

## Book 2: Interrogations from the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1878 – the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1880

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

Interrogation record A  
1878

w. Register 28. October

*[Loose sheet, notice 3-4]<sup>1</sup>*

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*[Folio 1, notice 5]*

This register, collected and sealed with the seal of the presidency, consisting of ninety-five folio pages, is hereby authorized as a register 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  
 Aug. Garde

/H. Hauschild

*[Folio 1b-2a, notice 6]*

In 1878, on Thursday the 21st of November, in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse<sup>2</sup>, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer P. Usher.

Police Officer John Jackson Elias appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he arrested Petrine Groile<sup>3</sup> because Margaret Stevens had told him that she saw her give John Gottlieb Roberts a conch on which to blow after the gang<sup>4</sup> had destroyed his house on the night between the 1st and 2nd of October. When he arrested her, he found a great deal of goods in her house, particularly ham, salt meat, flour<sup>5</sup> etc. Glasgow<sup>6</sup>, who is now dead, assisted in her arrest. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down<sup>7</sup>.

Isaac Nathan appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he arrested Edward Henry on the 2nd of October because he was from the countryside, and because he ran when he attempted to arrest him. Otherwise, he knows nothing about him. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down

Joseph Von Plaskett appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he had brought in a man whom he now believes to be at large, but that he doesn't know his name and cannot elaborate further. Stands down.

Ja<sup>s</sup> Clarke, manager<sup>8</sup> of the plantation<sup>9</sup> Good Hope appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that Peter William had received his pass to leave the plantation on the 1st of October, and he does not believe that he was at the plantation during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, as he had removed his belongings from the plantation and said that he would go to St. Thomas; he thinks that he was arrested by Police Officer Sehested on the 3rd, and that he had gunpowder and bullets in his pocket. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Hans McCaul, overseer<sup>10</sup> at the plantation Big la Grange, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that the arrested George Franklyn had left the plantation on the 1st of October, and that he was not at the plantation that night; on the contrary, he has heard from Julius Edward, who lives on La Grange with his father, Peter Edward, that he, George Franklyn, encouraged people

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<sup>2</sup> The Danish text says "det almindelige Thinghuus" (the *ordinary* or *common* courthouse)

<sup>3</sup> Elsewhere: Groil

<sup>4</sup> In 1878, the "gangs" are called "bands" ("gangs" were the labor gangs, working on the plantations)

<sup>5</sup> The Danish text says "Meel" (flour) - presumably cornflour

<sup>6</sup> Police Officer Glasgow

<sup>7</sup> The Danish text says "Foreholdt, ratihaberet og demitteret" (legal language)

<sup>8</sup> Danish: Forvalter

<sup>9</sup> Generally called "Estates" in the Danish West Indies, but "Plantations" in Denmark

<sup>10</sup> Danish: underforvalter

to burn down Jonathan Williams' house that night when the town was in flames. He knows nothing about the brother Isaac Franklyn. It is known that the cobbler Edmund Wilson, who has arrested him, is ill in hospital. The testimony is presented to the witness Hans McCaul and affirmed, whereafter he stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 3 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on the Friday, the 22nd of November, in the afternoon at 13:30 o'clock<sup>11</sup>, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member Bailiff Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer P. Usher.

Julius Edwards, born on the 9th of June 1858, appears before the Commission<sup>12</sup>. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he saw George Franklyn on the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October with the gang [*Folio 2b-3a, notice 7*] of which some members talked about burning Jonathan Williams' house, as it was too large to leave; the witness, who was staying at his grandmother's, Charity Williams, commented that he saw some women in the gang, but that he did not know them. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Planter Hugh Roberts from the plantation Prosperity appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he is unaware of whether James William has done anything or participated in the revolt here in town, but it occurs to him that his driver has told him that he was noticed because he carried some stolen goods. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Walter D. Ramsay, manager<sup>13</sup> at the plantation Punch, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he ordered a military patrol to arrest Mathias Civil on the Monday or the Tuesday, the 7th or 8th, because he saw him on the 3rd of October between 12 o'clock and 1 go along with the gang to the plantation Punch, which was set on fire on the same occasion; he does not know Mathias Civil, but the driver has told him that this man participated. The driver Emanuel Richard is unable to appear tomorrow because he is ill, but witnesses promise to procure the necessary information. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

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<sup>11</sup> In the Danish text, all mentions of time are written as here, 1 ½ (13:30)

<sup>12</sup> Here, the Danish text inserts "vide forrige Retssættelse", which perhaps means "at the previous court seating". It is unclear how this fits into the context, so it is omitted

<sup>13</sup> Danish: forvalter

Margaret Stevens appears before the Commission. She is informed that she is present as a witness, and she is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter she, on request, states that she saw Petrine Groile give a conch to a man whom she did not immediately recognize, but who she later saw was Bordeaux, and he took it and blew it; this occurred between 7 and 8 at Police Officer Jackson's /: Elias :/ house; at the time, the town was not yet on fire; she did not see Petrine Groile do anything else and she did not follow the gang but walked towards home. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 3 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Saturday the 23rd of November, in the afternoon at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer P. Usher.

Wilhelm Abraham, driver at the plantation Prosperity, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that James William does not sleep at the plantation Prosperity but at the plantation Two Brothers, where he stays with a woman whom he believes is called Marie; he cannot say why he was arrested. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thomas Hewitt, manager at the plantation Two Brothers, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that Benjamin Ford came from town on the morning of October the 2nd and said: Today, those sons of whores from Ireland will go to hell; Further, he said that [*Folio 3b-4a, notice 8*] the witness had sugar in the works<sup>14</sup> but that he, Benjamin Ford, would fetch it straight away. Regarding James Scarborough, the witness states that he does not personally know anything about him apart from the fact that he had not turned up for work since the 1st of October and as far as the witness knows, he was not at the plantation, and therefore he had him arrested. He asked him where he had been, and he answered at Camporico. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Planter Robert Skeoch of the plantation Carlton appears before the Commission. He does not have any information regarding Isaac Samuel and Ferdinand James, both of pl. Cane, but he will make inquiries of his overseers, who are both presently ill.

Johan Casper Hansen, manager at the plantation Grove Place, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on

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<sup>14</sup> The "works", also called "the factory" consisted of the mill, the curing house, the cooking house, and sometimes a distillery

request, states that he cannot personally give any information, but that the laborers<sup>15</sup> at the plantation have told him that John Seally<sup>16</sup> called the gang back after they had started to leave the plantation, and he showed them where the flour and the rum was hidden in the mule pen, and thus, he gave occasion to the laborers' arson. He has also, apparently, set fire to several places, amongst other places at Diamond.

