Peters Rest was forced to follow along to Work & Rest. He states that before the 1st of October, or before he heard about the unrest down in the country, he had not heard the slightest about any movement amongst the laborers, and afterwards, he has not heard anything that can explain it. He also adds that when, as an answer to the mentioned request, he said that he did not consider the gang which came from C. Coakly and moved towards Peters Rest to be worse than that he, along with the people who were standing and looking at it, could chase it away when it came, which he also encouraged them to do, but no one listened to him. William Harper stands down.

Regarding what has emerged so far, particularly regarding Parris, who has been considered the ringleader right from Frederiksted, it is unclear whether he was in the lead of the gang when it was at Mt Pleasant and Monbijou on Wednesday evening. Also, it is unclear whether there was one or more gangs of arsonists at the time, and various detainees are questioned, and Joshua Collingmoore who, according to himself, was at both Mt Pleasant and Monbijou, though not as a leader, states that he did not see Parris there, but that Robert James was the leader. Poor Boy⁹² from Monbijou and Arnold from U. Love say that Parris was at Monbijou and was responsible for leading the gang from there to Fredensborg and Slob, and he was still there when the section of the gang which Arnold /: according to his⁹³ previous testimony :/ heard, continued to Barrenspot, skipping Cliftonhill. Arnold then assumes that Parris led a gang whose intention it was to burn Cliftonhill, and that from there, he went down into the country. According to what has been established, he did not lead a gang from Castle over to Goldengrove the next morning, and he was not part of the gang which was dispersed at Annashope. Finally, at Fredensborg and Slob, the biggest gang, according to Poor Boy and Arnold, was assembled, but they do not know whether it was bigger earlier in the day and when it was further into the country, but according to Arnold, it was much bigger at Fredensborg than it had been when he joined it at Upper Love, because it had [*Folio 43b-44a, notice 431*] taken in people from the intervening plantations. Arnold believes that at Fredensborg, it consisted of 400-500 men, and Collingmoore says that when the front of the gang had reached Mt Pleasant's greathouse, the back was still on the main country road at what he calls L. Bethl.'s boundaries.

The detainees who have appeared to give testimony on this point are led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 16th of November at noon at 12 o'clock, Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand convened an interrogation session at St Croix Arrest.

⁹² William Holder

⁹³ Arnold's

The Commission's other two members, Bailiff Sarauw and Police Chief Forsberg, were unable to attend due to business in the town Frederiksted.

Present witnesses were the Police Principal Dendtler, keeper of the Register, and Police Officer J. P. Nielsen.

Charles Smith, guardsman at Pl. Monbijou has been summoned and appears. He states that he is 39 years old, was born on Barbados and belongs to the English Church. It is made clear to him that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. On request, he states that it was Laurentius William from Mt Pleasant who burned down the works and all the other buildings at Monbijou on Wednesday, and it was he whom the witness met in the cellar in the manager's dwelling. Laurentius was standing there by a barrel of sea-biscuits which he was distributing, asking if everyone had got some. The witness also saw the detainee down by the rum cellar, but the witness does not know whether he also did something there, because he was standing at a distance. He is also certain that he saw Maria Emanuel there, and she was very eager, continuously yelling "our side"⁹⁴, and he also saw Emanuel there. However, he cannot say that he saw Francis Lucas on that evening, but the next day, he was in the gang from Mt Pleasant.

Then, Mathew⁹⁵ Libert, a laborer from Monbijou, appears. He was born on Nevis and states that he is 35 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church. On request, he states that he is [*Folio 44b-45a, notice 432*] certain that he saw Maria Emanuel in the gang which destroyed Monbijou on Wednesday, and he also saw Frank Lucas and a person whom he calls Florck⁹⁶ James or Mulatto James; however, he did not see Laurentius, whom he knows well.

The detainees Laurentius, Frank Lucas and Maria Emanuel are gradually and individually presented to the witnesses who recognize the persons about whom they have testified. The witness also recognizes Matthew⁹⁷ Libert in detainee William James from Mt Pleasant, who appears, as the person whom he has called Flute James or Mulatto James⁹⁸.

As they appear, all the detainees deny the witnesses' testimonies regarding their being at Monbijou on Wednesday evening, and they claim that no laborers from Mt Pleasant joined the gang when it went towards Monbijou. The 4 detainees are then led away after the testimonies given by the witnesses have been presented to them again and are affirmed by them.

During various interrogations regarding the laborers at Monbijou, both witnesses state, regarding detainee Johannes Sylvester, who came to the plantation on the 1st of October, that they did not see anything of him in particular, if anything at all, until on Saturday morning the 5th, when he came home. Both witnesses were sitting on a cart in the yard along with a third and perhaps a fourth man, and when the witness Charles Smith expressed that he was surprised to see him because he thought that he had been shot, he told them something of what he had experienced;

⁹⁴ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁹⁵ Elsewhere: Matthew

⁹⁶ Elsewhere: Flute James

⁹⁷ Elsewhere: Matthew

⁹⁸ This sentence is unclear. The Danish transcription says: "... A. William James fra Mt Pleasant der blev fremstillet den af han som Floite James eller Mulatte James betegnede Person".

he had, he said, been shot at Annashope, when the soldiers arrived and fired at them, just as they were in the middle of looting the provision cellar. He also said that when he was at Work & Rest, he had had a good drink of “Kammerjunker”, Hvid’s black rum, and that at C. Coakly, he had taken part in killing a young man whom the witness Smith calls the young Flemming /: the aforementioned Wilhelm Paulsen? :/, and that they would have thrown the boy into the fire.

Detainee Johannes Sylvester appears. He is presented with what the two witnesses have stated regarding his person, and he admits to what he told them on the Saturday in question, such as they have stated, and he declares that what he told them was actually [*Folio 45b-46a, notice 433*] the case, and that he partook in the destruction of the 3 mentioned plantations. After he had moved from Fredensborg to Monbijou on Tuesday and had received his allowance, he went to Marys Fancy where he has his woman. On Wednesday, he planted sweet potatoes on his provision ground, and then he walked to Monbijou, and on the way, a smith at Glynn’s Station showed him that there was fire in the country, and when he arrived at Monbijou, he was told that during the night, the manager had received a letter from Westend saying that there was a fireburn there, and that he had sent a message to Christiansted. The detainee went back to Marys Fancy, and from there, he saw the big fires down country, first at St Georges’ works, and then, later, Grove Place, Upper Love, River and Fountain etc. He also saw Monbijou burn from there. During the night, he stayed at Marys Fancy, and this he maintains despite being presented with what was noted at the Court Martial interrogation about him being at Fredensborg and Slob. On Thursday morning, the driver at Marys Fancy opened both the allowance cellar and the rum cellar, and he distributed flour and herrings and also rum, saying that it was probably best to distribute it before “the strangers⁹⁹” came and took it. The detainee himself did not receive anything, but he saw several people receive as much flour and even rum as a bucket or a “landpan” /: a tin can which contains approximately 25 (...) fat fixed¹⁰⁰ :/. The detainee got a good drink of rum from the laborers, and then he took his cane and walked down the plateau on which Marys Fancy is situated, so that he came across the murder-arson-gang¹⁰¹ in C. Coakly’s yard, and when he arrived, the works were on fire. The detainee joined the gang and was also present when Wilhelm Paulsen, who, as has previously been mentioned in the interrogation, was abused, and the detainee believes that it was instigated by Christian Newton /: shot :/, who yelled that Wilhelm had to be killed because on the previous day, he had carried a gun in town, meaning that he was one of the volunteers who guarded the town. The detainee did not himself participate in starting the fire, but at Peters Rest, he participated in breaking windows and doors in the greathouse. When he arrived at Work & Rest with the gang, Work & Rest’s own laborers were already romping in the greathouse, hammering away at the fortepiano. The detainee also entered the house and [*Folio 46b-47a, notice 434*] along with several others, he got hold of a demijohn of old rum, which they drank. The fire in the greathouse was lit in the hall, where chairs and shutters and other ignitable items formed a great big bonfire which was lit by Marshall and Newton. A good deal of things were taken out of the house but especially, though not entirely, by Work & Rest’s own laborers, and the detainee does not know whether they stole it or salvaged it for Mr. Hvid. The detainee does not know what went on at the other greathouse, on

⁹⁹ In the Danish text, the words “the strangers” are written in English

¹⁰⁰ Unclear

¹⁰¹ The Danish text says exactly this: “Mordbrænderbanden” (the murder-arson-gang)

the other side of the yard. The detainee was part of the gang when it was shot at, at Annashope. Then, the detainee lost courage and returned to Marys Fancy, and did not participate further. After having given this testimony, he believes that he has admitted everything, and he claims that William Watt makes him angry when he says that he was at Monbijou and tries to say that he followed the gang all the way from Frederiksted. Regarding the flag which, it is said, the detainee had with him and which the men from Monbijou have said that they think it had nothing to do with him, but, the brother John Jacob Sylvester, whose house the detainee moved into on the 1st of October, adds¹⁰² - the detainee states that it belongs to the brother and that he had never seen it before he was arrested and it was pulled out. Detainee led away.

Police Officer J. P. Nielsen stands down and Police Officer P. Jensen takes his place as a witness.

Detainee John Jacob Sylvester from Pl. Monbijou appears. On request, he states that regarding the flag in question, it belongs to his sister, and it was in his house, and that his brother Johannes did not take it with him. Also, he states, regarding Johannes Sylvester, that he himself has told him that he was present at the arsons at Fredensborg and Slob. Regarding the charges against the detainee himself, that he blew the conch and that he stole saltfish from the cellar, he states that a person from Jealousy, he thinks Collingmoore, hit him with a cane to get him to blow, and then he did indeed blow, but only a bit. Some saltfish were found in his house, but it was a little girl, whom he has in his house, who brought them there.

Commissarius remarks that Charles Smith and Mathew Libert, whom he has questioned regarding the detainee, have declared that they did not see him being active in any destruction, and that he had indeed been seen blowing a conch, but only for a short while, and apart from that, they know nothing about him.

Based on the emerging circumstances and the fact that the detainee comes across as being somewhat infirm, it is found that he can be released at least for the time being, and he is then released. John Jacob Sylvester released on the 16th of November '78¹⁰³.

Johannes Sylvester, who appears again, declares that he has not told his brother that he was present at the fires at Fredensborg and Slob. Detainee led away.

Detainee John Hodge appears, about whom it is informed, through the interrogations obtained in Frederiksted's Police Court /: 18th of October :/, that he was out and that he participated in the riots in Frederiksted on the 1st of October.

At the same time, detainee Emanuel from Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears. Both detainees declare that they did not see each other in Frederiksted on the afternoon in question. Detainees led away.

Session adjourned at 16:30

¹⁰² This sentence is slightly unclear

¹⁰³ The last sentence has been added

In 1878, on Monday the 18th of November, in the morning at 11:30, the Commission's members Bailiff Sarauw and Police Chief Forsberg held a session to obtain interrogation. Due to business in Christiansted, Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand is unable to attend.

Thomas Contigator from Anguilla appears and states that he was born at Anguilla. He is estimated to be 25 years old and belongs to the English Church. Shortly before the riots, he was a guardsman at the pl., and when he patrolled up by the works on Thursday morning, he saw that they were on fire, and before he even reached the greathouse, the big gang which was led by Parris came up towards the greathouse, and they broke it open, and those members of the gang who entered the building started to destroy furniture, shutters etc., and shortly after, the detainee saw that the building was on fire, but he does not know who did it. Regarding the fact that the detainee, in a police report in Christiansted, has apparently admitted what the witness Elizabeth Daily has testified, namely that after the gang had left the greathouse after the fire, he called it back and pointed to the place where planter Caulter, who was absent, had hidden his things, which were thereafter brought out and destroyed, he now denies having admitted to it. The detainee was present when the greathouse at Anguilla was destroyed, but it was against his will, and he did not participate in either the arson or the plunder. The detainee was not present at any other destruction than that at Anguilla. Led away. [*Folio 48b-49a, notice 436*]

Detainee Margreth Heyns from Plantation Slob appears. She was born at Anguilla and belongs to the Moravian Church. She states that on Thursday afternoon, at approximately 2 o'clock, she went from Slob to Anguilla on an errand, and at the burial ground at Anguilla, she came across a gang which came from Manningsbay and which after a short stop opened the greathouse or found it open, whereafter the furniture in the house was destroyed. The detainee sneaked away, and when she was at some distance, she looked back, and she saw that the greathouse was on fire. She does not know whether the works had already burned or whether they were destroyed later, because from Anguilla, she went straight home to plantation Slob. She denies having participated in arson or any other destruction at either Anguilla or anywhere else. Detainee led away.

John Samuel from Anguilla appears. He was born on Antigua and belongs to the congregation of the English Church. He states that on Thursday afternoon, he was present shortly before the greathouse at the plantation Anguilla was set on fire, and he saw Margreth Heyns from plantation Slob standing on the steps which led up to the house, quarreling with a woman called Frances¹⁰⁴ Ann about the possession of a piece of coarse linen which had been ripped off an easy chair. She was loud and seemed to be very passionate.

¹⁰⁴ Elsewhere: Frances or Frances

Thomas James from Anguilla appears, born at Pl. Spanishtown, belonging to the congregation of the Moravian Church. He states that on Thursday afternoon, he was present at the greathouse shortly before it burned. He saw Margreth Heyns from Pl. Slob in a dispute with Francis Ann from Anguilla over a piece of linen which had been ripped off an easy chair. Margreth yelled to all the surrounding people that “the house has to be burned, for Mr. Coulter is one of those who opposed that the laborers get their price.” The detainee does not know whether these words were addressed to any particular person or whether they were a reply to what had been said to Margreth, but he just says that shortly before Margreth uttered the aforementioned words, some of the plantation’s laborers - here amongst the detainee - had objected to the burning of the house, as Mr. Coulter was absent. The detainee believes that the gang’s leader, Parris, heard the objection, because at the same time, he threatened to use his gun towards the detainee and other laborers from the plantation who were present. Neither the detainee nor the present John Samuel can testify as to who started the fire. The detainee adds to his testimony that he interpreted Margreth¹⁰⁵’s strife with Frances Ann such that the latter wanted possession of the linen for the [Folio 49b-50a, notice 437] benefit of the owner, whilst Margreth wanted to steal it and take it for herself. John Samuel agrees to the truth of this last remark.

Margreth Heyns appears and admits the truth of what John Samuel and Thomas James have testified as much as that she was on the stairs and that she had picked up a piece of linen which was fastened to an easy chair, but she denies having done anything regarding the arson or the destruction of Mr. Coulter’s possessions. She denies having said that it was important to burn down Mr. Coulter’s house etc.

Detainees led away.

It is remarked that the Commission, according to a document from Christiansted Police Chamber, dated the 16th of this month, has received the following detainees:

1. Joseph Briggs from Pl. Fredensborg, who is accused of having started fires and participated in plundering several places during the unrest.
2. Christian Benjamin from Pl. Rattan, who is accused of having participated in the plunder of Negrobay.
3. Clara Thomas, who is not in employment. She is accused of having set fire to the mill at Pl. Diamond & Ruby and having been helpful in the arson at Peters Rest.
4. Lewis Benjamin from Pl. Sionfarm, who is accused of arson at Pl. Peters Rest.
5. Henry Smith Dixon from Pl. Sionhill, who is accused of having been active in arson and plunder.
6. Mary Elizabeth Sauvernir alias Nimey from Pl. Slob, who is accused of having been active in the arson at Anguilla.
7. William Thomas alias Harper from Pl. Upper Love, who is accused of complicity during the unrest etc.
8. Joseph Riis and

¹⁰⁵ Elsewhere: Margreth

9. Susanne Riis, both from Pl. Sion Hill, accused of having housed, kept and entertained detainee no. 3, even though they must have known that she had been active in the riots.

They all appear before the Commission and are presented with the charges against them. Except for no. 5, 6 and 9, they agree to the truth of the accusations to a smaller or greater degree, whereas no 5, 6 and 9 deny their guilt.

After what has emerged regarding the 6 detainees and due to the circumstances of the case and the circumstances on this island which demand the implementation of greater caution, it is decided that it is necessary to secure the presence of the mentioned persons, no. 5, 6 and 9, until the details of the charges against them are more closely disclosed, the Commission declares that the mentioned 9 detainees are to be placed [*Folio 50b-51a, notice 438*] in custody.

The arrest verdict is made clear to all the detainees thereafter they are led to their arrest.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 4 o'clock

C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Tuesday the 19th of November, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All the Commission's members were present.

Detainee Thomas Manderson from Pl. Castle appears before the Commission. He is charged with having participated in the arson at Golden Grove and Negrobay on Thursday the 3rd of October. On this account, he is interrogated regarding the origin of the gang which on the Thursday in mention ravaged that area of the country and how it proceeded. He states that he, who was not out at all on Wednesday, was also at home at Castle during the night between Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesday evening, he helped to extinguish the fire in the works which did not burn down that night even though they were set on fire. He declares that it was Parris - which, due to Parris' status as ringleader of the arsons is noted as an oddity - who gave the order to put out the fire after his gang had left Castle. On Thursday morning at 8-9 o'clock, Parris, who had not stayed at the Pl. during the night, came to the plantation with a man from Upper Love (burned¹⁰⁶), John Codday /: probably shot :/ in the lead of approximately 30 people, amongst whom the detainee did not get to recognize anyone, because he was trying to stay in hiding, particularly when he heard Parris call his name. Many of Castle's laborers joined them, and the gang walked straight over the road to G. Grove. The detainee was therefore not part of it. However, shortly after, a small mob of people, only 6-8 people, whom the detainee met at the large bridge behind Castle, took him with them to the gang which had gone ahead. The detainee did not know any of them because they were from a different part of the country. They didn't

¹⁰⁶ added

exactly beat him, but they pushed him in front of them, marching and yelling “our side”¹⁰⁷. This small mob reached the gang first, after it had burned down G. Grove and had reached Negrobay, where they were in the process of burning and had already more or less burned down the big greathouse. The detainee followed the gang to Envy and Manningsbay, where he defected. He did not participate in any arson, and he did not play any active role in the gang at all. The people he was with took a cane from one of the women which they met on the way [*Folio 51b-52a, notice 439*]. She was carrying robbed goods from pl. Golden Grove, and they gave the cane to him because he could not be unarmed. Castle’s driver’s wife separated from the gang - she had gone along to look for her son who had been taken along with the gang at Manningsbay. The detainee says that he took the opportunity to get away under the pretense of going into the negro village to call out the Manningsbay laborers and get them on their feet. If he was with the gang, no one would let him get away. Even though the gang was small when it left Castle, it had grown big when the detainee came across it at Negrobay, especially because laborers from L. Bethl and of course Goldengrove had joined it. Amongst others in the gang, the detainee saw Thomas Small and the 3 sisters Gwynn, who are all arrested, charged with participation. Thomas Small had a saber in his hand and he tried to keep people together. The detainee also mentions Bamberg, who is mentioned previously, who was in the lead with Parris and Codday. The detainee also saw the previously mentioned John Charles from Lower Love in the gang, but he did not see him being particularly active apart from at Negrobay, where he was busy with a mackerel. He did, however, see that at Envy, Parris convinced him to set fire to the house in which butcher Harrigan lived, so that the gang left Envy without really doing anything, and the house was not burned down until later, by the gang which came up from Bettys Hope, and at that time, Parris was in the lead of the gang at Manningsbay, so, according to what the detainee knows, he cannot have been the leader at Bettys Hope, such as detainee William Jones has stated in Frederiksted City Court :/ Interrogation of the 15th of October :/. The detainee does not know whether the gang which came from Bettys Hope later merged with Parris’ gang.

Detainees Augustus Jeffers¹⁰⁸ and Bastian from Pl. G. Grove and Thomas Small from Castle appear. They all agree that detainee Manderson was at Goldengrove, and Thomas Small states that he - Small - and Manderson immediately followed Parris and Augustus George from Castle.

Detainee Smalls states that he was at Castle when Parris came up with a gang from Lower Love. The detainee states that despite Castle and L. Love being neighboring plantations, he did not know anyone else in the gang apart from Parris, and he does not know any of the laborers from L. Love except the guardsman. Detainees Augustus and Bastian state [*Folio 52b-53a, notice 440*] that they followed the gang to Manningbay and no further. Detainees led away.

Following the previous detainees, John Charles from L. Love appears. During most of the day Thursday, he followed Parris’ gang. He states that it was John Codday who came in and fetched Parris. The detainee did not immediately follow Parris and Codday to Castle, but since Parris, before he left, had threatened that he would return “to give a light¹⁰⁹” to the laborers at L. Love

¹⁰⁷ In the Danish text, the words ”our side” are written in English

¹⁰⁸ Elsewhere: Jeffrey

¹⁰⁹ In the Danish text, the words “give a light” are written in English

because they held back in following along and kept a great deal of planter Farrelly's things hidden in the negro village, the detainee found that it was advisable to follow, and he went over and met the gang at Goldengrove, from where he followed the gang on its previously described route, but he maintains that he did not himself set fire to anything, just as he, at Envy and at several other places, tried to hinder the destruction. Thus, he also intervened when they tried to force the driver Edward Ritten to participate in the arson of the works at Manningsbay, and he forced a saber away from Mons from Castle when he tried to attack the driver, whom, he believes, nevertheless received several beatings before he got away. In any case, the brawl with the driver ended with that Parris' gang did not set fire to the rum cellar which he assumes that they would have set fire to. Just as Parris' troupe came down from Manningsbay, another troupe reached this plantation, but it was not yet the gang which came from Bettys Hope. Therefore, the detainee calls it "The Middletroup"¹¹⁰. Now, it is not possible for the detainee to find out who was in the lead of this gang. This troupe joined Parris' troupe, and they stopped at the bridge, east of Manningsbay. They stayed there for a while until the larger gang which they had seen from Manningsbay, coming up from Bettys Hope, and which, in the meantime, had burned Envy, reached them. The detainee mentions that William Jones from Upper Love was the leader of this gang. Gang at Manningsbay¹¹¹, where, at the time, only the magass stacks were on fire, and at Negrobay, according to the detainee, there was such confusion that it is not possible for him to say who was more or less active. Parris and Codday were indeed the Captains, but when they reached a plantation, all the negroes rushed in from different places, and within moments, there were fires all over. At Manningsbay greathouse, for example, he met a man, Joe Cummings from Negrobay, who was busy starting fires, [*Folio 53b-54a, notice 441*] but he does not think that he was worse than anyone else. When the gang which came from Bettys-Hope, which some of the members of Parris' gang and "the Middletroup" joined, Manningsbay's works did not stand for long, because they immediately went in and finished what had been spared. The gangs that merged at Manningsbay went on towards Anguilla, united in a big gang, and from there on, they continued as explained previously by William Barnes, amongst others. The detainee believes that John Codday, about whom the Commission has previously remarked that he was probably shot, was burned to death at Negrobay greathouse. He saw him on the top floor of the house when it was on fire, but the detainee does not know whether he burned to death or whether he got out somehow. He cannot say anything in particular about the gang at Anguilla, and he cannot point out anyone who was particularly prominent. On a particular request in that regard, he remembers having seen two women at Slob, Margreth Heyns and Naomy Sauvernir, who appeared yesterday, rustle about between the magass stacks. As previously stated, the detainee followed the gang to L Bethlehem and from there, he went home.

On further questioning, the detainee states that after Parris had gone over to Castle with some of Lower Love's laborers, guardsman William Henry and Christian Martin gathered a little gang made up of L. Love laborers, and they crossed the road and burned Adventure.

