

Book 3: Interrogations from the 12th of December 1878 – the 30th of December 1878

12

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

Interrogation record B

w. loose supplement sheets 11. Dec 1878

[Folio 1a, notice 33]

This register, collected and sealed with the seal of the presidency, consisting of ninety-two folio pages, is hereby authorized as a register of inquiry for the Commission 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 presidency of St. Croix the 11th of December, 1878

K.A. Stakemann

[Folio 1b-2a, notice 3-4]

In 1878, on Thursday the 12th of December at 10 o'clock, Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg was situated in Christiansværn Fort, where the Court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and C. Christensen as witnesses.

Joseph William /: alias Jo, also called Sargunt, from Pl: Windsor appears. He was born at Pl: St. Johns, Catholic religion, is estimated to be 25 years old. He states that John Lewis turned up at Pl: Windsor on Thursday morning of the 3rd of October alongside a man called Sylvester from Pl: L. Hill.

Shortly after arrival, Sylvester left Windsor and walked back to L. Hill whilst John Lewis examined the location and in particular the greathouse and other buildings. When they were finished, he came down to the negro village and told the people that they had been too complacent when they had removed and (...) ³ thus secured the owner Mr. Quale's possessions and household effects, but they should beware that he, John Lewis, did not summon the big gang ⁴ from Frederiksted which had moved out into the country and which now raged and

² The references to the Folio point to the pages in the original, hand-written document

³ Missing or unintelligible

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

burned on the south parts of the island, and the gang would probably kill the laborers⁵ and burn down the negro village. He urged the people to join him and claimed that he was appointed Captain etc.

The laborers were reluctant to follow him, but when he threatened to make use of his gun and shoot down some of them, they reconsidered, and some of them (...) ⁶. He estimated that 10 or 12 followed John Lewis down the country road towards Concordia, where they, on the road by the stream, met (...) ⁷ Eustatia Roberts /: Small :/ and Lucas Isaac, both from Pl: Concordia which (...) ⁸ under the thebet⁹ tree. On John Lewis' suggestion, they joined the gang which passed Concordia and went up to Pl: Morningstar. On the way, they met a mob of people coming towards them, led by John Adam. The detainee believes that they were all from Morning Star, but he does not know the laborers there well enough to be able to name those whom he saw. When they were close to the yard, they met John Bob and Francis Simmons who joined them, whereafter they passed Morn. Star and went up to Mt. Pellier, and after some people from the Rattan area had joined the gang, they went into the Pl: where first the greathouse and then the works¹⁰ were set on fire and burned to the ground. The detainee saw that it was Auguste Hatchett¹¹ who, with the use of matches and dry straw /: trash :/, set fire to the greathouse, but the detainee does not know who set fire to the works, because whilst at Mt. Pellier, he stayed up in the yard. After the deed was done at Mt. Pellier, the gang went back to Morningstar, where the detainee, at the driveway from the road, met with the guardsman John Abraham with whom he deliberated how they could induce the gang to not destroy the buildings at the Pl:. Whilst deliberating, the detainee saw that the greathouse had been broken into and that several people had gone into the rooms. At the same time, the detainee saw that a barrel of cornflour had been rolled out into the yard and first Lucas Isaac from (...) ¹² and later Frans (...) ¹³ from Pl: Morningstar distributed flour to some of the laborers present from Pl: Morningstar. Later, when the detainee, accompanied by John Abraham, went up towards [*Folio 2b-3a, notice 35*] the greathouse, he saw that this, as well as the curing house¹⁴, was ablaze. The detainee did not see who broke into the greathouse nor which of the people went into the rooms where they destroyed furniture and household effects. Regarding the arson itself, he knows nothing, because after the conversation with John Abraham on the road, they went into the plantation¹⁵ and found both the greathouse and the works ablaze.

Questioned further, the detainee states that when he walked with John Abraham from the road into the plantation yard, they stopped in the vicinity of the kitchen by the greathouse. This was on fire. When they walked down to the works shortly after, they saw that these too were on fire.

⁵ The 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.

⁶ Missing or unintelligible

⁷ Missing or unintelligible

⁸ Missing or unintelligible

⁹ Elsewhere: thibet tree or tibet tree

¹⁰ The "works", also called "the factory" consisted of the mill, the curing house, the cooking house, and sometimes a distillery

¹¹ Elsewhere: Augustus Hatchett

¹² Missing or unintelligible

¹³ Missing or unintelligible

¹⁴ The curing house was where the muscovado (the crude, brown sugar) was drained.

¹⁵ Generally called "Estates" in the Danish West Indies, but "Plantations" in Denmark

Regarding the laborers who left Windsor and followed the gang, the detainee remembers: Abraham Thomas, Adam Charles, George Hewey, and Bency James of which the latter was seen by the detainee walking down the steps from the greathouse at Morningstar with a bottle of C. oil¹⁶ under his arm. Regarding people who were inside the greathouse where they destroyed the furniture, they only saw Henry James/: shot :/ and the mentioned B. James whom they saw walking down the steps. When the gang from Morningstar went down to Concordia, the detainee hid and went home to Windsor. Led away.

John Abraham, guardsman at Pl: Morningstar appears. English Church, approximately 35 years old. He states that on Thursday morning, on the 3rd of October, whilst patrolling on P C¹⁷, he met up with Joseph Williams who talked about how, if he had some few men as the detainee, he would do anything to prevent P C from being destroyed. The detainee replied that during the night, no one had taken any notice of his ban when he forbade the people in the N: village¹⁸ to blow the conch, so now they would probably resist even more if he tried to uphold order.

Joe Williams left the detainee and walked past the kitchen in the yard where he stopped, and right after that, he met the detainee and spoke to him. The detainee warned Joe Williams against going up towards the greathouse or down to the works, and later, when some members of the mob brought trash down to the mule pen, and the detainee feared that they would harm the mules, the detainee spoke against it, and he particularly addressed Peder James and Letelia, both from Pl: Morningstar, about the matter, as he saw that they had both brought dry straw down to the fold. The detainee maintains that he did not know anyone whom he can name in the gang. He did not see who destroyed the furniture in the greathouse nor who set fire to it or to the works. From Morningstar, the gang continued down to Pl: Concor., but the detainee did not leave M:Star. Led away.

James Gumbs from Pl: M: Star¹⁹ appears and states that he was born on the island Anguele and belongs to the congregation of the English Church, approximately 25 years old.

The detainee refers to his previously given testimony from the 22nd of November and in particular the part of this which regards Francis²⁰ Simmons' and Sahra²¹'s actions during the arson of the greathouse at M:Star.

Asked who else he saw in Mr. Farelly²²'s house before it was burned, he states that he has been previously employed at Pl: S:Farm ²³and only 4-5 months at Pl: M: Star ²⁴, and therefore, he is not well acquainted with the people on the North Side. [*Folio 3b-4a, notice 36*] Amongst the gang which passed through M: Star on its way up to Mt Pellier, the detainee only knew the leaders, of which 3 are dead, but he recognized John Abraham, the guardsman at Pl: M: Star, as one of the people who joined the gang when it passed M: Star, and he returned with it when they came back

¹⁶ C Oil: Kerosene oil?

¹⁷ P C: Plantation Concordia

¹⁸ N: village: Negro village

¹⁹ M: Star: Plantation Morningstar

²⁰ Elsewhere: Frances

²¹ Elsewhere: "Serah?"

²² Elsewhere: Farraly

²³ Plantation Sion Farm

²⁴ Plantation Morning Star

to M: Star after having done their deed at Mt Pellier. The detainee can give no explanation as to what John Abraham did whilst absent, and he does not know what the gang did after it left Morningstar. Led away.

Francis Scnur appears. He was born at Pl: Cane Bay, Catholic religion, estimated to be 20 years old. As stated during the interrogation on the 22nd of the previous month²⁵, he states that he saw Henry James /: shot :/ set fire to the works whilst a man, Benjamin James, set fire to the greathouse by setting fire to some magass²⁶ which he had shoved into an empty box and then poured over with petroleum. The magass was given to Bencey James by a woman, namely Serah Canrad, and the box stood, closed, in the greathouse when they arrived, but the lid was knocked off by Bencey James.

At Morningstar, the detainee admits that he broke Mr. Farelly's desk with a cudgel which he brought with him like he also, with the same cudgel, destroyed a mahogany cupboard which stood in one of the other rooms from which the detainee stole some cigars, but he vehemently denies having set fire to the fragments of the desk thus causing the burning of the house. The detainee does not know who set fire to the rooms at M:Star. He admits that he took approximately 3 rations of cornflour, and then walked down to the negro village to store it there. When he returned, the rooms were already on fire, and he was therefore prevented from getting any sugar from the curing house.

From Morningstar, the gang moved to Pl: Concordia. The detainee followed along and was present when the manager's²⁷ dwelling was broken into, probably by Eustatia Roberts and later, the works were also set on fire, but he denies having done anything (...) ²⁸ at Pl: Windsor, neither destruction nor arson, neither then nor later.

During further examination, Francis Simmons states that he had seen the guardsman John Abraham directly after the gang had returned to M:Star after its excursion to Mt. Pellier, on the road which passes Pl: up to the negro village where it (...) ²⁹ was his intention to hide Mr. Farraly's wagon, which he pulled behind him. Whether he had been with the gang at Mt Pellier, the detainee does not know, but he did not see him there, and he does not think so. Led away.

Lucas Isaac from Pl: Concordia appears and repeats what he has stated earlier, namely that he distributed rations of flour to some of the people at Pl: M, thereby using a barrel of flour, which in the presence of (...) ³⁰ John Abraham from (...) ³¹ [*Folio 4b-5a, notice 37*] was rolled out from the cellar into the yard and later, after the fire at M: Star, he followed the gang to Concordia. Apart from this, he did nothing illegal. He must admit that, as a bystander, both at Concordia and at M: Star, he had the opportunity to see who was active in the arson there, but still, he persistently states that he knows nothing in that regard which can be useful. Led away.

Robert Small, commonly known as Eustatia Robert, appears. He was born on the island St Eustatia, belongs to the congregation of the English Church, and is estimated to be 25 years old.

²⁵ The Danish text uses the abbreviation "f. M" "forrige Maaned" (the previous month (last month))

²⁶ Magass: the spent stalks of sugarcane, after the juice has been extracted. Magass was dried to be used as fuel

²⁷ Danish: Forvalter

²⁸ Missing or unintelligible

²⁹ Missing or unintelligible

³⁰ Missing or unintelligible

³¹ Missing or unintelligible

He explains that on the Thursday of the 3rd of October, because of John Lewes' threats, he was forced to follow the gang which passed through Concordia, and he went along to M: Star and from there on to M: Pellier. The detainee did not go further than to M: Star, where he sat down in the ditch and waited for the return of the gang. At M: Star, they saw smoke and heard noise, but from where he stood /: on the road below the negro village :/ he could not see what was going on up at the plantation. After the detainee had arrived at Concordia with the gang, Augustus Hatchett threatened to shoot the detainee with his gun if he did not take part in the projected destruction at Concordia, and in order to avoid the impending danger, the detainee went into the manager's house /: which was broken into by Augustus Hatchett :/, and he grabbed hold of the shutters which he pretended to start to tear down, but he gave up, saying that he could not make up his mind whether to destroy the plantation where he was employed. Augustus Hatchett accepted this and let the detainee go down into the allowance cellar, where it was his intention to get a ration of flour, which he, however, did not get, as he had no cloth or anything in which to collect it.

The manager's dwelling and the works were ablaze and burned down, but the detainee does not know who was responsible for the arson. From Concordia (...) ³² went with the gang to Windsor, where they found the greathouse opened. The detainee stayed in the yard whilst a group of people from the gang entered the house, which was shortly after set on fire and burned down. The detainee knows nothing about this arson, either. He has heard that several people were burned to death or injured at Windsor, but he did not see anything, and he only knows what the rumors tell him about the accident. Led away.

Court adjourned.

Forsberg

In 1878, on Friday the 13th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg was situated in the Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and C. Christensen as witnesses.

Thomas Benjamin from Pl: Morningstar appears and states that he was born on the island St Martin, is Catholic and (...) ³³ years old. He states that on the Thursday of the 3rd of October, he was in David Rodger's house in the N: village at M. Star when the gang from Windsor passed M. Star and went to Mt Pellier, where they set fire to the greathouse and the works. From where the detainee was standing, he could clearly see the fire in the greathouse and in the [*Folio 5b-6a, notice 38*] works. Shortly after, the gang returned to M: Star, and Augustus Hatchett threatened to shoot the detainee, and he forced him to go out into the yard where the gang was assembled. From the old hospital, the detainee could see what was going on in the yard, and in particular, he saw that the greathouse was broken into, and that part of the mob forced its way into the rooms,

³² Missing or unintelligible

³³ Missing or unintelligible

but the crowd and the disorder hindered the detainee from seeing which persons were particularly active in the destruction. Shortly after the gang had forced its way into the house, the detainee saw that it was set on fire, and not long after, the works were also ablaze. However, the detainee repeats that his full attention was focused on his attempts to escape. He did not succeed until the gang set in motion on the road to Concordia, when, on the border between Concordia and M: Star, he had the opportunity to retreat and hide in M Star's sugarcane fields, field no 11. Regarding the accusation that he blew the conch during the revolt at M: Star, the detainee denies, but he does admit that a boy, Peter Francis, did indeed hand him a conch to blow, but he did not dare to do it and he threw it away. The detainee maintains that he did not partake in the destruction or arson at M: Star or any other place. Led away.

Jane Warrell from Pl: Windsor appears and states that she was born at Pl: M: Star and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. She states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, she was in her house at Windsor when John Lewis assembled the gang with which he later left the Pl., and she was also at home when the gang returned from Concordia. The detainee saw that John Lewis, followed by some of the gang members, entered the greathouse, where everything was destroyed, and she saw John Lewis set fire to the greathouse using dry straw which was wetted with C: Oil. Immediately after, Lewis entered the rum cellar, where he knocked out the bottom of a barrel of rum and set fire to the rum. During this incident, a boy burned to death /: namely Petr. Francis :/, and Augustus Hatchett was severely burned. The detainee adheres to her explanation of being home all of the day Thursday the 3rd of October, and she maintains that she in no way took part in the destruction and arson of that day, and she refers to the testimony of the driver, like also he (...) ³⁴ Ras(...) ³⁵ will testify for her, because she assisted him in saving the old hospital, where the detainee lived, from the fire which had spread from the greathouse. Detainee led away.

Petrus Jacobs from Pl: Windsor appears. Born at Pl: M: Fancy ³⁶, belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Brother's Church, is estimated to be 30 years old. He explains that on the night between the 2nd and 3rd of October /: Wednesday and Thursday :/, along with the driver George Cornelius and David Martin, he was occupied with hiding Mr. Quale's furniture and other belongings in the old hospital. Thursday morning: The detainee cannot accurately determine the time. [*Folio 6b-7a, notice 39*] The detainee saw John Lewes ³⁷ come to the plantation. He went up to the yard where he sometimes visits the woman Anne Warren, who lives in the old hospital. Not long after, John Lewes returned with a cane in his hand. He walked down the country road as if in direction towards Pl: Concordia, but no one was with him, and the detainee did not hear that he had recruited or threatened people. During further interrogation, the detainee states that on Thursday, he was drinking right from the early morning, so he does not know what happened around him, but he thinks that other people did what he did. It wasn't until the afternoon, at around 4 o'clock, that he regained full consciousness. Somewhat later, John Lewes returned to the plantation with his gang, and the detainee saw him set fire to the greathouse and the rum cellar, and several people were harmed in the fire. From Windsor, the

³⁴ Missing or unintelligible

³⁵ Missing or unintelligible

³⁶ Plantation Marys Fancy

³⁷ Elsewhere: "Lewis" or "Levis"

gang moved on to Glynn, but the detainee did not follow along with the gang, so he does not know if they went to the Factori Station at Glynn on the way. The detainee took a shortcut over to Glynn, where he stood for a while on the Millgang³⁸.