Richard Brown was present when the soldiers were killed and has allegedly participated in the riots at Carlton and St. Georges. He returned home during the morning and threatened the cattlemen with beatings if they did not bring the cattle into the fold before the gang arrived.

According to the statements of all the laborers, John Ford and John William Grogan were arrested for no reason; they did not leave the plantation until the manager Wilson of the plantation River arrived and ordered them to be tied up and brought to town. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 15:30.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Saturday the 30th of November, in the afternoon at 13:15, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer P. Usher.

John Waites from the plantation Whim, born on<sup>17</sup> Antigua, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he belongs to the Episcopal Church and is 24 years old. As far as he remembers, it was the day following the fireburn<sup>18</sup> in town, he does not remember the time, when a gang came to the plantation Whim and set fire to the magass<sup>19</sup> stack and destroyed the furniture in Mr. Latimer's house. On this occasion, he did not see Joseph Haines<sup>20</sup>, who left the plantation on the 1st of October, and neither did he see him the day after they burned Whim's works. Of those who destroyed the furniture, he only knew one, a woman, Jane, from the plantation Coopers Bay, about whom he has given testimony in the Police Court. Regarding the summoned witness Danielsen, whom he calls Daniel Seppy, he remarks that he is ill and that he has also appeared before the Police Court and has given evidence. The statement is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

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<sup>15</sup> The Danish text says "Folk", which can denote both "people" in general and "laborers" (employees, workforce) at a farm or on a plantation. This translation uses the word "laborers"

<sup>16</sup> Elsewhere: Sealy

<sup>17</sup> Islands under Colonial rule are introduced with the preposition "on"

<sup>18</sup> The Danish text uses the word "ildebrand" (directly translated: fireburn)

<sup>19</sup> Magass: the spent stalks of sugarcane, after the juice has been extracted. Magass was dried to be used as fuel

<sup>20</sup> Elsewhere: Heyns

Archibald Ratledge, manager at the plantation Høgensborg, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined [*Folio 4b-5a, notice 9*] to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he was born in Ireland, is 24 years old, and belongs to the Episcopal Church. He further states, on request, that the gang arrived at Høgensborg from Vester around noon, as far as he knows after Wheel of Fortune and Concordia had burned; he does not know who led the gang. The gang stayed about three quarters of an hour and then proceeded towards Mountain, where they, along with other gangs which joined, went to Bog of Allen, which he has heard from other people. At Høgensborg, they burned the 6 narrow magass stacks, set fire to 2 sugarcane fields<sup>21</sup> and destroyed fire hoses. None of the laborers from Høgensborg were in the gang. He recognized Charles Bruun, who was later shot. He recognized a couple of other people, but he does not know their names. Regarding what happened at Carlton on the morning of the same day, he knows nothing apart from that around 9 o'clock, he saw 2 soldiers lying next to the country road. He was not close to them but he has later heard that they were the corpses of 2 soldiers. The testimony is presented in court and affirmed. Witness stands down.

It is noted that because of storms and rain, no interrogation has been carried out Thursday and Friday, and that several of those summoned have not turned up.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 15:30.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Thursday the 5th of December, in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer Francis Henrichsen.

The detainee Bernard Reilly, born at the plantation Clifton Hill, from the plantation Friedensberg, appears before the Commission. After pleading not guilty of participation in the revolt, and since nothing has emerged which necessitates his arrest and custody, he is released.

Virginia Edwards from the plantation Diamond, born on the island Antigua, appears before the Commission. After pleading not guilty of participation in the revolt and since nothing has emerged which necessitates her arrest and custody, she is released.

It is remarked that since the 22nd of November, manager Ramsay has been dismissed from the plantation Punch, and due to illness, the driver Emanuel Richard is still unable to appear. However, Joseph Wickham from the plantation Punch has appeared at the Police Chamber and has given testimony regarding Mathias Civil, Cathrine Taylor, Philip Abraham and Thomas

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<sup>21</sup> also called "cane-pieces"

Edward, the first two from Mt Victory, the last two from Punch, of whom a report from the Police Chambers will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 3 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

Former manager Walter D. Ramsay appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined [*Folio 4b-5a, notice 9*] to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that Emil Hodge [*Folio 5b-6a*] was arrested by him by mistake. He thought he had been in town on the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, but following, he has learnt that this was not the case. Thus, to his knowledge, there is nothing that speaks against Emil Hodge. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

William William from the plantation Enfield<sup>22</sup> Green appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he was born at the plantation Williams Delight. He is around 25 years old, and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. On further request, he states that he saw Eleonore Jones from the plantation Williams Delight with a sugar ax fastened to a cane at the plantation Enfield Green, at the time when the works burned by the magass stack, and she removed the damp magass and set fire to the dry magass with a match. It was a smaller magass stack which was placed in the yard in order for it to dry. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. When asked whether he has seen Eleonore Jones' son John William at the plantation, he answers that he saw him with a saber, hacking some allowance buckets to pieces, but he has not seen him do anything else, and he adds that he has already explained all this at the Police Court. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Friday the 13th of December, at noon, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

William Lake from the plantation Carlton /: St. Georges Hill:/ appears before the court on the grounds that the manager Ja<sup>s</sup> Clarke of Good Hope has accused him of setting fire to the overseer's dwelling on the 3rd of October at the mentioned plantation. He states that he was born on Antigua, is 31 years old, and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. He

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<sup>22</sup> Elsewhere: Enfeld Green, Enfieldgreen or Enfeldgreen

denies having set fire to the mentioned dwelling, but admits that he had been urged to follow the gang which destroyed Carlton from the plantation Carlton to Good Hope. He is then confronted with the fact that 3 witnesses, Francis Michael, Eliza Joseph, and Albertine Williams from the plantation Good Hope have stated, at the Police Office, that they saw him start the fire, and when it didn't catch well, he called for the gang to help to make it burn, which the gang refused to do; not a lot of the house burned. He knows that the above-mentioned witnesses have stated thus, but he denies it. Stands down.