William Henry, guardsman at L. Love, appears. He admits that on Friday morning, after Parris and Codday had gone to Castle, he and Christian Martin gathered some of L. Love's laborers and

¹¹⁰ In the Danish text, the words "the Middletroup" are written in English

¹¹¹ This sentence starts abruptly

went across the road to Adventure, where they, along with Adventure's laborers, burned down the works and the other buildings. Adventure's laborers were immediately ready to join them; they came to greet them on the road and followed them to Paradise, where the laborers did not greet them but had to be hunted out in the negro village, where they joined them, and Paradise was burned. From here, they went over to Betty's Hope, and at Bettys Hope's guardhouse - that is, before they came to Bettys Hope - they joined a gang which was led by a Barbados man called Cox, and now they went together in to Bettys Hope's yard, where Bettys Hope's [*Folio 54b-55a, notice 442*] laborers came out and tried to stop them from committing violence. At the greathouse, they also met manager Peebles, and Bettys Hope's laborers begged them not to harm him, because he was a good man. The mood was not violent, either; only one man called Robert Isaac yelled that they should kill Peebles, as he "had no business on the Estate¹¹²", and he threatened him with a manure fork, and then a brawl broke out between Robert Isaac and Benjamin Heatly, who took Peebles' defense. It ended with that the detainee was about to pull back without having done any harm, when one of the gang members jumped up to the belfry and began to ring the bell, and then it was answered by a conch from the Coopers Bay area /: Coopers Negrobay is shut down and is now under estate Bettys Hope :/, and immediately after, a big gang from this area appeared, led by William Jones and George Cambridge along with Abraham Watts and everyone from Upper Love. This gang was very violent and would hear nothing of sparing Bettys Hope, even though Peebles, who came towards this gang as well, urgently asked them to. The detainee did not notice whether William Jones was more persistent than the others, but he saw that when William Jones had entered Bettys Hope's yard, he had a gun in his hand instead of the cane which he had arrived with. Thus, Bettys Hope's greathouse and works were destroyed. When the worse gangs had arrived, the detainee lost his Captain's status and followed to Envy and from there on to Manningsbay, Anguilla and the Station Kingshill, where the detainee was so tired that he went home to L. Love.

Then, William Jones from Pl Upper Love, born in Demerara, appears. He states that on the Thursday morning in question, George Mace /: shot :/ came to Upper Love. After, alongside George Cambridge and William Grant from Mt Pleasant & Plessens, having burned down Upper Love's works, which the gangs had not managed to burn on the previous evening, he gathered a gang along with the same two people from Upper Love, and almost all the men joined the gang, which then set off. At Castle's borders, George Mace passed on the command to George Cambridge with the instructions that they were to join Parris' gang, which was going to go to the Bettys Hope area, and George Mace himself went up to Castle, where Parris gathered his gang. As they walked south, they came across Adventure, [*Folio 55b-56a, notice 443*] Negrobay and Paradise which were all on fire, so there was nothing for them to burn, and they thus continued according to George Mace's orders. When they came to the southside country road between Coopers Negrobay and Bettys Hope, they heard a bell ringing and conch blowing from Bettyshope yard, and they went there. There, they met the previously mentioned gang /: cf. William Henry's testimony :/, standing by the pond. In Bettys Hope yard, they also met the gang which had arrived from Diamond under the command of Cox. After some conversation between "the two Captains", the gang split up, and one section set fire to the works, and the other set fire to the greathouse, and both burned down. The detainee did not continue after

¹¹² In the Danish text, the words "had no Business on the Estate" are written in English

Bettys Hope but went back to Upper Love. On request, the detainee states that John Coday died at Upper Love on Saturday or Sunday because of the burns he had received at Negrobay; the detainee does not know how he got out of the burning house.

All detainees are gradually, after the conclusion of their testimonies, led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30.

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Wednesday the 20th of November at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St: Croix Arrest. All the Commission's members were present.

William Jones appears again, and during closer interrogation, he states that he did not see Mr. Peebles at Bettys Hope, and he does not know if Peebles spoke to anyone in the gang, of which he was part, to persuade them to give up their enterprise. He did indeed have a gun in his hand, and he also assumes that it was Mr. Peeble's gun; because he - the detainee - took it from two people, William Paine and Sobers, who were squabbling in Betty Hope's yard. He maintains that he did not himself set fire to anything at Bettys Hope, and he states that William King, who has testified against him about that in Frederiksted, holds something against him back from when the detainee was employed at Bettys Hope. When he was standing with Robert Isaac, William King came walking along towards him with other laborers from Bettys Hope: Robert William, Joseph Gibbs and Peter James, and that is all he saw of King. There was a man whom he heard was called Moore, and he saw him being busy setting fire to the magass¹¹³ according to what is known, Parris cannot have been at Bettys Hope when it was on fire, the detainee states that he cannot say that he particularly noticed Parris, but that he saw laborers from ~~56b~~ L. Love [*Folio 56b-57a, notice 444*] there, and the agreement was that they were to meet Parris' gang in the Bettys Hope-area, so he presumed that a man whom he saw in the yard from a distance, wearing colored trousers and a gun over his shoulder, was Parris.

Detainee William Henry from Lower Love appears and states that he did not see detainee William Jones start any fires; However, he saw George Cambridge go into the curing house¹¹⁴ with matches in his hand. Parris was not at Bettys Hope. Christian Martin had a gun.

John Charles from Lower Love appears and repeats that Parris was at Manningsbay when Bettys Hope burned.

Detainee William Jones is more closely questioned; He did not hear anything about the whole movement until on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock. Edward Lewis from Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/

¹¹³ Here, the transcription says "paa" ("at"), but in the context, "fra" ("from") makes sense

¹¹⁴ The curing house was where the muscovado (the crude, brown sugar) was drained.

came to Pl. Upper Love when the laborers were at work. He shamed them because they were working whilst the negroes were fighting for 10 Cts., and he told them that he had been fighting for 10 Cts. in Frederiksted since the previous day at 3 o'clock. He showed them that a bullet had gone through the back and the arm of his jacket - presumably a new jacket which looked like a coat, and he said that he had been shot in Westend. He added that Emanuel had gone over to River to stop the work there, and he threatened that they would bring up the gang to those places where people kept working. The driver did not let the laborers stop working until 11 o'clock. Most of Upper Love's laborers stayed calmly at home that day, and thus, the detainee saw St Georges and Grove Place burn, and then the gangs passed Upper Love in order to go to River. There were two gangs, one came shortly after the other. The first was led by a man whose name was Robert /: Robert James from Orange Grove :/ shot :/, and in the other gang he saw Joshua Collingmoore, but he does not know who else were leaders. However, he remembers that right after, De Silva /: shot :/, whom he particularly noticed, was the man who led the gang up to the greathouse when the gang came back from River to Upper Love. George Cambridge from Upper Love was the one who led the gang into Upper Love when it came from River, and they set fire to the works, but they left for Jealousy immediately after having started the fire, without making sure that it was properly burning, so the works did not burn on this occasion. On the way to River, the gang passed them, and the detainee and William Harper made them believe that everything had already been broken, [*Folio 57b-58a, notice 445*] so there was no need "to give a light"¹¹⁵. That evening, the detainee did not follow any gang further, and he was therefore not present at any of the other arsons that that at Bettys Hope.

Edward Lewis appears and admits that he was at Upper Love on Wednesday morning. After first saying that he was not wearing a jacket, he then says that he was wearing a white jacket, and eventually, he admits that he was wearing a black jacket, and he denies having in any way said what detainee Jones has stated. No bullet had gone through his jacket.

After the detainees are gradually interrogated and confronted, they are led to their arrest.

The Commission's member Bailiff Sarauw retires as he must leave for Frederiksted at 3 o'clock.

Then, detainee Peter James from Pl. Bettys Hope appears. He states that he was at home at the Pl. when the various gangs came in there, at least 3 of them, and he saw how Mr. Peebles, using good words and offering bread and grog, succeeded in getting the first gang to leave. Mr. Peebles asked who was the Captain, and a leader came up to him, a little man wearing a red shirt and with a saber in his hand, and he was actually a very friendly man, and when Robert Isaac wanted to attack Mr. Peebles with the manure fork, he prevented it. It was the other gangs which came from Cooper's negro village and Enfieldgreen¹¹⁶ /: Diamond :/ who started the fires. In one of these gangs, the detainee recognized detainee William Jones, but he did not see that he himself started any fires or gave any orders to do so, whereas a tall man, whom he did not know, acted as the main man. In one of the gangs, he recognized Joe La Grange /: shot :/. The detainee did absolutely nothing evil at Bettys Hope, but just like a lot of the other laborers at Bettys Hope, he

¹¹⁵ In the Danish text, the words "to give a light" are written in English

¹¹⁶ Elsewhere: Enfieldgreen

did what he could to get the gangs to leave, as Mr. Peebles had encouraged them to do. He is certain that Joe La Grange was there, and when he saw him and Mr. Peebles talking with each other, it also seemed like Joe La Grange did not insist on burning down the plantation, but the tall man did; it was the same man who set fire to the curing house, and Mr. Peebles was still there until a man, Allick Moorhead, came over and got him to leave, though Peebles wanted to stay there. The detainee states that before Peebles, Planter Skeoch and manager Mac Kay were at the plantation, [*Folio 58b-59a, notice 446*] and he has no doubt that if they had been armed, helped by Betty Hope's laborers, who were all loyal, they would have been able to keep 6 gangs away. When the detainee is presented with the accusation that he is to have participated in the unrest at Carlton on Wednesday morning, he vehemently denies it, and he assumes that he must be confused with a brother, John James, who was out and about every day during the riots, and who ended up getting shot on the Sunday. He claims that he was at home at the Pl. all Wednesday morning and this claim can be supported.

Detainee led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:45.

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 21st of November, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had given notice that due to government business in the town Frederiksted, he was unable to be present. The Commission's other two members were present.

Regarding what has emerged during previous interrogations about the way in which the gangs proceeded and particularly regarding the emergence of the gang which was the last to come to Bettys Hope, the gang which came from the Diamond and Enfjeldgreen-area, inquiries are to be made regarding the origin of this gang.

John Joseph from Pl. Enfjeldgreen appears and states that on Thursday morning, probably around 9 o'clock, a gang came to Enfjeldgreen. The detainee believes that it consisted of approximately the amount of people as from 3 plantations. Part of the gang consisted of people from Williamsdelight where the gang came from, but he did not know anyone from other places; the gang had no significant leader or Captain. If he had to point out someone, it would be John William from Williamsdelight. The gang burned down the works completely. When he came from the negro village to the works, he saw Joe Briggs, formerly from Pl. Cane, come out of the rum cellar, and a moment later, the rum cellar was ablaze. Amongst the people from W^{ms}delight, he also saw Francis Richard. From Enfjeldgreen, the gang continued to Diamond, and after half an hour or so, part of the gang returned and yelled to Enfjeldgreen's laborers that they had to

come along to Goodhope. There was a man called John Christian (Flanders¹¹⁷) from Carlton, in the lead of [Folio 59b-60a, notice 447] this section. He had also been there the first time, but at the time, the detainee did not know who he was. Many laborers from Enfjeldgreen had already followed up to Diamond, and many also followed this gang, including the detainee himself. At Gosling Bay Pasture, they came across the rest of the gang which had been at Enfjeldgreen earlier. The detainee did not notice whether there were people from Diamond in the gang, and it was mainly people from Høgensborg, Williamsdelight, Cane and Enfj. plus Carlton which, under the leadership of the abovementioned John Christian, burned down Goodhope's works and other buildings at, he presumes, around 11 o'clock. The detainee was in the part of the gang which had to do with the manager's house, and he was also inside it, but there was nothing to break or rob, and the detainee did not take part in setting it on fire. When the rum cellar and the works were lit, the detainee was up by the allowance cellar from which he did not take anything, so he did not see who set fire to the works.

Thomas William from Pl. Enfjeldgreen appears, and regarding the gangs' arrival at Enfjeldgreen, he explains it like the previous detainee. He states that John Christian, whom he knows, was the leader of the gang in which he mostly saw people from Høgensborg and Williamsdelight, and he also saw those whom the previous detainee mentioned, namely John William and Francis Richard. The detainee went halfway into Diamond, but then he turned back. When the gang returned from Diamond, he could not avoid following it to Good Hope, which he then did, but he did not do anything else but try and get away from the gang as quickly as possible.

Lazarus Hatchett from Enfjeldgreen appears and states that he was not present at Enfjeldgreen when the gang came there, because on Wednesday morning, when he heard that there was a fireburn, he went to Frederiksted, where he was arrested.

Francis Richard from Pl. Williamsdelight, born on Barbados, appears and states that on Thursday morning, at approximately 8 o'clock, Høgensborg laborers came to W^{ms}delight's yard in a gang and walked up to the house, and the plantation's own laborers came out and tried to reason with them, but they yelled all at once that today, no one was to talk to them, because they had come to burn down the works. Then, they burned down the manager's dwelling, but they spared the works when the plantation's laborers asked them to, pleading that they were so close to the negro village. Everyone in the gang was equally "cross"¹¹⁸, so the detainee cannot say whether there was any [Folio 60b-61a, notice 448] leader, but they were all Høgensborg's laborers, and the detainee would not even have recognized laborers from the intervening plantation Cane amongst them. After the gang had left the Pl. and continued to Enfjeldgreen, the detainee, encouraged by the manager's cook, began to roll some barrels of rum out of the rum cellar to hide them in "the Leespond"¹¹⁹. The two cartmen Steven and Frank and also John William helped to do this. He admits that when it was done, he followed the gang to Enfjeldgreen, but the works were already on fire. It might well be that John William left before the detainee and if

¹¹⁷ "Flanders" is added

¹¹⁸ In the Danish text, the word "cross" is written in English

¹¹⁹ In the Danish text, the words "the leespond" are written in English

so, he might have been active at Entfjeldgreen. The detainee went home from Entfjeldgreen and was not at Good Hope or other places.

John R. Duggins from Pl. Williamsdelight appears and states that he was not at the Pl. when the gang came there because at the time, he had already been arrested in Frederiksted, where he had gone early on Wednesday morning.

All detainees are led away after having been interrogated.

Then, inquiries are initiated regarding the gang which committed arson at works and buildings on Wednesday, probably beginning at Pl. St. Georges.

Christian James from Pl. St. Georges appears. He states that he is a night-watchman at the plantation and that he had resided in the negro village during the day where he was when the gang came to Pl. St. George's yard at, he assumes, approximately 5 o'clock. He states that at the time, the gang had already burned Allendale and had probably also been at Becksgrove, and the negroes who were in the gang's lead were Johnny from Becksgrove and a man called Boomann or something like that, and also two strangers. Detainee led away for the time being.

Also, Johnny appears, his full name is John Thomas Solers, from Pl. Becksgrove. He states that on Wednesday afternoon, a big gang came down the country road which leads down to Cane, Valley and Becksgrove¹²⁰, directly east of Høgensborg. The detainee and other people went to greet it between Cane Valley and Waldberggaard and they made them believe that Beckgrove had already burned, [*Folio 61b-62a, notice 449*] whereafter the gang turned around, taking the detainee along with them. However, he soon had the opportunity to vanish into a sugarcane field, and then he returned home. The gang appeared under wild yelling and screaming, particularly "our side¹²¹" was heard, which the detainee answered, because he didn't know what to say. The gang consisted of hundreds of people, but the detainee did not know a single one in the crowd. The detainee states that he was born on Barbados, but that he came to Pl. Becksgrove as a boy. He denies having been part of the gang in St. George's yard.

Christian James appears again, and detainee Johnny is confronted with him, and Christian James decidedly maintains his claim that he¹²² was in the yard. The detainee further states that, as previously stated, he came from the negro village down to the works, and they were all over the place, both in the rum cellar and in the curing house, up and down, in full fire. When the detainee uttered a yell of horror and it became known that he was a guardsman, he was surrounded by 4 people, of which one was Joseph Sobers, who has recently appeared, the other was Booman or Poorman or whatever his name is, and the 3-4 were strange Barbados people who yelled that he, who was a guardsman, would probably turn them in the following day, and therefore it was best if he was burned as well, and then they really grabbed him and dragged him towards the burning rum cellar, but he managed to get away from them and he escaped into a

¹²⁰ Elsewhere: Beckgrove

¹²¹ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

¹²² Johnny

sugarcane field where he kept himself in hiding until the gang was finished. The detainee knows that he is accused of having participated in burning the rum cellar, but he thinks that it is a misunderstanding which comes from the fact that he should have been burned in it. Because of this accusation, he was afraid that he would be harmed, so he let the driver arrest him. Detainees led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:45.

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Friday the 22nd of November, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission convened and interrogation was obtained by the undersigned Commissaire, Police Chief Forsberg, in the presence of Police Principal Dendtler, the keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. C. Nielsen. [*Folio 62b-63a, notice 450*]

Commissarius remarks that detainee Barnes from Rust up Twist has appealed for interrogation.

Detainee William Barnes¹²³ appears and states that he now wishes to admit to everything which he kept secret this morning. He explains that Bamberg must be in the know about everything that went on in Frederiksted on Tuesday the 1st of October, because in the detainee's presence, he had given the guardsman William Henry a detailed account of it. This took place on Friday morning during the detainee's stay at the plantation Lower Love. Also, Bamberg must know who burned the works at Pl. Mt Pleas. & Plessens on Thursday evening or during the night between Thursday and Friday. The detainee bases this conjecture on the fact that late in the evening /: between 10 and 12 :/ Bamberg had not gone to bed but woke up the detainee and asked him to go with him to Mt Pleasant's hill to keep an eye out for the soldiers who would probably come to the plantation during the night. When the detainee went out of the house, he met a few - 5 or 8 - men, and then he noticed that the works had just been set on fire and had started to blaze. Also, the detainee states that after he had kept guard for a while on Mt Pleasant's hill and was drenched from the rain, Bamberg did not bring him back to the house which he had left, but to a thickset man in the same negro village. He was Captain, and he had a red band around his black hat. This was the man who burned down L Bethlehem's works on Thursday afternoon.¹²⁴ Led away.

Detainee Joseph William from Windsor appears and states that John Lewis /: shot :/ from Lebanonhill arrived at plantation Windsor on Thursday morning where he, under threats of violence and fire, gathered a gang which under his - the detainee's -, Augustus Hatchett's /: dead :/ and John Adams' /: shot :/ and John Lewis' leadership proceeded to Morningstar, where they, however, did not enter the plantation but continued on the road to Mt Collier, where Augustus

¹²³ Elsewhere: Barns

¹²⁴ In the margin it says "NB. cfr. p. 72"

Hatchett set fire to the greathouse. The detainee did not see who set fire to the works because he was standing in the yard at some distance to the works. After the gang had swelled in size with laborers from Mt Pellier - and, presumably [*Folio 63b-64a, notice 451*] also some from Morningstar - it returned to Morningstar where first the greathouse and then the works were set on fire. It was Augustus Hatchett who set fire to the greathouse, but the detainee does not know who set fire to the works, because he was up in the yard, nursing a wound he had got on his hand, and he held it in a barrel of water. Further questioned, the detainee states that as early as on the way from Windsor to Morningstar, he incurred the resentment of John Lewis and was beaten by him; later, when they came to Morningstar, Lewis reproached the detainee, saying that he was not sufficiently active, and on this occasion, he - Lewis - wounded the detainee's hand with his saber. From Morningstar, the gang went down to Concordia, where the detainee saw the opportunity to sneak away and he went home to Windsor. Thus, the detainee cannot state anything about the gang's further undertakings after it left Concordia. Led away.

Francis Simmons from Morningstar appears and states that when the gang from Windsor passed Morningstar, he joined it and went up to Mt Pellier, where he saw Henry James from Windsor set fire to the works, but he does not know who set fire to the greathouse. From Mt Pellier, he followed the gang back to Morningstar where he admits having forced entry to the greathouse in order to steal, but he got nothing there, but later, down in the provision cellar, he stole from the flour which Lucas Isaac from Concordia distributed to Morningstar's laborers. When this occurred, the greathouse was burning, and a section of the mob had gone down to the works, which were shortly after on fire and burned down. After the gang had finished at Morningstar, it proceeded to Concordia, where the manager's dwelling was broken open by "St Eustatius" Robert. A flock of the people went into the house where they destroyed the furniture; a barrel of flour was rolled out of the cellar - the detainee does not know who did it - and the flour was distributed amongst the plantation's laborers, and then, first the house and then the works were set on fire. The gang went from Concordia to Pl. Windsor, where they found the greathouse wide open. Some of the mob went into the house, but the detainee [*Folio 64b-65a, notice 452*] does not know what they did. Shortly after, the house was set on fire and at the same time, John Lewis set fire to the rum cellar, on which occasion a boy, Peter Francis, was burned to death, and others, here amongst Joe Williams and Augustus Hatchett, were more or less burned. When the gang left Windsor, the detainee went home to Morningstar. Detainee led away.

James Gumbs from Pl. Morningstar appears and states that he followed that gang which came to Windsor under the leadership of John Adams. On the way to Mt Pellier, outside the plantation, the gang made a short stop, and the "Captain" said that "he did not have enough people". After laborers from Mt Pellier and some from Morningstar had joined the mob, they went into the plantation where the greathouse and the works were set on fire. Whilst the buildings were burning, and before the gang had left the plantation, the detainee went back to Morningstar whereto the gang also arrived shortly after. Mr. Farrelly's house was broken open, and a large part of the mob forced its way into the rooms where shutters, furniture and other household items were destroyed and later burned. The detainee admits that he was up by the door to the house, but he denies having been inside the house. The detainee states that he saw the previously mentioned Francis Simmons in the hall, where he was breaking Mr. Farrelly's desk and throwing the fragments into a pile along with other broken furniture, and then he used some dry straw to

set it all on fire, and this caused the entire house to ignite and burn down. The detainee admits that, as mentioned, there were more people present when Francis Simmons set fire to the desk, but he is not able to remember who they were. However, he remembers a woman, namely Sarah from Windsor, who brought magass to the greathouse to strengthen the fire. After the gang had destroyed the buildings at Morningstar, they went down the country road to Concordia, but the detainee did not follow along, and he assures the Commission that he only reluctantly followed the gang up to Mt Pellier, particularly threatened on his life by John Lewis, [*Folio 65b-66a, notice 453*] and he stood on the country road and did not participate in the destruction which was carried out. Led away.

James Edward from Pl. Morningstar appears and states that on the Thursday in question, he did not leave Pl. Morningstar's grounds and he particularly did not follow the gang to Mt Pellier or, later, down to Concordia. The only wrong thing he might have done was to ring the plantation's bell when he saw that the greathouse was on fire, but he knew no better, and he thought that he should ring the bell in case of fire at the plantation. When confronted with the accusation that he rang the bell to summon the gang to the plantation, he denies having had such intentions and he states that when he started to ring the bell, the greathouse was already on fire. When presented with what is said about him, that he was with John Adam when he set fire to the works, the detainee denies that this was the case, and he says that when the works were set on fire, he was at the pond in the yard. Led away.

Thomas Benjamin from plantation Morningstar appears and states that on the Thursday in question, he was in the negro village when Augustus Hatchett came up to the detainee and said to him that he would be killed and that the negro village would be burned down if he did not join the gang; Thus threatened, the detainee left the negro village and went down to the country road near the old hospital, where he stayed until the greathouse and the works were burned down. When the gang was about to continue, the leader Augustus Hatchett made it impossible for the detainee not to follow along, but he only followed up until a field path which divides Morningstar from Concordia's land, where another gang from Concordia came towards the gang from Morningstar, and during the commotion which this caused, the detainee saw the opportunity to sneak away and go home. The detainee denies having been at Concordia or anywhere else with the gang after having left Morningstar. The detainee is questioned about the accusation that he was armed with a saber and that he blew a conch [*Folio 66b-67a, notice 454*] on the mentioned occasion. He denies the truth of this accusation. Led away.