A man, David William, who was actually the person who lured and forced the detainee to go along to Glynn, took his eye off him for a moment, and the detainee took advantage of it and sneaked away and returned to Windsor. When going over to Glynn, the detainee admits that it was his intention to stay there to see what would happen there, but when he realized that the livestock, which he was supposed to tend at Windsor, rushed from the pasture over to the sugarcane field which the plantation calls “L (...)”³⁹pease”, and as he, at the same time, saw that there was military up at Pl: B: Esperance⁴⁰, which would probably engage the gang in Glynn’s yard, the detainee quickly returned to Windsor.

Commissarius remarks that the detainee Petrus Jacobs has shown such uncertainty in the given testimonies etc. that he either is or pretends to be deranged. The detainee is led away.

James Stallard from Pl: Concordia appears and states that he was born at Pl: Belvedere, belongs to the congregation of the English Church, and is estimated to be 20 years old. The detainee denies having been present as either participant or onlooker during the arson or the destruction of Mt Pellier, M: Star, Concordia, Windsor, Glyn or any other place. When John Lewis went from Windsor to Mt Pellier on Thursday morning at around 10 o’clock, his gang was led by himself, Henry James, Abraham Johannes from Windsor, Benjamin James from Windsor, and Augustus Hatchett from the same plantation. The gang went up Morningstar Hill. Shortly after, the detainee, who was in Concordia’s N: village, saw that the greathouse and the works at Mt Pellier were on fire, and shortly after, Morningstar’s greathouse and works were ablaze, and the gang was at Pl: Concordia. Since the detainee was still in the N: village, he could not well see what was going on in the plantation yard, but he could hear John Lewis call Concordia’s laborers together so they could receive their rations etc., but because the detainee’s mother, Felicia Pedersen, [*Folio 7b-8a, notice 40*] who lives at Concordia, advised against going to the yard, he received no allowance. The manager’s dwelling and later the works were set on fire and burned down. During the afternoon, when it was debated whether the gang should go to Windsor, there were some difficulties in deciding which way to go. Some people in the gang, here amongst in particular the women, demanded that they should go to the field which is planted with guinea grass, belonging to Pl: Windsor, and situated next to Concordia, but in particular August Hattchett opposed this and suggested that the gang should use the common country road which runs close to the burned down manager’s house. He forced his suggestion through by threatening with his gun, which he pointed at those members of the gang who tried to run across the guinea grass field. After some pause and after having prepared in different ways for the run alongside the country road, the gang ran past the manager’s house up to the driveway which leads to Pl: Windsor. In response to specific interrogation, the detainee adds that when the gang, as stated, ran by the manager’s house, the 4 Captains were in the lead, whilst the 5th Captain, John Lewis, was behind them to make sure that they all left Concordia’s yard and followed the gang to Windsor. When the people in the gang passed the manager’s house, the smoke from the

³⁸ The Danish text says “Møllegangen”. Elsewhere in the records, the name of the road is written in both Danish and English, and here, the English is “the Millgang”

³⁹ Unintelligible or missing

⁴⁰ Plantation Bonne Esperance

house was so thick that they could not be seen from where the detainee stood, by the big mispel tree in Concordia's N: village. The detainee thus remained at home in the N: village at Concor: that day, and can therefore not give any information regarding what the gang did after having left Concordia. Led away.

Louise Ann from Pl: M: Star appears. She was born on the island St Martin, belongs to the congregation of the English Church, and is estimated to be 26 years old. She states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, she was busy washing linen at the stream at M: Star. A gang which was led by John Lewis and Augustus Hatchett arrived, and Augustus Hatchett forced her to join the gang and follow it by beating her with a thick cane and by threatening to shoot her with the gun which he carried with him. She went with the gang to Mt Pellier, where the gang started to destroy first the fence surrounding the garden outside the greathouse and then glass, windows, shutters, doors and window frames inside the house. When everything was destroyed, August Hatchett set fire to the greathouse, and since he needed magass to get the fire to catch, he forced the detainee to bring him a handful. When she, unwillingly, complied, he hit her left hand with his cudgel, and for fear of further harm, she brought him poor quality magass, as she says, "3-piece"⁴¹ - which is magass from 3 crushed sugar canes. When the gang left Mt Pellier, she followed them down to M: Star, where she immediately betook herself to her house in the N: village, and she did not see that the greathouse and the works were later destroyed. The detainee also denies having been present when Farally's house was broken into and destroyed and when the works were set on fire. She also states that she does not know how or by whom the works were set on fire. [*Folio 8b-9a, notice 41*] When the gang left M Star and went to Concordia, she did not follow, but remained at M: Star all day Thursday. The detainee decidedly denies having been present at any destruction or arson apart from that at M Star, and it was fear of Augustus Hatchett's abuse which led her to follow along with the gang and hand him the demanded magass. Led away.

The detainee states that there might have been more leaders of the gang than the mentioned John Lewis and Augustus Hatchett, but she did not know them. Stands down.

Robert Small /: St: Eustatia Robert :/ from Pl: Concordia appears and states that he was present at Morning Star on the 3rd of October when some unknown women brought dry straw /: trash:/ to the mule pen, which at the time was empty, and which it was their intent to burn down by setting fire to the straw in the fold.

A boy whom the detainee believes to be named Francis Peter - he is of East Indian descent - opposed their setting fire to the straw in the fold, and when the women took offense, they went for the boy, in the detainee's opinion in order to teach him a lesson. Trying to stop them, he grabbed a piece of iron which was lying on the ground, and they pushed Francis Peter.

The detainee is interrogated further regarding the fire at M: Star. He denies having been present at the greathouse when it was destroyed and burned. At the works, the detainee was present before they were set ablaze, and there he saw that a whole mob of people, who belonged to the

⁴¹ In the Danish text, the words "3-piece" are written in English

gang, were busy placing a barrel of rum on edge, so it leaned on one side, so that the rum could flow when the bung was pulled out. When this was done, a boy, whom the detainee does not know, set fire to the rum, and the fire spread to the entire cellar, so the mob had to flee. The detainee does not know the boy or his name, but it is possible that he would recognize him if he saw him. Stands down.

Court adjourned.

Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 14th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg convened the Commission, situated in the Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and John Madsen as witnesses.

John Hewetson, born at J: Fancy⁴² appears. At the moment, he works at Pl: M Star as a carpenter and a guardsman. He is enjoined to be truthful, and the consequences of untrue testimonies are made clear to him. Then, as a witness, he states that on the 3rd of October, he was at M: Star, and at around 9 o'clock in the morning, he saw a gang led by John Lewis and Augustus Hatchett come from Pl: Windsor. They walked through M. Star's N: village, and when they approached the yard by the greathouse, they asked where the driver was. The driver Robert Henry was ill, and the man who stood in as driver was Edward Sommers, and he stood forward in front of the inquirers and told the gang that they would be prevented from destroying the buildings. One of the leaders said that "now that we are on the road towards Mt Pellier, and that from there, they would come back to M Star". When the gang came from Windsor to M Star, it was not big, perhaps no more than 15 men, probably from Pl: Windsor, only a couple from L. Hill and Concordia. They walked on the country road over to Mt Pellier, and shortly after they had arrived there, the witness saw the buildings burn. Whilst the gang was at Mt Pellier, the witness opened the greathouse at M: Star and along with the driver Robert /: who, though ill, is present :/ and some of Farrely's possessions were salvaged and hidden in Robert's house. A cupboard containing linen and walking clothes⁴³ was opened, and whilst removing the content in order to take it away, the guard John Abraham came and told the driver Robert, in the presence of the witness, that he, John Abraham, would advise against them moving the possessions, as a man named Thomas Joseph from Concordia had said that he closely observed what was going on, and if anyone dared to remove anything in the house, he, "Thomas Joseph", would burn the house in which the household effects were hidden. Because of John Abraham's statement, the attempt to salvage was abandoned, and the linen etc. was left in bundles on the floor. They left the house and fastened the doors with dowels. Shortly after, the gang returned from Mt Pellier. The driver Robert hid in the burial ground by the N: village, and the witness hid in the old

⁴² Presumably Plantation Judys Fancy

⁴³ Danish: Gangklæder

hospital by the greathouse. The witness saw that the door to the allowance cellar was broken open /: by whom the witness cannot say :/. The present Lucas Isaac ordered the people who had entered the cellar to roll out a barrel of flour. The flour was rolled out, and guardsman John Abraham broke the barrel open with a stone, and the flour was distributed to the plantation's own laborers by John Abraham. The other people received nothing. After the flour was distributed, some of the gang members went up to the greathouse. The witness cannot say who opened the door, but he saw that the first persons to enter the house were Lucas Isaac and Francis Simmons - Lucas Isaac picked up a cane which was lying on a divan table in the front room of the house and which Farrely used instead of a riding whip. Francis Simmons went into the other rooms and returned shortly after with a whole lot of cigars which he had taken from inside the house and which he gave to Clare, his concubine, so that she could bring them to safety.

Immediately after Lucas Isaac and Francis Simmons had forced entry to the house, the witness heard that a piece of furniture was broken, and shortly after, the fragments were thrown out over the gallery and down into the yard. Which of the two - Lucas Isaac or Francis Simmons - broke the furniture, the witness could not see, but it was destroyed and thrown over the gallery before Francis Simmons came out of the house and handed the robbed cigars to Clara. After the gang had destroyed everything that was in the greathouse within a short time, it was set on fire, whereafter the gang went down to the works, which were set on fire. When the fire was well ablaze, the gang left M: Star and went down to [Folio 10b-11a] Concordia. As stated, the witness did not himself see who set fire to the greathouse or the works, but John Abraham has told him that John Adam /: shot :/ set fire to the curing house⁴⁴ and thus alighted the works which burned down, and that John Bob from Pl: M: Star, alongside Louise Ann, set fire to the magass house. The above statement is presented to the witness in the English language and affirmed, whereafter he stands down.

Abraham Johannes from Pl: Windsor appears before court after having been summoned. He states that he was born at Pl: Windsor and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church, and that he is 20 years old. He is enjoined to be truthful, and the consequences of untrue testimonies are made clear to him, whereafter he states, as a witness, that on Wednesday night, on the 2nd of October, Windsor's Mr. Quale⁴⁵ ordered the plantation laborers to keep guard all night on the country road and by the N: village to prevent the troublemakers from gaining access to the plantation. As a result of this order, practically all the laborers were on their feet all night, and not until morning did some of them get a short sleep. At about 7 o'clock on Thursday morning, John Lewis and John Sylvester from the L: Hill⁴⁶ area came to Pl: Windsor. They passed the laborers who were standing on the road which leads up to Windsor's works and greathouse without speaking, but they came back from the yard straight away and met the laborers, who were still standing in the road. John Lewis said loudly that he had been with the big gang all night and that he had partaken in the arson of Monbijou, Fredensborg, and Slob and

⁴⁴ The curing house was where the muscovado (the crude, brown sugar) was drained

⁴⁵ The Danish transcription says "... at han Windsors Herr Quale ..." (that he Windsor's Mr. Quale) - which is slightly unclear. The meaning must be "Windsor's Mr. Quale ..."

⁴⁶ Plantation Lebanon Hill?

that he, “John Lewis” had now been sent to see what had happened to the “midland⁴⁷” gang. Also, his orders were that if he met reluctance from the laborers, he was to return to the leaders of the big gang with information about it, and then they would come and force them. John Lewis told them that he and his comrades fought for everyone! And that if “good” came from the strike, it would be good for everyone, but that resistance would result in people being killed, and the N: village would be burned down. As a result of the threats, approximately 12-16 of the Windsor laborers joined John Lewes /: John Sylvester had disappeared during the stop at Windsor, whereto the witness does not know :/ and the gang set in motion down towards Pl: Concordia. When it passed through its N: village, someone in John Lewes’ gang blew the conch. The signal was answered from Concordia’s N: village, and James Martin, James Stallard, Lucas Isaac, and Eustatis⁴⁸ Robert arrived and joined the gang which now continued its course up towards Pl: M: Star, where a number of its laborers came to greet them and join them, and they now proceeded towards Mt Pellier. Of laborers from M: Star who joined the gang at Windsor’s Big Hill, the witness remembers John Adam /: shot :/ Louise Ann, John Bob, and Francis Simmons. When the gang paused briefly at the driveway to Mt Pellier, the witness had the opportunity to sneak away. He went into the N: village where his brother-in-law Christian lives with his family. The witness told him that he, being a driver [*Folio 11b-12a, notice 44*] at Mt Pellier, should watch out and make sure that the gang did not get hold of him, as they would treat him like they had treated other drivers, meaning that they would force him to break open the door to the allowance cellar, steal flour and then set it on fire. Christian thanked him for the warning, but he did not hide, but went into the yard and positioned himself in a place where everyone could see him, on the heating cistern. When the witness later talked to him about it, he replied that he had stood on the heating cistern to see the “good as well as the bad”. Whilst the witness in the N: village was in conversation with Christian, the sound of destruction of furniture and household effects could be heard up in the yard, and shortly after, it turned out that the buildings were ablaze and burned. When the buildings at M: Pellier had crashed down, the gang left the plantation and went down to M: Star. Here, the cellar was broken open and the flour was rolled out and distributed by the guardsman, John Abraham, and Lucas Isaac from Pl: Concordia. Some members of the gang forced entry to Mr Farrely’s house where everything was destroyed and the house was set on fire. Amongst those who first entered the greathouse, the witness noticed John Adam Francis Simmon and Lucas Isaac, and later, more people turned up, but the detainee did not see who set fire to the furniture or the buildings. Whilst the gang ravaged inside the house, the witness decided, along with Joseph James from Pl: Fancy, to save a (...) ⁴⁹ by rolling it out of the wagon shed and placing it under a large thebet tree. While the greathouse was still burning, the gang went down to the works, which were shortly after ablaze and they burned down. The witness could not see who initiated the arson, as he stayed up on the Mill path /: The Millgang :/.

Before the works at M: Star were completely burned down, the gang set in motion and went down to Concordia.

At Concordia, it was Eustatia Roberts who first forced entry into the manager’s house by breaking open the door, whereafter he and other gang members entered the house. The witness

⁴⁷ In the Danish text, the word ”midland” is written in English

⁴⁸ Elsewhere: “Eustatia”

⁴⁹ Missing or unintelligible

could not see what they did inside. The allowance cellar was broken open, but the witness could not see who did it. Lucas Isaac managed to roll out a barrel of flour into the yard, where he left it for those of Concordia's laborers who were present. The manager's house, along with the works, were set on fire and burned down, but the witness did not see who did it. From Concordia, the gang went over to Windsor, led by the same Captains as when it left Windsor in the morning, namely: John Lewis, Henry James, Augustus Hatchett, and Joe Williams. They went directly up to the greathouse, where all household effects were destroyed. In the meantime, carts and other tools were broken and destroyed. The witness, who was in the yard, saw that Lucas Isaac, who was armed with a cutlass, had begun to smash the carts. The witness objected to this, and Lucas Isaac became so indignant that he threatened to slash the witness with his cutlass, and a scuffle ensued during [Folio 12b-13a, notice 45] which the witness tried to wrest away the weapon with which Lucas Isaac threatened, but Lucas Isaacs overpowered the witness and held on to the cutlass, which he then used to smash 2 carts to pieces whilst the witness saved the 3rd one by rolling it down the hill where after it was hidden by the cashew bushes. The driver at Windsor, George Sommans⁵⁰, can testify to whether the witness struggled with Lucas⁵¹. The greathouse was set on fire and burned down, but the witness did not see who was responsible for the arson itself. Beneath the greathouse was a rum cellar in which a boy, namely Peter Francis, and Augustus Hatchett, John Ch: Frederik, and Joe William were, whilst the greathouse above them burned. In the cellar, they were busy filling rum from a barrel into demijohns. John Lewis came running from the house into the cellar with a burning piece of shutters in his hand. A burning fragment fell to the ground and set the spilt rum on fire, and the fire spread so quickly that they had to save themselves, they had to run out of the cellar through the fire, and Peter Francis was burned so he died some hours later. Aug: Hatchett died in hospital some weeks later. Both of Joe Williams' feet were burned. John Charles Frederik also got a burn injury, but of lesser consequence. The testimony is presented to the witness and affirmed, adding that besides the mentioned people who joined the gang before it went up to M: Star, there was also a man called Eustatius John, and that his testimony regarding his brother-in-law Christian from Mt Pellier, about how the drivers were treated by the gangs in the countryside, was based on a conversation which the witness overheard between George Mechal⁵² and Pl: Windsor's driver George Simons. Stands down.