John Ford from the plantation Grove Place appears before the Commission. He is accused of having mistreated 3 bullocks on the plantation Whim. He states that he was born on the island Barbados, is twenty-some years old, and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. He denies the accusation but admits that whilst at the plantation Whim, he was forced to follow a gang which came from the East, and he cut the rope which bound the 3 bullocks by order of a couple of men from the gang whom he did not know, but he denies having mistreated the bullocks. He states that he came to Grove Place from Jealousy. Stands down. [*Folio 6b-7a, notice 11*]

Margaret Heyliger, approximately 30 years old, from town, born at the plantation Carlton, appears before the Commission because the manager Ja<sup>s</sup> Clarke has accused her of taking flour from the "allowance" cellar and telling the gang which came from the plantation Carlton on the 2nd of October that manager Ja<sup>s</sup> Clarke's things were hidden in the negro village. She denies the latter but admits that she, as she works as a day-laborer at the plantation Carlton, was forced to join the gang on its course to the plantation Good Hope, and when she saw flour being thrown out of the "allowance" cellar, she took some in her pinafore. It is noted that Albert Jones, Lauriane Baptist and Mary George from the plantation Good Hope, have seen her take some flour from the "allowance" cellar. Margaret Heyliger repeats that she did not do anything apart from taking an insignificant amount of flour which others had thrown out of the cellar. She adds that she is married to George Heyliger who lives in town. Stands down.

James Wilson from the plantation Mt Victory, born at the plantation Spring Garden, appears before the Commission. He is accused of having blown the conch on the 3rd of October despite it being forbidden by the driver Charles Frederik. He states that he is 27 years old, and that he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. He admits having blown the conch when he saw the fire at Annaly<sup>23</sup> because he presumed that one should blow the conch in case of fire. The driver told him to stop, he asked the driver if he could see the fire at Annaly, but when the driver insisted that he should stop, he did so. Stands down.

Daniel Benjamin from the plantation Fountain appears before the Commission. He is accused of participation in the revolt in town during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October. He states that he was born at the plantation North Star, he is 25 years old, and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Brothers' Church. He was at the plantation Mt Stevard<sup>24</sup> alongside his wife Cathrine Benjamin, and when he saw the fire in town, he came to help put it out. When

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<sup>23</sup> Elsewhere: Anally

<sup>24</sup> Elsewhere: Mt Steward

confronted with the testimony from principal Emanuel Jacobs' /:144:/ in which he states that he struck him with a saber at around 7 o'clock, he says that it was not on purpose and that he struck him with a cane, but after Emanuel Jacobs has appeared, he admits that he struck him with a saber which he had found on the road. Emanuel Jacobs claims that Daniel Benjamin was in Thomas Graydon's and Samuel Henry's gang. To this, Daniel Benjamin comments that he did not follow the gang, but that he stood on the side of the gang. Emanuel Jacobs is led back to the arrest.

William Lake and John Ford appear again, whereafter the Commission pronounces the following

### **Ruling**

William Lake from the plantation Carlton, born on Antigua, John Ford from the plantation Grove Place, born on Barbados, and Daniel Benjamin from the plantation Founten<sup>25</sup> on North Side will, as a consequence of what has emerged regarding their participation in the revolt and the riots, be placed in custody.

C. Sarauw

The ruling is made clear to them whereafter they are placed in the arrest.

Thereafter, Margaret Heyliger, from this town and born at the plantation Carlton, and James Wilson, from the plantation Mt Victory, born at the plantation Spring Garden, appear again. Due to the lack of reason for them to be remanded, they are released until further notice.

*[Folio 7b-8a, notice 12]*

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In 1878, on Monday the 16th of December, in the afternoon, at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Christein ElSCO, driver at plantation Spratt Hall, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he saw Thomas Dembo from plantation Grove Place on Thursday morning between 7 and 8 come from plantation Spratt Hall and walk up on Mt Victory Road. He did not hear him speak. When asked whether he saw him on Tuesday afternoon on the way back from town towards Nicolas, he answers that he was not in the field with the gang<sup>26</sup> that day, and only a very small

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<sup>25</sup> Presumably "Fountain"

<sup>26</sup> Labor gang

gang<sup>27</sup> worked, without a driver, close to the negro village. Compton himself was in the Police Court that day. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Tuesday the 17th of December, at noon, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

The detainees Joseph Gillion and Henry Samuel Galloway from plantation Cane were arrested on the 9th of October of the same year: without the police being able to explain by whom and why. On the 28th of November of the same year, planter Robert Skeoch has written to the Commission that they did not do any damage at either Carlton or Cane, but that he has heard that they had entered the provisions cellar<sup>28</sup> at plantation Enfield Green, but he does not believe that this is the case. In this regard, the Commission has interrogated the detainees in Christiansted who come from plantations Enfield Green, Williams Delight, and Cane, and none of them saw the two aforementioned persons in the gang at Enfield Green.

Joseph Gillion from plantation Cane appears before the Commission. He explains that he was born on the island Antigua and is approximately 24 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church, /: hospitalized on the 12th of October and discharged on the 16th of the same month :/. He has not participated in the revolt in any way, he was not at Enfield Green, but had only left the plantation to save his master's things when the gang came in, as far as he recalls, on Wednesday the 2nd of October.

Since there is no evidence against this detainee, he is released until further notice, and this is made clear to him. Stands down.

Henry Samuel Galloway from plantation Cane appears before the Commission. He states that he was born on the island Antigua and is approximately 38 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church; /: hospitalized on the 9th of October and discharged on the 12th of October :/. He has not participated in the revolt in any way and has not been at Enfield Green, but was at Carlton to help his master Mr. Skeoch. It is noted that the plantations Carlton and Cane are written as one. He explains that he was hospitalized because of a bullet in his arm from the episode when the soldiers were at the plantation, but the bullet was not meant for him. [*Folio 8b-9a, notice 13*] Since there is no evidence against this detainee, he is released until further notice, and this is made clear to him. Stands down.

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<sup>27</sup> Labor gang

<sup>28</sup> Elsewhere: allowance cellar

Consulate Agent J. Alexander Moore appears before the Commission and on request he states that he personally can give no testimony regarding Henry Daniel amongst others<sup>29</sup>: from plantation Little la Grange, but he has heard that the driver from the plantation Mt Victory, whom he will send in, can do so. Stands down.

It is noted that Edward James from the plantation Mt Pellier was expelled from the plantation due to being drunk and disorderly, and he was arrested.