Police Officer J. C. Nielsen steps down and Police Officer P. Jensen takes up his position as witness.

John Abraham, guardsman at Pl. Morningstar appears and when presented with the accusation that he distributed allowances and set fire to the magass stacks at the plantation, he denies the truth of these accusations. The flour which was distributed was handed out to the laborers by a man, namely Baily, and the magass stack was set on fire by John Bobbs¹²⁵ and Louisa Ann, both from Pl. Morningstar. The detainee further states that he did not leave the plantation's grounds

¹²⁵ Elsewhere: John Bob

on the Thursday in question, and during the entire uprising he has not participated in or been present at any of the arsons which have been committed, except for at his stop at plantation Morningstar. Detainee led away.

Detainee George Bachelor from Morningstar appears and states that during the night between Wednesday and Thursday, Mr. Farrelly placed 4 men as guards at the greathouse and 4 others at the works. The detainee was amongst those who guarded the greathouse. During the night, a conch was blown in Morningstar's negro village, but apart from that, it was quiet. When the detainee saw the gang coming towards Morningstar on Thursday morning, he picked up a single barrel rifle which the carpenter John Hewitson had placed, without loading it, at the old hospital, where the stableman lives at the moment. Thus armed, the detainee awaited the arrival of the gang. The leader of the gang, John Lewis, took the rifle away from him. Later, when the gang had come up to Windsor, John Lewis gave the rifle to Henry Johnson so that he could carry it, but Johnson refused to return it to John Lewis, and he gave it to the detainee who knows that it has been returned to John Hewitson. The detainee admits that he followed the gang from Morningstar to Concordia and from there to Windsor, where he, unnoticed, sneaked through the negro village and went home, but he adds that he was forced to follow, particularly by John Lewis, who threatened him, and the only thing he could do was to remain calm, which he did at both Concordia and Windsor. [*Folio 67b-68a, notice 455*]

John Bob from Morningstar appears and after having been presented with what he is accused of, here amongst having set fire to the magass house at Morningstar, he denies the truth of the accusations. However, he admits that he blew the conch on Thursday, of which he has also been accused. Regarding the magass, the detainee states that whilst sitting in the Arrest in Christiansværn Fort, he one day complained to John Adam /: shot :/ that he was accused of having set fire to the magass house at Morningstar of which he was not guilty, to which John Adams replied, "Don't worry about that matter, because I saw that it was James Strong who set fire to the magass house". Also, the detainee admits that he followed the gang to Mt Pellier and that he went back to Morningstar with it, and from there to Concordia and Windsor, from where he sneaked away from the gang and went home. The detainee did not partake in the destruction at any of the mentioned places. He could not avoid following them on their walk, because the 4 leaders threatened to burn down the negro village if the laborers did not take sides and follow along. Detainee led away.

John Charles from Windsor appears and admits that he followed the gang from Windsor to Mt Pellier and from there to Morningstar and Concordia back to Windsor. The detainee did not participate in the destruction at any of those places, but he adds that when the now deceased Killian from Marys Fancy reproached him for his idleness and threatened to beat him, he took part in tearing down the so-called "Feedingboard"¹²⁶ at the mill to avoid being harmed, but it did not break very much. The detainee assures the Commission that he did not follow the gang further than to its return to Windsor, but from Windsor's negro village, he saw that the gang

¹²⁶ In the Danish text, the word "feedingboard" is written in English. The feedingboard (or feedingbench is the stool on which the laborer, who pushes canes into the mill, stands)

went to the Factori Station at Glynn, which was set on fire, and then the gang proceeded to Glynn along the country road, where the mob was attacked and dispersed by armed people who came down from Pl. Bonne Esperance. Led away.

The Commission's meeting adjourns at 16:30.

Forsberg

[*Folio 68b-69a, notice 456*]

In 1878, on Saturday the 23rd of November in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. The Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had announced that due to government business in the town Frederiksted, he was unable to be present. The Commission's other two members were present.

Axelina Elizabeth Salomon, called Agnes, from Pl. L. Bethlehem, appears regarding the interrogation obtained in Frederiksted Police Court on the 9th of October. She states that on the Wednesday morning in question, after having been at Carlton as explained in the mentioned interrogation, she went straight home to Bethlehem. Regarding the goings-on at Carlton, she still admits that she threw a stone at a soldier - because she saw a soldier in Carlton's yard - but she says that the soldier did not fall to the ground after she threw the stone, and she only did it because everyone else in the mob harassed her because she didn't do anything. It was John Christian /: Flanders shot :/ and Joseph /: Heyns :/ who got the rabble mob, which the detainee came across on the way, outside Carlton, to go into the plantation. About approximately 7 o'clock, the detainee had just set off towards town, as she in a room which has a bed, and under the bed¹²⁷. Right outside Carlton, she came across a rabble mob which made it impossible for her to pass, as it swept her along with it as it, as mentioned, went into Carlton under the leadership of Flanders and Joseph. It was Flanders who told the mob that there were two soldiers at Carlton and that they were to go and get them. The largest section of the mob went along when Flanders walked up through the negro village to get round the plantation yard, whilst the smaller section, with Joseph in the lead, walked down the avenue up to the yard. Flanders had a cudgel in his hand, whilst Joseph had a sugar ax and a knife in his hand. The sugar ax was fastened to a cane. On particular request in that regard, the detainee states that she threw a stone at the soldier before anyone had attacked him, that the stone was the size of her fist, that her throwing of the stone did not fell the soldier so that he tumbled to the ground, but that he was [*Folio 69b-70a, notice 457*] beaten down by Flanders and Joseph. On his flight, the soldier which the detainee speaks about had reached the cistern which is situated between the greathouse and the stable. She saw the soldier fall to the ground because of others' beatings and then, horrified and yelling, she ran away. The detainee did not see any other soldier, and she does not know if he is the one who was pursued by Harrison, because she did not see or notice this pursuit with the saber /: cf. the Court Martial Protocol of the 12th of October :/

¹²⁷ This sentence does not make sense. The Danish transcription says "... da hun i et Værelse der har en en Seng og under Sengen. Perhaps there is an extra bed under the bed?"

Joseph Heyns from Pl. Carlton appears, whom the detainee Agnes with absolute certainty recognizes as the Joseph whom she has mentioned. She decidedly denies having participated on the mentioned occasion and she states that the goings-on in Carlton's yard took place whilst she was still at Roses Hill where she lives, and from where she first came down to Carlton, and then, the soldiers had already been brought on onto the country road /: cf. the Court Martial interrogation :/

However, detainee Agnes maintains that he is the one, and she states that on the day when they were brought in chains from the English ship to the prison, she saw the detainee, whose name she did not know before, and she asked other prisoners who he was, because she recognized him as the man from the rabble mob at Carlton.

The detainee¹²⁸ maintains that it cannot have been him whom she saw. The detainee is charged with having participated in the arson at Pl. Whim. The detainee denies having participated in the arson at Whim, of which he is charged. The gang which burned down Whim came there from Carlton, where the works were burned on Thursday at noon at 12-1. Whilst Whim burned, the detainee, amongst others, hereunder also the detainee Alexander Blackmann, was busy bringing planter Skeorch's things into safety, and the detainee was in the yard, close to the cistern, when the gang, taking a shortcut through the "Leespond", had direction towards the works. The leaders of the gang were William Washington, previously from Goodhope, Joseph Briggs from Fredensbog, James Spencer from Høgensborg, and Sophia from Høgensborg. This last-mentioned person had a little basket fastened on her side with matches and under her arm, she had [*Folio 70b-71a, notice 458*] a bottle of kerosene. Joseph Briggs, who has previously lived at Carlton, showed the way to the rum cellar, which was then broken open by William Washington and James Spencer, and then Sophia started the fire. As soon as the fire was lit, they came up to the yard and went to the cellar which is situated below the greathouse. When Zanko and Good Hope wanted to get going on the allowance cellar immediately, Briggs threatened him and said that he would chop off his head if he opened the allowance cellar before he was given the order, and he had him first open Mr. Skeoch's own cellar, where the gang indulged in a barrel and other drinks which they found there; then, Washington broke the lock of the allowance cellar with an ax whilst James Spencer and Sophia went up to the house, followed by the driver and the detainee, who tried to stop them from destroying it and setting it on fire. There were 4 barrels of flour and a barrel of salt fish in the cellar, which had been broken, so the people could take what they wanted. A large quantity of flour and fish was thus taken away by the women, carrying it in pillowcases, aprons and scarves, and what they could not carry away was spread in the yard. The gang also threatened to burn down the negro village because they believed that Carlton's laborers were not sufficiently eager and willing to join them, and they didn't want to follow the gang to Høgensborg. At the same time, however, a group of soldiers had just arrived, and the gang spread all over into the sugarcane fields and in the negro village. 7 were shot. This gang was thus dispersed, and the detainee maintains that he was not part of it, neither at Whim nor any other place.

¹²⁸ Presumably Joseph Heyns

According to what this detainee has stated and what has come forth in the various statements on Thursday, this gang burned down Williamsdelight, Enfeldgreen and partially Diamond, along with Good Hope, Whim and Carlton.

John William Washington from Pl. Høgensborg appears. He states that he, who was a guardsman, was at home at the plantation all day Thursday until he saw the smoke at Carlton, and then he went over there.

James Spencer from Pl. Høgensborg appears and states that he was at home at Høgensborg all day Thursday and therefore he was not [*Folio 71b-72a, notice 459*] at the fire at Carlton or at any other arson during the entire unrest.

The two last mentioned detainees are presented to detainee Joseph Heyns who declares that he knows them well and that they are the two people whom he has mentioned in his statement.

John Abraham Williams appears. He is also charged with having participated in the arson at Carlton¹²⁹. He states that when he saw the fire at Carlton, from Høgensborg, he got as far as to a field road which is adjacent to the plantation, but he did not get any further.

John Peter from Pl. Concordia appears and states that Concordia was burned on Wednesday morning by a gang which was led by Party from L. Bethlehem and Joe Spencer from Høgensborg, along with Francis Buffert from St George. This gang came from the Carlton area and was, according to the detainee, the same gang which had previously committed the excesses at Carlton. The detainee could not see who executed the arson under the leaders' orders, because the detainee was in the negro village along with most of the laborers, but he knew who the leaders were. This gang went from Concordia and set fire to Wheel of Fortune, and the detainee did not see it pass Concordia again. However, shortly after, another gang from the Wheel of Fortune area came to Concordia and it continued towards east along the main country road. The detainee cannot say which way it went further. A person called Johannes blew the conch for the gang and it came through Concordia to get the laborers from this plantation to join, but the manager had forbidden them to participate in the unrest, so they stayed at home. As the gang proceeded, it also set fire to the sugarcane fields, so that large stretches burned.

All detainees who have been interrogated are led away.

Then, due to the statement, which was given by detainee William Barnes yesterday, William Henry from Pl. L. Love appears. He states that on Friday morning, in his house, Bamberg spoke of his exploits in the Westend during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, both that he had saved white people's possessions and that he had taken part in plunder, [*Folio 72b-73a, notice 460*] and as such he had taken part in breaking open an iron money chest which the Northside people had dragged out from William Moore's shop in Strandgaden. At the same time, he had said that he would be the third to be shot; first, it would be Joe La Grange and then another

¹²⁹ The transcription says "Bolton" - it is, however, presumably "Carlton"

young man whose name the detainee does not remember. But the detainee is not able to give a coherent account of what Bamberg, who bragged right and left, actually spoke about.

Johannes Samuel, called Bamberg, appears and states that his friend with the tall black hat with the red band is called Joe William and that he is from Mt Pleasant & Plessens, but the detainee was not present at the arson at L Bethlehem. He came from Frederiksted to Mt Pleasant around the time when Mt Pleasant's greathouse was burning, but he did not partake in the arson. He also denies what Barnes has accused him of, namely distributing a quantity of sugar axes which he found in Mt Pleasant's house, to the rabble. After first having stated that the gang went from Mt Pleasant's greathouse to the works and then burning them, he later admits that the burning of Mt Pleasant's works took place much later in the evening, perhaps even during the night, and that at the time, he was not sleeping in Mt Pleasant's negro village but that he was lying in the bushes on the hills on the other side of the works.

William Barnes appears again and claims that it was after the works had been set on fire that Bamberg, who had not gone to rest in the negro village but who was out and about along with some others, here amongst the detainee himself, as he was woken up by Bamberg, and they went up on a hill which is situated between Grove Place and Upper Love, as he has stated, to keep guard.

On specific request, detainee Bamberg states that he was in Westend all day Wednesday, but now he states that he did not leave Frederiksted on Thursday evening but on Thursday morning, and that he sat all day, peacefully, at Goodhope's windmill, looking at the fireburns [*Folio 73b-74a, notice 461*] up in the country, but he did not see that Goodhope burned at that time, and he did not see any fire at Whim or Carlton.

Detainees led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Monday the 25th of November, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand had given notice that due to business in the town Christiansted, he was unable to be present. The Commission's other two members were present.

James Edward from Pl. Morningstar appears and refers to his previous testimony and denies having acted in such a way.

Since the Commission's inquiries have not brought forth further incriminating circumstances regarding the detainee, and since manager J. Flemming has also given an advantageous report about him, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

John F. Daggens from Pl. Williamsdelight appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

Isaac Franken from the town Frederiksted appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

Edward Henry from Pl. Whim appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

James William from Pl. Prosperity appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released. [*Folio 74b-75a, notice 462*]

James Scarborough from Pl. Two Brothers appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

John Ford from Pl. Grove Place appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

Joe William Grogan appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth any new incriminating circumstances, and since it is not considered to be necessary to secure his person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

It is remarked that according to the Commission's document of the 23rd of this month from Christiansted Police Chamber, the arrested John Frederik has been received. He is from the town Frederiksted but works as a "porter" at the plantation Grove Place and is charged by planter Holm with having participated in the arson of the plantation Mt Pleasant, and this charge is presented to him and made clear to him. He states that he was part of the gang which burned Mt Pleasant's works etc., but he adds that he was forced to do it. On the grounds of that which has emerged, the Commission finds it necessary to secure the arrestee's person and it is declared that he is to be placed in custody.

Susanne Riis from plantation Sionhill appears, about whom the inquiries have not procured further incriminating circumstances, and as it is not considered [*Folio 75b-76a, notice 463*] necessary to secure her person, the arrest is lifted, and he is released.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 15:30

C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Tuesday the 26th of November, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St: Croix Arrest. All members were present.

The inquiries regarding the gangs which ravaged the Westend neighborhood on Wednesday the 2nd are taken up again.

Alexander Blackmann from Pl: St Georges appears. He states that on Wednesday morning, he thinks around 8 o'clock, he saw fire down at the lowland, from St George's hill, where he lives, and he particularly believes that he saw Whim's works burn. He went down along with some of the laborers, and on the country road, directly west of Carlton's works, he came across a frightful crowd of people; they were riotous, they cheered and sang and were excited, some were armed with manure forks, others with sugar axes, mostly fastened onto canes or with sabers. One of those who were most active in the mob was John Christian /: Flanders shot :/ who bragged that he and another person called Joe Golden /: shot :/ had been the ringleaders in the arson of Pl. Whim, from whence they came, and planter Latimer fled. Along with some of Carlton's laborers, the detainee went into Carlton and he stayed there for a couple of hours whilst the gang stayed on the road. When he went back from Carlton, he walked along another field road up to St George's hill, and by the edge of the main country road, he came across the corpses of the two soldiers, whose murder he repeatedly assures the Commission [*Folio 76b-77a, notice 464*] that he heard nothing of at Carlton. The murder must have been committed before the detainee came down from St: Georges Hill. The detainee does not know who was most prominent in the gang apart from the two named persons, because the crowd was so large that he did not notice the individuals. The detainee stayed at home for the rest of the day Wednesday, frightened by what he had seen. On Thursday morning, he went down to Carlton to see if there was anything he could do there /: in this regard it is remarked that St Georges Hill is part of Carlton :/ Along with some others, overseer Crawford set him to work bringing planter Skeorch's belongings to safety. However, a gang from the Høgensborg area drew into Carlton. Carlton's laborers begged them to spare the plantation, and they actually did continue, as they said, to burn Goodhope, and they said that then they would return to burn Carlton. Then, the gang did actually burn Goodhope - whether they did it alone or along with other gangs, the detainee does not know, because he was not part of the gang - but when the gang returned and really did burn Carlton, it was three times as big. The most prominent person who was most certainly the ringleader of the gang was a man whose name the detainee did not know at the time, but he has since been told that his name is Washington. The detainee does not know how things happened at the rum cellar and the works, because he was right up by the house, but it was Washington who struck the lock off the allowance cellar with two beatings with a thick cane, whilst Spencer broke open another door next to it, thinking that it led to another cellar, but it was only the door to the cook's room.

From Skeorch's private cellar, which Washington also broke into, he distributed drinks left and right, and when they were finished distributing allowance, that part of the gang dashed up to the house, but the only person whom the detainee really noticed was Sophia from Høgensborg, because she was the one who rushed around the house, toppling things over, destroying and searching furniture, and all in all, as the detainee says, she was worse than a lion. Mrs. Crawford tried, in vain, to reason with her. He does not think that she stole anything, because everything that could be moved had already been removed.

Particularly asked, the detainee states that Joseph Heyns [*Folio 77b-78a, notice 465*] followed along with him down from St Georges Hill, but on the way, he disappeared in the crowd, and the detainee did not see him again until in the afternoon, when he returned.

Joseph Heyns appears /: interrogation of the 23rd of November :/. He repeats his statement that he went along with Alexander Blakmann¹³⁰ down from St George's Hill and came across the mob on the road between Carlton and Høgensborg, and that it was right after they had joined the mob that they were shown the corpses of the two soldiers, and he is certain that Alexander Blackmann was with him at the time, so that Blackmann must have known that they had been killed when he entered Carlton.

The confrontation does not result in agreement in their testimonies, and Blackmann states that the fright made him confused, so it is not easy to give an account of the details.

John Peter from Pl. Concordia appears /: see interrogation of the 23rd of November :/ and when more closely interrogated regarding Blackmann's testimony, he states that Whim burned on Thursday, but that the gang which came to Carlton on Wednesday morning had been at Whim where they had ravaged in the greathouse. The detainee estimates that when the gang came to Concordia, the time was around 10 or 11. Regarding the charges that he participated in the excesses in Frederiksted during the previous night, he states that he came to town later, along with Christian Coulsen, but that they soon separated, and the detainee did not do anything /: see interrogation in the Frederiksted Police Court of the 13th of October :/. In Frederiksted, he noticed John Samson who was on the streets with a new sugar ax in his hand, but he did not see him partake in any destruction. Apart from the people whom he has previously stated as being leaders of the gang which came to Concordia, he also mentions Party's and Joe Spencer's women, but he does not know their names.

Then, Adam Francis from Pl. Wheel of Fortune appears. He states that he was up in the hills when the gang came into Wheel of Fortune, and therefore, he cannot say anything about who was in the gang or where it went from Wheel of Fortune. He was not in any gang himself but was taken up¹³¹ in Frederiksted [*Folio 78b-79a, notice 466*] on the same morning. He estimates that when the gang was at Wheel of Fortune, the time was approximately 11.

¹³⁰ Elsewhere: Blackmann

¹³¹ arrested

Henry Barker from Pl. Høgensborg appears. He states that a gang from the Concordia area came to Høgensborg on Wednesday morning around noon. On the way, it had set fire to various sugarcane fields. At Høgensborg, they also set fire to the works, but this fire was extinguished again. The detainee did not follow the gang, but he saw that it continued on the road which leads to the east. A good while later, the detainee believes a couple of hours, the detainee saw from Høgensborg that Allendale was burning, and sometime later, St Georges, so he assumes that the same gang set fire to these places. He does not know whether the gang was at Becksgrove first. However, he knows, or he is at least reasonably certain, that before the gang went to Allendale, it was at Mountain where it destroyed what it could manage to destroy in the greathouse there. - Regarding Høgensborg's laborers' actions on the following day (*added: Thursday*), the detainee states that laborers from other plantations, here amongst Cane Valley, came and brought people along on Thursday. They went over to Cane or Carlton onwards to Williamsdelight; the detainee does not know how they split up so that some went towards Diamond and others to Good Hope. The detainee himself followed the gang over Ensfjeldgreen to Diamond, but then he left the gang. However, he admits that he was present at Carlton when the allowance cellar was broken open, but he did not notice that the works were on fire at the same time. During further interrogation, he states that he came directly from Diamond down to Carlton along with some others. He saw Washington there, but the detainee does not know whether Washington was there already /: with Good Hope's gang? :/ or whether he came in down from Diamond. He heard that it was Washington who broke the lock to the allowance cellar, and he saw that the previously often mentioned Sophia was up in Carlton's house.

All detainees are led away after having been interrogated. [*Folio 79b-80a, notice 467*]

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Wednesday the 27th of November, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All Commission members were present.

Thomas Richard from Pl. Adventure appears, about whom the new inquiries have not procured further incriminating circumstances, and his arrest is lifted, and he is released.

Joseph Lane from Pl. L. Love appears, about whom the new inquiries have not procured further incriminating circumstances, and his arrest is lifted, and he is released.

Then, Steven Francis from Høgensborg appears and is interrogated regarding what happened at Høgensborg and what the laborers from Høgensborg did on Wednesday and Thursday. He states that he was at home all day Wednesday and as such he was at home when the gang entered

Høgensborg /: around Turn Out time :/ at approximately 2 o'clock. He cannot say who was in the lead of the gang because they were all strangers. The plantation's laborers extinguished the fire which the gang started in the magass stacks. On the next morning - Thursday - a gang came in from the Cane Valley area and encouraged Høgensborg's laborers to come out; it was about the size of 3 plantations' gangs¹³², but it consisted of people "from up the country¹³³", so, the detainee cannot point out any of them. A large part of Høgensborg's laborers followed the gang on the previously agreed route to Williamsdelight etc. John William Washington was in the lead, and according to what the detainee has heard - he did not see it himself - Sophia had matches and petroleum. James Spencer followed Washington. The detainee held himself back, and because he has bad legs, he could not keep up with the rest of the gang, so he did not have the opportunity to see whose hands started the fire, and Enfjeldgreen's works were already on fire when the detainee reached the plantation. The detainee himself did not [Folio 80b-81a, notice 468] do any evil apart from following along. He left the gang at Diamond and went home. He says that Washington, who was in the gang all the way up to Diamond, returned to Høgensborg before he went down and burned Goodhope, and from there or from Whim, he came down with a gang at around noon and set fire to Carlton. The detainee was also present at the fire there, because shortly before, a gang had come through Høgensborg and had taken the detainee and other laborers who had stayed at home along to Carlton. The detainee did not go further than to the cistern in the yard, and he stayed there along with several Carlton's laborers. Amongst the people who thus were brought out twice and who were not at Good Hope, he mentions Henry Barker and Hester de Windt, but James Spencer and Sophia were at Good Hope.

Edward Francis from Pl. Høgensborg appears and explains what happened on Wednesday in agreement with the previous detainee. Like the previously detainee, he cannot point out who was the leader of the gang, which came rushing in under the yell "our side¹³⁴", men and women amongst each other. He had not been out on the country road in the morning, and when the gang came into Høgensborg, he did not know what had happened at Carlton in the morning or on the country road between Carlton and Høgensborg. Also, he did not know any of the people in the gang which came in on Thursday morning. The gang forced, or, as the detainee says, hunted, the laborers over Cane to Williamsdelight etc. The detainee thus went to Diamond and from there through Carlton and down to Goodhope, where the detainee was also present. He did not return to Høgensborg between the expeditions to Diamond and Good Hope, because the gang would not allow it, but he does not know who led the gang, and he has absolutely no idea whom of Høgensborg's own laborers led the people from here, and he cannot point out anyone who took particular part in the destruction. He let himself carry along, passively.