Peter James from Pl: M Star has been summoned and appears. He states that he was born at Pl: M: Star, belongs to the congregation of the English Church, and he says that he is 28 years old, which is consistent with his appearance. He explains that on Thursday morning on the 3rd of October, he resided in his blind mother, Clareses⁵³ house in the N: village at Pl: M: Star, and a gang which was led by John Lewis, Augustus Hatchett, Henry James, John Adam, and Joe William entered the N: village with threats, particularly that they would burn his mother Clarise's house. They forced him to join the gang, and he followed them to Mt Pellier, where he saw his chance to sneak away into a field planted with sugarcane, and he returned to the N: village at M: Star, where he saw, for the first time, that the buildings at Mt Pellier were burning. Shortly after,

⁵⁰ Elsewhere: "Simmons", "Semmons", "Simmans" or "Simons"

⁵¹ Here, the Danish transcription says "Lucas Joan". This does not quite make sense in the context (it must be Lucas Isaacs), so "Joan" is omitted.

⁵² Presumably George Michael

⁵³ Elsewhere: Clarise

the gang returned to M: Star, and Joe William from Windsor opened the lock to the allowance cellar, Lucas Isaac from Concordia ordered that they were to roll out a barrel of flour into the yard, guard John Abraham from M: Star opened the barrel with a stone and distributed the flour to M: Star's laborers: During the distribution, a number of members [*Folio 13b-14a, notice 46*] of the mob - hereamongst some of the leaders, Francis Semmons from M: Star, Joe Williams from Pl: Windsor - forced entry into the greathouse, and there they began to destroy furniture, shutters etc. The house was then set on fire and burned down, which was also the case with the works, which were set on fire by Henry James in the presence of Rechar George from M: Star whom the detainee saw in the rum cellar shortly before this was in flames.

Asked who first forced entry to the greathouse, the detainee first mentions the leader of the gang, Francis Simmons from M: Star, who was shot and then died, Bency James and a boy, namely Bards, both from Windsor. Asked who set fire to the house, the detainee answers that he was not up in the house so he could not see what went on, but he knows that "Bards and Bency James" had their backs to the house and that they were on the steps when the house was in flames. Stands down.

Commissarius remarks that he has received a note addressed to the Commission of Inquiry, dated the 12th of this month, from the Police Chief in Christiansted, regarding a man, namely Anthony Thomas from Pl: Glynn, who was injured on the 3rd of October and committed to the hospital Peter Farm on the 7th of November. It is suspected that he participated in the revolt during which he was wounded by a patrol.

Anthony Thomas from Pl: Glynn appears and admits that he was present at Pl: Glynn when the riot gang was at Pl: Windsor on the 3rd of October, where it set fire to the greathouse there, but he denies taking part in the arson. With Thomas' admission in court today, regarding his being present when Glynn's buildings were set on fire by the rioters, the court finds that his person has to be retained in custody, which is made clear to him. Led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Monday the 16th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansvørn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

Robert Henry, driver from Pl: M: Star appears. He was born on Barbados, states that he is 28 years old, which is consistent with his appearance, and he belongs to the congregation of the English Church. He states that he was in the yard at M: Star on Thursday morning on the 5th of October, when a gang consisting of 12-15 men came from the Pl: Windsor up to M Star. A man who was temporarily appointed to guard the laborers during their work, namely Edward

Simman, told the gang that he would not allow them to destroy the buildings, as this had not happened at Concordia, which the gang had just passed. The leader of the gang, John Lewes, answered him that he realized that he had too few people, and that he therefore would postpone what had to be done at M: Pelleri⁵⁴, where he was expecting reinforcement. When the gang had left, [Folio 14b-15a, notice 47] the detainee called (...) ⁵⁵Lowel (?) and asked her to open the door to the house so that they could save as much as possible before the gang returned. The detainee entered alongside Weeks Phelpes and Canton Edwin and John Henriksen (...) ⁵⁶ and gathered 3 bundles of clothing and took off with them, but when Mr Farrely's linen was removed from the cupboard to bring it to safety, the guardsman John Abraham called the detainee from the yard and made it clear to him that if they followed his advice, they would not try to save anything further from the greathouse, because a laborer, namely Thomas Joseph from Concordia, to whom "John Abraham" had said that he would see where they took the salvaged items, and when the gang returned, he would show them the place where the items were placed and then burn down the house. As a consequence of Joen⁵⁷ Abraham's message, further attempts to save things were relinquished, and the detainee and the other 4 men closed the door and left the house, whereafter the detainee, who for quite some time had been ill and was still too weak and suffering to leave the Pl., hid in the burial ground with trees and bushes which is situated by the N: village. He has therefore not seen what happened up at the greathouse after having left it. Stands down.

Thomas Weeks from Pl: M Star appears. He was born on Barbados, belongs to the congregation of the English Church, and is estimated to be 40 years old. He explains that on Thursday morning, when the gang from Concordia came to M: Star where they forced the laborers to go along. The gang only consisted of 12-15 people. John Bob, Thomas Benjamin, and Louise Ann joined the gang and followed it to M: Pellier. While the gang was gone, some bundles of clothes belonging to Mr Farrely were saved from the greathouse by the detainee alongside some other plantation laborers, and they were brought to safety in the Negro village, but when guard John Abraham yelled up to Dr. Robert Henry from the yard who (...) ⁵⁸ was inside the house, that a laborer, namely Thomas Joseph from Pl: Concordia, had threatened to find and destroy the house where the salvaged items had been hidden, they stopped gathering clothing and other items, and they left the house. Directly afterwards, the gang came to the Pl., where the house was broken open and the furniture etc. was destroyed, and then, the house was set on fire. Later, the magass house was set on fire and finally, the works were set on fire.

The detainee states that because he was continually thinking about getting to safety, he kept as far away from the gang as possible, so he did not see who was most active in the destruction of the household effects and also, he did not see who set fire to the greathouse or the works. Stands down.

George Simmons from Pl: Windsor appears before court. He was born at Pl: Windsor, belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church, and is estimated to be 40 years old. He states that on

⁵⁴ Mt Pelier

⁵⁵ Missing or unintelligible

⁵⁶ Missing or unintelligible

⁵⁷ John

⁵⁸ Missing or unintelligible

Wednesday the 2nd of October, he was in possession of a written pass from Mr. Quale, and he tried to get to the town Frederiksted. The attempt failed, and he had to return, and he was pleased enough when he returned to Windsor from the northside road at around 6 o'clock in the afternoon. According to Mr. Quale's orders, some of the most reliable laborers stayed at the Pl: during the night of Wednesday and Thursday to save furniture and other possessions from the greathouse under the watch of the detainee. On Thursday morning at around 9 o'clock, John Lewes came to Wnds⁵⁹ and gave a speech to the laborers in which he threatened that the big gang from the South Side would come to Windsor and murder and burn because the laborers would not join him, as he worked on behalf of the big gang. He boasted that he had been out and about and had destroyed several Pl: and had done other things for the greater good. However, he did not speak about what the greater reason for the revolt was, and the detainee has not since heard amongst the people what the intent with the revolt was, and before October the 1st, he did not hear nor consider that an uprising was intended. John Lewis' speech caused almost all the younger male laborers to leave Windsor, and the detainee did not see them again until they returned with the gang in the afternoon. The detainee himself did not leave Pl: Windsor all day Thursday, and he has not at any point participated in the excesses which occurred. During the day, the witness distributed whatever flour there was in the provisions cellar because he feared that it would otherwise be destroyed by the laborers (...) ⁶⁰ they would suffer from lack of food. The supply in the cellar only stretched so far, so the laborers who were present at the Pl: only received 2 quarts each. After the gang were (...) ⁶¹ at the Pl:. Again, all the household effects which were left in the greathouse were smashed, and the fragments were thrown in a pile which was set on fire shortly after. The detainee did not see who set fire to the pile, but he saw John Lewis walk down from the house with a burning piece of wood in his hand, and he went to the allowance cellar, and immediately after, the rum supply was on fire. Also, the detainee states that whilst the gang was at Windsor, he saw Lucas Isaac from Concordia destroy one of the Pl: carts with a cutlass, but when he wanted to smash the other one, Abraham Johannes opposed the destruction, and after some dispute, he succeeded in hindering the intended destruction, and he saved the cart. Further, George Simmons states that whilst he was standing in the yard, guardsman John Abraham came towards him and said to him that he could peacefully stay where he was, because no one would harm him while he was present. From Windsor, the gang went down to the Factori Station, and shortly after, it was in flames, but (...) ⁶² for that matter there or later, John Glynn passed by, the witness cannot testify, because, as explained earlier, he did not leave the Pl:.

Regarding Petrus Isaac, the witness states that he had been employed at Windsor for a long time and is known to be a drunk, but as long as he is sober, he is good-natured and obliging, but when he is drunk, [*Folio 16b-17a, notice 49*] he loses consciousness and behaves like a madman. He arrived with the others when the rum cellar was broken open, and the witness saw them with a big calabash full of rum from which he drank. During the night, he had helped to save Mr. Quale's furniture, and during the day, he had been calm and present in the negro village, but after he had drunk rum, he left Windsor, and the witness has heard that he harmed a man named William Robert at Glynn. On further interrogation, the witness states that he did not see Joe

⁵⁹ Windsor

⁶⁰ Missing or unintelligible

⁶¹ Missing or unintelligible

⁶² Missing or unintelligible

William when he left Windsor in the morning, but shortly before the gang returned in the afternoon, Joe William came walking up towards the witness, who was standing on the country road below the driveway to Windsor. He had a large American wood ax on his left shoulder, and when the witness asked him where he came from, he answered that he came from Mt Pellier, and the witness did not see him again, but he must have been in the rum cellar, because later, he had burn wounds on his feet. The above testimony is presented to the witness in the English language and affirmed. The witness stands down.

Augustos Joen from Pl: Windsor now appears before court. After having been enjoined to speak the truth, he states that when the gang ravaged up by the greathouse at Windsor on Thursday /: the same day as Concordia's and M: Star's works burned :/and before the fire was started in the house and the cellar, the witnesses met up with Lucas Isaac who, armed with a saber, stood at the door to the cellar, and he ordered the witness to bring dry straw /: trash :/ to the cellar, but the witness refused to do it, and when Lucas repeated his order, adding that he could force the laborers to only destroy the works at the plantation where they worked, the witness answered: "I won't do it, and I am both ill and hungry, and I am going to walk away". The witness left, and as far as he could see, trash was not used in the cellar. Presented. Affirmed. Witness stands down.

William Aaaran, driver at Pl: Glynn, has been summoned and appears. He states that he was born at Windsor, belongs to the Catholic Church, and is estimated to be 35 years old. He states that on Thursday afternoon on the 5th of October, he was at home at the Pl: but since he knew or at least believed that the rebels, where they came, particularly vented their aversion towards the various drivers and guards⁶³ at the Pl:, he hid in the stream which is (...) ⁶⁴ with tall bushes. He first hid his clothes, then he took his wife and child with him down to the place at the stream where he had hidden 5 barrels of rum which he had saved from the Pl: earlier on, and he remained there, in hiding, until the patrol from B. Esperance came down and dispersed the mob which was gathered at Glynn. He can therefore not give any statement regarding who was in the gang [*Folio 17b-18a, notice 50*] or what they did, he only knows that, according to what he has heard later on, the gang was led by a man called Killian from M: Fancy, who was shot. The witness further states that at the arrival of manager Knight, after having been secured against the harm that he feared and thus calmed, he returned to his work, and with the help of the laborers, he put out the fire at the works. Only the old greathouse, which was ablaze, burned down. Regarding Petrus Jacob, the witness gives an explanation which on the whole is in correspondence with that of the driver from Pl: Windsor, George Simmons. Stands down.

Joseph Mathæus from Pl: Glynn has been summoned and appears. Born at Pl. M. Fancy, belongs to the Moravian Brother's Church, and is estimated to be 25 years old. He states that on Tuesday the 3rd of October, he was at home at the Pl: and in the afternoon, he heard when the gang came from Windsor towards Glynn; they yelled "our side"⁶⁵, blew the conch and made a terrible noise. Without awaiting their arrival at the Pl:, the witness hid in a house in the N: village and stayed there until (...) ⁶⁶ at the patrol's arrival from B. Esperance, Knight called the witness down

⁶³ The Danish text says "opsynsmænd" (keepers), which presumably includes both guards and drivers

⁶⁴ Missing or unintelligible

⁶⁵ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

⁶⁶ Missing or unintelligible

from the N: village and ordered him to go down to the factory and help put out the fire. They succeeded in hindering the destruction except for the boiler and the content of the rum cellar, which burned. The witness knows nothing about the gang or its deeds. Witness stands down.

John Francis from Pl: Concordia has been summoned and appears before the court. He states that he was born at Pl: Cane Wally, belongs to the Roman Catholic Church, says that he is 28 years old, which seems to be consistent with his appearance. He was at home at Pl: Concordia on Thursday the 3rd of October, and he was in the old hospital when the gang came down from M: Star ravaging the Pl:⁶⁷. He saw the gang members flock around the manager's house and he heard them destroy furniture, shutters etc. there, but he was not close enough to recognize the persons (...)⁶⁸. Regarding the question of who set fire to the works, the witness cannot give any statement. He saw that Lucas Isaac followed the gang when it walked from Concordia to Windsor. Presented, affirmed, stands down.

Joseph Aaran from Pl: Concordia appears before court. He states that he was born at Pl: Belvedere and belongs to the Roman Catholic Church and is 28 years old, which is consistent with his appearance. The witness states that he hid when the gang came to the Pl: from M: Star on the 3rd of October, and therefore he did not see what happened at the Pl:, and he cannot say whether Lucas Isaac went with the gang from Concordia up to Windsor. Witness stands down.

Christian Petersen, driver at Pl: Mt Pellier appears before court. He was born at Mt Pellier, belongs to the Lutheran [*Folio 18b-19a, notice 51*] Church, and is estimated to be 25 years old. The witness remembers that when the gang came to Mt Pellier on Thursday, Johannes Abraham warned him against having anything to do with them, as they could force him to take an active part in the excesses. The rebels forced entry to the greathouse and destroyed everything there, whereafter it was set on fire. Regarding who initiated the arson itself, the witness states that he could not see what was going on inside the house, but he saw that the woman Louise Ann from Pl: M: Star brought an armful of magass up to the greathouse before it was on fire. The works were on fire, but the witness does not know who was responsible. Presented, affirmed, witness stands down.

Anthony Thomas from Pl: Glynn appears. - Since the inquiries instigated by Commissarius have not strengthened the suspicion towards the detainee regarding his having taken part in the excesses at Pl: Glynn on the 3rd of October, his arrest is lifted and he is released, whereafter he stands down.