Edward James from the plantation Mt. Pellier appears before the Commission. He states that he was born at the plantation Sion Hill. He does not know his age and he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. He admits that he was with the gang at Mt. Pleasant, he believes that it was on Wednesday the 2nd of October, during the morning, but he has done nothing. He was forced to join the gang and follow it, but he returned to the plantation Mt. Pellier whilst the gang was at plantation Mt. Pleasant. When faced with the testimony given by Harriet James from the plantation Mt. Pellier in which she states that he was the leader of the gang, he says that Thomas Graydon was the leader, and he himself was only there and yelled “our side<sup>30</sup>”, because if he had not done so, Graydon would have killed him. Since the detainee appears to be given to drink, he is asked whether this is the case, and he answers that he enjoys drinking, and that he started off the day in mention with a drink. The statement is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Harriet James from the plantation Mt. Pellier appears before the Commission. She states that she was born at the mentioned plantation and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. She is detainee no. 25. It is made clear to her that the questions she will be asked do not concern her own person but the present Edward James, and she is, as a witness, enjoined to be truthful. It is put forth to her that she, at the police interrogation on the 21st of November, declared that the present Edward /: Edmund :/ James was the leader of the gang which was at Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday the 2nd of October. To this she says that it was a mistake. Graydon was the leader of the gang, but the present Edmund was there, but she has not seen him do anything. She adds that the laborers from Montpellier did not follow the gang further than to Mt. Pleasant, whereafter they returned to Mountpellier. The statement is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission pronounces the following

### **Ruling**

Edward /: Edmund :/ James from the plantation Mountpellier, born at the plantation Sion Hill, has admitted to have been part of the gang at the plantation Mt. Pleasant, wherefor he will be placed in custody.

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<sup>29</sup> The Danish text uses the abbreviation “o. A” ,“og andre” (and others)

<sup>30</sup> In the Danish text, the words “our side” are written in English

In conclusion<sup>31</sup>

Edward /: Edmund:/ James from the plantation Mountpellier is to be placed in custody.

C. Sarauw

The ruling is presented to him where after both detainees are returned to their cells. Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Saturday the 21st of December, in the afternoon at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher. [*Folio 9b-10a, notice 14*]

Richard Casper, driver at the plantation Montpellier, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he cannot personally testify as to who was in the gang which was at the plantation Montpellier on Thursday. He was with the livestock on the hill, but he believes that Peter Gordon and Cornelius Gordon, both born at the plantation Brook Hill, can give details. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Cathrine Burns, who had been arrested by the police on the 20th because Elizabeth Knight, with whom she had argued, accused her on the 21st of October of the same year of having found 2 items of clothing and a box of starch. Cathrine Burns has admitted to have found 2 scraps of clothing on the street outside Jane Jackson's house of which she has sewn a dress for herself and one for her daughter; she denies having found the starch. The police ransacked her house and found 2 dresses and a scrap of the same material. Cathrine Burns remarks that Jane Jackson sent for her to help her move, because of the fire. She adds, on request, that she did not think she did wrong by taking such a trifle, and that she did not know where to return it. The Commission finds no reason to order an arrest on Cathrine Burns' person, wherefore she is released until further notice, meaning that the case against her is open.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 2 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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<sup>31</sup> The Danish text says "thi eragtes", old legal language. The term is used in order to introduce the conclusion

In 1878, on Friday the 27th of December, in the afternoon at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Susannah Zachæus, detainee no 174, from the plantation Nicolas, was arrested on the 1st of November the same year, accused of having been present when the plantation Annaly was set on fire etc. on the 3rd of October. At the police interrogation on the 4th of November the same year, she denied having been at Annaly at that time.

The manager of the plantation Nicholas has invoked witnesses who apparently know that Susannah Zachæus was not at Annaly, and on the 9th of December the same year, the driver Ja<sup>s</sup> Williams from the plantation Nicolas declared to the Police Assistant that he saw her at the plantation Nicolas until 6 in the evening.

The other witness, George Civil, who was ill at the time, now appears, and after having been informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, he, on request, states that he was born at the plantation Spring Garden, that he belongs to the Catholic Church, and that he is approximately 32 years old. He then states that he is a guardsman at the plantation Nicolas and that he saw Susannah Zachæus at the aforementioned plantation from 4 o'clock until around the same night. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed.

He adds that he and the now deceased manager Stafford left the plantation Nicolas around 18:30 after the plantation Annaly had burned, which occurred around 6.

Peter Petersen from the plantation Spring Garden appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he was born at the plantation Rose Hill, that he belongs to [*Folio 10b-11a, notice 15*] the congregation of the Catholic Church, and is approximately 33 years old. He then states that he is certain that he saw Susanna Zachæus at the plantation Annaly when the works were set on fire, and he is certain that she said to Thomas Graydon that it was not too soon to burn the plantation. The plantation was set on fire at 5 o'clock. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed.

The previous witness, who has listened to the two witnesses' testimonies, claims that Peter Petersen has seen her shadow since he, George Civil, is certain that he has seen her at the plantation Nicolas at the same time.

The witness Peter Petersen maintains his testimony and claims that he is certain that he saw Susannah Zachæus at the fire at the plantation Annaly.

The detainee Susannah Zachæus appears, unchained, before the Commission and repeats her previous denial regarding having been present at the plantation Annaly whilst this plantation's works burned down.

Elizabeth Samuel from town appears before the Commission. She is informed that she is present as a witness, and she is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter she, on request, states that she belongs

to the congregation of the Lutheran Church, and that she is approximately 40 years old. On request, she then states that she was at the plantation Annaly when the same plantation burned, and she was a cook for manager Heibrock. She did not know Susanah Zachæus personally, but she heard the present detainee say to Graydon that it was not too soon to burn the plantation when he said that it was too late. She asked the others who this woman was, and they answered that it was Susannah Zachæus from the plantation Nicolas. When presented with her testimony given at the Police Court, which states that she saw the detainee set fire to the wall under the manager's dwelling, she confirms, and adds that it was not the rum cellar.

Susannah Zachæus who has heard this statement denies having been at the plantation Annaly when the same plantation burned.

The 3 witnesses stand down.

The Commission notes that the detainees no 53, Ferdinand William from Annaly and no 54 William Henry Lucas from Pl. Annaly, were both in Christiansted, where they are currently placed under arrest, both declare that they did not see Susannah Zachæus at the arson of Annaly. Due to the circumstances, the Commission does not find sufficient grounds to keep the detainee Susannah Zachæus in custody, wherefore she is released until further notice. This is made clear to her with the remark that the case against her remains open.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 3 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Friday the 30th of December<sup>32</sup>, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and H. H. Siemens.