John William Abraham from [Folio 81b-82a, notice 469] Pl. Høgensborg who, like the previous detainee, states that on Thursday morning, a gang of to him completely strange negroes came into Høgensborg where they drove out the laborers under threats that they would burn down the negro village otherwise. Like the previous detainee, the detainee followed the gang to Diamond

¹³² Labor gangs

¹³³ In the Danish text, the words "from up the country" are written in English

¹³⁴ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

and from there back and then down to Good Hope. He points out the same participants in the gang from Høgensborg as the previous detainee has done, those who are charged and arrested, but he does not know that anyone was worse than the others. Like the previous detainee, he states that he was unable to get away after the Diamond tour, and thus he came along to Good Hope.

Joseph Augustus Callender from Pl. Høgensborg appears and admits that after he had kept himself at home on Wednesday, he followed the gang over to Williamsdelight and Enfj. on Thursday. He did not go further than that.

Edmund Walcott from Pl. Høgensborg appears and like the others, he states that he was at home on Wednesday and that he helped to extinguish the fire at the Pl., but on Thursday morning, he followed the gang to Williamsdelight from where he, without following the gang further, ran back to Høgensborg through a sugarcane field. He states that it was Joe Spencer /: James Spencer's father :/ who was most prominent in the gang, and he strengthens this by stating that at Carlton, when the soldiers arrived during the fire, Joe Spencer had his thumb shot off. The detainee himself was not at the fireburn at Carlton. He also states that the man who was the leader of the strange gang which swept Høgensborg laborers along on Thursday morning, was a negro from Bonne Esperance whom he calls Long Joe, but he does not know his real name. In his hand, the person had a pistol and a saber. Amongst the prisoners, the detainee points out the man whom he in his testimony has accused under the name Long Joe.

George Michael then appears. He denies having been in the lead of or even being part of the mentioned gang [*Folio 82b-83a, notice 470*]. Regarding the fact that he is charged with having set fire to the magass stack at L. Love, he states that he was forced to do so by an unknown man who was in the gang which he had become part of at Castle on Wednesday afternoon. Since the destruction at Lower Love is not the focus of inquiry, the interrogation of the detainee on this issue is postponed.

The detainee further states that on Thursday morning, after having slept at Slob during the night, he went to Mt Pellier.

All detainees are led away after having been interrogated.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Friday the 29th of November, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Due to business in the town Frederiksted, Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had announced that he was unable to attend. The Commission's other two members were present.

The Commission's Chairman presents a document from the Police Chief in Frederiksted of the 27th of this month along with a list of people who, due to participation in the riots or suspicion of the same, have been placed in Frederiksfort since the 8th of this month and also a transcript of the interrogation regarding the case, conducted by the Police Chief in Frederiksted, from the period following the 4th of this month.

Then, the inquiry into the gangs which ravaged on Wednesday the 2nd of October continues.

George Callender from Pl. Enfeldgreen appears. During the interrogations carried out in Frederiksted, on the 16th of October, he was charged with having participated actively in the arson of Grove Place. He had spent the night between Tuesday and Wednesday in Christiansted and on his way home, at Diamond School House, he came across a gang which was led by Robert James /: from Orange Grove, shot :/, and he followed this gang into Grove Place. The detainee believes that the works at the plantation St George's had already burned at the time, and anyway, the detainee was not at St: Georges. He declares that the only negro he knew in the gang was Robert James. He repeats what he admitted during the interrogation in Frederiksted, namely that he broke open the door to the cooking house¹³⁵, but he says that he was forced to do so by the leader, and that apart from that, [*Folio 83b-84a, notice 471*] he did not do anything.

Richard Brown from Pl. Grove Place appears. He states that he was at home at the Pl. when the gang came in on Wednesday afternoon a bit past 4 o'clock, and along with some others, he had crept into hiding, and during the rioting, he was not anywhere else than at the Pl. He states that it was the same gang which burned St. Georges and that it came to Grove Place from there. Since he was in hiding, he does not know who the leader of the gang was.

John Sealy from Pl. Grove Place appears. He states that he was at home at the plantation's negro village when the gang came in. He did not come out until he heard that people had burned to death in the mule fold, otherwise he would have stayed, without letting the gang interrupt him, cooking his food in the yard. The gang was still there, but even though he was right next to them and it was bright daylight, and even though there were people there from Grove Place itself, he was not able to recognize a single negro.

Thomas Dembo from Pl. Grove Place appears and states that he was not at Grove Place on Wednesday afternoon when the gang came in, because he had been in Frederiksted during the night and then he had gone back to Pl. Nicholas from whence he had gone to town, and where he has his woman.

Bona Thomas from Pl. St: Georges appears. He states that he was at home at pl. St Georges when the gang came in there on Wednesday afternoon. He was in the negro village until the fire started, so he did not see where the gang came from. He only knew one man in the gang. He calls him Thomas Castillo or Critchlow, and he saw him run out from the rum cellar at the same time as he, himself, came up from the negro village and saw the rum cellar in flames, so he

¹³⁵ The cooking house (or boiling house) was where cane juice was boiled down to a thick syrup and cooled to become "muscovado", a crude, brown sugar

assumes that this man set fire to the rum cellar. The other gang members were at a distance from the rum cellar in the yard. The gang went to Grove Place, but the detainee did not follow them. He was arrested for a day the following week because he was part of some trouble and fighting in the negro village there.

The often-mentioned John Charles appears. He states that the gang which burned St Georges's works must have split up, so that the large section went over to Grove Place and continued from there, as stated many times previously, under the leadership of Robert James, whilst a [*Folio 84b-85a, notice 472*] smaller section went up Centerline and thus came into L. Love early in the evening. George, Thomas Critchlow, Scrapeout and Thomas Smalls from Castle were in the lead. This gang went from L. Love onwards to Castle. The detainee did not see Parris in this gang.

The two previous detainees George Michael and Thomas Small are presented to the detainee, and the detainee immediately recognizes them as two of the persons he has pointed out as leaders.

Joshua Collingmoore, who has appeared previously, appears again, and on request, he states that he did not see Parris in the gang which he joined at Jealousy and which was led by Robert James.

Thomas Manderson, who then appears, however, states, as he has stated previously, that Parris was at Castle during the same evening and that he made sure that the fire which had been started in the works was extinguished, and he also thinks that he came with the gang from L. Love. Castle's works /: the greathouse was burned on Wednesday evening :/ were burned on Thursday evening by a section of the gang which also burned L. Bethlehem.

One after one, after the detainees have been interrogated, they are led away.

It is remarked that the Commission has received a document from Christiansted Police Chamber, sent on this day, stating that two of those people who were originally on the list of those in hospital are now sent over, namely
Peter Felix from Pl. Marys Fancy, who is charged with having set fire to the Pl, despite that he was encouraged to do so, and
Joseph Petersen from Pl. River, who is charged with having participated in setting fire to the rum cellar at Pl. Upper Love.
The order for their arrest is made clear to them, and they are led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 30th of November in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Due to business in Frederiksted, Commission member Bailiff Sarauw was unable to be present. The Commission's other two members were present.

The Commission's Chairman remarks that Commission member Bailiff Sarauw, who has been in charge of the inquiries in Frederiksted regarding the detainees which are situated here, Johannes John from Pl. Adventure and Adam Francis from Pl Wheel of Fortune, has sent note that nothing has emerged which can further strengthen the [*Folio 85b-86a, notice 473*] suspicion of participation in the excesses in Frederiksted for which they were arrested and imprisoned. In this regard, detainee Johannes John from Pl. Adventure appears. He states that during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, he was at home at Pl. Adventure, and he did not go to town until the morning, when he heard that there was a fireburn in Frederiksted. He did not come across any troublemakers on the country road, neither outside Carlton nor further down by town, and thus he did not himself participate in any trouble. Due to that which has emerged, the detainee is released.

Adam Francis from Pl. Wheel of Fortune has previously appeared and has given testimony to the Commission, and due to what is known, he is released.

Edmund Walcott from Pl. Høgensborg appears. Regarding the fact that laborers from Williamsdelight have stated that the gang which came to Williamsdelight on Thursday consisted solely of laborers from Høgensborg, the detainee repeats that it was a gang which was under the leadership of the previously mentioned Long Joe which came and drummed out Høgensborg laborers. He states that he is very sure that it was Long George /: George Michael¹³⁶ :/ who was in or who led the gang which set fire to the magass stacks on Wednesday, and he had promised that they would return if Høgensborg laborers put out the fire. In the Wednesday-gang, he also noticed Joe Spencer and Francis Buffert from St Georges, but he did not notice Party, who has been pointed out by John Peter from Concordia, but he did see Joseph Parris walk in the back of the gang when it entered Høgensborg.

Thomas Critchlow from Pl. Jealousy appears and states that on Wednesday, he was at home at Jealousy until late into the morning, when he walked on Centerline down into the country. At Diamond School House, he came across a gang which was sitting quietly around there. The detainee joined it and the gang stayed there for quite a while. The detainee did not know anyone in the gang. Later, a gang from the Høgensborg area came towards him, and then they all turned into St Georges, where they burned the works. From St Georges, practically the whole gang went to Grove Place and only 10 or 12, here amongst the detainee, went out onto Centerline, and along with several people from Mt Pleasant, who were sitting in the roadside, [*Folio 86b-87a, notice 474*] as they said, guarding the sugarcane fields, they walked further eastwards. Around Lower Love, they came across a gang which came from the Castle area, and together, they turned into L. Love, where they burned the works. Amongst those who were at L Love, the detainee primarily noticed a tall person who had a pistol in his hand and when he is presented to him, he immediately recognizes him as George Michael.

¹³⁶ Note in the margin: Previously noted as "Long Joe" due to a misunderstanding of the detainee's pronunciation.

Detainee George Michael also recognizes the detainee Thomas Critchlow as one of the comrades from Lower Love, but he states that it was not Critchlow who forced him to set fire to the magass stack, as he has previously stated.

Thomas Jones /: Scrapeout :/ and Christian Frederik, both from Mt Pleasant, appear. They are both charged with having participated in the arsons at L. Love, but they both deny having been at L. Love on Wednesday evening.

Christopher Samuel from Pl. Mt Pleasant & Plessens, born on Antigua, appears, and he also denies having been at L. Love on the evening in question. However, he states that he was at Allendale with the gang on Wednesday morning, and in that regard, he states that he went out onto the country road because he had heard that there was unrest and trouble, and he wanted to see what was going on. Approximately outside Pl. Mountain's greathouse, he met 5 people, here amongst Joseph Parris, who would not let him pass, but forced him to follow them to Mountain where a gang, to which they obviously belonged, ravaged and broke everything in the house, which they did not burn, because Mountain's laborers and particularly the women begged for it, because if it burned, it would also set fire to the negro village. The detainee, who was not up in the greathouse, followed the gang to Allendale, but he was far back in the gang, which was exceedingly large, so that when he reached Allendale's greathouse, they were already in full swing, destroying it. The detainee did not see that they burned Allendale. When he left the place, most of the gang was still there, and they must have set it on fire. The detainee does not know who was in the lead of the gang. He saw that Francis Buffert was there, but he is under the impression that Buffert, who was employed at St Georges [*Folio 87b-88a, notice 475*] tried to stop the negroes' destruction, because he saw some of the gang members beat Buffert and they said that it was because Buffert had tried to defend Mr. Flemming's possessions. The detainee was not present when Flemming's son was mistreated, and he did not see the young person at all. He did not even hear about this occurrence until several days later, when the manager W. Flemming accused him of having been the perpetrator. The detainee did not know any of the other negroes who were standing with Parris on the country road. He says that the negroes who were there were very careful and made sure that they could not be recognized - they created so much confusion that no one could pinpoint individuals, and if a negro called another negro by his name, he was immediately beaten down, because they were only to address each other with the cry "our side¹³⁷", which was therefore heard continuously. From Allendale, the detainee followed the gang to St. Georges, where he left the gang. The detainee did not participate in any destruction. He was, he says, forced to "walk with them¹³⁸", but he was not so stupid as to do anything, because he knew that one day, there would be a reckoning, because he has never seen a negro rule in any country. At Allendale, he was indeed tempted to get himself a coat and a pair of trousers rather than let them be destroyed, but he gave it up. During different interrogations, the detainee says that before the 1st of October, he had not heard anything about an approaching movement, and he particularly answers that at Mountain, from where he moved to Mt Pleasant

¹³⁷ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

¹³⁸ In the Danish text, the words "walk with them" are written in English

on the 23rd of September, those negroes who were not moving set up their provision grounds ready for cultivation as usual. However, he believes that the riots had to be “a made up thing¹³⁹”.

Christian James from Pl. St Georges appears and states that he saw Christopher Samuel at St Georges¹⁴⁰, but he did not see him do anything.

Then, Johannes Samuel :/Bamberg:/ appears, and now he states that he was in Plessen’s negro village, but that he was outside in the yard when the works burned on Thursday evening, so he saw how it happened, and then he explains that it was Richard Normann and John William Gill [*Folio 88b-89a, notice 476*] who got the fire ready, the first mentioned in the rum cellar and the last-mentioned in the curing house, inside the door where he, on a piece of cut wood, arranged some magass which he then set on fire. He even made as if to burn Joe William, who came in afterwards, wanting to rob some sugar. Joseph James and William Schrader, did not start the fire with their own hands but they were, as the detainee says, “over” the others¹⁴¹.

John William Gill from Pl. Mt Pleasant appears and states that on the evening in question, he was in his house, or in his woman’s house, when two men came up outside and yelled “our side¹⁴²”. The detainee got up, and the two persons of whom the detainee knew the one as William Schrader, whilst he did not know the other, demanded that Plessens’ laborers had to get up and participate in the burning of the works. After some consideration and after having alarmed his neighbor, 1st cartman William, the detainee went out and followed the two men to the works along with a couple of others, namely Gumbs Williams, Allick Edward and Henry Thomas, and the works were set on fire, but he did not himself start any fires.

All detainees are led away after interrogation.

The Commission’s meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Monday the 2nd of December at noon at 12 o’clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All Commission members were present.

Ferdinand James from Pl. Cane appears. Commission member Bailiff Sarauw’s inquiries in Frederiksted have not led to a strengthening of the charges against him regarding participation in the riot-excesses, and he is released.

¹³⁹ In the Danish text, the words “a made up thing” are written in English

¹⁴⁰ The Danish transcription is unclear. It says “... angiver, at han som Christian Samuel var bereden paa St Georges”

¹⁴¹ Were considered to have higher status

¹⁴² In the Danish text, the words “our side” are written in English

Then Isaac Samuel /: on the list called Callender :/ from Pl. Cane appears. The inquiries carried out in Frederiksted have not led to further information either. However, he states that on Thursday morning, he followed the gang which came through Cane, over to Enfjeldgreen, and he is again placed in the Arrest.

Christian Gordon from Pl. B. Esperance appears and states that he was at [*Folio 89b-90a, notice 477*] Pl. Castle Coakley on the 3rd of October when a gang under the leadership of William Barnes from Rust up Twist and William Arnold from the plantation Upper Love came into the plantation. He was in the negro village, but just like everyone else, he had to let himself be hunted out by the gang, and then he, reluctantly, followed it over to Peters Rest and Work & Rest until he had the opportunity to get away, when the gang went in towards Annas Hope. He did nothing.

William Barnes appears and states that he saw the previous detainee at Castle Coakley and then in the gang as far up as Work & Rest, but he did not see him do anything.

John William Gill from Pl. Mt Pleasant appears again and states that on the 25th of October, after the riots were over and he had taken employment at Rattan, he turned himself in at the Police Chamber, because he heard that his wife Margreth William had been arrested and that his name had been mentioned in connection with the arson. On closer examination, based on his testimony of the 30th of last month and the Police Court Interrogation of the 9th of last month, he states that even though he did not know the man who was with William Scradar, he has heard that it was Bamberg, who went up into the hills and spent the night there after the fire. He does not know the Frederiksted Police Interrogation regarding Joseph James. It was the man whom the detainee did not know who ordered that the laborers from Plessens negro village should come out and come over to the works, yelling that Mac Dermoth did not need his works more than anyone else, and that that Mt Pleasant's and Plessen's laborers had been reluctant to follow all day. He threatened to set fire to the negro village, and when he came out after the threats from the unknown man, the detainee saw that the unknown man came out from "Old Richard's" house, which he had found empty, and he had "trash" in his hand. When they had heard the call to come out and set fire to the works, most of Plessen's laborers had gone into hiding, but the detainee had to go out because the two men searched his house because they heard a child cry from inside, so they knew that someone was in the house. When presented with the names of those who had followed the call, which the detainee had stated during the previous interrogation, he states that regarding the mentioned William, whom he meant as Commandeur William Henry, he did indeed come out from his house, but he [*Folio 90b-91a, notice 478*] did not follow along to the works. Of those people the detainee has named, he says that Gumbs, Allick Edward, Scradar and Henry Thomas have been hurt, meaning that they are dead. The detainee repeats that he did not start any fires and that once the gang discovered him, he had to follow.

Regarding the charges that he was at L Love, the detainee admits that he was there on Wednesday evening; he went along with some people who, with Thomas Critchlow and George Michael in the lead, came across himself and some others on the country road outside Plessens. In all, they were perhaps a couple of dozen people, and after 6 or 7 people who, according to the detainee, probably came from Barrenspot, had joined them, they went into Lower Love, where

they started off by breaking into planter Farrelly's house where they either broke things or threw them out of the window. George Michael was inside the house and conducted the destruction there, whilst Thomas Critchlow walked around in the yard, giving commands. The detainee was not inside, but he must admit that outside, he took part in breaking some things which had been thrown out of the windows. Whilst this little gang was at the plantation, a larger gang came rushing into Lower Love, and then the arson began for real, though the detainee thinks that the magass house had been set on fire already. When the big gang came in, the detainee, who did not want to participate, ran off along with a man named Brown. Thus, the detainee did not /: dealt with during the interrogation in Frederiksted :/ participate in the search for money in the driver's house, and he did not notice that anything went on there, but he did see Joseph Rock stab his harpoon into the wall of the water house. During the morning, the detainee was mostly on the country down road towards Diamond School House and he took part in extinguishing the fires there, because the sugarcane fields were set on fire once and again. When he heard that people had burned to death at Grove Place, he ran over there, but he quickly left again, and that is when he met the people with whom he went to L. Love.

Margrethe¹⁴³ Williams¹⁴⁴, the previous detainee's wife, appears and states, in agreement with what her husband has stated, that they were sleeping in their house when the two men, whom she did not know, came and demanded that people come out, or they would burn down the negro village. Her husband went along whilst she herself stayed in the house. She tried to stop her husband from going along, [*Folio 91b-92a, notice 479*] but he stated that he had to go "for peace sake"¹⁴⁵. She doesn't know who else went along. She remarks that their house is situated by the so-called "upper works"¹⁴⁶, that is, in the Mt Pleasant part and not Plessens: In agreement with the specification of the previous detainee.

She states that she was arrested because they could not find her husband and that she has not done anything, neither at Mt Plessens nor anywhere else.

After having been interrogated, the detainees are led away.

Jeremiah Daniel from Pl. Grange appears. He was arrested, charged with having been in the negro mob which was dispersed at Annashope. The detainee states that he, who lives with his parents at Grange, ran towards Work & Rest when he saw the fire there. However, when he got to the wooden bridge between Grange and Annashope, he saw that there were soldiers at Annashope, which is nearby. The detainee became so afraid that he ran as fast as he could back to Grange, where he stayed all the rest of the time. Since nothing further has emerged regarding the detainee, and since his running back from the bridge can have seemed like he was fleeing from Annashope, the Commission finds that the detainee can be released, and he is then released.

¹⁴³ Elsewhere: Margreth

¹⁴⁴ Elsewhere: William

¹⁴⁵ In the Danish text, the words "for peace sake" are written in English

¹⁴⁶ In the Danish text, the words "upper works" are written in English

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Th Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 3rd of December, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All Commission members were present.

Thomas Joseph from Pl. Concordia appears. He is charged with having participated in the arson at Morningstar, but it has emerged that he had a squabble with the overseer at Concordia during which it has been said that he used expressions which could suggest that he knew something about an upcoming uprising. He denies that he was present at Morningstar when the gang was there. He states that on Thursday morning, he had gone to town because one of the managers had left a note to go to town to inform that the cattle had been brought into safety and that no fires raged in that area of the country. He did not meet the manager, and when he was on his way back, Mt Pellier had already burned, and [*Folio 92b-93a, notice 480*] Morningstar was ablaze, and the gang was already on its way out of there and was walking down the hill to Concordia. The detainee passed by the gang unchallenged, so he reached Concordia before the gang got there, and he hurriedly salvaged his /: the plantation's :/ cart and harness. He says that it was John Lewis, who had previously been employed at Concordia, who led the destruction there, and it was he who, along with Auguste Hatchett and Henry James, was responsible for all the evil that was done in this area /: all three dead :/. He does not know anything about a squabble with an overseer and he does not recall having uttered anything which could imply that he knew anything beforehand. He assures the Commission that he knew nothing about any uprising. The detainee is asked whether he was the one who was with the manager in Christiansted to hire people on the 1st of October, but he states that it was Lucas Isaac.

Then, detainee Lucas Isaacs¹⁴⁷ from Pl. Concordia appears and states that he was in town with manager H. Roberts to employ laborers; but it was not on Tuesday the 1st but the following day. When they came to town, the detainee heard about the riots in Frederiksted for the first time, and the prospects of hiring people were bad. He spoke to several people on the street, but they scolded him and laughed at him, "did he think that now, just as they had become free, he could bring them back to work - they would no longer live in slavery" and things like that. Their dispositions became more and more agitated as it became clear that it was the October negroes who had rioted, and the detainee gave up trying to find people for employment. He had not heard anything at the plantation which implied an upcoming movement. Indeed, several laborers, about a dozen, left Concordia, but as far as the detainee knows, they all found new employment with annual contracts, and the detainee did not sense that they had any ill intent. Those laborers who stayed at the plantation started up the cultivation of their provision grounds as usual. He says that he saw the previous detainee Thomas Joseph standing on the road when the gang went

¹⁴⁷ Elsewhere: Isaac

towards Morningstar, but he did not see him at Morningstar itself. When presented with the charges against his person, that he was with the gang at Morningstar and that he robbed flour which [*Folio 93b-94a, notice 481*] he then distributed to the gang, he states that other people opened up the allowance cellar and rolled out the flour barrels, but that then, he did indeed give three of Morningstar's laborers a trough full of flour each, whilst the laborers all helped themselves. He did it with the remark that since the negroes were burning everything off, there was nothing left to eat, so it would be best if the laborers brought the flour to safety in the negro village. The detainee does not know who broke open the allowance cellar, but it was Morningstar's own laborers who rolled out the flour barrels and the herring barrel.