Lucas Isaac from Pl: Concordia appears. In his previous statements during the interrogations, he has said that he did not follow the gang further after having followed it from M: Star to Concordia. Meaning that he was not at Pl: Windsor when the greathouse there was burned down. The detainee is interrogated in further detail and admits that after having left Concordia, he did not exactly follow the gang up to Windsor, but he admits that he came to Windsor to gather a bundle of grass for his horse on the adjacent field, but the greathouse was already ablaze

⁶⁷ Slightly unclear. The Danish text says "... kom ned frae M: Star husserede paa Pl:", which is translated directly

⁶⁸ Missing or unintelligible

at that time. The detainee denies having destroyed the cart or having called out for trash as has otherwise been stated today. He admits that after the gang left Windsor and was on the road towards the Factori Station, he had an exchange of words with the driver George Simmans regarding in which direction he should direct the burning rum to prevent it from setting fire to two low lying houses, as the rum was flowing out from the cellar. But regarding the destroyed carts, he maintains his denial and claims to know nothing. He denies the claim which was put forth on the 14th, that the detainee was one of the first people to enter the greathouse at M: Star, and that he took a cane there. Led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Tuesday the 17th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg convened the court at Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

James Petersen, house servant at Pl: Windsor has been summoned and appears before the court. He states that he was born at Pl: Belvedere, belongs to the Episcopal Congregation, and is estimated to be 42 years old. Enjoined to [*Folio 19b-20a, notice 52*] be truthful, the witness says that on Thursday afternoon on the 3rd of October, he was present and saw the gang return to Windsor where it destroyed the greathouse and its contents. The witness saw John Lewis up in the greathouse, where he gathered a heap of broken furniture in the hall, which he then set on fire. The witness does not know how the rum cellar was set on fire, but he knows that after it was set on fire, he met Lucas Isaac from Concordia, who stood at a little distance from the rum cellar by the door to the so-called bread room. He picked up some dry straw from the ground which he tightened with his hands and formed into a bundle which he handed to the witness, meaning that the witness was to throw the bundle into the fire, because he wanted the laborers at Windsor to set fire to their own plantation. However, the witness refused to comply with Lucas Isaac's request, which he then directed at Augustus John, who likewise refused to do what he ordered, and later, the witness has learned, through talking with the driver about what happened during the fire, that Lucas Isaac had also requested him to throw straw into the fire. The witness states that as far as he could make out, Lucas Isaacs acted as the gang's leader whilst at Windsor. He gave the gang orders, and up in the greathouse, he was active in the destruction of the windows, shutters and furniture. However, the witness did not see him destroy carts, as was stated yesterday. The witness believes that Lucas Isaac came to Windsor, not following, but leading, the gang. The witness does not know where he went when the gang left Windsor to go to the Factori Station, but it is reasonable to think that as the gang's leader, he was with the gang. Presented to the witness and affirmed with the addition that the reason why the witness did not see Lucas Isaaac in a disagreement with someone else regarding a cart is that one of the carts was

in the yard by the folds, whilst the witness was situated up in the yard by the greathouse. The witness then stands down.

Francis Simmans appears and explains that it was not him, but James Gumbs, who set fire to Mr. Farraly's house and he was the first to force entry into the house, and with him was John Adam. The witness did not see Lucas Isaac up inside the greathouse. Whilst the gang ravaged up there, the detainee saw Lucas Isaac in the yard⁶⁹, busy distributing flour to M: Star's laborers. Asked about the cane which Lucas Isaac allegedly took whilst in Mr. Farrely's house at M: Star, the detainee says that he remembers that Lucas Isaac had a cane in his hand when the gang from M: Star came down to Concordia, but at the time no one spoke about it; but one day, later, when the detainee was in the prison at Richmon, whilst the detainees were in the yard in order to (...) ⁷⁰ Lucas Isaac took the opportunity to inform him that he ⁷¹ would be accused of having stolen Farelly's riding whip or cane, but that was not true, because the cane which he had seen in his possession was taken from him by Augustus Hatchett who said that it [*Folio 20b-21a, notice 53*] was his charging rod. The detainee adds that he is absolutely certain that it was a cane and not a charging rod that Lucas Isaacs had in his hand at Concordia. At Concordia, it was Robert Small /: Eustatia Robert :/ who forcefully gained access to the manager's house by tearing down the shutters in the door which faced the yard and the works. On closer inquiry, the detainee says that the manager's house was secured with the door which Robert Small forced open, giving the gang free access to the house. From Concordia, the gang went on to Pl: Windsor. On the gang's way up to Windsor, the detainee saw that Lucas Isaac walked in the front as the leader of the gang, but he did not see what he did there. From Windsor, the gang went over to the Factori Station, but the detainee did not follow. When the gang was gathered up in Windsor's N: village to bring it over to the Station, the detainee saw Joe William amongst the people, but he does not know if he followed the gang. He did not see Lucas Isaac after having left the yard. Led away.

Detainee Abraham Thomas from Pl: Windsor appears and states that on Thursday morning, on the 5th of October, he followed the gang which gathered at Windsor over to Mt Pellier, and from there on to M: Star. When the gang had set fire to the buildings at M: Star, the detainee saw his chance to sneak off. He went straight to his home at Windsor and has not at any time participated in the excesses which took place - a lengthy further examination of the detainee does not bring forth any more information. Led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 18th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in the Christiansværn Fort, where the

⁶⁹ This does not make sense, but the Danish text says exactly this: " ... saa A: [arrestanten] Lucas Isaac ham nede i Gaarden...". The meaning is probably simply that the detainee saw Lucas Isaac in the yard.

⁷⁰ Missing or unintelligible

⁷¹ Lucas Isaacs

court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

John Abraham, guardsman at Pl: M: Star, appears. In his previous statement during the interrogations, he has said that on Thursday the 3rd of October, he did not leave Pl: M: Star, and he did not participate in any of the day's excesses. More closely questioned, he admits that he was forced to join the gang after the fire at M: Star, because he was threatened by Henry James, who was armed with a saber. The gang went to Windsor, and he was therefore present when the house there was destroyed and later set on fire, but he says that he did not participate in the gang's excesses in any way. As an excuse for joining the gang, the detainee points to the disturbance and excitement which had seized everyone on the day in question. The detainee went from Windsor back to M: Star and was thus not present when the gang went to the Factori Station. Regarding the question of why the detainee prevented the carpenter Hewett, the driver Robert Henry, Weeks and others, in saving belongings from Farraly's house before the gang returned from Mt Pellier and burned it, the detainee replies that he did not prevent it, but left it completely up to Hewitson, the driver and the others in the house whether they⁷² in spite of the information as to what [*Folio 21b-22a, notice 54*] Joseph Thomas from Concordia had threatened to do regarding the destruction of the place where they hid the clothes. The detainee adds that the gang returned from M: Star at approximately the same time as the end of the mentioned conversation between himself and the people up at the house. Regarding the detainee's accusation that John Bob and Louise Ann set fire to the magass stacks /: the magass house :/, he repeats his previous testimony. John Bob appears and denies what John Abrahamson has accused him of doing regarding setting fire to the magass stacks. John Bob led away.

Louise Ann from Pl: M: Star appears and when questioned, she denies John Abraham's accusation regarding her setting fire to the magass house, and she adds that she was not up in M: Star's yard during the destruction there, and that she has not offended apart from letting herself force to hand Augustus Hatchett a handful of magass through threats and beatings. The detainee adds that she does not know Bency James from Windsor and that she therefore cannot say whether she has seen him at M: Pellier or not. Louise Ann led away.

James Gumbs from Pl: M: Star appears because during this interrogation, he has stated that on Thursday morning, on the 3rd of October, he saw the guardsman John Abraham leave M: Star and follow the gang over to Mt Pellier and return with it to M: Star. When more closely interrogated, detainee James Gumbs repeats his statement, whose accuracy detainee John Abaraham denies. James Gumbs led away.

John Abraham is further interrogated, but he maintains that his statements are true. Led away.

Detainee Robert Small, also called Eustatia Roberts, appears because during his interrogation, he has stated that he only attempted to break into the manager's house at Concordia, and he is confronted with the content of the testimony given by Francis Simmons. The detainee admits that he burst open the door so that the entrance to the house was unhindered from the yard. The

⁷² This sentence makes sense if "... wanted to continue" is added

detainee is closely interrogated about the accusation that he hit a boy in the head with a hammer, and the detainee states in agreement with what he stated on the 13th that he shoved the boy to make him run away. Led away.

Detainee Lucas Isaac appears and is closely interrogated regarding the cane which he carried with him during the excesses at Concordia and which, according to the statement given by Hewitson, must be presumed to have been taken from the greathouse at Pl: M: Star. He states that he was not inside Mr. Farrely's house when it was destroyed and burned on the 3rd of October. The detainee took the cane from the East Indian boy Francis Peter at a time when the gang was ravaging the Pl., and the boy was standing at the old kitchen in the yard. When Augustus Hatchett, later, at Concordia, became aware of the cane, he took it from the detainee saying that it was his charging rod, which he had lost, it was an ordinary cane [*Folio 22b-23a, notice 55*]. He is closely interrogated on the charge that during the fire at M: Star, he gathered the laborers at the works to get them to hand over the sugar. He denies the truth of the charge, adding that there was no reason to gather the laborers, because they had already stolen the sugar and had brought it to safety before the works were set on fire. Led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Thursday the 19th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

Detainee Joseph Thomas from Pl: Concordia appears and states that on Thursday morning on the 3rd of October, the driver sent him to the town Christiansted with a message to the manager who had left the Pl: on the Wednesday and gone to town. The detainee was to deliver the message that all was well at the plantation. At M (...) ⁷³ Hill, the detainee met the guardsman John Abraham from Pl: M: Star, and the detainee advised him that if the laborers at M: Star wanted to save Mr. Farrely's possessions, they should do it, the sooner the better, as it was dangerous to try to save anything from a property which was already taken into temporary possession by a gang. The detainee said that if the laborers at M: Star, whilst under the gang's occupation there, tried to save something and thus meddled with the gang, they exposed themselves to abuse and perhaps the burning of the N: village, which the detainee had heard had happened at Pl:s further down the country which had been destroyed. The detainee continued his way down to Christiansted, but at the outskirts of the town, he heard that the manager, alongside some other volunteers, had ridden down the south side road, and he turned around, and on the way back, he saw that Mt Pellier had burned down and both the greathouse and the works at M: Star were ablaze. The

⁷³ Missing or unintelligible

detainee continued his way down to Concordia, where the gang shortly after returned from M: Star. The manager's house was broken into, the furniture etc. was destroyed, and the house and the works were set on fire. The detainee says that he cannot give any information about who started the fires, but after thinking for a long time, he now says that he remembers that it was Eustatia Robert or Robert Small who broke open the shutter door to the gallery which faces the yard, thus opening up the house. The detainee did not follow the gang from Concordia (...) ⁷⁴ to Windsor, and can thus not have been present at any destruction or arson apart from that which took place at Concord ⁷⁵. The detainee saw Joe William in the gang, armed with a big wood chopping ax, whilst the gang was at Concordia. He also saw John Abraham from M: Star, but none of them did anything which the detainee noticed. Led away. [*Folio 23b-24a, notice 56*]

The guard John Abraham appears and having been confronted with the accusation that whilst in the yard at Mg St, ⁷⁶ he had yelled up to the people in the house who were busy saving Mr. Farelly's clothes. The detainee: Regarding Joseph Thomas' threats, he repeats what he has stated previously during the interrogations, but with the difference that Joseph Thomas perhaps did not exactly say that he was watching the house, but that he did so, in reality. Then, the detainee concludes by stating that he had kept himself on the country road where he had a view of the house, and he stayed there after the gang had passed him on its way up to Pl: Mt Pellier. When the detainee admitted yesterday that he was threatened to follow the gang to Windsor, after the fire at M: Star, then it is not quite correct. The detainee followed the gang, first to Concordia and then to Windsor. He did not participate in the destruction or arson at any of these places, and from Windsor, he did not go to the Factori Station, but returned to M: Star. Detainee led away.

Clara from Pl: M: Star appears and states that she was born at Pl: Love, belongs to the Esescopal ⁷⁷ Congregation, and is estimated to be 20 years old. After having been enjoined to be truthful, the witness says that on Thursday the 3rd of October, Francis Semans passed her as she stood by the kitchen at Pl: M: Star's yard. He handed her, as far as she remembers, 6 cigars, and asked her to keep them for him. The evening of the same day, he asked her to give him the cigars back, which she did, and after that, the witness has heard nothing of the matter. When Francis Semens met the witness at the kitchen, the gang was up in the yard, and the greathouse had just been set on fire and had begun to burn. The witness does not know where Francis Semans came from when he handed her the cigars by the kitchen. The witness adds that at the time, she was living with Francis Semmans. Witness stands down.

Benjamin James from Pl: Windsor appears before court. He was born at Pl: Windsor, and is estimated to be 20 years old. He states that on Joseph Williams from Windsor's request, he left his home there and went along with a mob of other people past Concordia and M: Star up to Mt Pellier. On the way, a boy, namely Georg /: from Windsor :/ suggested that they set fire to a field planted with sugar cane, but the suggestion was not carried out. When they arrived at Mt Pellier, part of the mob forced entry to the greathouse, where furniture was stacked as if the intention was to move it, - it was not placed as furniture usually is, but perhaps wrapped up - and

⁷⁴ Missing or unintelligible

⁷⁵ Plantation Concordia

⁷⁶ Morning Star

⁷⁷ Episcopal

presumably it belonged to Lawder, who was in the process of moving. Several women, of whom the witness only knew Serah from Windsor, brought dry straw and other inflammable materials inside the (...) (...) ⁷⁸. Joe William handed the detainee two matches. Joe William struck a match himself and tried to set fire to a heap of paper, newspapers, a woman's dress etc. which were shoved into a box. The endeavor failed, where after the detainee struck one of the matches which he had been given by Joe William [*Folio 24b-25a*] on the planed wooden bottom of a cupboard in one of the rooms. The detainee's first attempt to set fire to the paper failed, but the second attempt succeeded, and he set fire to the paper etc., and the fire flared up. During the detainee's attempts to set fire to the paper, the gang destroyed furniture, shutters etc. inside the house, and even after the fire had caught, the gang continued the destruction in the outer rooms and galleries in the building. The detainee denies that petroleum was used in the arson of the greathouse. That did not happen ⁷⁹ until the gang had gone down to the works, where the detainee found a bottle which was 3 quarters full of petroleum. On request of the others, he poured petroleum on the fire which was lit and which he saw burned in a big box full of straw or magass, placed in the magass house. The detainee says that the cooking house ⁸⁰ was burned down because of the fire which was lit in the box and put into the cooking house, but the curing house was set ablaze by a fire which was lit in the window which faces out towards the N: village. The witness does not know who did this. The detainee adds that earlier on Thursday morning, Henry James left the N: village at Pl: Windsor and treated him with rum /: which he otherwise does not drink :/ in order to, as Henry said "make him brave". The rum worked to such an extent that during his stay at Mt Pellier, the detainee was not really conscious. At Mt Pellier, both the allowance cellar and the works were broken into, and flour and sugar were distributed. The detainee denies the use of petroleum in the arson of M: Star, neither by himself nor others, just as he himself neither at M: Star or any other place except (...) ⁸¹ has been active in the arson. He explains that after having arrived at M: Star, he felt less drunk than when he was at Mt Pellier, and he even tried to save the greathouse at M: Star by telling people that there was a chapel in the greathouse, but no one seemed to care, and the house was set on fire. When it is stated during the interrogations that the detainee walked down the steps to the greathouse at M: Star with a bottle of petroleum under his arm, it must be a misunderstanding. The rum cellar, in which Mr. Farraly stored his drink, situated below the greathouse, was broken open, and many of the gang members had taken bottles filled with Genever ⁸². The detainee took several /: 5 or 6 :/ bottles away from people and threw the content away. Regarding the last bottle which the detainee handled, he smashed its neck off against the wall which was built instead of a rail by the steps of the greathouse, and after John Charles Frederik /: Burdt :/ had drunk from the bottle, he gave it back to the detainee, who threw the rest of the content away without tasting it. The detainee followed the gang over to Concordia, where he did nothing that was unlawful, and he did not participate in the excesses at Windsor, but he made an effort to save Mr. Quale's [*Folio 25b-26a, notice 58*] possessions from destruction. Thus, the detainee salvaged (...) ⁸³ barrel of wheat flour which he hid in his house until he could hand it back to Mr. Quale on Saturday. During the

⁷⁸ Missing or unintelligible

⁷⁹ ie: petroleum was not used

⁸⁰ 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

⁸¹ Missing or unintelligible words. Also, the sentence which leads up to the ellipses, is a bit jumbled.