It is noted that manager L.F. Smith from the plantation Mt Victory, prompted by Mr. A. Moore, saw this register on the 17th of December of the same year, and has declared that Henry Daniels from the plantation Little la Grange - no 47 - according to the witnesses William Bruce and Cornelius Isaac - turned up at the plantation Mt Victory, saber in hand, and struck the latter in the head when he attempted to save the plantation books, [*Folio 11b-12a, notice 16*] but he does not believe that the detainee Charity Daniels - no 34 - from the plantation Mt Victory, has caused any offence.

Charles Frederik, driver at the plantation Mt Victory, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness and enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he was born at the plantation Mt Victory, and is close to 50 years old. He belongs to

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<sup>32</sup> Something seems to be amiss with the dates - the previous entry was Friday 27th, and this entry is Friday 30th

the congregation of the Catholic Church. He has not personally seen Daniels, but Cornelius Isaac has told him that he was there with a saber and that he hurt him. Regarding Charity Daniels, he declares that she has done nothing against the plantation, but that after the arson of the plantation on Friday morning, he found that she had in her possession 1 chicken and 2 turkeys which belonged to Mrs. Stafford, the widow of the late manager Stafford. He asked her why they were in her possession, and she answered that she had saved them from the fire for Mrs. Stafford, and she gave them to the witness, who gave them to Mrs. Stafford. The witness' testimony is presented to him and affirmed by him, whereafter he stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 2 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1878, on Tuesday the 31st of December, at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Detainee no 166, John George Guwin from the plantation Castle, appears before the Commission. He was arrested on the 25th of October because, according to manager P. Didrichsen from Golden Grove, he had participated in the destruction of this plantation and also at the plantation Negro Bay, which is under the same ownership<sup>33</sup>. At the time of arrest, he was hospitalized with an eye disease, and he was discharged from hospital on the 25th of November, and on that same day, at the police interrogation, which was conducted at the hospital, he denied accusations. On request, he states that he was born in this town on the 6th of October 1829 but since his 10th year, he has been at the plantation Castle. He repeats the denial which he put forward at the police interrogation and he explains further that he was ill and bedridden at the time; he has heard that 3 of his children, which he has not sired with his married wife, have taken part in the destruction of the plantation Golden Grove and have been arrested in Christiansted. Stands down.

Detainee Henry Thomas from the plantation Castle, no 145, appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he saw John Guwin lie in his bed on the day when Golden Grove was destroyed, he had wounded eyes. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed.

John Guwin once again appears before the court. He is informed of the aforementioned testimonies and asked if there were additional witnesses who could confirm that he was not present when the plantations Golden Grove [*Folio 12b-13a, notice 17*] and Negro Bay were destroyed, he answers the driver Samuel Wood and John Stephen, both from Castle, and he again declares that he was not present at the aforementioned incident but was ill and bedridden.

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<sup>33</sup> The Danish text says "under samme drevne plantage", meaning "under the same managed plantation"

Due to the circumstances, the Commission does not find sufficient grounds to keep the detainee John Guwin in custody, wherefore he is released until further notice, and this is made clear to him with a remark that the case against him still remains open.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned.

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In 1879, on Saturday the 4th of January, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Commisarius remarks that Emilie Simmons, Wilhelm William and Joseph Vantor, the detainees no 154, 155 and 156 are from the plantation la Grange, according to the court martial verdicts, Daniel Philips had apparently participated in the arson of the Custom House in this town, which they have denied, and no further information on the case has been disclosed by the police<sup>34</sup>.

Emilie Simmons from the plantation la Grange appears before the Commission. She was born at the plantation Jolly Hill on the 20th of January 1857 R.C. Kirke<sup>35</sup>, and on request, she repeats her denial from the police interrogation on the 23rd of November and she declares that she was not in the town Frederiksted on the night on which the Custom House burned. She was at the plantation la Grange and saw the fires in town. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Wilhelm Williams from the plantation la Grange appears before the Commission. He was born at the plantation Wheel of Fortune on the 18th of May, 1857, and he belongs to the Moravian Brother's Church. On request, he repeats the denial which he gave at the police interrogation on the 23rd of November, and he declares that he did not participate in the arson in this town; he was at home with his mother Anne Marie, married Hatchett of Feder, all the time, and she forbade him to go out, and he did not do it. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Joseph Vantor<sup>36</sup> from the plantation la Grange appears before the Commission. He was born at the plantation Mt Victory on the 19th of June, 1856, and he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. On request, he repeats the denial which he gave during the Police Inquiry on the 23rd of November, and he declares that he did not participate in the arson in town, but that he stayed at the plantation La Grange all night in his house where another man, named Francis Baptist, who is employed at the plantation la Grange, was with him. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed.

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<sup>34</sup> This sentence does not *quite* make sense, and it is left as it is, directly translated

<sup>35</sup> This insertion "R.C. Kirke" does not quite make sense in the context. The planter at Pl. Blessing was planter Kirk

<sup>36</sup> Elsewhere: Ventropy

Emilie Simmons and Wilhelm Williams appear again.

Since the Commission does not find sufficient cause to withhold the detainees Emilie Simmens, Wilhelm Williams, and Joseph Ventory, they are released until further notice. This is made clear to them followed by a remark that the case against them remains open.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Friday the 10th of January, in the afternoon at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Harriet Amanda Bundorph, married to carpenter Francis Bundorph, has been summoned [*Folio 13b-14a*] and appears before the Commission. She is informed that she is present as a witness, and she is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter she, on request, states that she belongs to the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church. During the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, her nephew Bona James and Peter Brown were in her yard; her nephew had been drinking, but Peter Brown had not; he and her nephew helped her to move her belongings out into the yard, and when Miss Josephine Holst, who lives further down Prindsens Gade, asked her to bring in a man to carry her suitcase, she sent Peter Brown, who brought the suitcase to her house. She was up all night and she knows that Peter Brown and her nephew were in her yard all night; they were there when they were taken in<sup>37</sup>, which did not happen at the same time, but she is certain that Peter Brown has not been in town apart from when she sent him. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed, and she adds that Peter Brown was not from Mt Pleasant, but she says that he had been given money to go to Mt Pleasant. Stands down.