Jacob Pickering from Pl. Concordia W: E¹⁴⁸ who is charged with participation in the excesses and arson at Westend Northside. He states that he was indeed in Frederiksted during the riots on Tuesday afternoon and the following night, and he was indeed in the streets along with the rabble, but he denies having participated in either the attack of the police, in the arson, or in the plunder. On Wednesday, he was at Sprathall where he was employed until the end of August and where his woman Mary Thomas lives. On Thursday, Thomas Graydon /: Colonel Peter, shot :/ came to him from Pl. Williams, and told him that he was going to go down to the Southside /: several gangs were ravaging there at the time :/, and the detainee said that he would follow him, but he meant that he was going to go home to Concordia. Shortly after, he was on the road with his woman Mary Thomas, and in the vicinity of the plantation Prosperity, they came across a little gang of 13 or 14 people, as far as he could see, mostly laborers from Prosperity and La Grange. Thomas Graydon was in the lead, armed with a harpoon and a knife, Daniel Philip with a manure fork, Emanuel Jacob with a piece of iron, and a man called Francis, also with a piece of iron. The detainee turned around and followed them, but, as he says, he was forced to because they threatened to kill him otherwise. The detainee estimates that the time was approximately 10 in the morning. The gang moved towards Lt. La Grange, where some more people joined it, but they did no harm there, and then to Brooks Hill, where the gang broke open the allowance cellar and distributed allowance, and then to Orange Grove where they burned down the manager's dwelling, to Mont Pellier, where the greathouse burned and they set fire to the works, but the detainee does not know whether they burned down; to Two Friends where they burned the greathouse and set fire to the works which did not burn down; to Mt Steward where they burned down [*Folio 94b-95a, notice 482*] the greathouse, and where "Colonel Peter" got himself a triangular hat. From there onward to Annally where they burned everything. When they were at Mt Steward, it was getting dark. At Annally, the detainee left the gang. At that time, the gang had grown significantly, because it was joined by laborers from the plantations to which they went. As far as the detainee knows, the gang went from Annally to Mt Victory and from there on to Nicholas and from there on to Punch. The detainee was at Sprathall when he saw the fire from Punch. During further interrogation, the detainee states that as a rule, the plantation's laborers did not participate in the destruction of their own plantation, but when the strangers had broken open the allowance cellars, they helped themselves to sugar, flour and rum. Apart from that, they mostly, as the detainee says, stood "one side"¹⁴⁹. The gang proceeded under great noise and

¹⁴⁸ West End

¹⁴⁹ In the Danish text, the words "one side" are written in English

wildness and under the cries “our side¹⁵⁰” and “no more work for 10 cents¹⁵¹”, and the leaders, here amongst the detainee’s woman Mary Thomas, who went by the name Queen Mary, dashed into the houses and destroyed whatever was there, after first, wherever they came across drink, exep(..)¹⁵² it and, besides, having a merry time¹⁵³. The detainee himself was not inside any houses, as it was the leader’s job to ransack. The detainee did not start any fires with his own hands and he says that he is done wrong when it is claimed that he gave orders and that he carried a bottle of kerosene.

Mary Thomas from Sprathall appears. She states /: cf. her testimony from Frederiksted’s Police Interrogation of the 7th of October :/ that after having been in town for a part of Tuesday evening, she was about to go home, following the driver from Sprathall, and when she passed the back of the Fort, she saw Samuel Henry creeping on his stomach, and he crept over and set fire to the petroleum storage whilst Thomas Graydon ran up town to call the rabble down to the Fort. She stayed at Sprathall all day Wednesday and did not intend to do any evil or “go out walking¹⁵⁴” until on Thursday morning at about 11. Thomas Graydon came into Sprathall with a gang and yelled that the laborers there were not to be idle whilst others were out to “fight for more pay¹⁵⁵”. The next day, they wanted to turn them in¹⁵⁶. He took a needle from the detainee and sewed a red handkerchief onto a cane as a flag, and then he gave it to the detainee who was to follow along as Queen. When the detainee resisted, he drove her forward with a beat of his cane, [*Folio 95b-96a, notice 483*] and he threatened to jab her in the waist with his knife. Then, the detainee followed along with the flag. Apart from Graydon, she particularly noticed Ferdinand Ludvig, Daniel Philip, Emanuel Jacobs and Francis. The gang followed the course which has been stated by the previous detainee, and which the detainee has also admitted to during the interrogation in Frederiksted, however adding the plantation Two Friends, and the detainee was not at Annally, Mt Victory or Punch, because she fled the gang between Mt Steward and Annally. The detainee admits that the gang called her Queen, but she was not as active as it is said, and she particularly did not participate in the destruction within the houses, as she never went further than to the door. The detainee did not see Jacob Pickering in the gang or at Sprathall, neither when the gang went out nor when it returned.

Jacob Pickering appears again and states that he was in Mary Thomas’ house when Thomas Graydon came there and made the flag - he did not see that Thomas Graydon struck her or threatened her, and they both left together with Graydon’s gang, and they were both in the gang until Annally, where they both left the gang together.

Then, Mary Thomas has to admit that Jacob Pickering was in her house when Graydon came.

The detainees are led away one by one after interrogation and the interrogation is postponed.

¹⁵⁰ In the Danish text, the words “our side” are written in English

¹⁵¹ In the Danish text, the words “no more work for 10 cents” are written in English

¹⁵² Missing or unintelligible

¹⁵³ The sentence is slightly unclear. The Danish text uses the word “lystig” (merry)

¹⁵⁴ In the Danish text, the words “go out walking” are written in English

¹⁵⁵ In the Danish text, the words “fight for more pay” are written in English

¹⁵⁶ The meaning of this sentence is unclear. The Danish transcription says “Dagen efter vilde de saa angive dem” (the following day they would then turn them in”)

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30.

Ph Rosenstand
Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Wednesday the 4th of December, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All Commission members were present.

James Harewood from Pl. Upper Love appears, about whom the inquiries have not brought forth incriminating information. The Commission determines that it can release the detainee and he is then released.

Detainee Prince Huggins from Pl. Punch appears, particularly charged with having participated in the excesses at Westend Northside. /: cf. his own testimony in Frederiksted's Police Court interrogation of the 8th of October :/. He further states that when he saw the gang come up from Annally to Mt Victory, he went down the road, where Thomas Graydon forced him to follow into Mt Victory and then, as the detainee and some others were standing idle in the yard, he commanded him into the manager's dwelling to destroy things. [*Folio 96b-97a, notice 484*]. The detainee, however, who had a cane in his hand, had only broken a cupboard when the "Captain" Thomas Graydon ordered that enough had been broken and that it was time to burn. Contrary to what he stated in Frederiksted, he was not inside Nicholas' manager's house, which was burned. He heard that when Graydon had been in the negro village, and he came back and chided the gang for having burned the house against his order, it was said that it was the Queen who had given the order. The detainee went from Nicholas right home to Punch, so he was only at the above-mentioned two places. He says that when he said that all the main characters had petroleum, it is to be understood that they had a bottle of petroleum with them which one passed on to the other when needed. He saw the kerosene in use in sugarcane fields on the road below Nicholas, when Daniel Philip had the bottle, but he did not see it used on any of the buildings. After the gang had burned the manager's house at Punch, they went to Williams, but they returned with the message that there were guards at William, and then they burned Punch's works. Punch was the last plantation which was burned, and the detainee assumes that it happened between 9 and 10 on Thursday evening. He says that the so-called Queen, whom he is told is called Mary, was with the gang at Victory, Nicholas and Punch, and he is under the impression that she had as much command as Graydon, and he heard her say to Graydon that she did not want the battle cry "our side"¹⁵⁷ to be used any more. At Punch, the gang split up, and the members sought those places where they had lodgings for the night.

Mary Thomas is presented to the detainee who firmly recognizes her as the person who acted as Queen.

¹⁵⁷In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

Detainee Emil Hodge from Pl. Punch appears. He states that he was at home at Punch when the gang came in there on Thursday evening; He was standing in the yard and did not participate in any excesses. Amongst the leaders of the gang, he particularly noticed Thomas Graydon and Daniel Philip.

Thomas Edward from Pl. Punch, born on Antigua, appears. He states that he was at Punch when the gang came in on Thursday evening at around 10. Shortly before, Prince Huggins, who had left the plantation in the afternoon in order to, the detainee assumes, join the gang - came into the plantation and delivered an order from the gang that the plantation's [*Folio 97b-98a, notice 485*] laborers were to bring water up into the yard /: to drink :/ and they themselves were to come to the yard to receive allowance, as the gang was now coming to Punch. The water was brought up and the laborers stood in the yard when the gang arrived. It was the driver at Punch who - as far as the detainee knows - but only after the gang had broken open the allowance cellar - distributed allowance, mostly to the plantation's own laborers. Thus, the detainee himself received 12 Quarts¹⁵⁸ of flour and 9 mackerels, which he, however, handed in to the manager the next day, as they were encouraged to do. The detainee knew several people in the gang and he mentions, as those who were most prominent, the same names as did Jacob Pickering along with his name. A woman called Mary was called Queen and acted as a commander. The detainee heard that when some of Punch's laborers wanted to extinguish the fire in the manager's house, she yelled that no one was to put it out, and that anyone who tried to do so would be "beheaded"¹⁵⁹. The gang was not excessively boisterous, and it was not merry when it entered the plantation. Only one shot was fired. The cry "our side"¹⁶⁰ sounded, and the plantation's laborers had to answer it if they wanted to avoid being molested and have the negro village burned down, and some, here amongst particularly Jacob Pickering, yelled that they should not work any for "for 10 Cent"¹⁶¹. As soon as the gang entered, they asked for the driver and they wanted to burn down his house, but the detainee does not know why. Before the gang arrived, the laborers had moved the manager's possessions out into the field. In the afternoon, Prince Huggins went out with Jacob Tergus. All the way through, the detainee maintains that he did nothing apart from receiving allowance, and that was distributed in measures.

Then, Philip Abraham from Pl. Punch, born at Pl. St. Johns, appears. He states that he was at home at Punch when the gang came from Nicholas over Mt Victory to Punch under the leadership of those who have been mentioned previously by the other detainees, and the detainee stood in the yard and did nothing at all and in no way did he assist the gang. The only thing he did was to receive a ration of allowance when first the guardsman and later the driver distributed it. During different inquiries, the detainee states that he went to town during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, when the fireburn was visible from Punch, as he says, because he, who did not know the nature of the fire or its cause, believed that he should help to put it out. After having come across a rabble mob in Frederiksted [*Folio 98b-99a, notice 486*] and learning the true situation, he soon left town and did not leave the plantation again.

¹⁵⁸ 6 kilograms

¹⁵⁹In the Danish text, the word "beheaded" is written in English

¹⁶⁰ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

¹⁶¹ In the Danish text, the words "for 10 cent" are written in English

All detainees are led away after the end of their interrogations.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand

Sarauw

Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 5th of December, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had announced that due to business in the town Frederiksted, he was unable to be present. The Commission's two other members were present.

The inquiry regarding the gang which ravaged on the Westend Northside continues.

Prince William from Annally appears. He states that he was at home at Annally during the entire unrest, and as such he was also at the plantation when the gang came there, but he states that the gang only stayed there for a short while, so that when he, who was in the negro village, came up to the yard, the gang was already gone, but it had set fire to all the buildings.

Then, Ferdinand William from Pl. Annally appears. He states that he was at home at the Pl when the gang came in. Along with other of the plantation's laborers, he went up to the yard when the gang arrived, and in his estimate, the gang ravaged for a couple of hours. When the gang, under the leadership of a man who turned out to be Thomas Graydon, whom the detainee later participated in catching, and another man whom he assumes to be Daniel Philip, came to the edge of Annally's negro village, they called out Annally's laborers and made them form a line whilst the gang passed by; and then, Annally's laborers followed them. Whilst Thomas Graydon, who was wearing a large white hat on his head /: of the kind which the negroes sometimes call a cock'd¹⁶² hat (a triangular hat) :/ and a large white band as a scarf over his shoulders, walked up and down with a saber in one hand and a revolver in the other and gave his orders, the detainee saw a woman in front of the gang, a small, stocky one, who was called queen. The detainee did not know her or her name, and he doubts that he would be able to recognize her again. The detainee heard that people in the gang complained that Annally's laborers were "very stiff"¹⁶³ and that they wouldn't even pass a match, and the detainee also believes that just as he himself didn't in any way assist the gang, all Annally's laborers held back. However, he has heard that they acted badly in town on Tuesday. [*Folio 99b-100a, notice 487*] Also, he does not believe that any of Annally's laborers followed the gang further, if not for any other reason, then because the negro village had started to catch the fire from the yard, and they stayed at home to extinguish the fire there as well as in the sugarcane fields, which were also on fire. The detainee was not in

¹⁶² In the Danish text, the word "cock'd" is written in English

¹⁶³ In the Danish text, the words "very stiff" are written in English

Frederiksted during the excesses, either, but was at home at the Pl. until the manager sent him to the burning town with the hose, but he had to turn around with it because he came across a rabble mob just as he had passed the bridge by Frederiksted lagune. At Annally, it was Thomas Graydon who distributed the allowance. The detainee himself got his share, as much as can be in what he calls “a 40 Cts. Pan¹⁶⁴”.

Laurence Bradly from Pl. Sprathall, born on Antigua, appears. He states that he left Sprathall at one time during Thursday morning, because, as he states, he had an errand at Prosperity. By Williams, however, he came across a gang which he estimates consisted of 20 to 50 people /: is noted as evidence as to how little comprehension negroes have of counting, as their statements when in numbers expressing how large a gang was, are mostly completely unreliable :/, Thomas Graydon or “Colonel Peter” was in the lead along with Mary Thomas whom the detainee, who is from Sprathall, knows well. Jacob Pickering walked at the back and kept the gang together, making sure that no one deserted. Thomas Graydon forced the detainee to go along, threatening to kill him, and when the detainee objected, he said that there was no longer any other law in the country apart from what he - Graydon - himself ordered. Thus, the detainee followed on the previously stated route until Annally, where he got away when it became dark. He couldn't have gotten away earlier, because the gang was kept tightly together and was watched carefully to make sure that no one escaped. It was watched so carefully that the entire gang stopped when one of them had to go into the fields. Thus, the detainee could not have done anything else but follow along, and he crossed his arms whilst others destroyed and burned. He cannot say who started individual fires at each place, but he assumes that it was mostly the “Captain” /: Thomas Graydon :/ himself, [*Folio 100b-101a, notice 488*] whilst it was mostly the Queen Mary Thomas who gave the order or the signal. He saw that the two of them together had a can of kerosene or at least a kerosene can with an amount of kerosene /: kerosene is sold in closed tin cans, each holding 5 gallons : /. It was the Queen who was the actual commander, and she was the wildest of the pair, so for example when Thomas Graydon was inclined to listen to the laborers' plea to spare a building, Mary Thomas would not have it, but ordered to “burn level down¹⁶⁵”. Things went about in much the same way at all the places where she was; first, the fire broke out in the greathouse, they destroyed whatever they came across if they gave themselves time to do it, as they plundered what was in the cellar, then they burned the house and finally, they set fire to the works where, as stated previously, the fire was extinguished some places.

Alfred Sobers from Pl. Oxford appears and states that he was at home at Oxford when he saw the fire at Annally, and he went over there and was in the yard for 15 minutes. He denies the charge that he was in the rum cellar and that he distributed rum. He went straight back to Oxford to where no gang came.

Henry Daniel from Pl. Little La Grange appears. He was arrested and charged with having been part of the Northside gang on its course right until Annally. He admits this and states a further explanation: It was at noon on Thursday the 3rd of October that a not particularly big gang, led by a few men, here amongst primarily Thomas Graydon and the woman Mary Thomas from

¹⁶⁴ In the Danish text, the words “a 40 Cts. Pan” are written in English

¹⁶⁵ In the Danish text, the words “burn level down” are written in English

Sprathall, came to Little La Grange where they entered the negro village and ordered that the laborers were to join the gang, but only the men - the Queen did not want any women to come along. "Colonel Peter" and Mary entered the houses, one after the other, and threatened the people to come out, or else they would be killed on the spot. The few men who had stayed after 27 laborers had left the plantation on the 1st of October, only 5, had to go along. At Jolly Hall - which is under Lt. La Grange - the same thing happened, and two men were brought along. Thus, the gang left Little La Grange strengthened, and it went towards Brooks [*Folio 101b-102a, notice 489*] Hill, until Mary Thomas declared that Oxford and Little La Grange were not to be burned until the evening when they returned after having rounded Annally. From Brooks Hill, they went by the route which was previously stated. At Orange Grove, they were greeted by the plantation's laborers, and there the Queen asked them whether they had already had their allowance¹⁶⁶, and they asked her to spare the plantation, which the gang did and then the gang continued onwards to Mt Pellier which, though the laborers there also pleaded for the property, she would not spare, and the same happened at the next plantation, Two Friends, where the laborers did not come out from the negro village when the gang arrived, but were taken out to receive allowance. The detainee has no doubt that it was Mary who had the power, and it was certainly she who was determined to cause the greatest destruction, such as for example at Annally, where the laborers asked Craydon¹⁶⁷ to spare the works, but when he put it to Mary, she said that they had to be burned just like all other works. The detainee says that it was not possible for him or anyone else to get away, for the gang was held tightly together. As proof of this, he mentions that John Port from Jolly Hill, who was ill and who fell - or threw himself down - was not allowed to stay at home until Mary herself had inspected him. The detainee believes that just as he himself did no evil apart from unwillingly following the gang, so did the other laborers from Lt. La Grange and Jolly Hill. They only followed the gang for as long as they had to, until they could see an opportunity to escape.

The detainees are led down gradually as they are interrogated.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand

Sarauw

Forsberg

In 1878, on Friday the 6th of December, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Due to business in Frederiksted, Commission member Bailiff Sarauw had announced that he was unable to attend. The Commission's other two members were present.

¹⁶⁶ The Danish text here is slightly unclear. It says: "der sagde Dronningen, da hun spurgte dem, at de allerede havde faaet Allowance og bad hende om at skaane Plantagen..." (there, the Queen said, when she asked them, that they had already received allowance and asked her to spare the plantation)

¹⁶⁷ Graydon

The Commission's Chairman remarks that yesterday, detainees from Christiansted Police Chamber were sent up to the Commission, namely:

1. Joseph Spencer from Pl Høgensborg, who has been hospitalized with a shot wound [*Folio 102b-103a, notice 490*] in his right thumb from the 10th of October, when he was arrested, and on the 4th of November, he was arrested by order of the court. He is charged with participation in several acts of arson.
2. John Frederik James from Pl. St Johns. He is charged with having taken part in setting fire to the rum cellar at Pl. Lebanonhill, and also for having participated in the excesses committed there.

Detainee Joseph Spencer appears and states that he took part in the arson at Carlton, where he was wounded when the soldiers came there. The arrest by court order is made clear to him, and he is led away.

John Frederik James appears. He states that he was at home at Pl: St: Johns on the day of the arson at Pl. Lebanonhill, and manager Riis and the other witnesses who have accused him must be mistaken. Due to the suspicion of participation in the riots and excesses committed during the same, which have emerged regarding the detainee, the Commission declares that the detainee is to be placed in custody. The decision is made clear to the detainee, and he is led away.

Then, the inquiries of yesterday continue.

Steven Rodgers from Lt. La Grange appears. Regarding how he came to join the gang, he states in agreement with Henry Daniel, though adding that he showed Graydon his feet on which the toes are partially rotted away because of malicious wounds, and he asked to be spared of following along, but Graydon would not hear of it and said that he had to go along, even if he did nothing. The detainee says that it was impossible for him to get away until he reached Mt Steward where he could escape through the negro village because his parents live there. The detainee did nothing else than just follow along, and he particularly did not receive allowance at any place. In agreement with Henry Daniel, he also states that Mary Thomas was more eager to cause harm than any of the men, and that Jacob Pickering walked at the back of the gang and ensured that no one got away.

Detainee Peter Felix, a boy of approximately 16-17 years old, from Pl. Jolly Hill, appears. He states that his mother, who was afraid that he would join the gang when it came to the plantation, tried to hide [*Folio 103b-104a, notice 491*] him under the bed, but Thomas Graydon found him and forced him to go along. Thus, he followed to Brooks Hill, where he slipped away into a sugarcane field.

John Port from Jolly Hill appears and also states that he was forced to go along. When the gang came, he had jumped out of the window, but Thomas Graydon detected him and said that today, no one would get their way, and that everyone had to follow along. Thus, the detainee followed the gang to Brooks Hill, and then he left, because he stopped and said to Jacob Pickering that he

was ill. Jacob P. did not dare let him go, but he summoned Mary Thomas who said that the detainee could go and gather strength and then join them another day.

Then, James Wacks from Pl. Jolly Hill, born on Barb. appears. He states that on Tuesday the 1st of October, he had left hospital and was therefore very weak when the gang came to Jolly Hill on the 3rd. He was lying on his bed when he heard commotion outside, and immediately after, he saw Thomas Graydon in the door. Graydon called him out, but the detainee objected, and then he heard a woman's voice outside saying "He has to come out, otherwise chop off his head". Thus, he had to get up, and he saw that the woman was Mary Thomas. At the time, the detainee estimates that the gang consisted of no more than 25 people - the detainee emphasizes that he can count - and it was not strengthened until it proceeded and forced the negroes from other plantations to follow along. At Mt Pellier, the detainee managed to escape in the negro village and did not continue further.

Regarding the statement that so many laborers had left Lt La Grange and Jolly Hill, all those detainees who have appeared have stated that except 3 who had gone to St Thomas, as far as they knew, the rest had entered annual contracts at other plantations, and they had not heard anything about any dissatisfaction or that they would not work anymore for 10 Cents, and they had seen the provision grounds being cultivated as usual, though, of course, not by the laborers who were to leave.

John William Samuel from Pl. Jolly Hill, born on Antigua, appears. Like the others, he is charged with having been part of the Northside gang. He denies having been part of it and states that on the Thursday in question, when he was walking through a grass field, he saw some people at and by the plantation, but since he was drunk, which he often is, he did not go close. [*Folio 104b-105a, notice 492*]

The other detainees from Little La Grange and Jolly Hill who appear again and to whom the detainee is presented, disagree as to whether he followed the gang to Brooks Hill or not. However, they all agree that he is a drunk and a sickly person.

Mathias Civil from Pl. Mt Victory appears. He is charged with having been part of the gang at Punch. He states that he did indeed go over to Punch on the evening of the fireburn, but he explains that manager Stafford had left him as a guardsman at Pl. Mt Victory, and shortly after Mt Victory had burned, Stafford returned and sent him up to Punch to find out who was in the lead of the gang at Mt Victory. Though the detainee was in the yard when the gang was there and could see their movements clearly, so that he saw 10 or 12 members of the gang go into the magass house where they each fetched a handful of magass which they used to set fire to the manager's house, he was not near enough to be able to recognize the people. The manager had instructed him not to show himself to the gang in case they would take him along with them. Finally, he went over to Punch, but when he arrived there, the yard was already empty, because the gang had gone down to Willam, and the buildings were completely, or half burned down. Then, the detainee ran back and reported to the manager. He was not at Punch after that.

Charity Daniel from Pl. Mt Victory appears. She was arrested because she is to have uttered that she was on the side of the rebels. However, she states that on the contrary, she, who was in the negro village in the evening when the gang entered and burned Mt Victory, yelled that the men at Mt Victory were cowards because they let a gang of strangers come and burn down the plantation. She knows that it is the plantation's driver who has informed on her, but she believes that he must have misunderstood her words.

Cathrine Taylor, also from Mt Victory, appears. She states that her husband lives at Punch and that she had gone over there from Mt Victory on Thursday afternoon. When she heard the commotion from the gang, which was drawing close to the plantation, she ran back to Mt Victory by a different way, and it was more or less completely burned down, and thus, she was not part of any gang and she did not see any gang, neither the one place [*Folio 105b-106a, notice 493*] nor the other.

Joseph James from Pl. Orange Grove, born on the island St Johns. He states that he was at home at Orange Grove when the gang came in on Thursday after noon. On the gang's call, the laborers came out from the negro village out to the plantation's driveway. The leader asked them if they had had anything to eat, for otherwise, he would give them allowance. They answered that the manager had already seen to it. When the gang then declared that they were going to burn down the plantation, the laborers said that then they might as well burn down the negro village, and the gang was moved to continue its way. The detainee did not follow along, but later, when the gang returned from Two Friends in order to go up to Mt Steward, he came across it down by the "gut" and - then he says - Daniel Philip forced him to follow along, so he was at Mt Steward, but when they came to Annally, he left.