⁸² Genever: Dutch gin

⁸³ Missing or unintelligible

riots up by the greathouse at Windsor, the strangers, here amongst Lucas Isaac, yelled that the Windsor laborers had salvaged too much for their master, and that they were still dragging everything out and hiding what they could. As this rumor spread amongst the people, the detainee was in the process of salvaging a demijohn of old rum which he intended to bring to the N: village, but Adam Charles from Windsor advised against it because, as he said, the people in the gang would assault the detainee because he was trying to salvage goods for Mr. Quale. The detainee says that he does not believe that the fire which was lit in the greathouse would have burned it down, but during the disturbance in the rum cellar - where in particular Augustus Hatchett demanded that a barrel of old rum, which was down there, should belong to him - a lot of rum was spilled, and when John Lewis, in order to end the brawl, set fire to the rum which ran out of the cellar, it caused the fire to be directed into the cellar itself, where the barrel exploded, and the burning rum spread to the entire cellar, where several people were injured. At this point, it was impossible to save the house. The detainee saw that whilst the gang ravaged at Windsor, carts and other crop tools which were situated up in the yard by the fold were (...) ⁸⁴. Amongst the most active in this destruction, he noticed the now deceased detainee Killian from M: Fancy, Lucas Isaac from Concordia, and Bull-David from M: Star. Presented and affirmed, but the detainee corrects that it was not the boy Georg but the detainee himself who, on the road which leads to M: Pellier, attempted to set fire to a sugarcane field, but the suggestion was not carried out. Also, the detainee himself ordered Georg to throw away the straw which he had collected; that it was not trash but paper which the women brought into the house to start the fire in the house, and when it was apparent that the fire which the detainee had started inside the house had caught on, broken furniture and other pieces of household items were carried into the house and thrown on to the fire. During the fire at M: Star, he stated 3 times, loud and clear, that there was a chapel situated in the house, and that it should therefore not be set on fire, and the driver Georg Simans can testify that the detainee, during the fire at Windsor, endeavored to salvage Mr. Quale's possessions, but that Adam Charles opposed it when the strangers grumbled and would probably take revenge on the detainee because he participated in the salvaging. Commissarius - Since Benjamin James from Pl: Windsor has testified and confessed to being guilty in arson, he is to be arrested. This is made clear to him, where after he stands down and is placed in custody.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

[Folio 26b-27a, notice 59]

In 1878, on Friday the 20th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansværn Fort, where the Court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

⁸⁴ Missing or unintelligible

Detainee Benjamin James appears and is interrogated in depth regarding the explanations and confessions which he gave the court yesterday. He says that on Thursday morning the 3rd of October, in Windsor's N: village, John Lewis bragged in front of the assembled people that he had been up and about all night, taking part in the arson of Pl: Monbijou, Fredensborg and Kingshill, and Slob. He told the people at Windsor that the big gang was now fighting for the good of all on the South Side of the island, and that the laborers at Windsor should therefore not reject joining them, and he threatened that when the gang came to Windsor, it would punish those of the laborers who held back and they would burn down their houses. Joe William also talked to the people to get them to join the leaders and follow them. Henry James expressed surprise that the detainee could still have hesitations, and he gave him rum to drink, as he said, to instill bravery. When Augustus Hatchett thereafter joined the gang, it seemed to persuade the laborers, and they set in motion up towards M: Star, where several people came towards the gang and joined it; when they arrived at Mt Pellier, the gang paused, and it seemed that there were reservations regarding whether to continue. The detainee heard that people in the gang talked about that there had been a military patrol at Mt Pellier on Wednesday or the night between Wednesday and Thursday, and when John Lewis saw that the gang was more inclined to turn around than to continue, he shamed them, calling them cowards, and he blamed them for losing their courage and wanting to run away by the mention of a military patrol alone. Even though several voices in the gang yelled that "they were too few", the gang set in motion again, went up to the yard, and some members of the gang forced entry to the house /: which was only secured by a door that was not locked :/. After having entered the rooms, the destruction there began.

It was the detainee who, with the use of matches which were given to him by Joe William, set fire to a box with crumpled paper, newspapers, rags, and other things, and when the fire caught on, it was fed with pieces of broken furniture, shutters etc., which the mob threw on to the fire. From the burning greathouse, the gang and the detainee went down to the cooking house, where a fire was started in magass and dry straw, pushed into a large box which was situated against the southern outer wall of the cooking house. In the cooking house, the detainee had found a bottle of petroleum which he, on request from several people, poured onto the burning magass. The cooking house was set on fire and burned down. The detainee does not know who set fire to the curing house, but the fire there began from the window in the building which faced out towards the N: village. Nothing more was found at the Pl: and what sugar was there was untouched. Particularly asked, [*Folio 27b-28a, notice 60*] the detainee states that to his knowledge, no agreement had been made as to what should be done before the greathouse at Mt Pellier was set on fire and burned, neither at Mt Pellier nor any other place. And at the arson itself, no one assisted him except the women who brought him the gathered paper, and Joe William, who gave him the matches. Whilst the fire in the works at Mt Pellier was still burning, the gang went to M: Star, where the greathouse was broken into, and some members of the mob went into the rooms where all household effects, shutters and windows were destroyed, and the house was thereafter set on fire. Also, the rum cellar was set on fire, and the fire spread from there to the works, which burned down to the ground. But the detainee did not see who started the fire. Regarding what happened at Pl: Windsor, the detainee gives an explanation which, all in all, corresponds with what he said during yesterday's interrogation. After a particular request, he explains that Lucas Isaac was very excited and active during the destruction of the carts and also later, when

the greathouse was ablaze, but before the rum in the cellar was on fire, he saw him in conversation with James Peterson, also called “Baker”, whom he tried to convince to throw straw or magass onto the fire, and on that occasion, the detainee heard him say that “it was only right that the people burnt their own Estates⁸⁵”. The detainee believes that this statement was heard by driver Georg Simmons, who was present. The detainee is led away.

John Charles, also called John Charles Frederek, from Concordia, appears and states that whilst the gang was ravaging in and about the greathouse at M: Star, he remembers that Augustus Hatchett gave him a sip of Genever from a bottle whose neck was knocked off, and the detainee cut his lip on the rough glass bottle. This occurred whilst the detainee was in the yard by the flour barrel. The detainee does not remember Bency James who, according to his own testimony, gave the detainee a sip of Genever from a bottle whose neck was cut off.

The detainee Bency James appears again and repeats his earlier testimony that he gave John Charles some Genever to drink by the greathouse at M: Star. Bency James led away.

On request, John Charles states that whilst he was at M: Star with the gang, he did not see Bency James come down the steps to the greathouse or any other place with a bottle of petroleum under his arm. However, he saw that the leader of the gang, John Adams, pushed him because he opposed that a man from the gang brought flour and pork, which he had stolen in the provisions cellar, to safety. The detainee is led away.

Georg Baschler⁸⁶ from M: Star appears and repeats his previous testimony, given during the interrogation at Richmond, and he adds that [*Folio 28b-29a, notice 61*] he picked up the gun in the belief that when the gang saw him armed, they would leave him alone, but the leader John Lewis wrested the gun away from him with force, and it is now in the possession of Hewitson. The detainee thinks that the gun belongs to Mr. Farraly, but Hewitson has it in his possession. Apart from seeing that flour, robbed from the provisions cellar, was distributed at Concordia, the detainee has not witnessed any of the excesses or arsons which were conducted, but he has heard that it was Eustatia Roberts who broke open the manager’s house. When the detainee came up to Windsor, the greathouse there was destroyed and on fire. The detainee did not see how the fire there or in the rum cellar was started. The detainee was not with the gang at the Factori Station or on Pl: Glynn, and he was not present at other destructions apart from those which he witnessed on Thursday the 3rd of October at Mt: Star, Concordia, Windsor. Detainee led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

⁸⁵ In the Danish text, the words “it was only right that the people burnt their own Estates” are written in English

⁸⁶ Elsewhere: Bachelor

In 1878, on Monday the 23rd of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in the Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

Detainee Lucas Isaac appears, and on request, he states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, he went with the gang up to M: Star, where he remained whilst the gang went further up to M: Pellier. After the gang's return⁸⁷, the provisions cellar was broken into, and the detainee distributed flour to some of M: Star's laborers. The door of the greathouse was broken open, and some members of the gang entered the rooms, and all the furniture etc. was destroyed, whereafter the house was set on fire and burned down. The detainee kept himself in the yard by the kitchen, and was not at any time inside the greathouse, and did not see what happened. He is thus unable to testify as to who initiated the destruction of the greathouse. After the greathouse was set on fire, the gang went down to the works. The curing house was broken into, and many of the gang members streamed into the works which were shortly after set on fire and burned down. The detainee stayed up at the house by the kitchen and therefore did not see who was active in the arson, he only knows that when the fire had caught in the curing house, he could see both John Lewis and James Killian /: later dead :/ at the works. From M: Star, the gang continued to Concordia, where the first one to act was Robert Small /: Eustatia Robert :/ who ripped open the shutter door to the gallery, facing the yard, and thus gave the gang access to the house. The detainee changes his testimony regarding Robert Small's actions because he did not himself see that it was Robert Small who tore down the door, but he has heard that it was so. The greathouse and the works at Concordia were set on fire, but the detainee was not active in the arson himself, he actually did not even see who did it. The detainee states that on Wednesday, he was in the town Christiansted with the manager, who did not return to Concordia in the evening, but drove to Pl: M: Fancy, where he stayed overnight. When the manager went into town on Wednesday, he left a message [*Folio 29b-30a, notice 62*] with the servant Johannah that, if she thought it necessary, she should move all his furniture out of the house and salvage it as well as possible; as a consequence of this order, alongside the driver Wilfred Harrison⁸⁸ and the laborer James Martin, the detainee was busy moving all the manager's and the overseer's possessions down to the N: village on Wednesday. There was thus no furniture left in the house when the gang arrived at Concordia on Thursday morning. On request, the detainee states that he did not distribute rations of flour to the laborers at Concordia; they helped themselves. At Concordia, the detainee followed the gang to Windsor, where the house was opened, but only a few pieces of furniture were left in the house. The furniture, along with shutters, door frames etc. was destroyed by the gang, whereafter the fragments and the building itself was set on fire. The detainee did not see how the rum cellar was set on fire. The detainee admits that at Windsor, he destroyed a cart, which he found standing up by the fold, with a cutlass, and later, when he was hiding up in the yard, he stood by the door to the so-called bread room, where he handed first James Petersen and then Augustus John some dry straw and told them to throw it on the fire, but they both refused to comply with his orders, and he had no more luck when he shortly after asked the same of the driver. At Pl: Windsor, the

⁸⁷ to Plantation Morning Star

⁸⁸ Elsewhere: "Wilfred Harrison" and "Wilford Harrison"

detainee did not hear that the strangers in the gang grumbled about the Pl: laborers having salvaged all the furniture, but he remembers that he got into a scrap with Abraham Johannes regarding a cart which the detainee wanted to destroy, whilst Abraham Johannes wanted to save it. The detainee remained at Windsor for some time after the gang had gone to the Factori Station, whereafter he left Windsor and returned to his home at Concordia. This testimony is presented to the detainee and affirmed. Led away.

Detainee Joe Williams appears and states that on Thursday morning, on the 3rd of October, when he formed a gang with some others at Pl: Windsor, before they left the Pl:, he saw that Henry James gave Benjamin James rum to drink in order to, as he said, give him courage. The detainee remembers that on the road down by Concordia, Bency James suggested setting fire to a field planted with sugar cane, but the suggestion was not carried out. The detainee admits that when he left Windsor, he was armed with an ax and acted like one of the gang's leaders, but even before they had passed Concordia, the detainee was in disagreement with John Lewis, who reproached him for not being brave enough, and he gave him two strikes with a cudgel which he carried with him, and later, when the gang had returned to M: Star, after having been at M: Pellier, this disagreement degenerated when John Lewis hurt his left hand with his saber. The detainee remembers that on the road to Mt Pellier, on the orders of Bency James, he gave him two matches, whilst the detainee himself used a third match, which he had on his person, to light his pipe, but it did not catch when he struck it. The detainee was present in the greathouse when Bency James was in the process of setting fire to some crumpled paper etc. and he set fire to it, but the detainee adds that Bency James was not the only person who set fire to the greathouse. Both John Lewis and A: Hatchett set fire to it at different places /: the house :/. The detainee states that at Mt Pellier, he saw that Bency James carried with him a bottle of petroleum, but he did not see him use the oil. At M: Star, the detainee saw that A: Hatchett gave John Charles a snaps⁸⁹ to drink from a bottle. At M: Star, at the greathouse, Bency James had a bottle under [Folio 30b-31a, notice 63] his arm, but as far as he remembers, it was a bottle like the kind which Augustus Hatchett gave John Charles to drink from, and not the kind in which Bency James had the petrol at Mt Pellier. At M: Star, the detainee stayed in the yard where he cooled his wounded hand in a basin of water. The detainee followed the gang to Concordia's driveway, where he held back until the whole gang had passed him, whereafter he sneaked away and went home to Windsor. The detainee says that in the morning, whilst quarreling with John Lewis, John Lewis took the detainee's ax, which he had carried with him when they left Windsor, away from him. At Concordia's driveway, the detainee reclaimed the ax which was returned to him, albeit reluctantly. At Windsor, at the driveway, the detainee met the driver Georg Simmons to whom he offered information as to where a cupboard, belonging to Mrs. Quale, had been hidden during the night. Regarding the burning of his feet, which occurred at Pl: Windsor, he explains that in the afternoon, he saw Augustus Hatchett inside the rum cellar, letting rum flow out of the barrel so that only a little of it was poured into a demijohn which he held under the barrel, and, in order to hinder the rum being spilled, the detainee tried to put the stopper in the barrel, but Hatchett opposed this and pushed him, where after John Lewis, who was nearby, either accidentally or purposely, set fire to the rum, whereafter the cellar was immediately ablaze, and the detainee's feet were burned.

⁸⁹ Elsewhere it is specified that "snaps" was rum.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Friday the 27th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

Detainee Robert Small, also called Eustatia Roberts, appears, and on request, he repeats his previous testimony, that whilst the gang was at Concordia on Thursday the 3rd of October, he forced open the door to the manager's gallery so that there was free access to the manager's house. Regarding the excesses which were carried out at M: Star, the detainee admits that he was present and that he saw them, but apart from pushing the boy Francis Peter, he has not done anything illegal. At Windsor, the detainee saw that the house was on fire and burned, but he was not nearly close enough to see by whom and how the fire was set. Detainee led away.

Detainee James Martin from Pl: Concordia appears. He was born at Pl: Rattan and belongs to the Lutheran Congregation, and is estimated to be 25 years old. He states that on Thursday morning on the 3rd of October, he was in the N: village at the time when the gang passed on its way from Windsor to M: Star, but he did not see the gang passing, and he only became aware that there was unrest and disturbance so close to Concordia when he saw the works at Mt Pellier burning. The detainee stayed in Concordia's N: village until sometime after noon, when he left Concordia and walked around the neighboring plantations, asking about a horse which he had lost. When he returned to the Pl: again, the gang had been there, they had burned down the manager's house and the works and had continued onwards to Windsor. The detainee did not follow the gang but stayed in Concordia's N: village, and he has thus not even [*Folio 31b-32a, notice 64*] been present as an onlooker at any arson or destruction. The detainee adds that the driver Welfred Harrison and Frederica Edwin can confirm the truth of his given testimony. It is made clear to the detainee that it is said about him that he was inside Mr Farraly's house at M: Star at this time, and that he was amongst the people who set fire to Pl: Windsor's rum cellar. He denies having been at either M: Star or at Windsor at this time. Led away.

Detainee David Lucas from Pl: Windsor, born at Pl: Prosperity, appears. He belongs to the Moravian Brother's Church and is estimated to be 25 years old. He states that on Wednesday the 2nd of October, he left his home Pl: Windsor and went to Pl: Jealousy, where his concubine Clara lives. When he arrived at Jealousy, he found that the manager's house and the works were burned down, but the gang which had done the damage had left the Pl. and had, as it was said, gone on to Pl: L: Bethlehem. The detainee stayed overnight in Clara's house and on Thursday morning, he started to walk home, but when he came to the stream between Lebanon Hill and Little Fountain /: Amangut :/, he met a gang which was led by Fritz /: from Mt Pleasant :/, and

threatened with immediate death, the detainee was forced to join it, and they passed Pl: Bettys-Jewell to Pl: Canaan, where the detainee had a conversation with Jacob Lenhardt, standing down by the firing house at the old works. The greathouse was set on fire, but the detainee did not see who did it, and before it burned down to the ground, the gang left the Pl: and went over Pl: Bettys-Jewell's hill down to Pl: La Walle, where first the greathouse and then the works were set on fire. At La Walle, the detainee stayed up on the Millgang and could therefore not see who started the fire, neither at the greathouse nor at the works. From La Walle, the gang went over to Rust Up Twist, and the detainee went with it. They passed the works and went up to the greathouse, whilst the detainee went into the N: village to visit a relative who was ill, namely Mary Christian. When he came out from the N: village, he saw that the two greathouses were on fire, but the gang was already on its way back over the so-called Rust up Twist Garden and up the road which leads to Bettys Jewell, to the country road. The works at Rust up Twist were not set on fire, and the detainee does not know why. When the gang reached Bettys-Jewell's mill, it spread out, and the detainee went down to Jealousy, where he arrived at approximately 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The detainee insists that he only agreed to join the gang because he was threatened, and in that respect, he was an eyewitness to seeing that a man, namely Joseph Perry from Pl: Lebanonhill, was hit several times with a cudgel by first Edward Lewis and later by Fritz /: Richard :/, and he was threatened with being cut down immediately if he did not join the gang. It was to avoid that, in the detainees' estimate, overhanging danger, that he went along, but he assures the court that he did not at any time or place take part in destruction or arson. The detainee states that he is convinced that there was no plan nor agreement prior to the revolt nor of its intention. Around 5 o'clock, the laborers at Windsor, who were working over at Pl: Glynn [*Folio 32b-33a, notice 65*] were dismissed from work and on that occasion, the manager was told that there was unrest down in the country, and that several houses had been burned in Frederiksted. Fritz /: Richard :/ was the leader of the gang which the detainee followed, but Lawrencius⁹⁰ and Edward Lewis went along with Fritz in its lead. At Canaan, rations of flour and herrings were taken by the Pl:s own laborers from barrels which were rolled out into the yard from the allowance cellar, and furniture and other household effects were destroyed in the greathouse before it was set on fire.

At La Walle, furniture, shutters etc. were destroyed, and whatever flour and herrings were in the allowance cellar were taken,⁹¹ not only by the Pl:s own laborers but by all the people present, as far as the supply could stretch. At Rust up Twist, the detainee did not see what happened in the yard, for whilst the gang was there, he stayed in the N: village. When the detainee, as stated, met the gang at the stream between Lebanonhill and Little Fountain on Thursday morning, it consisted of approximately 60 people or, as the detainee says, two or three plantations' laborers. After it had done its deed in the afternoon, it dispersed up at Bettys Jewell's mill, at which point the gang consisted of, in the detainee's estimate, more than 200 people. In the morning, the gang came from Lebanonhill, where it had set fire to the works and the greathouse which were not yet set on fire when they met the detainee.

Pl. Lebanonhill burned between 10 and 13 o'clock. Canaan around 12 o'clock. La Walle around 2 o'clock and Rust up Twist between 3 and 4 o'clock. In the afternoon, at 5 o'clock, the detainee was already back in the Negro village at Jealousy. Presented and affirmed with the addition that

⁹⁰ Elsewhere: Lawrens

⁹¹ The Danish text does not make sense, wherefore the words "was taken" are inserted

on Friday the 4th of October, when he went over the fields from the negro village at Jealousy to River to get some C nuts⁹², the detainee met William Barnes from Rust up Twist, who went to (...) ⁹³Founts works with a couple of people. Barnes stood over the road and talked to the detainee saying “move forward” /: move⁹⁴ :/. When the detainee did not immediately obey the order, William Barnes hit him on the shoulder with a cutlass which was fastened to a cane. Wilford Spiro, who happened to be there, and Samuel Berly, who was with William Barnes, warded off further blows and harm to the detainee. Barnes continued his way towards River’s works, whilst the detainee hurried back to Jealousy. Led away.

Court adjourned

Forsberg

In 1878, on Saturday the 28th of December, in the morning at 10 o’clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witnesses.

Mary Elizabeth Petersen /: alias Porter :/ appears before the court. She states that she was born at Pl: Fredensborg and does not know her age. She belongs to the Moravian Brother’s Congregation, and is estimated to be 28 years old. She states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, she was in the yard at Lebanonhill, when a gang came walking from Pl: Little Fantain⁹⁵ up towards where she stood. The gang was led by a man, namely Martin from Pl: Mt Pleasant, and he addressed her. There was also another man, namely Joseph Perry. He⁹⁶ demanded that they both join the gang which he led, and when they resisted, he struck them several times with a cudgel, which he had in his hand, and with a saber, which he had with him, which gave Joseph Perry [*Folio 33b-34a, notice 66*] a wound in the face. The gang walked up toward the works, which were set on fire, and then a group of them went up to the greathouse, which was also set on fire and burned down. The detainee cannot say anything about how or by whom the arson was executed, because after the gang had left the works and gone up to the house, she stayed at the well, and therefore she did not see what went on further up in the yard. When the gang saw that the works and the greathouse were burned down, it set in motion and went past Bettys-Jewel up to Pl Canaan, where the greathouse was set on fire and burned down. The detainee did not go up to the house, but stayed down by the old⁹⁷ which, the detainee was told by the stableman Jacob Lenhardt, belonged to manager Friis. There, she opened the pig pen and let the pigs run out into the bushes to ensure that they were not killed.

⁹² C nuts: Presumably Coconuts

⁹³ Missing or unintelligible

⁹⁴ In the Danish text, the word “move” is written in English

⁹⁵ Little Fountain

⁹⁶ Martin

⁹⁷ Old what? Windmill? Works?

When the gang had finished at Canaan, the detainee saw her opportunity to go down to the stream, and she walked along it to Leabanonhill⁹⁸, whilst the gang went from Bettys-Jewell down to the North Side. The detainee adds that it was solely Martin's threats which could make her leave her 6-month-old child in order to walk to Canaan, where she assures the Commission that she did nothing illegal.

Regarding the fire in the manager's house and the allowance cellar at Canaan, the detainee states that, during her entire stay at Canaan, she stood down by the pigsty, and therefore, she did not see how either the manager's house or the allowance cellar were set on fire.

When the detainee, in her testimony, mentions Martin as being the leader of the gang which went to Canaan, it is probably based in the fact that she did not know the other leaders, and she did not know or could not name any of the other people in the gang, which consisted of laborers from approximately two plantations. Presented and affirmed. Stands down.

Planter Julius Arendrup from Pl: Rust up Twist has been summoned and appears before the court. After being enjoined to be truthful, he states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, in the afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock, a gang consisting of approximately 200 people came walking from Pl: La Walle down towards Pl: Rust up Twist, where the witness was at the time. When the gang reached Rust up Twist's yard, the witness walked to the old windmill, where he saw that the gang had set fire to the magass stacks right by the entrance to the plantation. When they reached the yard, the gang spread, and smaller groups forced entry into the different buildings, even the blacksmiths' workshop. In the greathouse, all the furniture was destroyed, whereafter all the buildings were set on fire. Before this happened, not far from the coast, a steamboat /: namely the steamboat Arno⁹⁹, was journeying from Christiansted to Frederiksted :/. From the old windmill, the witness signaled to the steamboat, and this seemed to make the rioters uneasy [*Folio 34b-35a, notice 67*] and they hastily left the Pl: up through the so-called Rust up Twist Garden, whereafter they sought towards Pl: Betty-Jewell's Mill, where the witness saw that the mob spread whilst some singular small groups of people were seen trying to set fire to some of Pl: Canaan's and Bettys Jewells sugarcane fields. When the gang had left the Pl: yard, the witness left the old windmill, gathered his laborers, and started to put out the fire in the burning buildings. Both the greathouses burned down, but they succeeded in saving the works, despite them being set on fire in three different places. A heavy shower of rain which fell as soon as the gang had left the Pl: made the salvage possible.

The witness himself did not know any of the leaders of the gang, but several of his reliable laborers have told him that the actual leader of the gang was Fritz from Pl: Mt Pleasant.

Regarding the fire at Pl: Prosperity and North Star, the witness states that it took place on Friday, and as far as he knows, it was lit by 5 or 6 of Pl: La Walle's laborers. At Prospet¹⁰⁰, the greathouse burned down, and at Pl: North Star, Mr. Adolph Sarrow's domicile at the edge of the negro village burned down. Presented and affirmed. Witness stands down.

Court adjourned

⁹⁸ Elsewhere: "Lebanonhill"

⁹⁹ The R.M.S Arno

¹⁰⁰ Presumably: Plantation Prosperity

In 1878, on Monday the 30th of December, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission was convened by Commissarius Legal Councilor Forsberg in Christiansværn Fort, where the court was seated and administered to obtain interrogation in the presence of E. Christensen, keeper of the register, and J. Madsen as witness.

Lawrencius Williams from Pl: Mt Pleasant appears before court. He was born at La Walle, belongs to the English Biscopal¹⁰¹ Congregation, and is estimated to be 32 years old. He states that on Thursday the 3rd of October, he was at home in his house in the neg. village at Pl: Mt Pleasant when Fritz Richter, who was armed with a saber, came to his door, and after first having asked where the driver was, he encouraged the detainee to join the gang which he, Emanuel, and Edward Lewis were in the process of gathering at the Pl., at the same time as threatening that he would hack him to bits with the saber. The detainee joined the mob and followed it to Pl: Hermitage, but he kept himself as far back in the gang as possible, so he could not see what happened at the works. The first thing the detainee noticed was that Martin Anthony came from the rum cellars up towards the works carrying a calabash full of rum. The leader Fritz struck the calabash out of Martin's hand, and the rum spilled out. According to the detainee, Fritz' intention was probably to prevent the people from getting drunk.

During the stop at Hermitage, the rum cellar was set on fire first, but the detainee does not know who did it. He only knows that when it was ablaze, the gang forced their way into the manager's house, where furniture and household effects were smashed to pieces, whereafter the buildings were set on fire and burned down, and so were the works, which were set ablaze by the fire in the rum cellar. When the gang left Hermitage, some of the people [*Folio 35b-36a, notice 68*] in the gang had been given rum and water by Samuel Chase; they went over Little Fountain to Leabanonhill, still under the leadership of the same 3 leaders. When they arrived in the Pl: yard, the works were broken into by those who were in the front, but the detainee did not see whether they were the leaders. He only saw that the works were on fire before the gang continued up to the yard and the greathouse. The detainee saw that a pantry was broken into by Emanuel, and he distributed a not inconsiderate go(...) ¹⁰²rice¹⁰³, particularly to the women in the gang. Edward Lewis had acquired a large tin box full of factori sugar, which he gave away to a woman, namely Susannah Gumbs from Pl: M Pleasant. After the furniture in the house was destroyed, the house was set on fire, and even before it had burned down, the mob left the Pl: and went past Betty's "Jewel" to Pl: Canaan. First, the old works, the horse stables, and all the carts were set on fire, and then the greathouse. The detainee assures the court that he did not see who started the fire in the old works, the stables or the greathouse, but he only saw that a man, namely Edward Miller from Pl: Mt Pleasant, pushed the carts which stood in the yard into the burning stables, where they were destroyed. On further questioning, the detainee says that he saw the detainee Mary Elisabeth Petersen :/Porter:/ in the yard, down by the old windmill, where he saw her beat

¹⁰¹ Episcopal

¹⁰² Missing or unintelligible

¹⁰³ The first words (of parts of words) are unintelligible. However, the last word (Danish) "Riis" means "rice", which also makes sense in the context. Elsewhere, it is stated that Emanuel distributed flour, candles and rice.

some pigs with a cane which she had in her hand, but the detainee cannot say whether she did it to get the pigs out of the fold or whether she did it to harm them, but shortly after, he saw that they were out of the fold, running loose in the bushes.

When they were finished at Canaan, the gang went along the road which goes by Bettys-Jewell's mill and Belvedere to Pl: La Walle, but the detainee did not go into the last-mentioned Pl: Instead, he went into Belvedere's negro village to a man called Anthony Wallentin whom he went with over to Pl: Rust up Twist to get something to eat. When he had finished his meal and came into the Pl: yard again, he found that the gang had been there and had set fire to the greathouse and the works, and now they were stampeding up Rust up Twist Garden up to the road towards Bettys Jewell's mill. The detainee then went home to Pl: Mt Pleasant. It was not until he got home that he heard that the gang had been scared by a steamboat which passed near the coast and which was probably a warrior ship. The detainee is led down.

The driver Wilford Harrison appears. After having taken the oath, he states that during the unrest which unfolded in the beginning of October, he had heard that the rebels took every opportunity to harm the drivers and other attendants on the Pl:. This is why, on Thursday the 3rd of October, when he saw the gang come walking down M: Star's hill, he left the Pl: yard and hid in the bushes between the negro village and the North Side hill, and he stayed there until the patrol came down from B. Esperance to Glynn's works where it dispersed the mob which, after having left Concordia, had destroyed the Factori Station and then gathered there. He can therefore not testify as to what happened at the Pl:, and he can particularly not testify as stated by James Martin. The detainee, who was born at the Pl: Rattan and who has been a driver for 4 years, has not, previous to the [*Folio 36b-37a, notice 69*] 1st of October, had any reason to presume that the laborers in general - and particularly the laborers at Pl: Concordia, were dissatisfied in any way, and the unrest which unfolded in the beginning of October therefore came as a complete surprise. The witness stands down.

Fritz Richardson appears. He was born at Pl: Hamsbay and belongs to the English Bescopal¹⁰⁴ Congregation, and he is estimated to be 25 years old. He admits that on Thursday the 3rd of October, he gathered a mob consisting of both women and men in the negro village at Pl: Mt Pleasant, and under his leadership, alongside the detainees Edward Lewis and Emanuel, they first went to Hermitage, where the works and the greathouse were burned down, and then to Pl: Leabanonhill, Canaan, La Walle, and Rust up Twist, where similar arsons were carried out. However, the detainee has reason to believe that the works at Rust up Twist did not burn down, despite their being set on fire. Regarding the reason why the works at Rust up Twist did not burn down, the detainee explains that during the stay at the Pl:, they saw a steam boat close to the coast, which caused the gang to flee through Rust up Twist Garden up to Bettys-Jewell's mill, where the mob dispersed, and the detainee went home to Mt Pleasant. Even though the detainee has to admit that he gathered the gang at Mt Pleasant, he assures the court that he is not the actual ringleader, because he was forced to do it by Edward Lewis and Emanuel, primarily the first mentioned.

Emanuel was armed with a revolver with which he threatened to shoot the detainee if he refused to obey. He sent the detainee to a man, namely Edward Miller, with the order to come

¹⁰⁴ Probably: Episcopal

immediately, and when Miller said to the detainee that he would not come, Emanuel himself fetched him, revolver in hand, and Edward Miller thus felt threatened to join the gang. The detainee admits that he, on Emanuel's order, fetched Lawrencius Williams in the negro village, but he adds that Lawrencius did not hesitate for long, and that he even lent the detainee a saber, which he returned at the end of the afternoon when the gang returned. Regarding the fire at Pl: Hermitage, the detainee states that he saw Martin Anthony /: shot at Pl: River :/ set fire to the rum cellar, thus igniting the works which burned down. However, he does not know who set fire to the manager's house. He witnessed part of the mob forcing entrance to the building, and he heard that furniture etc. was destroyed, but since he himself stayed in the yard, he could not see who executed the arson within the house. The detainee noticed that when the gang moved on to go to Leabanonhill, a number of people were given rum and water by the laborer Chabe, who lives in the negro village at Hermitage. From Hermitage, the gang walked along the country road to Monbijou's grass meadow, Little Fountain's, and over the stream /: Amangut :/to Lebanonhill's yard, where the works were immediately broken into, and almost the entire gang flocked into the cellars, but they only found several herrings of poor quality. The works were set ablaze, but the detainee does not know who did it. From the works, the gang went on to the greathouse, where the allowance cellar was forced open and wheat flour, pork and rice was stolen, mainly by Mt Pleasant's laborers. Amongst other things, the detainee saw that Emanuel stole wheat flour, candles and rice, which he gave to his concubine Maria from Pl: Mt Pleasant, but [Folio 37b-38a, notice 70] the detainee did not notice whether Edward Lewis stole anything. After the gang had destroyed all the furniture in the greathouse, it was set on fire, but the detainee denies knowing who committed the arson. After further questioning, the detainee states that when the greathouse was set on fire, he was in the yard by the horse stables, and therefore he could not see what went on up in the house. The detainee states that when the greathouse burned, but before it burned down, he saw Martin Anthony strike a man, Joseph Perry, several times with a cudgel. Whether he also harmed his face /: such as Maria Elizabeth Petersen alias Porter :/ has explained :/ the detainee did not see, and he does not know why Martin struck Perry, but it was the detainee and Lawrens Williams who prevented further harm being done to Perry. Before the buildings at Lebanonhill were burned down, the gang left the Pl: and went past Pl: Bettys-Jewell's negro village up to Canaan, where the works were broken open, but there were only the remains of a barrel of herrings, and the old works, the stables and the little greathouse had been set on fire. The greathouse, which was situated further up in the yard, and which the detainee presumes was not inhabited, was also set on fire, but the detainee does not know by whom or how. From Canaan, the gang went over the hills, over Belvedere and down to Pl: La Walle, where the detainee stayed by the mill in order to fill up (...) ¹⁰⁵. Some of the sugar canes, furniture, and shutters were destroyed, and the provisions cellar was set on fire first, and from there, the fire spread to all the buildings in the yard, where after the works were set on fire, but the detainee knows nothing about who started the fire. From La Walle, the gang went over to Pl: Rust up Twist, where the greathouses were set on fire and burned down, but the works were saved; the detainee cannot give any information regarding the fires there. Detainee led down.

¹⁰⁵ The Danish text says "for at mætte sig ved Loften", which translates "in order to fill up by the "Loften" (the meaning of "Loften" is unknown). Also: Missing or unintelligible word

Court adjourned

Forsberg

[loose sheet 5a, notice 75]

Mary Frederiks Reb¹: Brother Martin of MPI has a brother William at Hermitage

22/12/78

Detainee Joseph William from Windsor appears and states that on Thursday morning, John Levis /: shot:/ from Lebanonhill turned up at Pl: Windsor, where he, by use of threats, gathered a gang which under the lead of the detainees Augustus Hatchett /: dead:/ and John Adam /: shot:/ and John Levis walked towards Morningstar where they did not enter the plantation, but continued on the road to Mt Pellier, where Augustus Hatchett set fire to the greathouse. As he stayed in the yard at some distance from the works, the detainee did not see who set them on fire.

After the gang had swelled with the arrival of people from Mt Pellier - and presumably also some people from Morningstar - they went back and set fire to first the greathouse and then the works. It was Augustus Hatchett who set fire to the greathouse, but the detainee does not know who set fire to the works, for he stayed up in the yard to cool a wound he had received on his hand. He did so by keeping it in a basin full of water. After further questioning, the detainee states that he was subjected to the resentment of John Levis already on the way from Windsor to Morningstar and was beaten by him. Later, when they came to Morningstar, Levis blamed the detainee for not being sufficiently active. During this *[loose sheet 5b and 6a, notice 76]* incident, he - Levis - wounded the detainee in the hand with his saber. From Morningstar, the gang went down to Concordia, where the detainee had the opportunity to sneak away and go home to Windsor. The detainee can therefore not testify regarding the gang's activities after it left Concordia. Detainee 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 to having forced entry to the greathouse to steal, but he got nothing there. However, later, in the provision cellar, he stole some of the flour which Lucas Isaac from Concordia handed out to Morningstar's laborers. When this occurred, the greathouse was burning, and some members of the gang had gone down to the works, which shortly after were ablaze and burned down. After the gang was done at Morningstar, it continued to Concordia, where the manager's house was broken into by "St Eustatia" Robert. Some of the people entered 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 distributed flour amongst the plantation's laborers, whereafter first the house and then the works were set on fire. The gang went from Concordia over to Pl: Windsor where they found the greathouse open. Some of the mob went into the house, but the detainee does not know what

they did in there. Shortly after, the house was set on fire, and simultaneously, John Levis set fire to the rum cellar. During this incident, a boy, namely Peter Francis, was burnt to death and several others - here amongst Joe Williams and Augustus Hatchett - were burned to a lesser degree. 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 the gang which came from Windsor on its way to Mt Pellier under the leadership of John Adams. Outside the plantation, the gang stopped up briefly because, as the “Captain” said, “there were not enough people”. After people from Mt Pellier and some from Morningstar joined the mob, it entered the plantation, where the greathouse and the works were set on fire. While the buildings were burning, and before the gang had left the plantation, the detainee went back to Morningstar, whereto the gang also returned shortly after. Mr. Farrally’s house was broken into and a large number of the gang’s members entered the rooms where shutters, furniture and other things were destroyed and later set on fire. The detainee admits that he was at the door to the house, but he denies having been inside the house. The detainee states that, on that occasion, he saw Francis Simmons in the hall, where he was smashing Mr. Farrally’s desk, and he threw the fragments along with several other broken furniture, together in a pile, which he then set fire to, using some dry straw, and the house caught fire and burned down. The detainee admits that when Francis Simmons set fire to the *[loose sheet 6b and 7a, notice 77]* desk, there were several people present, as he has stated, but he does not remember who they were, but he does recall that a woman, namely Sarah from Windsor, brought magass to the greathouse in order to hasten the fire. After the gang had destroyed the buildings at Morningstar, it went via the country road to Concordia, but the detainee did not go along. He states that he only followed the gang to Mt Pellier because he was forced to, particularly by John Levis, who threatened his life. At Mt Pellier, he stayed on the country road and did not participate in the destruction of the Pl: 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 in particular, he did not follow the gang to Mt Pellier or later down to Concordia. The only offence he might be guilty of is that he rang the Pl: bell when he saw that the greathouse was on fire, but he did not know any better than to ring the bells when there was fire at the plantation. When asked whether he rang the bell to summon the gang to the plantation, he denies having such intent, and he states that when he started to ring the bell, the greathouse was already on fire. When confronted with what has been said about him being with John Adam when he set fire to the works, the detainee denies that this was the case, and he states that when the works were set on fire, he was up by the ponds in the yard. Led away.

Thomas Benjamin from Pl: 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 told him that he would be killed and the negro village burned down if he did not join the gang. Thus threatened, the detainee left the negro village and went down to the country road in the vicinity of the old hospital where he stayed until the works and the greathouse were burned down. When the gang was about to continue, the ringleader Augustus Hatchett made it clear to the detainee that he was to follow along, but he only followed until a field path which separates Morningstar from Concordia’s land, where another gang from Concordia came towards the gang from

Morningstar, and during the commotion which this caused, he saw his chance to sneak away and return home. The detainee denies having been at Concordia or anywhere else with the gang after having left Morningstar. He is questioned regarding the accusation made against the detainee that he, on the said occasion, was armed with a gun and blew the conch, but he denies the truth of this allegation. Led away.

Officer J.P. Nielsen retires and officer P: Jensen takes up his duties as witness.

John Abraham, guard at Pl: Morningstar, appears and is confronted with the allegation that he distributed allowance and set fire to the magass stacks at the Pl:, which he denies. The flour which was distributed to the laborers was done so by a man, namely Baily, and the magass stacks were set on fire by John Bobs and Louisa Ann, both from Pl: Morningstar. The detainee continues that on the Thursday in question, he did not leave the plantation grounds, and during the entire uprising, he has not participated or been present at any of the [*loose sheet 7a and 8a, notice 78*] destruction which was executed, except for at his stay at the plantation Morningstar. Detainee led away.

Detainee Georg Bashelor from Pl: Morningstar appears and states that during the night between Wednesday and Thursday, Mr. Farrally had appointed 4 men to guard the greathouse and 4 others to guard the works. The detainee was amongst those who were to guard the greathouse. During the night, a conch was blown in the negro village, but apart from that, all was calm. On Thursday morning, when the detainee saw the gang come towards Morningstar, he took up a single barrel gun which the carpenter John Hewetson had left, unloaded, in the old hospital, which is currently inhabited by the stableman. Thus armed, the detainee awaited the arrival of the gang. The leader of the gang, John Lewis, took the gun from him. Later, when the gang came to Windsor, John Levis gave the gun to Henry Knusan for him to carry, but Johnson refused to give it back to John Levis and handed it to the detainee, who knows that it has been returned to John Hewetson. The detainee admits that he followed the gang from Morningstar to Concordia and from there to Windsor, from where he sneaked away through the negro village and went home, but he adds that he only followed the gang because he was threatened by John Levis, and the only thing he could do was to stay calm, which he did at both Concordia and Windsor.

John Bob from Pl: Morningstar appears, and after having been confronted with the allegations that he, amongst other things, set fire to the magass house at Morningstar, he denies the truth of the allegations. However, he admits that he blew the conch on Thursday, of which he has also been accused. Regarding the magass house, the detainee states that he, whilst he was brought into the prison in Christiansfort, complained to John Adam /: shot:/ that he was blamed for setting fire to the magass house at Morningstar, which he did not do, and John Adam answered: "You don't have to worry about that matter, for I saw that it was James Strong who set fire to the magass house". Additionally, the detainee admits that he followed the gang to Mt Pellier and back to Morningstar, from where it went to Concordia and Windsor. At Windsor, he sneaked away from the gang and went home. The detainee did not participate in the destruction which occurred at any of the mentioned places. He could not avoid following them on their procession,

for the ringleader 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 on to Morningstar and Concordia and back to Windsor. The detainee did not participate in the destruction of any of those places, but he adds that at Concordia, the now deceased Kellian from Mary's Fancy reproached him for being idle, and in order to avoid the threatened beating, he ripped down the "feldingboard" from the mill, but he did not damage it very much. The detainee assures the court that he did not follow the gang further than when it returned to Windsor, but from Windsor [*Loose sheet 8b and 9a, notice 79*] negro village he saw that the gang went over to Factori Station at Glynn, which was set on fire, and then the gang continued on the country road to Glynn, where the mob of armed people, who came down from the plantation Bonne Esperance, was attacked and dispersed. Led away.

The Commission's meeting adjourned 16:30

Forsberg

The 14th of December:

Jane Warrell is questioned regarding the insinuation during the interrogations that she, on Thursday morning the 3rd of October, received a visit from John Lewis before he left Windsor. She admits that when John Lewis, at the time of question, was in the yard at Windsor, she asked him to help her lift a cupboard up against the wall. Mr. Quales' people had moved the cupboard into her house and in the haste, it had been laid on the floor. He did as she requested, but on this occasion, John Lewis did not speak to her about his business on the plantation and she did not see him later on. She is more closely questioned regarding the accusation that she was present when the Factori Station at Glynn was burned down, but she adamantly maintains that she did not leave Windsor on Thursday the 3rd of October. The driver Georg Simmons can give testimony to this, as can the cook Charlotte Danielsen.

In Peter James' testimony of the 14th of December, during the interrogation, he mentioned that Bencey James carried with him a bottle of C: oil, and that during the burning of the greathouse, Jane Staller asked the gang to spare the greathouse and not burn it down, as Farrely had established a chapel in it. The Bowel which Peter James mentions is the same as during the interrogation and is called John Charles Frederek.

Joe Williams admits that during the fire at Windsor, his feet were burned in the rum cellar. The wounds have now healed and the scars are almost gone. He was in the rum cellar in order to save a barrel of rum.

[*Loose sheet 10a, notice 80*]

Morningstar ... gang

1. James Martin from Concordia
2. Francis Simmons from Morningstar
3. Abraham Thomas /: Choave :/ from Glynn
4. James Gumbs from Morningstar
5. Louisa Ann from Morningstar
6. Joseph William :/Joe Sergeant:/ Windsor
7. John Bob from Morningstar
8. Robert Small /: St Eustatia Robert :/ Concordia
9. Benjamin James from Windsor
10. Lucas Isaac from Concordia.

[Loose sheet 11a, notice 81]

Thursday the 12th of December

Joe William alias Sergeant from Windsor
John Abraham, guardsman at Morningstar
James Gumbs from Morningstar
Francis Simmons
Lucas Isaac from Concordia
Robert Small alias St Eustatius Robert

Friday the 13th of December

Thomas Benjamin from Morningstar
Jane Warrell from Windsor
Petrus Jacob from Windsor
James Stallard from Concordia
Louise Ann from Morningstar
Robert Small /: St Eustatias Robert :/

Saturday the 14th of December

John Hevitzzen from Morningstar as witness
Abraham Johannes from Windsor as witness
Peter James from Morningstar
Anthony Thomas from Glynn

[Loose sheet 12a, notice 81]

Monday the 16th of December

Augustus John from Windsor as witness
William Aron, driver from Glynn as witness
Joseph Mathæus from Glynn as witness

John Francis from Concordia as witness
Joseph Aron from Concordia as witness
Christian Petersen, driver at Mt Pellier, as witness
Anthony Thomas from Pl: Glynn and released
Lucas Isaac from Concordia

Tuesday the 17th of December

James Petersen from Windsor as witness
Francis Simmons from Morningstar
Abraham Thomas from Windsor

Wednesday the 18th of December

John Abraham, guard at Morningstar
Louse Ann from Morningstar
James Gumbs from Morningstar
Robert Small from Concordia
Lucas Isaac from Concordia

Thursday the 19th of December

Joseph Thomas from Concordia
Clara from Morningstar as witness
Benjamin James from Windsor - arrested after verdict

Friday the 20th of December

Benjamin James from Windsor
John Charles /: Frederik:/ from Concordia
Georg Bachelor from Morningstar

Monday the 23rd of December

Lucas Isaac from Morningstar
Joe William from Windsor

Friday the 27th of December

Robert Small from Concordia
James Martin from Concordia
David Lucas from Windsor

Saturday the 28th of December

Mary Elizabeth Petersen /: Porter :/
Planter Julius Arendrup of Rust up Twist as witness

Monday the 30th of December

Laurentius William from Mt Pellier
Welford Harrison, driver at Concordia as witness

Fritz Richardson from Mt Pleasant

[*Loose sheet, notice 83*]

Joseph William

Robert Small, Lucas Isaac joined him: they sat under the thebeth tree. John Bob and Francis Simmons from M: Star came towards them. The gang now continued its process past M: Star, up to Mt Pellier. Laborers from Rattan joined them. The detainee Hatchett set fire to the greathouse. From there to M. Star. Lucas Isaac and T: Sommans distributed flour. Joe W: talked to John Abraham on the way past the P:⁷ People who left W: and followed the gang Abraham Thomas, Adam Ch: G: Henry and Bency James had a bottle of C: oil been inside the G: at M: Star. Detainee hid and went home to W:

P: 30 Detainee saw that Henry James gave Bency James rum to drink. Bency James suggested the arson of a S: field. Was armed with an ax, behaved like the gang's leader, but got into a brawl with John Lewis, gave Bency James two matches, was present up in the G: House at Mt Pellier when Bency James set fire to some crumpled paper etc. and set fire to it, saw that B: James had a bottle of oil with him, did not use the oil. At M: Star, he saw that the detainee H: gave John Charles a snaps, Bency James had a bottle under his arm, but the same kind as the one which A H: had given John Charles to drink.

[*Loose sheets, notice 84*]

John Bob.

David Lucas (is not part of this gang). Northside gang.

V: John Hewitson p. 9

Was at Pl: M: Star on the 3rd of October and saw a gang come from Pl: Windsor, led by John Lewis and A: Hatchett. They went through M: Star's N: village, asked where the driver was, the driver was ill. The man who was in his place made it clear to the gang that it would be prevented from destroying the buildings. The gang went to Mt Pellier, at that time the G consisted of approximately 15. While G was at Mt Pellier, the witness tried, along with the driver R: H:, to save Mr. Farrally's household items. Guardsman John Abrah: advised against it, saying that a Th: Joseph closely watched where the items were taken, and that the place where it was hidden would be burned down by the gang, and therefore the attempts to salvage were abandoned. Lucas Isaac and guardsman Johan Abraham distributed flour to the laborers, the first to enter the house were Lucas Isaac, Francis Simmons, the first mentioned took a cane which was lying on a table. F: S: went into the lower works, exited with a cigar, gave them to Clara. L Isaac and Francis S: destroyed furniture but which of the two did this, the witness could not see. The greathouse burned. The gang went to Concordia. John Abraham has told him that John Bob, Louise Ann set fire to the magass house.

Benjamin James. Has confessed that he set fire to the greathouse at Mt Pellier and that he later threw petroleum on the fire which had been alighted down in the works.

Joseph William, has confessed that on the way to Mt Pellier, on his request, he gave Benjamin James two matches, and that later, he was present when Benjamin James set fire to the greathouse.

Lucas Isaac. Has confessed that at Windsor, he destroyed the cart and that he, there, encouraged James Petersen, Augustus John and the driver Georg Simmans to throw straw, which he handed them, onto the fire because, as he said, it was only right that they burn their own plantation.

Francis Simmans, has confessed that he broke into the greathouse at M: Star and that he, there, destroyed a table and a cupboard and that he stole cigars.

Robert Small /: Eustatia Robert :/ has confessed that at Concordia, he broke down the shutter door to the manager's house and thereby gave the gang access to the house.

Louise Ann, has confessed that she brought dry straw to Augustus Hatchett when he set fire to the buildings at Mt Pellier.

[Loose sheet 2a, notice 85]

John William Samuel from Windsor can testify that Isaac Lucas, whilst the gang played havoc at Windsor, sneaked up on him and after he had demanded that he shout "our side", he asked him - what make you don't put fire", pointing at the burning greathouse with his cutlass. The detainee saw nothing else.

[Loose sheet 3a, notice 86]

Manager Knight from Glynn says that Henry Spring from Mary's Fancy came with the gang at Glynn, armed with a manure fork which belonged to the Factori Station at G. The manure fork was taken away from him and is still at Glynn.

Jane Warrell, cohabiter with James Stollard, these two and James Martin have, according to what manager Knight has heard - he thinks that the man Paulus - set fire to the Factori Station at Glynn.

Charlotte Daniel from Windsor says that she saw James Martin strike the lock of the allowance cellar at W. and shout that the people should come for allowance. She stood with Jack Lewis from Clearmont, he believes to have seen the same thing.

Joseph Marquest? from Glynn says that James Martin threatened him with a saber to join the gang which he met on the road between Conc. and Winds. James William spoke to James Howell from Glynn and forced him to join the gang. He saw James Stallard in the gang.

.... William says that he saw James Stallard in the gang at Windsor where he destroyed the bmt punchrum. James Stallard is called Armev?

[Loose sheet 4a, notice 87]

Charlot Danielsen from Windsor can testify that James Stallard from Concordia was in the gang whilst it ravaged there, he shouted "our side", said to the people in the gang that they should not burn the hospital because laborers lived there, also, Charlot testifies that Felicia Petersen, James Stallard's mother, was also in the gang at Windsor, she acted like a maniac and took ½ a bottle of petroleum which belonged to Mr. Quaele.

Bency Williams from Windsor can also testify that James Stallard /: Corney :/ was in the gang there, he struck and destroyed a punchavs and was very loud.

Verte¹⁷

[Loose sheets, notice 88]

Charlot can also testify that Jane Warrell followed the gang down to the Factori Station.

Analy

Detainee **Robert Small** P: 4, 8, 22, 31

Did not follow the gang to Mt Pellier. Awaited its return to M: Star, was threatened with a gun
A: H Went with the gang to Concordia, grabbed the shutters in the manager's house for the sake of appearances. Followed the gang to Windsor, has not done anything and knows nothing about the destruction there. P: 22 Francis Semmans is confronted with Semman's testimony. Admits to have opened the door to the manager's house so that the gang had unhindered access. Has not struck the boy but pushed him. P: 8 Detainee explains: Some unknown women wanted to set fire to the mule pens, a boy tried to hinder this. The women were offended by this and ran after the boy to correct him, in order to stop this, the detainee took up a piece of metal and pushed the boy F: Peter p: 31. The detainee repeats his previous. -

Witness: **Christian Petersen** P. 18

Saw that the rebels came back to Windsor, destroyed the greathouse and its content, saw Lucas Isaac at the door to the so-called bread room, picked up dry straw and told the witness to throw it into the fire, because he wanted the laborers to burn the Pl: where they worked. Lucas Isaac encouraged the detainee to do the same thing, also to John and also the driver. Lucas Isaac acted like the leader, was active in the destruction of the furniture, shutters, is convinced that L Isaac was in the lead of the gang at Windsor:, did not see L: Isaac destroy the cart.

Clara P: 23

Received 6 cigars which she was to safekeep for Francis Simmans.

[Loose sheets, notice 89]

Detainee: **Thomas Benjamin** P: 5

Forced by A: H: to go along with the gang to the yard, has not participated in anything, his whole attention was focused on getting away from the gang. He succeeded when the gang passed the boundary between Concordia and M: Star, hid in no 11, has not blown the conch as it was not good to blow (*crossed out and replaced with the words: released*)

Witness: **Joseph Aaron** P 18

Explains that when the gang came to Concordia on the 3rd, he hid, and therefore knows nothing.

Witness: **William Aaron** P 17

Explains that he was at home at the Pl: on the 3rd of October, but in fear of the rebels, he hid in the stream, where he, some days previously, had hidden 3 barrels of rum. The volunteers came out from B Esperance, shot Killian. With the rest of the laborers, the driver put out the fire which was started in the rum cellar. Explanation regarding Petrus Jacob is, all in all, in agreement with everything which (...) has explained.

Witness: **Joseph Matheus** P: 17

Hid in the N village when the gang marched towards the Pl: The gang was dispersed with P: arrival from Pl: B Esperance. Manager K.... ordered the witness to help put out. The witness knows nothing about the gang.

Detainee: **John Abraham** P 3-21

Met up with Joseph W: talked about saving Pl:, forbade people to blow the conch, wanted to hinder Peter James and Lellitia in burning the mule pen, does not know anyone in the gang, did not leave M: Star. - p. 21. Forced by H: James to follow the gang over to Windsor. Did not stop the driver and others from salvaging Mr. Farrelly's possessions but only gave them the message.

Repeats the charge against John Bob and Louise Ann regarding the arson, but they denied the truth of the charge. (*Added: Released*)

Detainee: Georg Bachelor P: 28

Repeats his previous testimony given during the interrogations at Richmond, adding that he took the gun in the belief that when the gang saw that he was armed, they would leave him alone. The detainee has not participated in any of the excesses, but has heard that it was Eustatia Robert who forced entry to the manager's house, he has not seen anything. The detainee was not with the gang at Factori Station (*crossed out and replaced with: Rel*)

[*Loose sheets, notice 90*]

Detainee: James Martin P: 31

Explains that he was in the negro village when the gang passed on its way from Windsor, first became aware that something was amiss when he saw Mt Pellier burn. The detainee left Concordia to look for his horse, returned to the negro village at Concordia when the gang had already been there and had burned the greathouse and the works. Has not followed the gang, has not seen anyone.

Witness Abraham Johannes P: 10

Was out and about all night between the 2nd and the 3rd to guard Pl: W: At around 7 o'clock, John Lewis and Sylvester came and told the laborers, loudly, that he had been sent by the big gang and that he and his comrades were fighting for everyone, and they could not allow that the laborers at Windsor sat at home. If they did not follow, they would be abused and the N: village would be burned. They went to Concordia and blew the conch which was answered from Concordia. James Martin, James Stallor, Lucas Isaac and Eustatia Robert joined the gang, went to M Star - where some of the laborers joined them, went from there to Mt Pellier. Those who joined the gang there were Louise Ann, John Bob and Fr. Simmons. The witness went to his brother-in law Christian. The greathouse and the works had been set on fire and burned down. The witness does not know who did it. The gang went to M Star. John Abraham and Lucas Isaac distributed flour to the laborers. The first people to enter the greathouse were Fr: Simmon, Lucas Isaac. The witness and Joseph James from J: Fancy saved Mr. Farraly's wagon. From there, the gang continued to Concordia. Eustatia Robert broke down the door to the manager's house. Lucas Isaac rolled out a barrel of flour and left it to the laborers. The manager's house was set on fire and burned down, by whom the witness does not know. From there, the gang went to Windsor, led by the same Captains J: L, B: A H: and Joe William. Jacob Isaac, armed with a cutlass, destroyed carts, the greathouse burned down, the witness does not know who did it, John Lewis set fire to the rum cellar when burning shingle fell into the room, Joe William's feet were burned. John Chr. F: also received a burn wound. Before the gang went to M: Star, a man joined it, Eustatia John. (*added: released*)

Detainee: James Gumbs P 3. 21

Saw Fr: Simmons and Serah in the manager's house. John Abraham joined the gang and returned with it from Mt Pellier. P 21 repeats his previous statement that John Abraham followed the gang over to Mt Pellier and returned with it to M: Star. John Abraham denies. (*Added: is charged with participating at Mt Pellier*).

Detainee Joseph Thomas P: 23

Was sent to the town Christiansted by the driver with a message to the manager, met guard John Abrh: and advised him to salvage some of Mr. Farraly's possessions if the laborers at M: Star wanted to, and to do it sooner rather than later. On the way back, he saw that Mt Pellier was on

fire. He also saw that M: Star's greathouse and works were ablaze. The detainee continued his way down to Concordia and saw the gang that Robert Small broke open the door to the manager's house did not go with the gang to Windsor. The detainee saw Joe William in the gang, armed with a large chopping ax while he was at Concordia, he also saw guard Joh Abraham from M: Star. (*added: rel*)

Detainee **Benjamin James** P: 24. 27. 28

On Joe Williams' advice, he left W: with the gang, which was gathered there, suggested setting fire to a sugarcane field, arrived at Mt Pellier where the gang forced entry and destroyed everything. The detainee set fire to a pile of (...) paper. Newspaper, woman's dress etc. Joe William gave him two matches. Joe W. struck one himself. The attempt failed. The detainee now struck two matches on the bottom of a turned-over cupboard, the other match alighted and with that he set fire to the paper etc. and the fire blazed up. No petroleum was used in the greathouse. In the cooking house, the detainee found a bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full of petroleum which he sprinkled on the fire which was already alight in a box full of magass. The curing house was set on fire by a fire which was started in the window facing the N: village, the detainee does not know by whom. In the morning before he left W: he was treated to rum by Henry James in order to make him brave. The detainee denies that petroleum was used at the arson of M: Star. When he arrived at M: Star, he felt the intoxication had lessened and he tried to save the greathouse by stating that the house was fitted with a chapel. Gave John Charles /: Burdo :/ a drink of Genever, it must be this bottle which has been mistaken for a bottle of petroleum. Went with the gang to Windsor, did not participate in any destruction, tried to salvage Mr. Quale's possessions, the active people were Killian, Lucas Isaac from Concordia Belle David m Star.

[*Loose sheets, notice 91*]

Detainee: **Abraham Thomas** P 20.

Followed the gang which was gathered at Windsor over to Mt Pellier and from there to M: Star:, there he had the opportunity to sneak away and went straight home to W: and has not at any point participated in anything.

Detainee (released) Anthony Thomas P: 14.18.

Witness **Peter James** P 18.

Saw a gang which was led by J: L: A H: Henry James John Adam and Joe Willam came into the N village, through threats he was forced to join the gang. Went up to Mt Pellier and had the opportunity to sneak away. The gang returned to M: Star Joe William struck the lock off the rum cellar. Lucas Isaacs ordered a barrel of flour rolled out. John Abraham distributed the flour. Several people flocked into the greathouse, here amongst Francis Simmons, Joe William. The house was set on fire and burned down Henry James set fire to the works in the presence of Richard Georg from M: Star. When asked who was the first to force entry to the greathouse, the witness first saw the shot and later deceased leaders Francis Simmons, Burds, Bency James, he knows that when "Burdo" Bency James came down the steps, the house was in flames.

Detainee **Francis Simmons** P: 3. 20

Saw Bency James set fire to a box full of magass and sprinkled with C oil which burned the greathouse at Mt Pellier, Sarah Conrad used magass. The detainee destroyed Farrally's desk, stole cigars. Saw John Abraham save F: wagon. P: is none of his business, but James Gumbs, who was the first to enter Farrally's house, did not see Lucas Isaac up in the greathouse, but he was not active in distributing flour in the yard. In the prison, Lucas told him that the cane which he was accused of taking was actually A. H. charging rod and A: H: took it away from him, it was a cane.

It was Robert Small who, with force, gained access to the manager's house. The gang went to Windsor, saw that Lucas Isaac walked up front as the leader of the gang, also saw Joe William in the gang.

Detainee **Louise Ann** P: 8. 21

Was busy washing linen when the gang met her on its way up to Mt Pellier, and A: H: forced her to go along with it. A: H: set fire to the greathouse and forced her to bring magass to get the fire to catch. She followed the gang to M: Star but went directly home to her house in the N: village. Denies having been present at the destruction of Farrally's house. P: 21 denies having set fire to M: Star's magass house, has not been up in M: Star's yard. Does not know Bency James.

[Loose sheets, notice 92]

Detainee **James Stallard** P: 7

Denies having participated actively or as an onlooker in neither the destruction nor the arson at M: Pellier, M: Star, Concordia, Windsor or any other place. Was in the N: village all the time, and has not even been in the yard.

Witness **Robert Henry Driver** P: 14

Saw a gang of 12 to 18 people come from Windsor. Edward Sommer told the gang that it would be prevented from destruction, went up to Mt Pellier, also tried, with Weeks, Phellesens Canton, Hewitson, Edwin, to save some of Mr. Farrally's possessions, gathered 3 pieces of clothes, when guardsman John Abraham told them not to salvage anything, Thomas Joseph had told him that the place where the items were hidden would be burned, the endeavour was therefore abandoned.

Witness **Thomas Weeks** P: 14

Saw a gang come around 12 to 15, forced the laborers, John Bob, Thomas Benjamann and Louise Ann joined the gang and followed it over to Mt Pellier, alongside the driver and the others, the witness tried to salvage clothes for Mr. Farrally, was hindered by John Abrahams' message that the house, to which they brought the clothes, would be destroyed, therefore the endeavour was abandoned, the gang returned from Mt Pellier and set fire to and burned the greathouse and the works. The witness does not know who did it (*added: released*)

Detainee **Lucas Isaac** P: 4. 19. 22. 29

Distributed flour to the laborers at M: Star, John Abraham helped him do it, has not done anything else. P 19 - did not actually follow the gang to Windsor, denies having destroyed carts and also denies having called for trash at Windsor, also, he denies having taken a cane in Mr. Farrally's house.

P: 22. Was not inside Mr. Farrally's house on the 3rd of October. The detainee took the cane away from the east Indian boy Francis Peter. Later, A H: took it, saying that it was his charging rod. The detainee has not called the laborers together at M: Star only for sugar. P: 29. The first person who was active in the group, when it came to Concordia, was Eustatia Robert, who ripped open the shutter door to the manager's house. The detainee confesses to have destroyed carts at Windsor. The detainee confesses that he, at Windsor, encouraged James Petersen, Augustus John and also the driver to throw straw, which he passed them, into the fire because, as he said, "It was only right that the people burnt their own Estates."

Detainee: Petrus Jacob P: 6

Was busy all night saving Queales' furniture, saw that John Lewis came up in the yard in the morning of the 3rd of October and visited Jane Warrell, whom he often visits, was given drink. -

Commissarius notices that the detainee has shown a conspicuous uncertainty (*crossed out and replaced with: Rel*)

[*Loose sheets, notice 93*]

Detainee **Jane Warrell** P: 6

Saw John Lewis the first time in the morning, saw him return with a gang and burned the greathouse. Maintains that she was at home all day; he refers to the testimony of the diggers and Henry Rasmussen's testimony (*Crossed out and replaced with: Rel*)

Witness **John Francis**

Explains that he saw the gang member flock around the manager's house and destroy furniture, shutters etc. The witness was not close enough to recognize the people in the gang. The witness saw that Lucas Isaac followed the gang when it went to Windsor.

Witness **George Simons**, driver P: 15

At 9 o'clock, John Lewis came to W: gave a speech to the laborers, threatened with the big gang, which caused almost all the younger male laborers to leave W: The detainee destroyed and burned the greathouse, but the detainee did not see who did it. Saw John Lewis come down with a burning (...) tree in his hand in the rum cellar, and immediately after, everything was on fire. Lucas Isaac destroyed a cart with a cutlass. Abraham Johannes tried to stop him. After some quarrel he succeeded - guard John Abraham came to the detainee and said that no one would hurt as long as he was there. The gang went to the Factori Station.

Witness **Augustus John** P: 16

The witness met Lucas Isaac who stood at the door to the cellar at Windsor, armed with a saber, tried to force the witness to bring trash to the cellar, Lucas Isaac repeated his order, adding that he could force the laborers to destroy the works where they worked.

[*Notice 96*]