Matilda Petrus appears before the Commission. She is informed that she is present as a witness, and she is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter she, on request, states that she was born at the plantation Big la Grange and belongs to the congregation of the Lutheran Church. On request, she further states that she cannot accurately say at what time John Henry Green was arrested, but he came to her house on Wednesday morning when people were initiating arson at the entrance of the town. She gives the same testimony as she gave at the Police Court on the 15th of October; she repeats that she cannot accurately say what time he was taken in, but she presumes that it was before 12 (...) <sup>38</sup> Isaac Nathan and John Horatio Fields. The time from when he came

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<sup>37</sup> arrested by the police

<sup>38</sup> Missing or unintelligible

to her house and he was taken in (...) <sup>39</sup>. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 14:30

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Saturday the 11th of January, in the afternoon, at 2 o'clock sharp, the Commission was convened in Frederiksted in the courthouse by the Commission's member Bailiff C. Sarauw, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Before the Commission appears John Horatio Francis to whom it is made clear that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he was the one who, alongside Isaac Nathan, arrested John Henry Green in Matilda Petrus' house. The time was approximately 9:30. He was lying under the bed and they pulled him out; shortly before, Matilde Petrus had left the house. When told that it is important to establish the time, the witness is certain that the time was just around 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed.

Isaac Nathan appears before the Commission and it is made clear to him that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states the exact same as the previous witness, namely that he, alongside John Horatio Francis, arrested John Henry Green on Wednesday morning at approximately 9 o'clock in Matilda Petrus' house.

After this testimony is presented to Isaac Nathan and affirmed by him, he and the previous witness stand down.

Thereafter, [*Folio 14b-15a, notice 19*] the Commission is adjourned at 14:30.

C Sarauw

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In 1879, on Saturday the 18th of January, in the afternoon at 13:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

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<sup>39</sup> Missing or unintelligible

It is remarked that Mary Thomas from Wheel of Fortune, born at the plantation Slob, no 224, was discharged from hospital yesterday afternoon, where she has been admitted regularly with strokes. With reference to the police interrogation of the 1st of November of last year<sup>40</sup>, it is remarked that there is no sufficient reason to keep her in custody, and she is released.

Richard Gaspar, driver at the plantation Montpellier, appears before the Commission. He states that several of Montpellier's laborers left the plantation on Wednesday morning, even though the owner asked them not to go. He does not believe that any gang came to get them, but he heard the blowing of the conches from the direction of Bog of Allen. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

David John, driver at the plantation Mt. Steward, appears before the Commission. He was born at the same place. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he cannot give any information regarding who was in the gang, so he cannot say who was from Jolly Hill or Little la Grange; he was in hiding in a sugarcane field<sup>41</sup> when the greathouse was set on fire. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

It is remarked that the manager at Butlers Bay, R.G. Nixon, has stated that he knows that Wilfred Plasket, no 21, was not in the town on the night between the 1st and 2nd of October, that is, he saw him at the plantation until 2 o'clock, and he presumes that overseer Percy has seen him there until dawn. He remarks that there are 3 Plaskets, whereof one is named William Plasket, who was shot at Butlers Bay, and he presumes that he is the one who has been in town, but he promises to give further information on the matter.

The Commission is adjourned at 2 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Monday the 20th of January, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Peter Gordon from the plantation Montpellier appears before the Commission. He does not know his age, and he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that when the Thursday gang came to Montpellier, he saw Henry Daniel, Peter Felix and Stephen Rogers in the gang; he did not see John Port nor James Weeks; he saw that Henry Daniel was in

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<sup>40</sup> The Danish text uses the abbreviation "f.A", "forrige Aar" (the previous year (of last year))

<sup>41</sup> The sugarcane fields are also called "sugar pieces"

the “allowance” cellar and that he distributed herrings to the laborers. [*Folio 15b-16a*] The cellar was broken open by Emanuel Jacobs, who was born at Monbijou, and who is currently employed at Prosperity. He has not seen Peter Felix or Stephen Rogers do anything in particular. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Cornelius Gordon from the plantation Montpelier appears before the Commission. He was born at the plantation Orange Grove, does not know his age. He belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that on the aforementioned occasion, he saw Henry Daniel distribute herrings from the “allowance” cellar; he saw Peter Felix, who had a manure fork in his hand, which he immediately gave to the witness, saying that it belonged to the owner. He has not seen John Port and Peter Felix do anything other than what he has explained; he does not know where Peter Felix got the manure fork. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

It is remarked that Peter Gordon and Cornelius Gordon, according to the census<sup>42</sup>are born, the former at the plantation Brook on the 18th of November, 1851, and the latter at the plantation Orange Grove on the 8th of March, 1856.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 2 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Wednesday the 22nd of January, in the morning at 9 o'clock sharp, the Commission was convened in the courthouse by the Commission member Bailiff Sarauw, with attendance of witnesses W. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

It is remarked that manager Nixon from Pl. Butlers Bay has sent forth a declaration from himself and overseer L.F. Percy. This declaration is presented to the Commission of Inquiry, whereafter it may be presumed that Wilfred /: called Wolford in the declaration :/ Plasket was not in town during the night of the 1st and 2nd of October last year.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 9:30

C Sarauw

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In 1879, on Monday the 23rd of January, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse,

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<sup>42</sup> The Danish text says “stambog”(a “roll”), which indicates that it is some kind of census

with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer Francis Williams.

Frederik Cyrus, sent by Mrs. Petrine Reuter, appears before the Commission. He states that he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church, and that he was born in this town on the 11th of November, 1855, and after having been enjoined to be truthful, he states, on request, that he is the person who asked Benjamin Ford to stay in the shop and take care of it; he saw him standing on the street, and the time was approximately 7:30. He stayed there for a couple of hours and then he left, but he returned at approximately 3 o'clock and helped him move the goods. Mrs. Reuter did not send for Benjamin Ford as she was not present, but earlier, she had left her dwelling, which is right across the street from the shop. They finished moving the shop at approximately 5 in the morning. Stands down.

Thomas Hewitt from the plantation Two Brothers appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, whereafter he, on request, states that he had complained to the Police Chamber because Thomas Boynes from the plantation Hermitage, arrested in Christiansted, as far as he knows born on Barbados, struck and threw stones at Two Brothers' mules when they came from Wheel of Fortune's stream on the 1st of October, in the afternoon, when the people went out of town with pastor Du Bois. [*Folio 16b-17a, notice 21*] He did not see it himself, but two of his laborers, Joseph Clarke and Samuel James have told him.