Thomas Dembo from Pl. Grove Place appears. Apart from being charged with the riots in Frederiksted town, he is also charged with having set fire to the buildings and works at Pl. Mt Victory. He states that on Thursday evening, he left Nicholas, where he was with his woman, and he went down to Mt Victory whilst the gang was at Annally, and thus he was at Mt Victory when it was burned. He has family at Mt Victory, and he went there to see to them, and he did nothing. He states that he saw that the woman who called herself Queen, Mary Thomas from Sprathall, struck a woman who asked Graydon to spare the hospital three times over the neck with her "cowskin"¹⁶⁸, declaring that the hospital had to be burned. He states that this woman was Cathrine Taylor.

Because of this statement, Cathrine Taylor appears again and states that she is not the one who was struck over the neck by Mary Thomas because, as she stated earlier, she was not at Mt Victory until later. She further says that she has heard that Mary Thomas accuses Thomas Dembo of being the one who led the gang into Mt Victory.

Mary Thomas /: called the Queen :/ appears along with Thomas Dembo and when asked whether she saw this man in her gang, she answers that he joined the gang down at Orange Grove gut when the gang came back from Two Friends in order to go to Mt Victory, and he told

¹⁶⁸ Cowskin: a cowhide whip

the gang to walk calmly and quietly to surprise the plantation, where the laborers had divided out all manager Stafford's belongings around in the negro village. Therefore, he had the gang march in regular ranks, 4 and 4, and he himself walked in the lead along with the Captain. In this respect, she is asked who she means when she says "Captain", and she answers Thomas Graydon, Daniel Philip and herself. From this statement, it appears that Mary Thomas did not leave the gang at Annally, as she has previously stated.

Thomas Dembo flatly denies the truth of Mary Thomas' statement.

After interrogation, all detainees are led away to their arrest

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 7th of December in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. Due to business in the town Frederiksted, Commission member Sarauw had informed that he was unable to be present. The Commission's other two members were present.

Mary Thomas from Pl. Sprathall appears again. It is made clear to her that through the various statements given by other detainees, as well as her own statement given yesterday, regarding what happened at Mt Victory, it has emerged that she did not leave the gang at Annally as she had first stated. She then admits that she followed the gang from the beginning and all the way to Punch, where it ended. However, she left it after the greathouse had been "smashed up"¹⁶⁹ and a fire had been started in it, so she did not have any part in the arson of the works, which took place after Thomas Graydon and Daniel Philip, along with most of the gang, had tried to get down to Williams, but had been discouraged from forcing entry there. Thus, she has no opinion about whether Thomas Graydon's statement in Frederiksted's Police Court /: Interrogation of the 7th of October :/ regarding who set fire to Punch's works is true. During closer interrogation, she states that as far as she knows, petroleum was not used to start fires in her gang [*Folio 107b-108a, notice 495*]. She says that Thomas Graydon had a whole "can"¹⁷⁰ of kerosene which he took from the cellar at Two Friends, but they did not bring it along with them, because Graydon gave it to a man who was going to bring it to safety at Pl. Lt. La Grange. He - Graydon - said that he would use it for a second attempt to set fire to the Fort, whereafter he would run away. The detainee does not know whether he tried to do it again, because after they parted at Punch, she did not see him again until they were placed in interrogation. The detainee then states that the laborers at the plantations in question mostly joined them, and that it was usually one of the plantation's laborers who broke open the allowance cellar and the rum cellar, and that the laborers then took

¹⁶⁹ In the Danish text, the words "smashed up" are written in English

¹⁷⁰ In the Danish text, the word "Can" is written in English

what was handed out to them. But the forced entry happened on Th. Graydon's order, as he called together some of the plantation's laborers, and then he pointed out one or two for the job. She cannot say who they were, because she did not know the people at the various plantations, and no names were to be mentioned because they were not to inform on each other afterwards. But as far as she knows, none of the plantations' laborers took part in the arson. At Mt Steward's greathouse, it was the aforementioned Francis who started the fire. It was only at Mt Victory and Punch that the laborers did not come out when the gang called them. At Mt Victory, Thomas Dembo broke open the door, saying that it didn't matter about the laborers because he knew the plantation well enough to show the way. When presented with the various testimonies from other detainees stating that she was the one who was most eager and violent, she can only say that a poor woman such as herself could not have any power over the men.

Prince Huggins appears. He did not see Thomas Dembo in the gang when it entered Mt Victory, but then, he was not really part of the gang and in any case, he did not play a prominent role.

Jacob Pickering appears again and cannot offer any statement regarding Mt Victory, because he maintains what he has stated previously, that he left the gang at Annally. However, at the same time, he also says that he and Mary Thomas walked home together.

Mary Thomas, who appears again, repeats that it was from Punch that she and [*Folio 108b-109a, notice 496*] the detainee¹⁷¹ went home together and that they were both at Mt Victory.

Thomas Edward from Pl. Punch appears and determinedly maintains that detainee Jacob Pickering, who is presented before him, was in the gang at Punch.

All detainees are led away after interrogation.

The inquiry regarding the Northside gang is postponed for the time being.

Whereafter the examination of the excesses committed in Frederiksted town is resumed.

Susanne¹⁷² Abrahamsen, called Bottom Belly, from Pl. Prosperity, appears. She is charged with participation in the excesses by the Customs House /: Frederiksted Police Interrogation of the 13th of October :/. She states that she clearly remembers what was testified against her during the interrogation in Frederiksted, but that she did not participate in the excesses in the way which was stated there. She states that she is a milk seller at Prosperity, but that her earnings are so poor /: 23 Cts. a week apart from allowance :/ that she makes up for it by selling some grass which she collects in the sugarcane field. On the Tuesday evening in question, she came to town with her bundle of grass on her head, and between the Fort and Controllieur Birch's house, she came across a mob of people who were standing in a cluster or more like a circle, as if they were deliberating about something. When the detainee, who did not know that something was up in town, walked towards them, one of them accosted her and yelled what she wanted and which

¹⁷¹ Jacob Pickering

¹⁷² Elsewhere: Susanna

side she was on. When she replied that she had just come in to sell her grass and wasn't on any side, the man struck the grass off her head with his cane and also struck her twice so that the blood streamed down, and he forced her to "join the ring"¹⁷³. So, she had to stay in the cluster, where the men - there were not a lot of women in the cluster - yelled that the boats had been sent away from the harbor so that they couldn't get away, and that at the Police Chamber, they demanded \$3 for a pass and \$5 for passage, and that 11 Cts. a day could not pay for it, so therefore they wanted to "make Destruction in town"¹⁷⁴, and all in all, as the detainee expresses herself, they were very "cross"¹⁷⁵. Under the mentioned threats and the cry "our side"¹⁷⁶ the crowd moved slowly towards the Custom House building towards the side which faces merchant Robertson's house. There was a window there with no shutters, whether there were "blinds", she does not remember, but she thinks there were bars in the windows. Here, the crowd began to hit - no one had other weapons apart from canes - what the detainee thinks were the bars, but they did not get through the windows. However, some of them pulled out the bed netting with their canes and ripped it to shreds, and they threw the shreds onto the street. The detainee saw some boys pick up the shreds and fasten them onto canes and they danced along with them at the front of the crowd. The detainee is certain that the crowd drifted off again without anyone being inside the room, and she was particularly not inside the room herself, and she had nothing in her hands, and she did not participate in the attempt to break through the window. In no way was she in the front of the gang, on the contrary, she shamed them. When the crowd left the place and went up Kongensgade instead, the detainee left them and went home to Prosperity. She thinks that because she is a milk seller, many people in town know her, whilst none of the country negroes are known by anyone, and that is probably why she has been informed on. She is certain that the Barbados people started the riots. In the mob, she knows Thomas Graydon and a little fellow whose name she does not know but who was also shot. A third, who was employed at La Grange, she also believes was shot. The detainee says that the clock just struck 7 when she parted with the gang, and before she went home, she went down to the beach to wash off the blood.

The detainee also states that on Wednesday morning, in a sugarcane field at La Grange, where she was picking grass, she stumbled over something which, when she looked closer, turned out to be half a piece of skirting, and along with it was also 3 children's hats, some pearls, a couple of wooden tobacco pipes, 1 shirt and 1 trouser leg. She brought the things back home and has not since had the opportunity to hand them in.

Mary Thomas appears again. It has been informed that she was in town on Tuesday evening /: Frederiksted Police Interrogation of the 7th of October :/ She states that she was only in town once. She went in at some time after 6 o'clock [*Folio 110b-111a, notice 498*] after work hours. On that afternoon, she had heard, as had the other laborers at Sprathall, that there was unrest in town, because at around 4-5 o'clock, Thomas Dembo had passed the field where they were working, and he had yelled to them why they were working while other country negroes were fighting in town. When the driver asked him what they were fighting for, he replied that they

¹⁷³ In the Danish text, the words "join the ring" are written in English

¹⁷⁴ In the Danish text, the words "make Destruction in town" are written in English

¹⁷⁵ In the Danish text, the word "cross" is written in English

¹⁷⁶ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

were fighting because they could not leave the island because \$3 was demanded for a pass. When the detainee, along with two other people from Sprathall or Williams came into town, - after having walked by the square - she met a mob which was busy breaking open merchant Lund's shop on the square. Samuel Henry was the first to break open the shop; however, she heard him call for Bordeaux directly, so she assumes that he was also there. As soon as the shop was open, the rabble rushed in, town negroes as well as country negroes, and they started to throw goods out onto the street. From the shop, kerosene was poured onto the goods which were strewn on the street, and then they were set on fire, and from the bonfire on the street, which was continuously fed with goods which were thrown out, the fire spread to the house. From Lund's house, the rabble went to Wood's shop, but the detainee was not nearby, because she had heard Sprathall's driver's voice in Meel G(..)r's¹⁷⁷ yard, which is adjacent to Lund's house, so she ran in there and helped him to (...) ¹⁷⁸ fetch water to keep the house's roof wet so that it would not be ignited by the neighboring house. The detainee was not anywhere else during the night, but, as she has stated previously, she went back home to Sprathall along with the driver. She did not steal anything.

Thomas Dembo appears again and states that he left Frederiksted at 12 o'clock on Tuesday at noon, before there was trouble in town, and that he did not pass Sprathall's laborers. In the evening, when the fire could be seen from Nicholas, he went into town again.

All detainees are led away after interrogation.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Monday the 9th of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission's members convened in St Croix Arrest. All Commission members were present.

Ferdinand William from Pl. Annally appears before the Commission /: cf. interrogation of the 5th of December :/. During the examination of his previous testimonies, nothing has emerged which strengthens the charges against him, and the Commissions finds that his arrest can be lifted, and he is then [*Folio 111b-112a, notice 499*] released.

Then, Emil Hodge from Pl. Punch /: Interrogation of the 4th of December :/ appears. The examinations have justified that he is a drunk, but they have not further strengthened the charges against him. The Commission finds that his arrest can be lifted, and he is then released.

¹⁷⁷ Missing or unintelligible

¹⁷⁸ Missing or unintelligible

William H. Lucas from Annally appears. He is charged with having participated in arson both in town and in the country. He states that he was at home at the Pl. on the evening when the gang came in, and he is in overall agreement with Ferdinand William /: Interrogation of the 5th of December :/. He states that before manager Høibrock fled from the plantation on Wednesday, he gave him and the other laborers orders not to leave the plantation, and he did not leave until Tuesday the 8th of October when manager Høibrock again, for the first time, showed up at the plantation, accompanied by a military patrol, and this patrol arrested him. He was at home in the intervening days, and manager Smith from Oxford regularly inspected the plantation. In particular, he was part of the guard of 12 men whom manager Smith put in charge of guarding the plantation on the day after the fire, and the guard participated in the arrest of Thomas Graydon. He denies having taken part in the arson in town; he was on his way to town on Wednesday, but when he heard gunshots in there, he became afraid and did not continue but turned back. He did not join any gang in the country. Detainee led away.

Edward Shaw from Lebanonhill has been summoned and appears before the Commission. He states that detainee John Frederik James from St Johns came with the gang which came from Hermitage over Lt. Fountain to Lebanonhill on Thursday. At the time, the witness was in the plantation's yard amongst the other laborers from Lebanonhill, and he saw that John Frederik James was part of the mob which broke open the door to the rum cellar and rolled out the rum that was in there, 1 puncheon and 1 barrel, out into the yard, where they knocked the bottom out of the barrel, and they threw themselves at it and drank the rum. However, the witness did not see [Folio 112b-113a, notice 500] what the detainee is also charged with, cutting and destroying the bellows in the smith's shop. It is made clear to the witness that he is giving evidence as a witness and in this capacity, he is enjoined to be truthful. His testimony is presented to him and affirmed.

Then, David Thomas from Pl. Lebanonhill has been summoned and appears. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness and he is enjoined to be truthful. Like the previous witness, he states that he saw the detainee coming into Lebanonhill with the gang and he was in the mob which broke open the door to the rum cellar, and he rolled out the rum and drank it. He also saw that detainee John Fr. James was in the smiths' shop, where part of the gang had gone to, and he was using his knife to cut the bellows to pieces. Like the previous witness, he did not see the detainee start any fires.

Detainee John Frederik James from Pl St. John appears. He states that on the day in question, he had come down to Hermitage, where he has his woman, to look for his clothes. At the time, the gang had already been at Hermitage, where the detainee only stayed for a moment and then he returned home to St Johns and on the way, he went through Lebanonhill's yard where he found the works ablaze, but there were no people, because the gang was up on the hill, burning the greathouse. Without stopping, the detainee went through the yard up to St Johns. He thus denies the charges against him and the testimonies which implicate him in this regard.

Witnesses stand down and detainees are led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Tuesday the 10th of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in St Croix Arrest. All the Commission's members were present.

Detainee Bona Thomas from Pl. St Georges appears before the Commission. Since the Commission's inquiries and examinations have not brought forth anything apart from what the detainee has stated, that he came from the negro village up to the yard during the fireburn at St Georges, and since the [*Folio 113b-114a, notice 501*] charges against him have not been strengthened, it is found that he can be released, and he is then released.

Same Bona Thomas appears. He states that he was born at Pl. Beckgrove, belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church, and is approximately 36 years old. It is made clear to him that he is now appearing as a witness and must be truthful. He repeats what he has stated previously /: Interrogation of the 29th of November :/ about detainee Thomas Critchlow's presence at St Georges.

Detainee Thomas Critchlow appears. He states that when he and his people¹⁷⁹ came from Centerline into St Georges, he found the plantation's own laborers already occupied with taking allowance, and part of the works, the part which faces the Grove Place area, were already on fire, so either another gang must have come before his gang, or else the plantation's own laborers must have set in on fire themselves. He did indeed stand close to the rum cellar, which is situated in the part of the factory buildings which face the Centerline, but he did not move and set it on fire.

Bona Thomas again states that he saw the detainee come out from under the arch which leads to the entrance to the rum cellar, and at the same time, he saw that the rum cellar was on fire, wherefore he concludes, as previously noted, that the detainee set fire to the rum cellar.

The detainee, who has listened to the witness' statement, denies having come out from under the arch or having been in the rum cellar or having set it on fire in any way.

Bona Thomas stands down and the detainee is led away.

Regarding two other detainees who are placed in Frederiksted, Henry Samuel Galloway and Joseph Guillaume, who are charged with having been part of the gang at Enfjeldgreen and with having participated in breaking open the allowance cellar, the detainees who are placed here,

¹⁷⁹ his gang

from Pl. Cane, Williamsdelight and Enfjeldgreen¹⁸⁰, who were either part of or have seen the gang in question, appear and are questioned, but none of them have seen the two above-mentioned persons in the gang. Whereafter the Commission's member Bailiff Sarauw, based on the inquiries in the town Frederiksted and due to the circumstances, releases them.

Lazarus Hatchett from Pl. Enfjeldgreen /: cf. Interrogation of the 21st of November :/appears and states that he left Enfjeldgreen at daybreak. He went straight to his aunt Rebecca Gosling who lives by the lagune in Frederiksted, and then he went home on the road where he was arrested. The detainee is presented with the fact that /: cf. Frederiksted Police Interrogation of the 5th of October :/ [*Folio 114b-115a, notice 502*] he was close to Cathrine Frederiks's house when he was arrested, and he states that he stopped there on his way back from his aunt's and helped to move a table. When presented with the objection that this must have been late in the morning, and that Catherine Frederik would hardly fear the fireburn anymore, he states that he was not at the house in the morning but in the afternoon at 14:45, when he was arrested. He denies having said anything about having taken part in the destruction of merchant Moore's shop.

David Cameron from Pl. La Grange appears. He has requested to appear before the Commission because he has a statement regarding the detainee Henry Daniel from Lt. La Grange and William Henry Lucas from Annally. He then states, regarding Henry Daniel, that on Thursday the 3rd, when he had been sent by Mrs. Fontaine /: the widow of the planter who was killed by the rioters :/ from Pl. La Grange to Mt. Steward to collect some things and bring them down to La Grange, he came across the gang at Little La Grange. He was stopped and asked where he was going, and when he, who was driving a cart which was pulled by two mules in harness, answered that he was going up to Mrs. Steward to fetch flour because there was no more flour at La Grange, he was allowed to pass. He reckoned that he would be allowed to pass if his errand was about flour for the negroes, whilst they would arrest him if they knew that it was about salvaging Mrs. Fontaine's belongings. So, he came up to Mt Steward and he got the cart loaded with the help of Julius Edward from La Grange and James Gaspar from Mt Steward, but before he dared to drive back with the cart, he wanted to see where the gang was, so he rode down the road. Just as he got close to the place, above Orange Grove, where the Mt Steward road joins the main road, the gang with Th. Graydon and Mary Thomas in the lead came out from Orange Grove where he could see the magass stacks still burning, and the detainee wanted to turn his horse around, but then he was hailed by Th. Graydon who wanted him to join the gang. The detainee was recognized as the person who had passed them with the cart a little while earlier, and he stated that he had been unable to get the flour, which was why he now returned. Then, he excused himself saying that he was hungry, so he could not join the gang right away, but that he would join them later. That was when Henry Daniel insisted [*Folio 115b-116a, notice 503*] that the detainee should join the gang immediately, and he advised Thomas Graydon to not let the detainee go. However, Thomas Graydon let him go, and when the detainee shortly after heard and saw that the gang was at Mt Pellier, he saw his chance to drive away from Mt Steward.

¹⁸⁰ Unclear at which of the 3 plantations the two detainees are employed

Regarding William Henry Lucas, he states that on the previous day - on Wednesday the 2nd - when he had also been sent up to Mt Steward with a cart in order to fetch some things and bring them down to Mrs. Fontaine, on the country road, right across from Little La Grange's works, he met William H. Lucas who was on the road, on his way from Annally to town. Lucas encouraged him to go to town with him and try "to have that Fort down¹⁸¹", and when the detainee refused, he tried to turn around the mules and the cart with force. However, a man who was with the detainee, whom the detainee calls Mr. Bole, intervened, and another man, James Ross, came up, so the detainee got away from Lucas, who continued his way to town, and the detainee went to Mt Steward without any further disturbance.

Regarding his own person, the detainee states that he was indeed in Frederiksted during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, of which he is charged. But it was only because an old woman, Marie, from La Grange, and her daughter, Amanda, who lives in town, had asked him to come in and help to save Amanda's things. He went with them over the "gut" below the Catholic Church into town and moved Amanda's things further up in town, to the "freegut", but the detainee, who had heard that after the goings-on with Fontaine, the negroes were after the La Grange laborers, so he was afraid to venture further into town, and he hurried back to La Grange which he did not leave again until Mrs. Fontaine sent him up to Mt Steward on the following day. Also, the detainee adds that he was only away from the plantation during the unrest for legal purposes because, as he says, he worked during the day and kept guard during the night. The detainee's testimonies regarding Henry Daniel and William H. Lucas are presented to him and affirmed by him. Detainee led away.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw
Forsberg

In 1878, on Wednesday the 11th of December, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission convened [*Folio 116b-117a, notice 504*] in St Croix Arrest. The Commission had been notified that due to business in the town Frederiksted, Commission member Bailiff Sarauw was unable to be present.

William Barnes from Pl. Rattan appears before the Commission. He is charged with having participated in the arson at Pl. Castle Coakley. The interrogations and other inquiries concerning this arson have not led to a strengthening of the charges, because it has turned out that another William Barnes /: Rust up Twist :/ set fire to the magass stack, which is what the detainee was particularly charged with, and it is found that the detainee can be released, and he is then released.

¹⁸¹ In the Danish text, the words "to have that Fort down" are written in English

Then, the Commission's chairman remarks that now that the various gangs which ravaged in the country, burning plantations, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October, have been noted, considered and examined, it is found to be expedient to divide the examinations of the individual gangs and the crimes which they have committed between the Commissaries, just like Bailiff Sarauw for some time has kept his own Interrogation Protocol in the examination of certain gangs whilst others are examined by the Commission's Chairman. Commissarius Legal Counselor Forsberg will hereafter initiate the examination of the gangs which were formed at Windsor on Thursday the 3rd, and he will do so in Christiansværnsfort to where the appropriate detainees will be moved.

The Commission's meeting is adjourned at 14:30

Ph Rosenstand
Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 12th of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated and administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

Detainee Joseph Spencer appears. He is presented with the various charges which are held against him, that he has participated [*Folio 117b-118a, notice 505*] in the committed excesses at several places - apart from participation in the gang which burned down Carlton on Thursday, to which he has admitted - namely, in Frederiksted town, at Carlton on Wednesday morning, at Concordia and at Grove Place, and he denies having participated in the excesses at these places. He did not leave his home at Høgensborg before Wednesday afternoon between 12 and 2 o'clock. At Two Williams School House, he came across a big crowd of people who made a commotion and moved backwards and forwards and then they moved towards Westend. They talked about - it was mainly Agnes from L. Bethlehem who talked about it - that there were soldiers at Wheel of Fortune, and then someone from inside Concordia's yard yelled that there were soldiers in there. He states that it was John Peter and a woman called Rebecca who called in the gang like this, and then the plantation was burned. Thus, the detainee saw the gang at Concordia, but he was not part of it in Frederiksted, and he was not at all at Carlton on Wednesday morning or at Grove Place.

John Peter from Pl. Concordia appears. He denies having yelled to the crowd which was out on the road that it should come in, or that there was military at Concordia, where there was no military or had been. However, he maintains that Joseph Spencer was one of the leaders of the gang which came in and burned Concordia

Detainee Spencer repeats his denial whilst detainee John Peter maintains his testimony. Detainees led away.

After various detainees, who have requested to appear for various reasons, partly regarding release and partly regarding other things, hereunder the volunteering of information, have been interrogated without anything emerging which serves to advance the inquiries, the court is adjourned at 16:30.

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Friday the 13th of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were Police Principal Dendtler, the keeper of the register, and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

Edward Lewis from Pl. Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears. He has stated that he wants to explain what he knows about the unrest. He then states that on Thursday the 1st [*Folio 118b-119a, notice 506*] of October, at approximately 2 o'clock in the afternoon, he came to Frederiksted along with Emanuel from Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ and William Field¹⁸² from Hermitage. Field soon parted from them, whilst the two others drifted round in town, where they gradually met some other negroes, here amongst John Samson and John Ford, in whose company he went to the lagoon /: Pond Beach :/area, where they sat down under a tree and played a game. At the time, the detainee did not see or hear any commotion in town. When they came up into town again, the detainee believes that they did so at approximately 3 o'clock, many negroes were gathered, particularly outside Junghans' and Brown's rum shops where they snapped¹⁸³ quite a lot and also caused some commotion, but only amongst each other. Amongst the negroes which were gathered here, the detainee met someone called Norway Charles from La Reine /: later dead :/ who gave him some rum in Brown's rum shop. When he came out, he saw that Joe La Grange had taken hold of a Police Officer - a white man - whom he tried to push away from a negro whom the Police Officer held on to. The detainee heard that the Police Officer had hit this man, who was now lying outside the door, bellowing, but the detainee does not know if he did so because he was drunk or because of the beatings. In any case, the Police Officer tried to get hold of Joe la Grange, who, however, wrested himself loose, and along with 3 others, he dragged the other man up the street, followed by a great deal of other people, and just as many stayed behind. There was a lot of talk and yelling about that the police had "taken advantage"¹⁸⁴ of the drunk man. However, the police allowed the crowd to move up the street, and when the rabble had reached the apothecary, Joe la Grange returned after having placed the drunken man somewhere - the detainee does not know where. When the police wanted to arrest him, he resisted, and the police failed in arresting him. When Joe la Grange returned, he was completely unruly and began to slash out amongst the negroes themselves. The detainee, who was beginning to feel heavy in the head because of the drinking, did not stay in the crowd but went to another "shop" a bit further up in town /: Hatchett's :/, and when he came out of there, he saw that the

¹⁸² Elsewhere: Feeld

¹⁸³ drank rum

¹⁸⁴ In the Danish text, the words "taken advantage" are written in English

swarm was already all the way down by the square, moving towards the Fort, and the detainee heard that two mounted soldiers had been out, but that neither they nor the Police had succeeded in dispersing the crowd. When the detainee came down to [Folio 119b-120a, notice 507] the Fort, a great crowd of negroes was standing outside; they were boisterous and noisy, and they were fighting with each other. The detainee states that the crowd in Frederiksted was so big that it was difficult to distinguish individuals, and, there were a lot of people whom he did not know, but apart from Joe la Grange he noticed Emanuel, John Samson, Joseph Parris, Party Rose, Bordeaux /: Gottlieb Robert :/. In Frederiksted, the detainee did not hear any demands for higher wages. He says that during the days, after the negroes had been dispersed and they hid together in “the bush¹⁸⁵”, they often spoke about that when the negroes left the island, they would have to leave money in the Fort, that they would no longer have an October, and that it was unjust that a negro who worked as a “porter” got 20 cents a day whilst the other laborers got 10 cents, and that it was to change these things that the negroes had fought, but he has not interpreted Emanuel’s words such that it was something that the negroes had agreed upon or whether it was something which had come up after the rioting had come under way. At dawn, the detainee walked from Mt Pellier to Mt Pleasant on the common Northside country road. He continues to deny that he said to William Jones from Upper Love /: Interrogation of the 20th of November :/ that a bullet had gone through his coat.

The coat which the detainee wore in Frederiksted is brought into court from his dwelling at Mt Pleasant. There are a great many holes in it, but none of them seem to be of such a nature that it can be said that they can have been caused by a bullet. They look more like they were caused by cockroaches. Also, the holes which could possibly be caused by bullets are situated so that they cannot have been caused by shots while the detainee was wearing the coat without him being hit himself. Detainee led away.

Then, Cathrine Heyliger from Pl. Castle appears. She is charged with having been part of Parris’ gang at Pl. River on the 4th of October.

Also, Elsey Philips from the same Pl, appears, against whom the same charges are put forward.

Both detainees admit that they were in Parris’ gang on the occasion in question, but they both state that they were forced. Both detainees led away. [Folio 120b-121a, notice 508]

Then, Lydia Joseph from Pl. River appears. She is charged with having participated in the destruction, particularly of the manager’s dwelling, when the gang came to River on Friday.

Detainee Thomas Richardson from Pl. Lower Bethlehem appears. He is charged with having been part of the gang which burned down River’s works on Wednesday evening the 2nd of October. The detainee admits that he was quite drunk on the evening in question - which happens regularly - and that he joined this gang which he came across on the country road, and he followed it to River, but he did not do anything apart from stand in the yard, looking. Detainee led away.

¹⁸⁵ In the Danish text, the words “the bush” are written in English

Then, Alexander Washington, Edward Washington and Joseph Jearwood appear, all from L Bethlehem, and they are all charged with having taken part in the arson of Bethlehem's sugarcane fields.

The charges were made clear to each detainee, but each of them deny having joined the gang when it came to Bethlehem on Thursday - they were all at home at the plantation and they did indeed see the gang, but none of them knew a single one of the negroes who were in it, and they did not notice Party, who is from the same plantation, or Joseph Parris who is from the neighboring plantation Castle. The detainees are led away.

Court adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Saturday the 14th of December in the morning at 9 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

John Harrigan from Pl. L Bethlehem appears. He states that he was at home at the Pl: when the gang was there, but he did not assist it in any way. In the gang, he only knew one person whose name is John James from Bettys Hope /: later dead :/. When the unlikeliness of this is pointed out, since the gang consisted of quite a lot of people from surrounding plantations, he maintains his claim and adds that he himself assumes that he is suspected of being part of the gang himself, precisely because he could not point out other participants to the manager. Detainee led away.

Detainee Johanna Williams from Pl. L Bethlehem appears. She [*Folio 121b-122a, notice 509*] states that on Wednesday morning, when she saw and heard about the fireburn in Frederiksted, she went down to Pl. Concordia where she had a brother /: detainee Christian Caulsen :/. She denies having robbed some clothes belonging to manager Mac Cabe, of which she is charged. She was not at Concordia when it burned, and she did not see any fire there, because she left at, she thinks, approximately 12 o'clock. Led away.

William Strong from Pl. L Bethlehem appears, charged with having joined the gang when it came into L Bethl. and particularly with having broken open the allowance cellar. He states that he was at home at Bethlehem and that he was in the negro village when the gang came there and began to burn the manager's house. When the gang came down from there, the detainee came across Joseph Parris, who had a double-barreled gun in his hand, and he immediately grabbed him by the shirt collar and shook him, saying that he wanted one of L Bethl's own laborers to knock the lock off the allowance cellar, but that the laborers held back too much. Thus, he forced the detainee to take a sugar ax which he carried along with the gun, and he dragged the detainee down to the allowance cellar. Here, the detainee had to hit the lock with the ax, and he hit it

twice without opening the door, but, as he says, he could easily have opened the door. This made Parris impatient and because of his reluctance, he hit the detainee in the chest with the gun barrel and then he knocked off the lock himself - almost all allowance cellars have a padlock. The detainee ran away immediately and did not have anything else to do with Parris or the gang, but when the gang had left the plantation, immediately after Parris had let all the carts be set on fire, he helped to try to extinguish the fire in the overseer's dwelling. The detainee, who seems to be more timid and moved than any other detainee who has appeared before the Commission previously, explains that he arrived here as a little boy amongst the first boys whom Procurator Arnesen started to introduce laborers from Barbados, and he got employment at Jerusalem, where he attended Peters Rest's school, and he stayed at Jerusalem for quite a few years, and from there he came to Bethlehem, where he has been more or less since then, particularly because he has followed the blacksmith Pentland. When his testimony is presented to him, the detainee repeats that he has done nothing else than what he has stated above. Led away.

Richard Gittens from Pl. Bettys Hope appears. Detainee John [*Folio 122b-123a, notice 510*] Henry Green has stated /: Interrogation in Frederiksted of the 6th of October :/ that he walked with him from Diamond School House until they came to town. The detainee states that very early on Wednesday morning, some time before dawn, he left Bettys Hope to go to Frederiksted to see how his 3 children and their mother had gotten through the night there. At Diamond School House, he came up onto the main road, where he was hailed by Green, but they only exchanged a couple of words, and the detainee continued on his way and left Green behind him. At Diamond Bridge, a division of mounted soldiers and wagons passed the detainee, and in the hollow past Concordia, he met the military "waggon¹⁸⁶" again, driving outwards. When the detainee heard the wagon rattling towards him, he went into the sugarcane fields, as did many of the other negroes whom he saw on the road, individually or in small groups of 2, 3 or 4, so he cannot say if the wagon was empty or if it was still full of soldiers. He found his woman and children safe and sound, and he went into the house which is near the apothecary. Immediately after, the military power cleared the road by shooting. The detainee was picked up by a patrol and he was placed in the Fort at 7 o'clock. He thus denies having been with Green, and he does not know whether he went straight into town or what happened to him, and he was particularly not with Green at Carlton and he does not know whether Green was there at all.

John Henry Green, who then appears, maintains what he testified during Frederiksted's Police Interrogation of the 6th of October, namely that he walked from Diamond School House along with detainee Gittens. He claims that they were together when the soldiers passed them on the way to Frederiksted, and that this took place at Concordia, right before the military halted. Thus, he saw that the soldiers got out and that the force went around the town in order to enter through the La Grange road whilst the wagon again drove out towards the country. The detainee, who stood at the edge of a sugar field, continued his way towards town, still in the company of Richard Gittens, and they did not part ways until they were at the big well which is at the entrance to the town. Joe La Grange's mother lives nearby, and the detainee was called in by Joe La Grange. He continues to maintain that he did not turn back after the wagon and he

¹⁸⁶ In the Danish text, the word "waggon" is written in English

was not at Carlton. The time was between 7 and 8 when an Officer picked him up¹⁸⁷ in Mathilda's house. [*Folio 123b-124b, notice 511*)

The detainees are confronted, and their testimonies are presented to each other, but each maintains his testimony.

Detainee Richard Gittens states that the name of his woman is Sarah John. The detainees Gittens and Green are led away.

Detainee William Feeld from Pl. Hermitage, who is charged with participation in the excesses at Pl. Hermitage and with having followed the gang from there to Lebanonhill, and the detainees Emanuel and Edward Lewis have stated that he was with them when they went to the town Frederiksted on the 1st of October. He states that they came to town long before 12 o'clock, and that he went to town at that time to see if he could get hold of some people for employment at Hermitage, and he immediately separated from Emanuel and Lewis, who both had canes in their hands /: canes, cudgels :/, scarves around their heads and their trousers turned up high, which the detainee took be a sign that they were out to stir things up¹⁸⁸ - were about to leave town again¹⁸⁹. He did not see what they did. Regarding himself, he failed in finding any people. When asked whether it was because the people he spoke to did not want to enter annual contracts or whether they did not want to work for the usual pay, he states that he did hear anyone speak of that, but that they only answered him that they did not want to work at Hermitage because "the Captain was such a droll man¹⁹⁰". He says that since he could not get hold of any laborers and since the manager, who had said that he would be in town, had not arrived, he wanted to get out of town again, because the October people were wild. The detainee himself does not from his own experience know whether Emanuel and Edward Lewis stayed in town, but because the detainee went to town with him, Emanuel has told him that a man from Annally took a bag of money out of the Custom House and that this man and Edward Lewis had gotten into a brawl over the money.

Regarding the charges against himself, the detainee states that in the gang which came from Mt Pleasant to Hermitage, there was a man called William Joseph /: according to the detainee, he has later died :/ who, along [*Folio 124b-125a, notice 512*] with Emanuel, tried to force him to ring the plantation bell; but when the detainee took hold of the rope, it broke, so the detainee did not get to ring the bell, because he refused to climb up onto the belfry, which Edward Lewis then did. He claims that it is not true that he helped to set fire to anything at all, but that it is something which Francis Philip has made up. The detainee was forced to go along to Lebanon Hill even though he had bad feet, but he took the first opportunity to get away. He did indeed return to Hermitage with a sugar ax in his hand. He told the driver and Samuel Chase, whom the gang were after, as they were also after himself because they had salvaged all manager Quinn's possessions in the negro village, and the gang was going to return to Hermitage the same evening and burn down the negro village, but he denies that he wanted the gang to return or that he

¹⁸⁷ arrested him

¹⁸⁸ The Danish text says "ude på Commers".

¹⁸⁹ This last part of the sentence "were about to leave town again" does not quite fit in the context

¹⁹⁰ In the Danish text, the words "the Captain was such a droll man" are written in English

walked around the negro village, bragging that he would “fight for liberty¹⁹¹” as it is said about him. On the morning in question, he did indeed have a snaps, as he is given to do - but he did not drink anything in the rum cellar at Lebanonhill, but he does not believe that he was drunk so that he, in a drunken state, had gone around siding with the rebels.

The detainee is a boozier. The detainee affirms his testimony and is led away.

Court adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Tuesday the 17th of December in the morning at 9 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

The Examining Judge remarks that manager W. Wilson from Pl. River has notified the Commission that the detainee James Harewood, who was released on the 4th of January, usually goes by the name Heatly. Under this name, he is charged with having participated in the excesses at the plantation River on Wednesday evening, the 2nd of October. Therefore, he [*Folio 125b-126a, notice 513*] was arrested yesterday and now appears. He states that his name is indeed James Harewood, but that he commonly goes by the name Heatly. However, he denies having been at Pl. River during the evening in question.

Detainee Samuel Beerley¹⁹² appears and claims that the detainee Harewood, whom he also knows by the name Heatly, and who is presented before him, was in the gang at River and that he had an ax in his hand. With reference to the first arrest decree which was issued when he was first imprisoned, as one of the first who were arrested under suspicion of participation in the insurrection, the charges have now been strengthened, and the Commission declares that detainee James Harewood, called Heatly, is to be placed in custody yet again. This is made clear to the detainee, and he is led away.

Joseph Petersen from Pl. River appears. He was burned in the rum cellar at Pl. Upper Love on the 2nd of October, and after he had been brought into the Police Chamber in Christiansted on the 23rd of the same month, he had to be hospitalized, and when he was cured, on the 22nd of November, he ran off, but was brought in again after a couple of days. He states that he did not set fire to the rum cellar at Upper Love, but that he was inside the rum cellar along with many people from the gang, and they drank of the rum, and the rum barrels were broken, and then the cellar was set on fire. The negroes who were in there all rushed towards the door at once to get out, and because of the throng, the detainee fell over, and the burning rum reached him as it

¹⁹¹ In the Danish text, the words “fight for liberty” are written in English

¹⁹² Elsewhere: Berley

flooded the floor, and his face, hands and feet were burned, but since his clothes were wet, they were not ignited. On both Tuesday and Wednesday, he tended the mules as usual, and he was in the field with them when the gang burned the surrounding plantations, so he was not at home in the yard when River's works burned. He saw the gang move towards Fountain but he did not follow it, and when it returned and had passed River again, the detainee followed after it and thus came across it at Upper Love, where he immediately [*Folio 126b-127a, notice 514*] ran towards the rum cellar. He states that he is not a boozier, so he did not exactly go there because he wanted to drink, and he cannot state any particular reason, because he did not think about harming anyone or having anything to do with the rebellious negroes. Detainee led away.

Detainee Henry Francis appears. He was originally taken in at Pl. Carlton under the suspicion that he had participated in the riots. He stated to the Commission that he had not participated in any excesses at any place, but that he had been taken in because he had been found to be at Pl. Carlton despite the existing prohibition, because he was not employed there. Since the Commission's inquiries have not brought forth anything further against him, it is found that he can be released, and he is then released.

Joseph Briggs from Plantation Fredensborg appears. All day Wednesday, he kept to himself, calmly, at Pl. Cane where he has his woman, but on Thursday morning, he followed the gang which came from Høgensborg and from there on to Diamond and later to Good Hope and again back to Carlton. As such, the detainee was present during the arson at those places where this gang, which has often been dealt with previously, ravaged, but he denies having done anything, and in particular, he did not have anything to do with the arson of the rum cellar at Enfjeldgreen /: cf. Interrogation of the 21st of Novbr :/ at Pl. Carlton. At Pl. Carlton, Sophy¹⁹³ from Høgensborg was rushing round the house, breaking everything, and she would also have set fire to the house, had the detainee, along with Augustus Robert and the guardsman Braffith, not stopped her, and thus he believes that he helped to save the house. On the gang's whole tour, he saw the mentioned Sophy alongside Washington, and she carried both matches and kerosene oil, but the detainee dare not say that he actually saw her set fire to anything.

Sophia¹⁹⁴ Matterson [*Folio 127b-128a, notice 515*] from Pl. Høgensborg appears and denies having had anything to do with the destruction which was committed by the gangs which came from Høgensborg

Joseph Briggs and Sophia led away.

Thomas Contigator appears /: cf. interrogation of the 18th of Novbr :/. He further states that on Wednesday, on the driver's orders, he took part in moving various pieces of furniture out of Pl. Caulter's house and into an empty house in the negro village. The detainee knows that a bedstead with a mattress, a large mirror and a table was moved, but he is not certain whether other things were moved whilst he and the carpenter were busy moving the bedstead. He does not know whether things were hidden in other places apart from in the mentioned negro house,

¹⁹³ Elsewhere: Sophia

¹⁹⁴ Elsewhere: Sophy

and he thinks that those things which were hidden were saved. He does not know anything about anyone, himself included, telling Parris where these things were. When the gang was coming in, the detainee was at Profit¹⁹⁵, and the works were already on fire when he came into the yard. He asked Parris not to burn the greathouse, saying that it was too close to the negro village, and it was on that occasion that Parris thumped him with the gun barrel and thus forced him to go up the steps to the house in which the gang was ravaging, but he only got to the door when people rushed out because the house was on fire. He saw Margreth Heyns outside the house, but he did not hear her encourage the gang. On Wednesday, the detainee was at the plantation until 6 o'clock when he went over to L Bethlehem where he has his wife. Whilst he was at the plantation, the driver was hidden somewhere, but he does not know the whereabouts of planter Coulter's housekeeper, Miss Daily, who has testified against the detainee. Detainee led away.

John Samuel from Pl. Anguilla, appears. He states that he did not see Thomas Contigator help to move [*Folio 128b-129a, notice 516*] planter Coulter's things down into the negro village, but also, he did not see or hear Th. Contigator give the gang directions as to where the moved furniture had been stored. He saw that several members of the gang walked through the negro village, looking for it, but they got tired of it and threatened to return in the evening and burn down the negro village if they were not told where to find the furniture, but no one told them, and they did not come back in the evening, either. For fear of it, the driver let the things which were kept in the negro house move out into a sugarcane field, wherefrom they were later brought to the manager. The detainee thinks that apart from the items mentioned by Contigator, there were also some canvas chairs. The detainee thinks that under the steps, a box with glasses and other smaller things were hidden, but the gang spotted them and broke them, but he does not know that it was Contigator who led them there. The detainee was up in the house whilst the gang was there, and along with some others, he tried to extinguish the fires that were started, but they were threatened to give up their attempts. As far as the charges against the detainee, namely that he was down at Blessing along with two other laborers from Anguilla where they burned a couple of magass stacks, he states that three strange negroes, amongst whom he did not know anyone, came to Anguilla on Thursday afternoon whilst he was sitting under a tamarind tree with two others, and they encouraged them to take "a walk¹⁹⁶", because it didn't do that Anguilla's laborers didn't go along. The detainee and the two others went to Blessing with the three negroes, where the allowance cellar had been broken open but was found empty, and then two or three magass stacks were set on fire. The detainee does not know who put out the fire yesterday¹⁹⁷, but he says that it was the 3 men who did all the harm, because he and the two other laborers from Anguilla ran home immediately¹⁹⁸. Led away.

Court adjourned at 4 o'clock.

¹⁹⁵ Here, the Danish transcription says "ad Profit til", which does not make sense in the context? Did the detainee go somewhere called "Profit"?

¹⁹⁶ In the Danish text, the words "a walk" are written in English

¹⁹⁷ Unclear which day "yesterday" refers to

¹⁹⁸ This sentence is very messy. The Danish text says: Hvem der slukkede Ilden igaar, veed A., der siger at det var de 3 Mand, der gjorde al Ulykken, ikke, da han og de to andre Anguilla Folk strax løb hjem" (Who put out the fire yesterday, the detainee knows, who says that it was the 3 man who did all the harm, not, because he and the two other Anguilla laborers immediately ran home)

[*Folio 129b-130a, notice 517*]

In 1878, on Thursday the 19th of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

John Gottlieb, called Bordeaux, appears. He has previously stated that he knew absolutely no one in the rabble mob which he came across in Frederiksted on Thursday evening, and now he has requested to appear in court. He then states that on the evening in question, he came to Fred. from Two Brothers, where he is employed, at between 7 and 8 o'clock. He walked down Kongensgade and at Reuter's shop, he met a mob of negroes in whose lead, he says, was Emanuel from Mt Pleasant. At the same time, he saw that several people were gathered outside the Catholic priest's dwelling, and he saw Bailiff Sarauw walk towards them. The detainee walked in the same direction as Emanuel's gang had gone. He heard that Bailiff Sarauw tried to calm down the mob, saying that in the following days, they could present whatever they had on their minds. He heard some of the negroes complain that they could not get their pass to leave the island, and some of them yelled that they wanted higher wages. They did not want to listen to the Bailiff or to the man whom he used to talk to them, because he could not himself speak loudly enough. When this man - Marselin Williams - was hit by a stone which was thrown from the mob into the circle and he - Marselin - moved as if to go away, the detainee encouraged him to stay and say what the Bailiff had to say. Whilst the detainee was saying that, Samuel Henry hit him in the head with a cane, and immediately after, Bailiff Sarauw was hit in the head so that he fell to the ground, but the detainee did not see who hit him, and then Marselin helped him home. The detainee walked with them for some of the way, and when he came back, he found that a little shop, which he thinks belonged to a woman called Benjamin, had been broken into, and there was a bonfire on the street outside [*Folio 130b-131a, notice 518*]. This was the first fire which the detainee saw in town, and he presumes that it was started by the same mob which had been gathered shortly before, as stated. The detainee did not stop at the fire, but walked up Kongensgade, right up to Jane Major, to get his head bandaged. Then, he went home and stayed at home for the rest of the night. In the mob at the Catholic priest's dwelling, he also particularly noticed Emanuel, who acted as "Captain" with a whip in his hand. He also saw Edward Lewis in town, but not in this mob. He states that he lives with a woman, Petrine Groiles¹⁹⁹, and that he spent the night in her house. When presented with the fact that he is charged with - Frederiksted Police Interrogation of the 22nd of November - having been out and about later during the evening or the night and having blown the conch, he denies anything like that.

¹⁹⁹ Elsewhere: Groile or Groiel

Detainee Petrine Groiel from Frederiksted appears. She declares that detainee Robert - Bordeaux - did not sleep with her or in her house on the night in question. She saw him the following morning at the gate at Two Brothers with a bandaged head and a bloody shirt. She is charged with having given detainee Robert, with whom she has previously lived, the conch which he used to call for trouble, but she denies this, and she states that a woman, who is out to get her, has reported that story to Police Officer Jackson.

The detainee Robert - Bordeaux - maintains that he spent the night in Petrine Groiels' house. Both detainees are led away.

Then, detainee Thomas James from the plantation Anguilla appears. Regarding the goings-on at Blessing, where he is charged with participation, just like John Samuel who was interrogated on the 17th of this month. During the evening, that is, several hours after the gang had been at Anguilla, the detainee, alongside John Samuelsen and James Griffith, was sitting under a tamarind tree, when 3 people from the Manningsbay area came and threatened the detainee and the two others [*Folio 131b-132a, notice 519*] to go along to Blessing because they were angry that Blessing laborers hadn't participated at all but had hidden their master's belongings in the negro village. In any case, they wanted some of Anguilla's laborers to go "out for a walk²⁰⁰", and thus, the detainee and the two others had to go along. At Blessing, the allowance cellar, which was empty, was broken open, but neither the detainee nor the two others from Anguilla took part in it, and the detainee did not even wait to see the magass stack being set on fire. The detainee says that none of the three Anguilla men had seen that any laborers from Anguilla joined the gang or assisted the gang when it was at Anguilla, and he particularly did not see Thomas Contigator show the gang where Mr. Coulter's furniture and things were hidden. As far as the detainee knows, all the things which were hidden in the negro village were saved, but he saw that some things, here amongst, the detainee thinks, some chairs which were hidden under the stairs, were discovered and were broken, but the detainee did not see that any Anguilla laborers pointed out the things. When asked whom he particularly noticed in the gang, apart from Parris, he states that it was difficult to distinguish the individuals whereof he did not know many, because they were from far into the country, but he noticed Margreth Heyns from Slob and regarding her, he states what has been noted in the interrogation of the 18th of November.

James Griffith from Pl Anguilla appears. Regarding the goings-on at Blessing of which he is also charged with participation, he states just like the previous detainee. He didn't know any of the three men either, and in that regard, he states that he, who came from Barbados as a boy, has never been employed anywhere else than at Anguilla, and therefore he only knows very few people from down country. He did not see that any Anguilla laborers joined the gang or assisted the gang in any way or pointed out things which had been brought to safety, away from the gang. Particularly, he did not see [*Folio 132b-133a, notice 520*] Thomas Contigator do anything like that. He heard that Th. Contigator complained that the gang had not left any flour for the plantation's own laborers as they had taken it all themselves, and he saw that Parris threatened to beat him for that, but apart from that, he did not see Thomas C. do anything. The detainee himself did not notice Margreth Heyns, but afterwards, he has heard from Thomas James how she acted.

²⁰⁰ In the Danish text, the words "out for a walk" are written in English

Then detainee Ann Eliza Richard from Pl. Rust up Twist appears, charged with having set fire to a house in the negro village at Pl. La Vallee - as far as it is known, the only plantation where the negro village was set on fire. She admits that she went from Rust up Twist to La Vallee when the gang was at the last-mentioned place, but she states that at the time, everything was already ablaze.

Detainee William Henry Edward from Pl. Clifton Hill appears. He has burn marks on his left leg. He states that he was burned in a sugarcane field at Pl. Mt Pleasant. On Wednesday, at noon, when he heard that there were gangs of people down country who were killing each other and doing other bad things, he went down country to hear something about his sister who lives at Paradise. However, he did not get to Paradise, because just below Adventure, he met a mob of negroes, and they wanted to force him to join them, and another man from Clifton Hill named Joseph Ross /: called Monsieur, later shot :/ struck the detainee over the neck with a cane. As some other members of the gang went for him, he ran into a sugarcane field which was already on fire, and he was pulled out by some of the others, but then his foot had already been burned. He then followed the gang down to the driveway at Mt Pleasant :/ Kortright :/ and from there, he saw the fireburn at St Georges. From there, the detainee went back to Clifton Hill where he was at home in his house and had a fever because of the burn wounds when Clifton Hill [*Folio 133b-134a, notice 521*] was burned in the evening.

Court adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Friday the 20th of December, at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

Joseph Merchant from Pl. Two Brothers appears. He is charged with having participated in the fireburn in Frederiksted during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October. The detainee states that he left Two Brothers in the evening between 7 and 8 o'clock and went to town where he also was during the night of the fireburn, but he states that he helped Mr. Reuter move goods from her son's shop when the house was set on fire, and that he did no harm.

Rebecca Robert from Pl. La Reine appears. She was arrested because she was suspected of having participated in the excesses at Enfjeldgreen. She denies having been at Enfjeldgreen on the day in question because she did not leave the plantation.

Elizabeth Edward /: called Betzy :/ from Pl. La Reine appears. She is charged as the previous detainee, but she also denies having been there.

Detainee David William from Pl. Enfjeldgreen appears. He states that he knows Betzy from La Reine and that she was with the gang at Enfjeldgreen, he particularly saw her at the door to the rum cellar, but he cannot say that he saw her do anything.

However, none of the other prisoners from Enfjeldgreen who are placed here know the mentioned Betzy from La Reine or noticed her during the arson at Enfjeldgreen.

John Hendriksen from Pl. Enfjeldgreen appears and states that he [*Folio 134b-135a, notice 522*] followed the gang to Good Hope after it had been at Enfjeldgreen, but he did not participate in the arson. After the detainees have been interrogated, they are led away, one by one.

Detainee David Cameron from Pl. La Grange also appears. Regarding what he stated in the interrogation of the 10th of December about his errand in Frederiksted during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, an inquiry had been instigated in Frederiksted, and it has been mentioned to a Police Assistant that two persons, Charles Robert Jefferson, and David Rodgers, had informed that the detainee had participated in the arson of Police Officer Larsen's dwelling, and that he had been one of the instigators of the fire, using kerosene oil. The detainee is presented with the exact charges and denies having participated in setting fire to Officer Larsen's dwelling and the detainee did not even know where it was before he was arrested. Regarding what he did in Frederiksted, he maintains his previous testimony. Detainee led away.

Court adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Saturday the 21st²⁰¹ of December at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the keeper of the register Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

Detainee Clara Thomas appears and states that at the beginning of the riots, she was employed as a porter at Sionhill and lived with her uncle, the driver. On the morning of the 3rd of October, she had gone down to her father, Isaac Thomas, who lives at Pl. Diamond & Ruby. As such, she was in the negro village when the gang came in there; While the rest of the gang was in the yard, 3 of the ringleaders, George Simmons from Barrenspot, Aaron Martin from Strawberryhill and James Beck walked through the negro village and drove people out, threatening that [*Folio 135b-136a, notice 523*] they would burn down the negro village otherwise. In that way, they got the plantation's laborers out into the yard, and then they forced the plantation's own laborers to bring magass. Francis Lennard and James Beck were the ones who started the fires, first in the greathouse and then in the works. They wanted to force the detainee herself to set fire to the heap of magass which had been stacked under the mill's wings. This had

²⁰¹ The Danish transcription says Saturday the 27th - but it must be the 21st

also been done by Diamond & Ruby's own laborers, and William Arnold put the matches into her hands to light the magass and start the fire. In the mill wall, the detainee says, some of the manager's possessions were hidden, and Francis Lennard had discovered them, and that is why they were so determined to burn the mill. The detainee says that it was imperative for the leaders to make Diamond & Ruby's own laborers accomplices. When the gang left Diamond & Ruby, it took its laborers along, and one of the ringleaders, whom she says was James Teyson from Pl. Constitutionhill, walked in the rear, armed with a manure fork and a new ax, keeping the gang together. Thus, the detainee came to Castle Coakly and from there to Peters Rest. When most of the gang went from Peters Rest to Work & Rest, only a few stayed behind, the detainee thinks it was only 3 men, namely Lewis Benjamin from Sionfarm, Charles Bradshaw from Strawberry Hill and Francis Tayson, and they burned down Peters Rest Station. Apart from them, there were several women, here amongst the detainee, but they did nothing but stand and watch. Lewis Benjamin broke open the door, and then he and Bradshaw broke anything that could be broken, and then they set fire to the building, whilst James Tayson stayed outside and kept an eye on the women. While they were still robbing, they heard and saw that shots were fired at Annashope, and they assumed - which also turned out to be the case - that the shots were fired at the gang which had gone to Work & Rest. They ran off into the sugarcane field, and the detainee kept herself in hiding there until the evening, [Folio 136b-137a, notice 524] when she returned to Sionhill. She was afraid to go home to her uncle, but in the negro village, she met a man called Joseph Riis who, as is noted, kept her hidden until she was discovered by her uncle on the 14th of the previous month, and she was arrested. The detainee's testimony regarding her own participation is affirmed by her.

On request, and enjoined to be truthful, the detainee then states that C Coakly's laborers stood at the entrance to the plantation when the strange gang entered. The gang's leader ran up to them, yelling "our side²⁰²", and they waved with their old sabers and manure forks and encouraged the laborers to come out and receive their allowance. She saw Richard Lewis amongst the laborers, but she did not see that he was abused or that he particularly greeted the gang. She saw him at the allowance cellar amongst the others, but she did not see him ring the bell. She saw him again down by the works when they were set on fire by the same leaders who had done it at Diamond & Ruby with several others; thus, she saw that William Barnes set fire to the magass stack and she thinks that it was other people who set fire to the rum cellar, but she doesn't know who. She did not see that Richard Lewis started fires himself. The fisherman Julius Jackson came across the gang at C. Coakly's yard as he was on his way to Sionfarm with a basketful of fish. They took the basket away from him and threw it into the fire and they gave him a conch to blow instead.

Detainee William Arnold from Upper Love appears. He states that he did not give the previous detainee matches at Diamond & Ruby. When he first took his diploma as Captain - that is how he expresses himself - at Castle Coakly, when Marchal²⁰³ got tired, he was Captain from then on and until the gang was dispersed at Annashope. Therefore, he had no right to hand out matches when he was with the gang at D & Ruby. He says that he would not hide it if he had done it, because as he has stated previously, he took part in the arson right from Upper Love and until

²⁰² In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

²⁰³ Elsewhere: Marshal

Annashope, so he participated in the arson at Upper Love, Jealousy, Mt Pleasant, Monbijou, Fredensborg, Barrenspot, Strawberryhill, Diamond & Ruby, C. Coakly, Peter Rest, Work & Rest and Annashope. He did not start fires at any of those places. First, because there were too many people who did it, and later, because he could order others to do it.

When detainee Arnold is presented alongside her, detainee Clara Thomas maintains [*Folio 137b-138a, notice 525*] that he was the one who gave her the matches.

He, however, states that he did not even notice her in the crowd, and he maintains that he did not give matches to anyone at Diamond & Ruby.

Detainee Clara Thomas led away.

Detainee William Arnold is further interrogated. He acknowledges that he has participated severely, but he says that very few negroes, right down to the smallest child, did not participate, either by fetching magass or at least by “walking²⁰⁴”. In the beginning, the detainee didn’t do anything else than follow along and, he says, it was only because Marshal got tired at Castle Coakly that he came to play a bigger role, because generally, only bigger /: more significant :/negroes than he himself were made Captains. He is then asked whether he had heard anything beforehand about that there was to be trouble in the Westend, and he states that a negro of his class would not have been told anything, because “the big negroes²⁰⁵” would want to keep it for themselves. He states that on the 1st of October, he was in Christiansted, where there were a lot of country negroes as there always were on the 1st of October, but the detainee believes that there were more than he has seen before, but he did not hear any sign of an unrest. Several laborers from Upper Love were in town, here amongst also William Jones and George Cambridge, but they did speak about anything unusual either, and they were both severely part of it, and they are, in the detainee’s opinion, “bigger negroes²⁰⁶” than himself. Like the detainee, they walked from the town to Upper Love and did not go down to Frederiksted. Led away.

Lewis Benjamin from Pl. Sionfarm appears. He states that he was not at Peters Rest Station when it was burned, and as such, he took even less part in starting fires.

He is presented to detainee Clara Thomas who recognizes him as the Lewis Benjamin whom she mentioned previously and she maintains her statement. She then states that it was Lewis Benjamin who started the fire at the driver’s house at Peters Rest. He sent the detainee out to get kerosene oil, which was to be used to set it on fire, from a woman, Charlotte Conradt, who usually sells oil at the plantation. She says that it was after the mass of the gang had already left Peters Rest that Lewis Benjamin, who had come over from Sionfarm, along with Bradshaw and some of Peters Rest’s own laborers, wanted to set fire to the driver’s, [*Folio 138b-139a, notice 526*] Harper’s, house, because there was no flour in the cellar and they suspected that Harper, who had also gone into hiding, had hidden the flour.

²⁰⁴ In the Danish text, the word “walking” is written in English

²⁰⁵ In the Danish text, the words “the big negroes” are written in English

²⁰⁶ In the Danish text, the words “bigger negroes” are written in English

Detainee Lewis Benjamin denies everything in the charges regarding his setting fire to the driver's, Harper's, house, and he states that he was not at Peters Rest at all.

Both detainees led away.

Henry Smith Dixen from Pl. Sionhill appears. He denies having been part of any gang at any place. On Wednesday morning, he came from Christiansted out to Marys Fancy, where he had previously been employed, and he did not leave this plantation until Friday morning, when he went home to Sion Hill. In particular, he had not been able to be at Peters Rest on Thursday. During further examination he states that on Thursday morning, earlier than some other people who had helped to move the manager's possessions down to the negro village on the previous evening, the driver Peter Felix had given him a couple of snaps, and he became rather drunk, so he laid down in a sugar field and did not emerge again before at, he thinks, approximately 1-2 o'clock, at that time when some planters on horseback came to Bonne Esperance. Detainee led away.

Detainee Christian Benjamin from Pl. Rattan appears. He has recently been discharged from hospital with considerable scars from burns on his legs. He states that he was burned on Wednesday /: the 2nd of October :/ afternoon, when he met a gang at a sugar field which they had just set on fire, between Grove Place and Mt Pleasant. He was pushed into the sugar field and when he fell, he was severely burned. The same evening, he came up to Marys Fancy where his woman Nancy Clarke lives, and after that, he was unable to go out, so he could not have participated at Negrobay on Thursday, where he is charged with having been burned.

Led away.

Court adjourned at 16:45

Ph Rosenstand

In 1878, on Monday the 23rd of December, at noon at 12 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen. [*Folio 139b-140a, notice 527*]

David Beandhuy, driver at Pl. La Raine, has been summoned and appears. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. On request, he states that Rebecca Roberts and Elizabeth Edwards, who are both charged with having participated at Enfjeldgreen /: cf. Interrogation of the 20th of December :/, were at home at La Reine from Wednesday evening until Thursday morning, he thinks right until 12 o'clock, at which time he thinks that they left the plantation along with several other laborers from La Reine. Stands down.

Detainee William Griffith from Pl. La gr. Princesse, who is charged with arson at Pl. Glynn, appears. However, the inquiries regarding his person have not caused the charges to be strengthened. He is then released.

Fanny Franklin from Pl. Castle appears. She is charged with having participated in the arson at Pl. Lower Love. She states that she did indeed walk from Castle to L. Love at the time when the gang was there, and that she set fire to the magass, but that she went out there to look for her son, a boy who is now 8-9 years old, and she had heard that he had run down to L. Love. As soon as she found the boy, she returned to Castle without having participated in anything and in particular, she did not, as has been stated, take any flour from the allowance cellar.

Then, Felitia Benjamin, also from Castle, appears. She is charged in the same way as the previous detainee. She even denies having been at L. Love at the time when the gang was there or when the arson took place.

William Henry from Pl. Lower Love, who was previously a guardsman there, appears. When the gang was at L. Love, he was still faithful and did nothing to support the troublemakers. After it has been made clear to him that he is to be examined as a witness regarding circumstances in which he was not himself implicated, he states that both Felitia Benjamin and Fanny Franklin were at L. Love during the arson there. He did not see that Fanny did anything, but she came in along with the other laborers from Castle who came running after the gang had started their destruction under the leadership of George Marshall and Thomas Critchlow, at around the time when the greathouse had started to burn. He is certain that it was Felitia who was the first to set fire to the machine room with a bundle of magass and the works. He also saw Thomas Small set fire to a bundle of magass in the machine room, [*Folio 140b-141a, notice 528*] thus setting fire to the rum cellar. He says that on Saturday, the whole gang said that Felitia was the one who set fire to the works. The detainee states that he did not really see Thomas Critchlow, who was standing in the yard next to himself, do anything, but in the detainee's opinion, it was clear that he was one of the leaders, because he was armed with both a saber and a cane.

Detainee John Charles from Pl L Love appears. He was at home at L Love all through Wednesday evening. He is enjoined in the same way as the previous detainee and he states that he did not himself see Felitia Benjamin in the gang, but later, it was said at the plantation that she had been there. The detainee was not close to the works when the fire was started there. After the greathouse had burned down, he had tried to get George Michel²⁰⁷, whom he states was the leader of the gang, to refrain from burning down the works, and he had even grabbed his hand, in which he had a pistol, and he had dragged him down to the negro village, and George almost gave in, but then some laborers came after them and got George to go back to the gang. It was especially Thomas Smalls²⁰⁸ and an old fisherman, Jacky Weatherbird, from Castle who got George to go back to the works, which had been set on fire in the meantime, so it was not George Michael who ordered the arson, but when the detainee begged him to spare the works, he said that they had to burn just like they had burned at other places. The detainee both saw

²⁰⁷ Michael

²⁰⁸ Elsewhere: Small

and spoke to Thomas Critchlow, and he asked him, reproachfully, if he was the one who had led the gang there, which Critchlow denied, and at the same time, he pointed out George Michael as the leader. The detainee did not hear any mention of Fanny Franklin.

Detainee Jacky Weatherbird from Pl. Castle appears. After first stating that all the time from Tuesday to Thursday, he was partly down by the beach on the Southside and partly at Manningsbay, he then states that he was at Castle, where he has a woman, on Wednesday evening, but he vehemently denies having been at L. Love that evening. [*Folio 141b-142a, notice 529*]

Detainees John Charles and William Henry appear again, and detainee Jackey is presented to them, whereupon they both declare that he was as L. Love on the evening in question, and John Charles repeats his statement on this matter.

Detainee George Michael appears and he also states that detainee Jacky was at L. Love but he did not see him do anything.

Detainee Jacky maintains that he was not at L. Love

Detainee Peter Felix from Pl. Marys Fancy appears. When asked about Henry S. Dixen and Christian Benjamin /: cf. interrogation of the 21st of December :/, he states that on Wednesday evening, Dixen helped him and some others move manager J. Robert's possessions, and he saw Dixen again on Thursday morning at about 7 o'clock. He did not give Dixen any snaps and he did not see any of the others give him any, either. He did not see Dixen later during the day. On Thursday morning, he heard that Christian Benjamin had returned home the previous evening with burns on his legs. He saw Christian Benjamin, but he did not hear anything about where he had been hurt.

Regarding the charges against the detainee himself, that at Marys Fancy, where he is a driver, he placed kindling material ready for the gang when it came, he states that on Thursday, people talked about that when the gangs came to a plantation, they forced the plantation's own laborers to bring magass and set fire it it, and he decided that they might as well do it themselves, and then the detainee saw several laborers place "trash²⁰⁹" up in the yard and they built a pile outside the stable door, and when they were finished and had left again, the detainee went over, and along with the horse breeder, he swept up the "trash²¹⁰" and placed it in the stables as litter for the horses, and so he had nothing to do with getting things ready for the rebels. This is to have taken place after some planters, who patrolled in that area, came up on the road from Bonne Esperance and came through Marys Fancy. Regarding the fact that it has emerged that he is to have opened up the allowance cellar and that he distributed allowance, he says that he took no part in that, but it was overseer Reilly who distributed the allowance when the laborers demanded it. He thinks that the overseer himself was behind the laborers' demands, because when they had spoken about what had happened on the previous day down country, he had said

²⁰⁹ In the Danish text, the word "trash" is written in English

²¹⁰ In the Danish text, the word "trash" is written in English

that after what he had seen, he would give food to any negro who demanded it. [*Folio 142b-143a, notice 530*]

As they are interrogated and their testimonies are affirmed, the detainees are led away.

Court adjourned at 16:45

Ph. Rosenstand

In 1878, on Tuesday the 24th of December, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the court was seated in St Croix Arrest, administered by Commission member Supreme Judge Rosenstand who obtained interrogation. Present witnesses were the Commission's Scribe Police Principal Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

The detainee Thomas Manderson from Castle, who has appeared previously /: cf. interrogation of the 18th of Nvbr :/, appears. When asked whether he has seen detainee Christian Benjamin at Negrobay, he states that he does not know the man, but he has not heard that any other man apart from John Coday, who has since died of his wounds, was burned in Negrobay's greathouse.

Detainee Christian Benjamin appears and Mandersen states that he did not see this detainee at Negrobay, and the detainee is led away.

During further examination, the detainee repeats that the 3 sisters Gwynn went along with Parris' gang from Castle over to Goldengrove. However, he does not think that the old Gwynn was there, as he was ill with bad eyes. He does not think that the son, Joseph Gwynn, was there either, because he went around with a bandaged head because of a blow which he is to have received during the riots in Frederiksted on Tuesday night. Almost all Castle laborers went along with Parris' gang on that Thursday. Most of them did so because they were afraid of what harm Parris would do to them otherwise, so it is difficult for the detainee to point out individual persons. He says that after Parris' had given the order, Moses Benjamin was the first to come to get him - the detainee - out, but he did not find him, and then, Parris himself came into the negro village, but he didn't find him either. Thus, Moses Benjamin was one of those who did not follow along with the gang. Christian Ferdinand also followed the gang, with a gun in his hand, as the detainee has stated previously. Andrew Daniel, who is living with the Gwynn' girls' mother at the moment, was also there, but the detainee did not see that he was more prominent than anyone else. [*Folio 143b-144a, notice 531*] Thomas Small was also there, and he presumes that he was there voluntarily, because according to what he has heard, Thomas Small was already at L. Love on the previous evening, and he had gone out straight away on Friday. At Negrobay, when Coday had been burned, the detainee saw that Parris took Coday's gun and gave the saber, which he had carried hitherto, to Smalls. According to what he has heard, the gun belonged to planter Finnegan, who had left Upper Love before the gang arrived and had left his gun behind. The detainee continues to say that it was Smalls who returned on Friday morning, after Parris

had gotten as many laborers as he could from Castle, and it was he who forced the guardsman Mark to go along, but he said that it was on Parris' orders. Mark resisted for a long time even though Smalls said that if he refused to follow along on his own accord, he would have 4 men drag him along, and he also threatened him, but finally, Mark had to go along, but he demanded that two women, Elizabeth Nilson and Elizabeth Mesias, go along as well. The last mentioned was from the same country as Parris²¹¹, and Mark, who was very afraid of Parris, thought that she could prevent him from hurting him. However, when he reached Parris, he did not avoid getting 4 strikes with the flat side of the saber on his neck. Smalls met Mark at the detainee's door, where he was telling the detainee how afraid he had become when Parris and the gang came in, and he had even relieved himself in his trousers out of fright, and thus, the detainee also had to go along. However, he held himself back, and Parris left Jealousy right after having gotten Mark to go along, and before the detainee arrived there, and then the detainee turned back. The detainee repeats his statement that Bamberg was in the gang on Thursday, at least at Negrobay, and he also came into Castle with Parris' gang on Friday morning. At the time, he had a new sugar ax in his hand. The detainee heard that he had got it at Mt Pleasant on the previous evening, where he is to have distributed several new axes which were in planter Mac Dermott's house when it was burned.

Detainee Bamberg appears and repeats /: Interrogation of the 23rd of Novbr :/ that he spent Thursday evening sitting at Good Hope windmill from where he saw the fireburns up in the country.

Detainee Manderson states that he knows Bamberg well and cannot be mistaken. Bamberg led away. [*Folio 145, notice 532*] During further examination, the detainee states that he has not heard either Bamberg, who often used to come to Castle and sell fish and conch, or anyone else work up the negroes or talk about that there would be riots in October. Detainee led away.

Augustus Jeffrey from Pl. Goldengrove appears. He states that he did not hear anything at Negrobay about any other man apart from Coday who had been burned in the house and he has particularly not heard or seen Christian Benjamin from Rattan.

Francis Bastian, also from Goldengrove, appears. Regarding whether Christian Benjamin got his burn wounds at Negrobay, he states exactly the same as the previous detainee.

Bastian as well as Augustus state that the three sisters Gwynn came with the gang from Castle, and Augustus says that he, himself, saw Jamey Gwynn set fire to the magass stack. The detainees (...) (...) ²¹² that the father John Gwynn was also present, but none of them saw him. Detainees led away.

Court adjourned at 12 o'clock

Ph. Rosenstand

²¹¹ Parris was born on Barbados

²¹² Missing or unintelligible