He does not know whether Thomas Boynes participated and burned Wheel of Fortune on Wednesday the 2nd of October. He adds that he has never claimed that it was the case, and if anyone says so, it is a misunderstanding. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 14:30

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Friday the 24th of January, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Wilfred /: Wilford :/ Plasket from the plantation Butlers Bay appears before the Commission. He was born at the plantation Grove Place on the 4th of November 1857 and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Brothers' Church. He repeats his denial of having been in town on the night between the 1st and 2nd of October, but he states that he was at the plantation Butlers Bay.

Richard P. Tolderlund appears before the Commission. He is enjoined to be truthful as a witness, whereafter he, on request, states that he arrested the present detainee Plasket because he was in town and he brought him to the Police Chamber. He cannot say whether he was in town on the night of question, as he himself was home all night. He presumes that cobbler W. Forsberg can give information regarding whether the detainee was in town. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

W. Forsberg is sent for but is not able to attend today because he is ill with a fever.

When the Commission, after what has emerged, does not find sufficient evidence to keep the detainee Wilfred /: Wilford :/ Plasket, who was sent here from St. Croix prison yesterday, in custody, he is released until further notice. This is made clear to him with a remark that the case against him remains open.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 10 o'clock.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Thursday the 30th of January, in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer J. L. Usher.

Alex Stevens appears before the Commission. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, and he states that he does not personally know the man who is arrested under the name of Urjum or John Francis, but that a servant girl who is employed by his mother Ursuline Ørwin has told him that a person whom he believes has this name, said, on the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, that big houses such as his mother's should be burned, as the town people were "too dummed forward"<sup>43</sup>. If he sees the man, he can give information on who he is; he was arrested by the Police Officer Francis Henricksen on his request some days after the revolt. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed, and the witness stands down with the remark that Urjum is in Christiansted in Richmond prison and that Francis Henricksen is ill.

Thomas Farrelly, overseer at the plantation Brook Hill appears before the Commission. He is 27 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church. He is informed that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, and he states [*Folio 17b-18a, notice 22*] that Juliane Petersen from the plantation Slob, he does not know where she was born, but she has a man at Cane Valley, William Gittens /: not arrested :/, came to the plantation Cane Valley on the 3rd of October, as far as he knows around 9 or 10 o'clock, with a bundle on her head,

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<sup>43</sup> In the Danish text, the words "Too dummed forward" are written in English

and when he asked her what it was, she would not tell him, but answered that it was her own business; therefore, he demanded her arrest by schoolteacher Stewart Chabert, amongst others, some days later. He has not requested that Chabert take her in, but Stewart, and because of the stated reason. Shortly after, he saw her leave the plantation with a cane in her hand, and as far as he knows, she went to the plantation Diamond. No gang came for her at the plantation. The testimony is presented in court and affirmed, and the witness adds that he requested the arrest of Juliane Petersen at Pt. Becks Grove from where he went to Pt. Slob. Stands down.

William Emanuel appears before the Commission. According to the census, he was born in 1830<sup>44</sup>, and he is called John Manuel. 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 he lives in Mrs. Ramsay's house and that he saw the gang pass by; he and a fisherman Peter Williams followed after it; the gang entered Jackson's house, and between them, he saw Cancer Kenny from Nicolas, who uttered that Jackson's and Glasgow's houses had to be burned. The witness said that it was a shame since the whole town would burn and they were poor people. The houses were not burned, and he did not see Cancer Kenny do anything. He /: Cancer Kenny :/ went along to Glasgow's house; it was the second time they were there, but the witness did not follow further and does not know what they did there. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Cathrine Anthony appears before the Commission. She was born at Mt. Washington in 1829, is married to Isaac Anthony. It is made clear to her that she is present as a witness, and she is enjoined to be truthful, and on request, she states that her son, Isaac Anthony, was in town doing errands for her when the rebellion broke out at the apothecary in the afternoon; she was at home in Ny Gade and her son ran out; she followed him and caught up with him at the edge of the town in Freegut, and she said to him that he shouldn't follow those vagrants but that he should go home to Annaly. He promised to do so, and he did, and she did not see him until he was arrested. She is particularly asked whether she saw him on Wednesday morning at the edge of town, but she answers no. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 15:45.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Saturday the 1st of February, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and H.H. Siemens.

Patrick O'Reilly from the plantation Montpellier appears before the Commission. He is presented with what was said of and about Aberdeen Francis at the Police Interrogation on the

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<sup>44</sup> Unclear what "comp" refers to. In the context, it seems to refer to the witness himself

7th of Nov. of last year, and to this he remarks that he cannot personally testify but that he presumes that it is just as possible that the detainee would take the rum for himself as for the witness, and the reason why he presumes this is that on the same morning, Aberdeen Francis refused to help the driver save the rum barrels out of the cellar.

Detainee Aberdeen Francis from the plantation Montpellier appears before the Commission, He denies having refused to move the rum when asked to by the driver, as mentioned. However, he admits to having taken a piece of the foreleg of a pig [*Folio 18b-19a, notice 23*] without the owner, Mr. Reilly, giving it to him, and in this he acknowledges that he acted incorrectly; he does not know who killed the pig.

P. O'Reilly remarks that this occurred before he left the plantation, and he does not want the detainee to return to the plantation. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Planter O'Reilly stands down and the detainee is returned to prison.

Ernst Heibrook, manager at the plantation Annaly, appears before the Commission. It is made clear to him that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful, and he states that he has been told that Prince William from the plantation Annaly, who had come to him from Adventure, was on the South Side with the gang, and that William Henry Lucas was supposedly in town between the 1st and the 2nd of October. The witness knows himself that he went to town between 9 and 10, despite the witness advising him not to go, and he returned at approximately 4, and that William James presumably brought a demijohn with rum home with him to Spring Garden from the plantation Mt Pleasant. Apart from what is stated above, the witness does not know anything from personal experience regarding William Henry Lucas, who is a carpenter, The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Police Officer John Jackson Elias appears before the Commission. It is made clear to him that he is present as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. After having been presented with his testimony given on the 21st of November, he states that he found ham, salt meat, flour and starch in Petrine Groile's house. How much, he cannot accurately say. The goods have been handed over.

Detainee Petrine Groil, who was sent from Richmond prison yesterday, appears and denies this allegation, saying that the case was pre-arranged by the Police Officers Jackson Elias and Glasgow, because Buddo /: John G. Robert :/ had destroyed their houses. Yet a confrontation yields no accordance. The testimony is presented to the detainee in court and is affirmed. Police Officer John Jackson Elias stands down and detainee Petrine Groile is returned to prison.

David Michael appears before the Commission. 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 he was born at the plantation Sion Farm and does not know his age. He belongs to the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church. He repeats the testimony which he gave at the Police Interrogation on the 15th of October, that Isaac Anthony was at the outskirts of the town on the Wednesday morning, and that his mother yelled at him that he knew what he was doing. The testimony is presented to the witness in court and affirmed. Stands down.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 15:45.

C. Sarauw

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In 1879, on Monday the 10th of February, in the afternoon at 14:30, the Commission was convened by the Commission's member, Bailiff C. Sarauw, in Frederiksted, in the courthouse, with attendance of the witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Didrichsen, keeper of the register, and Police Officer Francis Williams.

Detainee Aberdeen Francis from the plantation Montpellier appears before the Commission. He was born at the plantation Mt Stewart in 1818. Since the Commission does not find sufficient reason to hold the detainee Aberdeen Francis in further custody, he is released until further notice. This is made clear to him with the remark that the case against him remains open.

Petrine Groile from Frederiksted appears before the Commission. She was born at the plantation Two Brothers on the 30th of August 1845, and since the Commission cannot find sufficient reason to further secure her person in custody, she is released [*Folio 19b-20a, notice 24*] until further notice.

Thereafter, the Commission is adjourned at 15:30.

C. Sarauw

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In 1880, on Saturday the 6th of March, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the court was seated in St. Croix Arrest and was administered by the Commission's member; Interrogation was obtained by Supreme Judge Rosenstand. Attending witnesses were the Commission's scribe Prison Inspector Dendtler and Police Officer C. Nielsen.

The Judge remarks that it is deemed requisite to reassume the case and obtain additional interrogation concerning the incident which took place during the uprising on the 4th of October 1878 regarding the woman Julia Roebuck /: compare interrogation of the 13th of February of last year:/ particularly in order to shed light on Rebecca Frederik's conduct in this respect.

Rebecca Frederik, previously from Upper Love, now from Cane, appears. She is questioned regarding the assault on Julia Roebuck at plantation Upper Love. She states that on the morning in question, whether it was Thursday or Friday, the 3rd or 4th of October or the following Friday, she no longer recalls, she was at her house in the upper part of Upper Love, in the negro

village, when she heard commotion in the lower part, because the negroes were thieves and crooks and had robbed and hidden everything she owned, and the negroes answered her. Shortly after, she heard clattering and screaming, and as she ran, she saw that some of the negroes had attacked Miss Roebuck and beat her. They had already moved her up to the road, so the detainee cannot say who attacked her first. She did not see John Francis beat her with a riding whip, so that must have occurred before she arrived. She says that “a hole fleet<sup>45</sup>” of negroes had surrounded Miss Roebuck, and many people beat her with canes and whips and whatever they had in their hands. The detainee herself had a cane in her hand, but she denies having used it to beat Miss Roebuck. Whether Miss Roebuck was dragged along the country road or whether she herself sought to escape and then fell, the detainee does not know, but she was further down the country road towards Jealousy when she was surrounded again, and some people yelled that they wanted her rings, and George Lang then started to pull them off her finger, and she saw that he beat her fingers with a cane. The detainee claims that she was not the one who encouraged people to take the rings, and she did not take part. She also denies having talked about taking her money, but she saw that they pushed her back towards the negro village, where she told them that her money was in the driver’s house, which the negroes then tried to break open. Whether that was the reason why they beat Miss Roebuck or whether some of the negroes initiated it, the detainee does not know. In any account, they let her stand, and Miss Roebuck walked over the country road and hid in a sugarcane field. The detainee denies that she continued to shout at Miss Roebuck after she had gone into hiding. Likewise, she denies all the other things which Miss Roebuck has ascribed particularly to her. She must admit that she was present in the gang which was, as stated, “a hole fleet<sup>46</sup>”, consisting not just of the laborers of U. Love, but also River’s laborers, and she yelled “our side<sup>47</sup>” as much as anyone, but she adds that she did not harm Miss Roebuck. The witness’ testimony is presented to her and affirmed.

Detainee William [*Folio 20b-21a, notice 25*] Arnold appears. He states that, as far as he knows, he retrieved a couple of Miss Roebuck’s rings from George Lang. The detainee believes that the others have agreed to blame him, and he believes that he has given Miss Roebuck more than she deserved, considering her accusations and curses. All in all, it was her own fault that she was attacked.

Detainee George Cambridge appears. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony regarding other people, and that he is bound to be truthful. He then states that he was not present when Miss Roebuck was attacked and mistreated by the negroes. He intervened between her and Arnold earlier in the morning, or at least earlier than the actual fight, but he did not see Arnold beat her, but he and Miss Roebuck argued. During the morning, Miss Roebuck had had several quarrels with different negroes, as she went around the negro village scolding them, saying that the negroes had robbed her and stolen from her, but as stated, he did not witness the big quarrel, because he walked back to the upper negro village. Regarding Rebecca Frederik, he can say nothing else than that as far as he knows, she, also had a quarrel with Miss Roebuck.

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<sup>45</sup> In the Danish text, the words “a hole fleet” are written in English

<sup>46</sup> In the Danish text, the words ”a hole fleet” are written in English

<sup>47</sup> In the Danish text, the words “our side” are written in English

Detainee William Arnold explains that some time did indeed pass between his quarrel with Miss Roebuck and the negro swarm's attack on her. He had already given Miss Roebuck the beatings when George Cambridge came to. Miss Roebuck had gone up to Rebecca Pedro's house again, and there she probably got into a new quarrel, which attracted the other negroes whom the detainee joined when they forced her onto the country road.

William Arnold and George Cambridge affirm their testimonies and stand down.

In a continued interrogation, Rebecca Frederik admits that she gave Miss Roebuck a couple of beatings with her cane, but she [*Folio 21b-22a, notice 26*] continues to deny having encouraged the robbing of Miss Roebuck's rings or her money or having hit her arm and hands when George Lang took the rings off her finger. She does not believe that anyone present did not partake, more or less, in the hitting, shoving and beating of Miss Roebuck.

Detainee William Arnold appears again. He states that as far as he knows, all the negroes present were more or less active in the attack of Miss Roebuck. The only one to stand up for her was George Cambridge, but as stated, this took place somewhat earlier than the actual quarrel. The detainee is led away.

Due to the circumstances, it is decided that it is unnecessary to arrest Rebecca Frederik again, and she thus stands down.

Court adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand