

Book 6: Interrogations from the 6th of April 1880 – the 14th of August 1880

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

Court records. The 6th of April, 1880

*[Folio 0, notice 4]*¹

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

The government of the Danish West Indian Islands
St. Thomas, the 6th of April 1880

Aug Garde

[Folio 1a, notice 5]

In 1880, on Friday the 16th of April in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission which was appointed in order to examine and determine actions in the cases emerged and the crimes committed during the revolt on St. Croix in October 1878, with participation of the insurgents, the troublemakers and all the participants in the revolt and the destruction of the same, was convened.

The Commission's members were present: Supreme Judge Counselor Ph Rosenstand and Counselor C. Sarauw who, according to the government's document of the 5th of this month - which is presented - alone constitute the Commission.

The Commission remarks that in its report of the 20th of the previous month, addressed to the government, regarding the follow up of the case, it has informed the government that in consideration of Counselor Sarauw's health it might be advisable to conduct and process the case in Frederiksted, and to this, the government has no objections. Therefore, the final handling of the case, which, according to the government order of the 5th of April, during this year, is to include around 40 of those implicated *[Folio 1b-2a, notice 6]* in the case, will be conducted in Frederiksted. In this connection, of those detainees who have hitherto been placed in Christiansted Arrest and who are charged, 23 have been transported down here to Frederiksfors.

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

The individual detainees who have not been charged and who have not been released during the course of the Inquiry, are released for the time being. A total of 4, had, however already been released, namely: John Charles from Lower Love, John W^m Gill from Rattan, Thomas Condigator² from Anguilla, and Thomas Daniel from William's Delight. The detainee Fritz Richardson from Mt Pleasant, who was placed in St Croix Arrest at the end of the previous Inquiry, died before the charges were declared.

The above-mentioned governmental document of the 5th of this month is presented, according to which 40 people are to be charged with participation in the riots which took place in October 1878 and with criminal actions which took place in this connection, namely:

1. James Emanuel Benjamin (Mannie) from Mt Pleasant
2. John Hodge from Fredensborg
3. George Henry from Sprat Hall
4. Francis Harrison from Prosperity
5. Emanuel Jacob from Prosperity
6. David Cameron from La Grange
7. Susanna Abrahamson al. Bottom Belly from Prosperity
8. Isaac Anthony from Frederiksted
9. Axelina E. Salomon (Agnes) from Bethlehem
10. Mathilda Mc Bean from Cane
11. Joseph Bowell from Høgensborg
12. Joseph Spencer from Høgensborg
13. Hans Christian from Williams Delight
14. John Thomas Sobers from Beck's Grove
15. Christopher Samuel from Mt Pleasant (Plessens)
16. George Michael from Envy
17. Thomas Critchlow from Jealousy
18. William James from Grove Place
19. George Callender from Enfield Green
20. Henry England from Jealousy
21. William Arnold from Upper Love
22. William Barnes from Rust up Twist
23. George Simons from Barren Spot
24. Richard Gibbs (Sealy) from Barren Spot
25. Edward Lewis from Mt Pleasant
26. Henry Barker from Høgensborg
27. Joseph Briggs from Fredensborg
28. William Henry from Lower Love
29. Christian Martin from Lower Love
30. Wren Gillens from Lower Love
31. George Cambridge from Upper Love
32. James Cox from Diamond

² Elsewhere: Contigator

33. Joseph William from Windsor
34. Mary Thomas from Sprat Hall
35. Johannes Samuel (Bamberg) From Frederiksted
36. Joseph James from Anguilla
37. John Samuel from Anguilla
38. Thomas James from Anguilla [*Folio 2b-3a, notice 7*]
39. James Griffith from Anguilla
40. Rebecca Frederik from Cane

Furthermore, the records of the proceedings (in 5 volumes), containing the obtained interrogations, are presented, along with the second copies of the interrogations obtained through the 2nd interrogation registers. Then, the mentioned detainees appear one by one, unchained, and the actions are made clear to them as stated below.

James Emanuel Benjamin from the plantation Mt Pleasant, born on Antigua³, states that he is twenty odd years old, which corresponds with his appearance. He states that he came to this island as a boy, some 10 years ago. He belongs to the Moravian Congregation. It is made clear to him that he, as a participant in the unrest or the uprising, is particularly charged with having participated in the tumult in Frederiksted in the afternoon of the 1st of October, such as it appears in the interrogations of the 20th of September 1879, and in the witness testimonies of the 17th of January of this year. Furthermore, he is charged with being a participant in the negro mobs which ravaged in Frederiksted with arson and plunder during the night between the 1st and the 2nd of October, cf. interrogations of the 16th and 17th of April 1879 and of the 27th of September 1879. Furthermore, he is charged with having led and participated in the arson and plunder of the plantations⁴ Hermitage, Little Fountain, Lebanon Hill, Canaan, La Vallée and Rust up Twist in the gang⁵ which was established at Mt Pleasant on the 3rd of October 1878. The advances of this gang are described, amongst other places, in the interrogations of the 14th of November, 1878, of the 22nd of February 1879 and other places. Furthermore, he is charged with having participated in Joseph Parris' advances to River on Friday the 4th of October, and finally, on the evening of the 2nd, with having supported the gang⁶ which burned and destroyed the plantation Mt Pleasant, where the detainee himself was employed, particularly by ringing the bell. Regarding the charges, the detainee admits to have participated in the tumult and the excesses in the town Frederiksted as he has stated in the testimonies given during the interrogations listed above. Regarding the participation in the advances of the gang which was initiated at Mt Pleasant on Thursday, and which went to Hermitage and further onwards over the North side, the detainee admits that he was part of this gang which burned the above mentioned plantations and whose destruction was the aim of the proceedings, but he maintains that he did not with his own hands start fires [*Folio 3b-4a, notice 8*] or plunder at any of those places, and he does not admit to having been one of the leaders of this gang, which did not have any leaders at all, because all the laborers at Mt Pleasant were in it together. On the way to River on Friday, he just followed Parris' orders, as did the rest of Mt Pleasant's laborers. He maintains that he did

³ Islands under colonial rule are introduced with the preposition "on"

⁴ Generally called "Estates" in the Danish West Indies, but "plantations" in Denmark

⁵ In 1878, the "gangs" are called "bands" ("gangs" were the labor gangs, working on the plantations)

⁶ At the time, the "gangs" were also called "bands"

not ring the bell on Wednesday evening to get the gang to come to Mt Pleasant, and the detainee has nothing else to add to his testimony.

Detainee led away.

Detainee John Hodge from the plantation Fredensborg, born on Trinidad, states that he is 39 years old, which is not contradicted by his appearance, and he states that he came to this island in 1866, and that he belongs to the Moravian Congregation. It is made clear to him that he is particularly charged with participation in the uprising and the tumult in Frederiksted during the afternoon of the 1st of October, and also with participation in the negro gangs' excesses with arson and plunder on the following evening and night, as is evident in the interrogations and witness testimonies, particularly from the 27th of Septbr. 1879 and the 16th of January of this year. The detainee has nothing to add to what he has stated during the interrogations such as they are presented to him, and he repeats what he stated on the 30th of January, that he did nothing else than knock a stone at the Fort's gate.

Detainee led away.

Detainee George Henry from the plantation Sprat Hall, born at the same place, estimated to be approximately 30 years old, belongs to the Moravian Congregation. It is made clear to him that the participation in the crimes committed during the uprising, with which he is charged, particularly consists of his having, along with some others, been in the lead of a gang of negroes who, after the arsons in Frederiksted had commenced, destroyed and burned down a house in Dronningens Gade in which the tailor Dompierre had his shop, as is evident in the witness testimonies which were given during the interrogations of the 9th and 10th of Janr: of this year. The detainee maintains his denial of having committed this deed, and he denies having committed any crimes during the uprising.

Detainee led away.

Detainee Emanuel Jacob from the plantation Prosperity, born at Betsy's Jewell, twenty odd years old; belongs to the Episcopal Church. As the action is made clear to him, he is informed that those crimes of which he is charged are participation in the excesses in Frederiksted on the evening of the 1st of October and the following night, with reference to the detainee's statements on the 5th of March and the 23rd of May 1879 and in particular to the witness testimonies from the interrogation of the 21st of Novem: of last year, and with participation in the arson and plunder which was committed by the previous detainee's gang at the West End North Side on the 3rd of October. The detainee maintains that he did not follow the gang further than to Mt Steward, meaning that he was at Brook Hill, Orange Grove, Mt Pellier, Two Friends and Mt Steward where he, as he has admitted, was inside the greathouse where he robbed a demijohn of drink, but he did not set fire to the greathouse. Regarding his participation in the excesses in town, he states that he roamed around the streets with the gangs, and as such he was part of the crowd when the first fire was started, in Kjærulff's shop, but he did not take part in the deed. He saw fires at several places, but he was not part of the mobs which started them. The detainee continues to deny the accusation of the interrogation of the 21st of Novem: of last year, that he participated in the goings-on around Mrs. Ramsay's house. He certainly does not remember having been part of the negro mob in question, and he states that he became rather drunk during the evening.

Detainee led away.

Court adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand

C Sarauw

In 1880, on Saturday the 17th of April, [*Folio 5b-6a, notice 10*] at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort.

Both Commission members were present.

Detainee David Cameron from the plantation La Grange appears, unchained. He was born on Dominica, is estimated to be approximately 30 years old, states that he has resided on this island for approximately 13 years, belongs to the English-Episcopal Church. It is made clear to him that he is now charged with participation in the uprising which took place in October 1878, and that he is particularly charged with, on the night between the 1st and 2nd of October, along with a mob of other negroes, having instigated or started the burning of the house in Dronningensgade in which Police Officer Larsen resided, as it has come to light through the witness testimonies which were given during the interrogation of the 26th of April of last year, cf. interrogations of the 19th of December last year and on the 16th of January this year, where the witness David Rodgers explained in detail that he does not think that he saw the detainee Hodge at Larsen's house.

Charles Robert Jefferson appears. On the 26th of April of last year, he gave testimony regarding the detainee, and later, on the 19th of December of last year, he repeated his statement. His testimony is carefully presented to him again, and he maintains and repeats the same testimony and declares that he is prepared to swear under oath.

On request, the detainee declares that he has no questions to ask the witness before he swears under oath.

The witness Jefferson then receives the admonishment and preparation of the law to swear the oath, and then he confirms his testimony of the 26th of April of last year under oath.

The witness stands down.

David Rodgers, who also gave testimony regarding the detainee on the 26th of April of last year, appears. His testimony is carefully presented to him, and he confirms and repeats the same and declares that he is prepared to swear under oath.

On request, the detainee declares that he has nothing to remark before the witness is prepared to swear under oath.

The witness David Rodgers then receives the admonishment and preparation of the law to swear the oath, and then he confirms his testimony of the 26th of April of last year under oath.

The detainee repeats, as usual, that he does not know the place which the witness talks about.
[Folio 6b-7a, notice 11]

The witness Rodgers stands down, and the detainee is led away.

The detainee Susanna Abrahamsom, called Bottom Belly, from plantation Prosperity, born at plantation Golden Rock, states that her age is 44, which seems to correspond with her appearance. She belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to her, and it is added that she is particularly charged with participation in the excesses in Frederiksted during the afternoon of the 1st of October, cf. the interrogations of the 7th of Decem: 1878 and the 22nd of Novr: 1879 and with participation in plunder and arson in Frederiksted town during the following night, in which there is particular reference to the witness testimony of the 20th of Dec: of last year.

The detainee repeats her previous statement that she did nothing apart from that which she has admitted regarding her circumstances outside the Custom House in the afternoon, and apart from that, she has nothing to add.

Detainee led away.

Also unchained, the detainee Isaac Anthony from Frederiksted, born at the plantation Oxford, 22 years old, appears. He belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. The action is made clear to him, and it is added that he is particularly charged with starting fires in Frederiksted during the morning of the 2nd of October 1878, such as it is rendered in detail in the interrogations of the 15th of Novr. 1879, and he is also charged with having been part of the gang which plundered and destroyed Allendale and for having participated in the attack on Charles Flemming there, cf. the interrogation of the 14th of Febr. and the 19th of Decr. 1879.

The detainee continues to deny having been part of the crowd which tried to set fire to the so-called "Free Gut" on Wednesday morning, and regarding the goings-on at Allendale, he repeats that he did not join the gang until they were in the yard at Allendale, and that he did not participate in any destruction, and that he did not join the gang for that purpose, and that he did not follow it further. He maintains his denial of having participated in the attack on Charles Flemming, and apart from that, he has nothing to add.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Axelina Elisabeth Salomon, called Agnes, appears. She is from the plantation Bethlehem, born at the pltn: Slob, approx. 20-25 years old, belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. It is made clear to her that she is now charged with complicity in the uprising of October 1878 and particularly for murder [Folio 7b-8a, notice 12] or complicity in murder or at least murderish attack. The various data and explanations about her person which have emerged

during the interrogations and testimonies, particularly in the interrogations of the 23rd of Novr: 1878, the 25th of Janv: and the 31st of August and also the 7th of November 1879 are presented to her again. She maintains what she has stated previously, and she states that he has nothing to add. She denies having participated in the uprising in any other way, and she particularly maintains her denial of having followed the gang onwards from Carlton or having been at Allendale.

Detainee led away.

Detainee Mathilda Mac Bean from the plantation Cane, appears. She was born at Pltn: Grove Place, is 20-22 years old, belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. It is made clear to her that she is charged in the same way as the previous detainee. She is reminded of the witness statements about her person, primarily found in the interrogations of the 25th of Jan: the 30th of August, the 20th of Septbr and, partially, on the 7th of Novbr 1879, and she continues to deny having harmed the two soldiers at Carlton. Also, she did not participate in the unrest further than that when the Høgensborg gang passed Cane, she followed after it or, as it emerges through closer questioning, she followed it to W^{ms} Delight, where she robbed some cornflour from the allowance cellar, when it was broken open, but apart from that, she did not participate in either plunder or arson.

Detainee led away.

Detainee Joseph Bowel, who, because of his actions and in connection with the two previous detainees, was set to appear, is ill and in hospital.

It is remarked that when it is noted that some detainees are unchained but others are not it is due to an irregularity in the keeping of the records, because naturally, they have all appeared and will continue to appear unchained.

Court adjourned at 4 o'clock

Ph Rosenstand

C Sarauw

In 1880, on Monday the 19th of April at noon at 12 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members were present.

Detainee Joseph Spencer from the pltn: Høgensborg appears. He was born on Barbados but came to this [*Folio 8b-9a, notice 13*] island in 1863, and he states that he is 44 years old, which seems to correspond with his appearance. The action is made clear to him and he is informed that he is primarily charged with having been active in the gang which, on the 2nd of October, burned down the works and the magass on the pltn: Concordia such as has emerged in the interrogations of the 6th of Septbr: of last year, cf. the 12th of December 1878, and for having

been a participant in the gang which on Thursday the 3rd of October departed from Høgensborg, and which burned and plundered and destroyed the plantations W^{ms} Delight, Enfield Green, Good Hope, Whim and Carlton, though it is not proved that the detainee participated at Good Hope or Whim, but regarding Carlton, reference is made to the interrogations of the 7th of Novbr: of last year, W^{ms} Delight on the 13th of Novbr: of last year and Enfield Green on the 17th of January of last year, cf. manager⁷ Rutledge's testimony of the 20th of Septbr. of last year.

The detainee refers to his previous testimonies and particularly to what he has stated in his testimonies regarding his circumstances at Concordia. In that regard, he adds that on the tour on Thursday, he didn't rob anything apart from some cornflour at Enfield Green and at Carlton.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Hans Christian from the pltn: La Grange, appears. He is 26 years old, belongs to the congregation of the Lutheran Church. The action is made clear to the detainee and it is added that he is particularly charged with having been one of the leaders of, or at least having been very active in the gang which on Wednesday the 2nd of October burned the pltn: Wheel of Fortune and he is charged with having been a participant in the attack on Joseph Franklin which took place immediately after, and references are made to interrogations of the 4th of April and the 6th of Septbr. of last year.

The detainee has nothing to add to what he has previously stated, as he claims that he was indeed part of the gang which beat Joseph Franklin, but that he did not beat him, himself.

Detainee led away.

The detainee John Thomas Sobers from the plantation Beck's Grove appears. He was born on Barbados but arrived on this island as a boy, more than 16 years ago. He is estimated to be approximately 30 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. It is made clear to the detainee that he is now charged with participation in the uprising and that he is particularly charged with having been a participant in the gang which on the 2nd of October attacked Allendale and attacked and mistreated Charles Flemming and destroyed the place with arson and plunder [*Folio 9b-10a, notice 14*] and then, the gang plundered and burned St Georges, and references are made to witness testimonies of the interrogations of the 14th of Febr: of last year, cf. the 29th of December of last year and also the 13th and 15th of Septbr. of last year.

The detainee repeats his admission from the 29th of January this year, of what he did in the gang in question, but he still maintains that he did nothing. As soon as the allowance cellar at St Georges had been broken open, he had stolen some cornflour, but nothing apart from that.

Detainee led away.

⁷ Danish: Forvalter

The detainee Christopher Samuel from the Plt. Mt Pleasant, appears. He was born on Antigua, came to this island in 1869. He states that he is 30 years old, which seems to correspond with his appearance, and he belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is charged as the previous detainee, but such that he is also charged for having, personally, participated in the attack on Charles Flemming, and references are made to the mentioned interrogations regarding the previous detainee and also to the interrogations of the 8th and the 10th of February last year and the 30th of Novbr: 1878, cf. the 19th of August last year.

The detainee refers to his previous testimonies and maintains that he did not rob anything apart from the jacket mentioned in his testimony of the 29th of December last year, neither at Allendale nor at St Georges.

Detainee led away.

The detainee George Michael from the Pltn: Envy, born on St Lucia, came to this island in 1866 as a boy. He is estimated to be approximately 30 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed of the charges against him; that on Wednesday the 2nd of October, from the country road by Høgensborg, he followed along with a gang which was ravaging at Mountain, and then, as was the case with the two previous detainees, they plundered and burned Allendale and St Georges, and at the latter place, the detainee is charged with having been particularly active, along with detainee Thomas Critchlow. Also, on the same evening, along with Thomas Critchlow, he led a gang which they had assembled, to the plantations Lower Love and Castle, where they committed plunder and arson. In this regard, references are also made to the above mentioned interrogations regarding Allendale and St Georges and also with particular attention to the detainee's (and Critchlow's) relations at St George, to the witness testimonies [*Folio 10b-11a, notice 15*] in the interrogations of the 22nd of September last year, cf. the detainee's testimony on the 23rd of June, and also regarding Lower Love and Castle, to the interrogations of the 31st of May, the 9th of June, the 13th of June and the 14th of June last year - cf. the interrogations of the 18th of June 1879 and the 28th of January of that year (Stanford's testimony).

After the various admissions, the detainee states that he has nothing further to add. He claims that he did not take anything but drink, which he took everywhere he came.

Detainee led away.

Thomas Critchlow from the plantation Jealousy appears He was born on Barbados, came to this island in 1863 when, he states, he was 17, and according to his appearance, he is estimated to be 33-34 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to him, and he is informed that he is charged with various matters similar to those regarding the previous detainee, and references are made to all the referenced interrogations regarding the previous detainee.

The detainee admits that he was in the gang during the destruction of the mentioned places, but regarding the details, he refers to his previous testimonies. He claims that he did nothing else than to rob drink, and he continues to deny having participated in the attack on Charles Flemming.

Detainee led away.

Detainee William James from the plantation Grove Place appears. He was born on Antigua, arrived on this island approximately 4 years ago, is estimated to be approximately 25 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with having participated in the gang which destroyed Allendale, and with having participated in the attack on Charles Flemming, regarding which references are made to the above-mentioned interrogations of the 8th, the 10th and the 14th of February and also the 29th of December last year. From there, he followed along with the gang to St Georges and further on to Grove Place, and from this last-mentioned place, where the detainee lives, he was particularly active, regarding which references are made to witness testimonies in the interrogations of the 18th of June last year, the detainee's testimony and the 30th of June last year.

The detainee overall refers to his previous testimonies, and he continues to deny having participated in the attack on Charles Flemming. Also, he did not participate in the uprising and he did not rob anything apart from drink.

Detainee led away.

The detainee [*Folio 11b-12a, notice 16*] George Callender from the plantation Enfield Green appears. He was born on Barbados and arrived here as a child, approximately 20 years ago. He is estimated to be 24-35 years old and belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with having been active in the gang which on the afternoon of the 2nd of October 1878 plundered and burned the plantations Grove Place and River, as is noted, regarding Grove Place, in the interrogations of the 27th, the 28th and the 30th of June last year, and regarding River, in the interrogations of the 26th of February, the 17th of May, the 2nd and the 4th of August last year.

The detainee states that he has nothing to add, and that he in no way participated in the uprising. In the rum cellars at Grove Place and River, he had drunk so much rum that he was "heavy"⁸, and therefore, he did not continue and follow the gang further.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Henry England from the plantation Jealousy appears. He was born at the pltn. River, is approximately 23 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with, on

⁸ In the Danish text, the word "heavy" is written in English

Wednesday the 2nd of October, having participated in the gang which ravaged at Mountain and which destroyed Allendale, St Georges, Grove Place and River, and for having followed along with Parris' gang to River on the 4th of October. Regarding Allendale, references are made to the above-mentioned interrogations regarding the detainee's movements on this plantation, particularly the interrogation of the 13th of September last year, and regarding Grove Place and River, the above-mentioned interrogations regarding the detainee's movements of the 28th and 30th of June and of the 26th of February, the 17th of May and the 2nd of August last year, cf. the entirety of the detainee's testimony and admission in the interrogation of the 29th of October last year.

The detainee continues to state that he did not further or in any other way participate in the uprising. He maintains that he was not inside the greathouse at Allendale, and that the only thing he took or got from this place was ½ a bottle of "ale" which he took from another negro in the yard. He did not rob or drink anything at any of the other places. When presented with the objection that it is not feasible that he was already so drunk that he did not remember anything as soon as at Grove Place, he states that in the morning, before he left River, he had drunk some rum, he thinks a few cents worth, but that he was not affected by it on his way up to Mountain, cf. also Fritz Richardson' testimony of the 1st of July last year regarding the detainee's pretense [*Folio 12b-13a, notice 17*] of drunkenness. Regarding his participation in the gang's procession to River on Friday, the detainee states that like the other laborers from Mt Pleasant, he just followed Parris' gang to River.

Detainee led away.

Court adjourned at 16:30⁹.

Rosenstand
C Sarauw

In 1880, on Tuesday the 20th of April, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members were present.

Detainee William Arnold from the plantation Upper Love appears. He was born on Antigua and arrived on this island as a boy, approximately 14 years ago. He is estimated to be 22-23 years old and belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is primarily charged with, on the evening of the 2nd of October, when a gang was ravaging at Upper Love, having joined it and along with it having participated in destruction, plunder and arson at most of the plantations which were haunted by the gang during the night and until the gang was dispersed at Annas Hope on the following morning, namely the plantations Jealousy, Mt Pleasant, Mon Bijou - the detainee was not at Fredensborg and Slob - Clifton Hill, Barren Spot, Strawberry Hill, Diamond & Ruby, Castle Coakley, Peters Rest and

⁹ In the Danish text, all mentions of time are written as fx here: 1 ½ (13:30)

Work & Rest, and also that he functioned as the gang's leader on the last leg of the gang's procession, at Castle Coakley, Peters Rest and Work & Rest. In this regard, references are made to the detainee's testimony in the interrogations of the 7th of Novr: and the 21st of Decbr: 1878 and also particularly to interrogations, regarding Castle Coakley, of the 7th and 8th of May last year, and regarding Clifton Hill, of the 3rd and 26th of July last year, cf. the 28th of April (regarding Work & Rest). Also, the detainee is charged with participation in the attack on the woman Julia Roebuck on the 4th of October at Upper Love, cf. the interrogations of the 13th of Febr: 1879 and the 29th of January and the 6th of March of that year.

The detainee states that he has nothing to add apart from what he has stated previously.

Detainee led away.

The detainee William Barnes from the plantation Rust up Twist appears. He was born at the plantation Clifton Hill, is estimated to be 25-26 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. It is made clear to the detainee [*Folio 13b-14a, notice 18*] that he is charged with participation in the uprising, and that he is particularly charged with, during the night between the 2nd and the 3rd of October, having joined the gang which haunted Clifton Hill at the time, and that he then followed along with it on its further procession, such as is stated by detainee Arnold, until it was dispersed at Annas Hope on Thursday morning, and that he, with his own hands, set fire to Castle Coakly and Work & Rest. Also, when this gang was dispersed at Annas Hope, he joined the gang at Anguilla which joined the gang which haunted the South side on the same morning, and that he followed along with it as it proceeded to burn down Kingshill Station, Bethlehem and Mt Pleasant & Plessens, and finally, that he on Friday followed along with Joseph Parris' gang from Lower Love over to River. In this regard, references are made to the detainee's testimonies in the interrogations of the 7th, the 8th and the 9th of Novr: 1878, the interrogations of the 4th of Febr: 1879 and, regarding Clifton Hill, also the interrogations of the 4th of July, 1879, and regarding Castle Coakley, the interrogations of detainee Arnold. Finally, regarding River, the interrogations of the 2nd of August last year, cf. the interrogations of the 13th of May and the 14th of June last year.

The detainee states that he has nothing to add to what he has stated. He only robbed drink.

Detainee led away.

The detainee George Simmons from pltn: Barren Spot appears. He was born at the plantation La Grange and is estimated to be a bit older than 20 years. He belongs to the congregation of the Lutheran Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with, on Wednesday morning the 2nd of October, having left home and having, at Allendale, joined the gang which burned down this plantation, and that he then followed along with the gang for the rest of the day and the following night into the plantation Diamond & Ruby, from where he went back to Barren Spot in the morning, and references are made to interrogations of the 20th of March, the 8th and 13th of May and to the 4th and 7th of July last year.

The detainee has nothing to add to what has been brought against him previously. He claims that he did not rob anything, and that he was not a prominent member of the gang, but that at Barren Spot and Strawberry Hill, where he was a known man, he blew the conch in the lead of the gang.

Detainee Richard Gibbs, called Sealy, from Barren Spot appears. During the interrogations he is often called "Junky". He was born on Barbados, has resided on this island for 4 years, and is estimated to be by [*Folio 14b-15a, notice 19*] 20 odd years old. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church. It is made clear to the detainee that he is now charged with participation in the uprising, and that he is particularly charged with having joined the gang which on Wednesday the 2nd of October moved over Mountain to Allendale, and that he then followed along with the gang on its proceedings all the rest of the day and the following night until the section of the gang which remained, and to which the detainee belonged, was dispersed at Annas Hope. In this regard, references are made to interrogations of the 9th of Janr: and the 18th of April last year, and regarding Clifton Hill, references are made to the above-mentioned interrogations of the 3rd of July and the 26th of July last year.

Throughout the inquiry, it has been difficult to get a coherent account from the detainee, and he admits that after he had gone down country on Wednesday morning, on the country road by Mountain, he met the gang, which he then followed along with to Allendale, but then he goes back to his statement (9th of January) in which he went back to this plantation from Allendale, and then, after having been back at home at Barren Spot, he then met the gang again in the vicinity of Work & Rest. He did not rob anything else than the bottle of Genever which he took at Allendale.

Detainee led away.

Court adjourned at 15:30.

Ph. Rosenstand

C Sarauw

In the year 1880, on Friday the 30th of April, in the morning at 10 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members were present.

Detainee Edward Lewis from the pltn: Mt Pleasant appears. He was born on St Kitts, has resided on this island, to which he came as a boy, approximately 12 years old. He is estimated to be 26-27 years old, and he belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to him, and he is informed that he is charged with, as one of the leaders of and in collaboration with the gang which was formed at Mt Pleasant on the 3rd of October, having participated in the plunder, destruction and arson of the plantations which are noted above as the plantations visited by detainee James Emanuel Benjamin, and that he, on Friday, followed along with the gang which was led by Parris, which burned down those buildings which were still standing at River, cf. interrogations of the 14th of Novbr: 1878, the 22nd of Febr:, the 15th and

16th of October and the 20th of October last year, cf. also, as much as the detainee has been ascribed to participation in the excesses in Frederiksted, [*Folio 15b-16a, notice 20*] the detainee's testimony of the 13th of Decbr: 1878 and also the interrogation of the 20th of Novbr: 1878 and the 13th of Janr: of that year.

As hitherto, the detainee admits that he was part of the mentioned gang's proceedings on Thursday, but he also maintains that he was not one of the leaders. It was the now deceased Fritz Richardson who was the ringleader of the gang. On Friday, when Parris' gang came into Mt Pleasant, almost all Mt Pleasant's laborers followed along to River, and in the detainee's opinion, they could not avoid it. On Friday morning, when the detainee had come home to Mt Pleasant after the proceedings, he heard that he, as well as Emanuel and Fritz and John Louis¹⁰ were wanted, and that is why he, along with Emanuel and Fritz, went over the hills, where he stayed in hiding in the bushes for many days.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Henry Barker from the plantation Høgensborg, appears. He was born on Barbados but has resided on this island for 16 years, as he came here as a boy. He is estimated to be 28-30 years old and he belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is particularly charged with on Thursday the 3rd of October having been active in the proceedings of the gang which was formed at Høgensborg and which proceeded to plantations on the South Side, Williams Delight, Enfield Green, Diamond, Good Hope and Carlton, cf. the detainee's own testimony in the interrogation of the 26th of Novbr 1878, and also, regarding Carlton and Good Hope, the interrogations of the 7th of Novbr: last year, and regarding Williams Delight, the 13th of Novbr:, cf. the 18th of November last year.

The detainee, who admits that he was a guardsman at Pl: Høgensborg and that he sometimes functioned as a kind of sub-keeper, admits that he was part of the just mentioned gang's proceedings as are dealt with in the interrogations. He also admits that he was not only at Good Hope's borders, but that he was with the entire gang inside the plantation's yard, but he still maintains that he did not exert himself to get Good Hope's laborers to go along to Carlton. He denies having been one of the leaders of the gang which was led by Washington and James Spencer, who are both dead.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Joseph Briggs from the pltn: Fredensborg appears. He was born on Barbados but arrived on this island as a boy, 18 years ago. He is estimated to be 28 years old and he [*Folio 16b-17a, notice 21*] belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with having been an active participant in the gang which was described in connection with the previous detainee, and references are made to the detainee's own testimony in the interrogations of the 17th of December 1878 and

¹⁰ Elsewhere: Lewis

also, regarding Enfield Green, the interrogations of the 5th of July last year, and regarding Carlton and William's Delight, the interrogations noted under the previous detainee.

The detainee states that he has nothing further to add.

The detainee is led away.

The detainee William Henry or Henry William from the plantation Lower Love appears. He was born on Antigua, but came to this island 14 years ago. He is estimated to be approximately 30 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with having been one of the instigators of and one of the leaders of the gang which on Thursday morning the 3rd of Octbr: struck out from Lower Love and plundered and burned the plantations Adventure and Paradise and which then joined one or more gangs with which they burned down Betty's Hope, and then he followed along with the joined gangs to Anguilla and Kingshill and also, on Friday the 4th of October, from Lower Love, where Parris instigated the gang which proceeded over Mt Pleasant to River, and he was prominent in this gang until it was dispersed at River, such as is dealt with, amongst other places, in interrogations of the 8th and 9th of Novbr: 1878 and on the 19th of Novbr: the same year, cf. the 5th and 7th of April 1879, and also on the 17th of April and on the 9th of August last year, and particularly regarding Adventure and Paradise on the 13th of August and the 17th of Decbr: last year.

The detainee, who in great detail and at many different stages during the inquiry has given a number of statements, both regarding his own circumstances and regarding others, has nothing to add.

Detainee led away.

Detainee Christian Martin from pltn: Lower Love appears. He was born at Mt Pleasant & Plessens, is estimated to be 35-40 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is charged as the previous detainee with having been one of the instigators of and leaders of the gang which on Thursday morning the 3rd of October plundered and burned Adventure and [Folio 17b-18a, notice 22] Paradise, or who at least followed along with the gang at least as far as to Bettys Hope, as is described in a number of the interrogations listed under the previous detainee, particularly of the 18th and 19th of November 1878, cf: the detainee's own testimony in the interrogations of the 5th of April last year, cf. the 7th of April last year, and also, particularly regarding Adventure and Paradise, the 13th of August and the 17th of December last year.

The detainee refers to what he has stated during previous interrogations and he maintains that he did not follow along with the gang from Bettys Hope and further east.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Wren Gittens from Lower Love appears. He was born on Barbados but came to this island 15 or 16 years ago as a half-grown boy. He is estimated to be 28-30 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is charged as the previous detainee regarding the gang which was formed at Lower Love on the 3rd of October and that he followed along with the adjoined gangs over Anguilla, Kingshill etc., and references are made to the interrogations listed under the previous detainee, cf. also the interrogation of the 21st of October last year.

The detainee states that he does not remember that he, after having been at Bettys Hope, followed the then adjoined gangs further than to Anguilla, but he cannot with certainty say that he was not also at Kingshill as he has heard many witnesses claim. He had become rather drunk because he drank at all the rum cellars which were broken open, but apart from that, he did not steal anything. On the whole, he also refers to his statements during previous interrogations.

Detainee led away.

Detainee George Cambridge from the plantation Lower Love appears. He was born on Antigua but came to this island as a little boy, approximately 20 years ago. He is estimated to be 25-30 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is particularly charged with on Wednesday the 2nd of October having been part of the gang which destroyed Grove Place and also on Thursday the 3rd of October, after some other [*Folio 18b-19a, notice 23*] negroes had struck out from Upper Love, he joined some other negro-gangs at Bettys Hope and then, in the adjoined gang, he was an active participant in the plunder and burning of Bettys Hope, and then he continued with the gang on its further course to Anguilla, Kingshill and Bethlehem, and he partook in the gangs' destruction. In this respect, particular references are made to the interrogations of the 19th of November and the 30th of December 1879, the 24th of Febr: 1879 and in particular the detainee's own testimony in the interrogation of the 21st of March 1879, and also interrogations of the 25th of March and the 1st of April last year, and finally, regarding Grove Place, the 28th of June last year.

As the case against him is reviewed, the detainee states that he was not inside Bethlehem but that he sat in the ditch by the country road at Bethlehem, and from there, he went home to Upper Love before the gang had burned Bethlehem. Apart from that, he has nothing further to add to his previous statements.

Detainee led away.

Detainee James Cox from the pltn: Diamond appears. He was born on Barbados but came to this island 18 years ago when he was approximately 15 years old, which makes him approximately 34 years old. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is particularly charged with on Thursday the 3rd of October, after the gang from Enfield Green had come to Diamond, having led Diamond's laborers over to Bettys Hope where it joined other gangs in the plunder and arson of Betty's Hope, and then he continued with the gangs and was particularly active in the destruction

of Anguilla; cf. the interrogation of the 21st of Mar: last year and the main interrogations regarding Anguilla on the 22nd of March and the 11th and 13th of December last year, and the 30th of Novr: 1878, the 28th of March, the 21st of August and the 24th of October along with the 13th of Novr: and the 17th of December last year.

The detainee maintains that the only 2 places where he was with any gang was at Betty's Hope and Anguilla, and, as hitherto, he denies having conducted himself as a leader, and the detainee, who has never really given any detailed statement, overall, just refers to what he has stated previously.

Detainee led away. [*Folio 19b-20a, notice 24*]

Detainee Joseph William from pltn: Windsor appears. He was born at the plantation St Johns, is estimated to be approximately 25 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and it is added that he is particularly charged with having been one of the leaders of or at least a participant in the gang which on Thursday the 3rd of October, after it struck out from Windsor, plundered and burned the plantations Mt Pellier, Morning Star, Concordia, Windsor and partly Glynn along with the Factori-Station, such as is examined in the interrogations of the 23rd of Nov: 1878 and in the interrogations of the 12th and 23rd of December of the same year in the presented copy of Interrogation Protocol B and in all the interrogations which are collected in this copy.

The detainee maintains that he was not at Concordia or Glynn and he does not admit that he was called one of the leaders of this gang. Overall, he refers to his previous, detailed, testimonies.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Mary Thomas from the plantation Sprat Hall appears. She was born on Antigua but came to this island 14 years ago and is estimated to be 25-30 years old. She belongs to the congregation of the English Church. The action is made clear to her, and she is informed that she is particularly charged with having been one of the ringleaders of the gang which on Thursday the 3rd of October plundered and burned plantations on the West-End-Northside /: cf. the above mentioned regarding detainees Francis Harrison and Emanuel Jacob :/ such as is examined in the detainee's own and other testimonies of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of December 1878 /: cf. also the interrogations of the 22nd of Novbr: and the 20th of December last year and also the 30th of January of this year.

The detainee has nothing to add to what she has stated during the interrogations.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Johannes Samuel, called Bamberg, from Frederiksted, appears. He was born at the plantation Prosperity, is estimated to be 28-30 years old, and belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. The action is made clear to the detainee and it is added that he is particularly charged with on Thursday the 3rd of October having been a participant - it is unknown from

where he struck out - in the gang which ravaged on the Southside over Anguilla and from there on to Kingshill and Bethlehem, to Mt Pleasant & Plessens' works on Thursday evening and, finally, to Lower Love, for having participated in Parris' gang to Mt Pleasant (Holm) and River on Friday, and in that regard, reference is made to the interrogation of the 2nd of August last year and the witness testimony regarding Mt Pleasant & Plessens in the interrogation of the 15th of July last year and the 20th of October last year, and also to various witness testimonies here and there in the interrogations, such as on the 8th, the 22nd and the 23rd of November 1878, the 31st of May and the 31st of July last year, cf. Thomas Manderson's testimony of the 19th of Novbr: 1878, and the detainee's testimony of the 18th of Jan: last year.

The detainee decidedly states that he did not join the big South-Side gang until at Manning's Bay on Thursday, and that it is not correct when Thomas Manderson states (cf. also the interrogation of the 24th of December 1878) that the detainee was in the gang since Negro Bay. He also denies, as the 2 men from Castle have otherwise stated in the above-mentioned interrogation of the 14th of June last year, that he blew the conch at Castle on Friday, because he left his conch at home at Lower Love. The detainee also maintains that he did not do anything apart from follow along with the gangs in question. He did not take possession of anything apart from the ax which was mentioned during the interrogations and which he (*added by the scribe: took at Mt Pleasant and*) threw away. He did not follow along with the gang from Mt Pleasant to River, although he was at River at the same time as the gang. The detainee has nothing further to add.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Joseph James from the plantation Enfield Green appears. He was born at Windsor, is estimated to be 35-40 years old, and he belongs to the congregation of the Catholic Church. The action is made clear to him, and he is informed that he is particularly charged with on Thursday the 3rd of October having been active in the act of arson, particularly at the plantations Mt Pleasant & Plessens' works in which regard references are made to the testimony given by detainee Bamberg regarding Mt Pleasant on the 29th of December last year and the 28th of Jan: this year, cf. the 18th of July last year, and also the interrogations of the 14th and 20th of March last year.

As the case against him is reviewed, the detainee, when more closely asked about his statement in the interrogation of the 28th of Jan: this year, states that he went along with the gang from Enfield Green to Diamond, but he states that [*Folio 21b-22a, notive 26*] after the gang had destroyed Enfield Green, he did nothing else than follow along with the section of the gang which attacked Diamond, into Diamond's yard, where he neither participated in plunder nor arson. Regarding the main charge, he solely refers to his previous testimonies, as he went along with a small flock of negroes who went down and set fire to the works without him knowing anything about how the fire was started. He repeats that he was drunk.

Detainee led away.

The detainee John Samuel from the plant: Anguilla, appears. He was born on Antigua and came to this island 12 years ago. He is estimated to be 26 years old, and he belongs to the congregation

of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is particularly charged with on Thursday the 3rd of October, along with some other negroes from Anguilla, having gone to the plant: Blessing where they burned down the magass stacks and started a fire in the cooking house¹¹ such as is examined in the interrogations of the 17th and 19th of Decbr: 1878, cf. the 25th of March and the 20th of May last year and also in the interrogations of the 16th of Octbr: last year and the 28th of Jan: this year.

The detainee states that he has nothing to add to his final confession.

Detainee led away.

The detainee Thomas James from Anguilla appears. He was born at the pltn: Spanish Town, he is estimated to be 20 years old, and he belongs to the congregation of the Moravian Church. The action is made clear to the detainee, and he is informed that he is charged in the same way as the previous detainees with reference to the same noted interrogations.

The detainee states that after he has given his admission, he has nothing to add to his previous testimonies.

Detainee led away.

The detainee James Griffith from the pltn: Anguilla appears. He was born on Barbados and arrived on this island approximately 12 years ago. He is estimated to be 25-26 years old and he belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. The action is made clear to the detainee in the same way as with the previous detainees, and references are made to those interrogations which have to do with the movements of the detainee, whereafter the detainee altogether refers to what he has previously admitted and stated.

Detainee led away.

Court adjourned at 16:30

Ph Rosenstand
Sarauw

In 1880, on Saturday the 1st of May in the morning at 9:30, the Committee [*Folio 22-23a, notice 27*] convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members were present.

Detainee Joseph Bowell from the pltn: Høgensborg appears. He was born on Barbados but came to this island as a child about 18 years ago. He is estimated to be 25-30 years old and belongs to

¹¹ 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

the congregation of the Epsiscopal Church. It is made clear to him that he is now charged with participation in the uprising of 1878, and particularly for murder or complicity to murder or at least murderish assault, as he is charged with the murder of the two soldiers at Carlton on the morning of the 2nd of October such as is examined in the interrogations of the 29th and particularly the 30th of August last year; cf. the 25th of January last year, and he is charged with, on the 3rd of October, having been a participant in the gang which instigated plunder and arson at the pltn. Carlton, cf. interrogation of the 29th of August and the 7th of November last year and also the 16th of Janr: of that year.

The detainee refers to his previous testimonies, and he particularly maintains, whilst presented with the two emphatic and oath-sworn testimonies during the interrogation of the 30th of August, that he was not at Carlton on the Wednesday morning in question.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Crawford, overseer¹² Crawford's wife, appears. She is approximately 50 years old and belongs to the congregation of the English Church. She is enjoined as a witness and then more closely questioned regarding her statement concerning the detainee given in Frederiksted's Police Court on the 13th of Nov: 1878 and in the above-mentioned interrogation of the 17th of Novbr: of last year. She then states that on the mentioned day when the works¹³ at Carlton had been burned and the cellars had been plundered, and when a section of the gang had ravaged up in the house and had several times been in the process of setting fire to the house, the witness, along with some other good people, had gotten the swarm to leave the house. Then, she had walked down the steps and tried to get some of the other good people in the yard to convince the gang to refrain from further destruction, but then a negro jumped up towards her with a lifted knife as if meaning to stab her. W^m Lake pushed the negro aside and got the witness to leave, so that the negro didn't harm her. The negro didn't accompany his threatening movement with any word, but the witness assumes that if Lake hadn't intervened, he would have carried out the attack and would have stabbed her with the knife. At the time, she didn't know who the negro was, but afterwards she heard that it was [*Folio 23b-24a, notive 28*] Joseph Bowell from Høgensborg, and when she saw the detainee some days later in town, he was walking around with a pass note in his hat, but she recognized him again and she even said to him that he shouldn't be allowed to have a pass note because he took part in the uprising.

The detainee states that he does not remember that he, when he was in the gang in Carlton's yard on the evening in question, as he has previously admitted, had any such goings-on with the witness as she has described. He declares that he knows Mrs. Crawford.

The witness affirms her testimony which is presented to her and she steps down.

Then, Prince Alfred Wiltshire from Carlton appears. He was born on Barbados and came to this island as a baby about 17 years ago. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. He

¹² Danish: underforvalter

¹³ The "works", also called "the factory", consisted of the mill, the curing house, the cooking house and sometimes a distillery

then states that he knows the detainee well and that he has known him for a long time. He then repeats his statement from the Police Court Interrogation of the 13th of Novbr: 1878, and he adds that Mrs. Crawford stood in the yard at the foot of the steps up to Carlton's greathouse and that she was speaking to the swarm when the detainee ran at her or towards her with a raised knife, but that Mrs. Crawford avoided the stab and ran away. The witness cannot say whether anyone intervened. The witness was standing by the stable, so he could clearly see what was going on, but he does not know if words were exchanged. The witness affirms his testimony which is presented to him and he is absolutely certain that it is correct.

While listening to the witness' statement, the detainee does not remember the goings-on. He states that he was not drunk.

William Lake from the pltn: St Georges Hill (Carlton) appears. He was born on Antigua, is approximately 35 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. His testimony from the Police Court's interrogation court of the 13th of Novr: 1878, regarding the detainee's testimony, is presented to him. He affirms it, adding that Mrs. Crawford was standing in the yard at the foot of the steps, trying to get the swarm to leave, when the detainee, with his knife lifted, took a couple of steps towards her, as if to stab her. The witness was standing close by, and when he saw the detainee threaten her, he ran towards them and pushed [*Folio 24b-25a, notice 29*] the detainee to the side, so that Mrs. Crawford had the opportunity to run away. The detainee did not use any threatening words, but in her fright, Mrs. Crawford yelled "our side¹⁴". The witness cannot really say that the detainee also threatened him further than that he grumbled because he had intervened. The witness states that he has known the detainee for several years. The knife which the detainee had in his hand was about the size of a so-called 20 cents-knife. The witness did not see the detainee at other occasions during the uprising.

The witness affirms his testimony which is presented to him.

The detainee states that he did not have a knife with him over at Carlton, and overall, he refers to what he has said.

Mrs. Crawford appears again. She states that it is very possible that she in her fright yelled "our side¹⁵", because she was very afraid. The witness then receives the law's admonishment and is prepared to take the oath, and then she affirms her testimony under oath.

The witness stands down.

Since witness W^m Lake himself has not been charged with participation in the crimes of the Høgensborg gang during the inquiries, he does not swear under oath, and he stands down.

Since witness Prince A. Wiltshire who, despite his stated age, looks like a boy, is presently not sufficiently known to the Commission, so he does not swear under oath either and stands down

¹⁴ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

¹⁵ In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

Detainee led away.

Then, Rebecca Frederik, sometimes called Rebecca Johannes, from pltn: Cane appears, previously from Pltn: Upper Love, born at Pltn: Slob. She is estimated to be around 20 years old and she belongs to the congregation of the Episcopal Church. She has been charged during the inquiries, partly for having participated in gangs which plundered and burned down plantations, cf. amongst others, interrogations of the 13th of March, the 29th of July and the 4th of Novr: last year, and partly for having, in a particularly active manner, participated in an attack on the woman Julia Roebuck at Upper Love in connection with the uprising on the 4th of October 1878, such as is particularly examined in the interrogations of the 13th of Febr: last year, the 29th of January of that year and the 6th of March that year. On the 11th of Novr: last year, she was released for the time being, but then, after having been included in the action, she was arrested again yesterday afternoon.

The action is now made clear to her, and she is informed that [*Folio 25b-26a, notice 30*] she, as noted, is charged. She then repeats what she has stated previously, that when, at Upper Love, she heard that there was a commotion, she went out onto the Centerline Road where she came across the gang which broke into Mountain and Allendale, and she maintains that she was not there when the attack on Charles Flemming took place, and she did not steal anything at Allendale. At the next place, St Georges, she stole some corn flour which she brought directly back to Upper Love, and thus she did not follow along with the gang to Grove Place. However, when the gang passed below Upper Love on the road from Grove Place to River, she followed it to River and Fountain and again, when she came with the gang to Upper Love, she brought back some corn flour which she had stolen from the cellar at River. From Upper Love, she thus followed the gang on its further course, such as has been described often, until Slob. She stayed there until sunrise, where she got up and again followed the gang on its course over Castle Coakley, Peter's Rest and Work & Rest until Anna's Hope, where the gang was shot at, and then she became afraid and went back to Upper Love, where she arrived on Thursday afternoon. This time, she did not bring anything home with her, and at no place did she take part in arson or destruction. Like everyone else, she had a cane in her hand. Regarding the attack on Miss Roebuck, the detainee first wants to refer to her previous testimonies, but during further examination, she admits that she not only gave Miss Roebuck a couple of knocks on her backside with the cane, but that she beat Miss Roebuck extensively after she had been dragged out onto the country road and during the incident where George Laug took the rings off her fingers, but she denies that she particularly tried to hit Miss Roebuck's arms or fingers, and she did not break her arm or her fingers, and she also denies that she was the one who yelled that the rings were to be taken off her or that she should tell them where her money was. She admits that she grabbed hold of Miss Roebuck and dragged her out onto the country road, but that was after her rings had been taken from her, and she was dragged back to the negro village to show where she had her money. She dares not deny that she on that occasion yelled that Miss Roebuck should be dragged out onto [*Folio 26b-27a, notice 31*] the country road to die there. She states that the cane which she used to beat Miss Roebuck was a branch from an Otaheite tree, which, when described, must have been an English inch in diameter. She admits it all, that she participated in the mistreatment of Miss Roebuck as much as everyone else. The detainee's testimony is

presented to her, and she declares that now she has told the truth, and that she has nothing more to admit. She denies that she has bragged about her exploits, and she does not know whether she has won praise from others.

A certification from the 26th of October 1878, regarding the nature of the damages inflicted on Miss Roebuck is presented by Doctor Bretton.

With reference to the order of action and to the new information regarding her person, she is arrested again, and this is made clear to the detainee.

The detainee is led away.

Then, the Commission presents the following outline of the movements in the uprising and the crimes committed in relation to the charged persons as reviewed above.

During the afternoon of the 1st of Octr: a considerable number of people were present in the town Frederiksted, and mostly around the rum shops, the country laborers exhibited a tumultuous and insubordinate behavior, and at 5 O'clock, a serious incident took place, when the negroes in large numbers and in a threatening way poured down towards the Fort to where the Police Force had retreated, and they attacked it with stones and conches and other projectiles which they threw at and against the building, partly from the outer Fort's yard, which they had forced their way into, and partly from the Fort's yard. Shots were fired from the Fort at the crowd, which gradually pulled away and out of range. Then, various excesses were committed in town, as some shops in which there was drink were broken open, and a couple of smaller houses were molested, until, sometime after it got dark, the negroes started to set fire to goods which were dragged out of the shops which they broke into and partially plundered. Later, the houses themselves were set on fire in greater and greater degree, as the town was filled more and more with negroes who poured in from the country with the news of the tumult and in the glow of the fires. In the morning, military arrived in town, and the negroes dispersed and spread, but at the outskirts of the town, [*Folio 27b-28a, notice 32*] in the so-called "Free Gut", another attempt to set fire to the town was carried out a couple of hours later. No one is charged with participation and the excesses during the afternoon unless he is also charged with other participation in the uprising. James Emanuel, Benjamin and John Hodge, who are charged in this matter, are also charged with participation in the crimes committed during the night, and the first-mentioned is also charged with plunder and arson at plantations. Amongst those who are charged with the arson in town are detainees George Henry, Francis Harrison, Emanuel Jacob, David Cameron, Susanna Abrahamson and Isaac Anthony.

The next prominent episode was the attack which was carried out at Carlton on the following Wednesday, where two soldiers, who had been left behind, were killed. For participation in this, the detainees Axeline E. Solomon and Mathilda McBean and the detainee Joseph Bowell are also charged. Whilst arson was not committed at Carlton on this morning, the magass¹⁶ stacks were burned down at Whim during the same morning, and the works etc. at Concordia were burned down, in which connection detainee Joseph Spencer is charged, and at Wheel of Fortune,

¹⁶ Magass: The spent stalks of sugar cane after the juice has been extracted. Magass was dried to be used as fuel

detainee Hans Christian. Sometime later during the day, after ravaging at Høgensborg, the gang, which was considerably strengthened, surged over Mountain and into Allendale which was burned down to the ground and where a young man, a son of planter Flemming, was severely maltreated, and from then onwards, the gang went to St Georges where everything was also burned. Here, apart from the above-mentioned Isaac Anthony, also detainees John Thomas Sobers and Christopher Samuel are charged and, particularly regarding St Georges, detainees George Michael and Thomas Critchlow. These two are also charged with having led a gang up to Lower Love and Castle, whilst the gang continued its course from St Georges, committing plunder and arson, over Grove Place, River and Fountain, and from there back again over River to Upper Love, from where they continued during the evening and night and the next morning, over Jealousy, Mt Pleasant, Mon Bijou, Fredensborg, Slob, Clifton Hill, Barren Spot, Strawberry Hill, Diamond & Ruby, Castle Coakley, Peters Rest and Work & Rest, and the gang, consisting of varying participants and under varying leaders, continued during the night, but was considerably reduced in size, and on Thursday morning, it was dispersed at Anna's Hope. For participation in these proceedings, at different places and to different extents, detainees William James, George Callender, Henry England, [*Folio 28b-29a, notice 33*] William Arnold and William Barnes and George Simmons and Richard Gibbs (Sealy) and detainee Rebecca Frederik are charged.

On Thursday morning, gangs were formed at various plantations, usually in such a way that a single plantation's gang, under the leadership of a couple of their own laborers, ventured out and attacked the neighboring plantations whose laborers, to a greater or lesser degree, joined them. As such, the gang which destroyed the western part of the South Side, Williams Delight, Enfield Green, Diamond, Good Hope, Whim and Carlton, originated at Høgensborg, and for which the detainees Henry Barker and Joseph Briggs, and also the above-mentioned Joseph Spencer and partly Joseph Howell are charged. From Castle, the gang which, at approximately the same time, burned Golden Grove and Negro Bay and which, at Mannings Bay, then joined the gang which had struck out from Lower Love for which the detainees William Henry, Christian Martin and Wren Gittens are charged, - having burned Adventure and Paradise - which was done along with a mob from Diamond and a mob from Upper Love - the detainee George Cambridge is charged - they burned Betty's Hope, and then the united gangs were one big gang, which must have been the largest, and around noon time, they attacked Anguilla - in which regard particularly the detainee James Cox is charged - and then onwards over Kingshill-Station, Bethlehem and Castle (the works) to Mt Pleasant and Plessens. From Mt Pleasant (Holm) came the gang which ravaged Hermitage, Lebanon Hill, Canaan, La Vallee and Rust up Twist, and in which the above-mentioned James E. Benjamin and the detainee Edward Lewis are charged with having been the leaders or at least participants. Around the same time, the laborers from Windsor struck out along with the laborers from the surrounding plantations and they ravaged Mt Pellier, Morning Star, Concordia, Windsor and partly Glynn, and in this regard, the detainee Joseph William is charged. Finally, on the West-End North-Side, further into the day, the gang which went over Orange Grove, Mt Pellier, Two Friends, Mt Stewart, Annaly, Mt Victory, Nicholas and Punch was formed and from which the mentioned Francis Harrison and Emanuel Jacob and also the detainee Mary Thomas, who goes under the name "Queen Mary" are charged with being participants.

A quite isolated and secretly executed arson took place at Mt Plessens' works on Thursday evening of which the detainee Johannes Samuel is charged. This detainee is also charged with other crimes, as noted. [*Folio 29b-30a, notice 34*]

On Thursday, towards the evening, a fire was also started at the plantation Blessing, of which the detainees John Samuel, Thomas James and James Griffith are charged.

The last actual uprising occurred on Friday, when a gang was led from Lower Love over Mt Pleasant to River where it commenced to burn down that which had been spared on Wednesday, until the gang was dispersed by force.

An isolated occurrence which is also examined under this case took place at Upper Love on Friday, when a mob of negroes attacked and maltreated an elderly woman, Julia Roebuck, who lived at the plantation where she ran a little commerce. The above-mentioned Rebecca Frederik is charged with active participation.

Court adjourned at 16:30

Ph. Rosenstand
C Sarauw

In 1880, on Friday the 7th of May, in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members were present.

The criminal records below are presented:

1. From Christiansted Police Chamber
2. From Frederiksted Police Chamber
3. From St Thomas City Court
4. From St Thomas Police Chamber, according to which various detainees, who will hereafter be presented, have been punished in various ways, overall, however, for lesser crimes; whereafter the Commission remarks that according to the received criminal records from Christiansted and Frederiksted's City Court, none of the detainees have been charged or punished from these courts.

Then, one by one, the detainees below appear:

1. James Emanuel Benjamin
2. John Hodge
3. George Henry
4. Francis Harrison
5. Emanuel Jacob

6. Susanna Abrahamson
7. Joseph Spencer
8. Hans Christian
9. John Thomas Sobers
10. Christopher Samuel
11. George Callender
12. Henry England
13. William Barnes
14. George Simmons
15. Edward Lewis
16. Joseph Briggs
17. W^m Henry
18. Christian Martin
19. Wren Gittens
20. George Cambridge
21. James Cox
22. Mary Thomas and [*Folio 30b-31a, notice 35*]
23. Johannes Samuel (Bamberg)

When each of them are presented with those punishments for which they are noted, they admit that they have been convicted and punished as presented, and they state that they have not been otherwise or differently punished. However, some of them remark that they have been punished for failure to meet their labor expectations, in which regard the Commission remarks that it has not found cause to seek information on punishments which have been imposed solely on such grounds.

However, when presented with the fact that it is noted that he was convicted to 8 days of forced labor by the Center District's verdict of the 3rd of February 1874, detainee Henry Barker declares that he has never been punished or imprisoned apart from being imprisoned in relation to the uprising. He states that there is another Henry Barker, so it is most likely a mix-up.

In the criminal records from St Thomas Police Chambers, a William Henry or Henry William is noted, and it is remarked that the inquiries have led to the result that the person mentioned in the records is not the detainee William Henry, and the detainee also denies knowing anything about the reported circumstances.

All detainees are gradually, as they are finished, led away.

After it has appeared that none of the detainees have anything further to add to the Commission, the case is concluded and is to be described and forwarded to the appointed Counsel for the prosecution¹⁷, Supreme Judge attorney Lemming.

Court adjourned.

¹⁷ The Danish text uses the (legal) title "Aktor"

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw

In 1880, on Saturday the 10th of July, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission of Inquiry which was appointed 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 and the destruction of the same.

Both Commission members, Supreme Judge Rosenstand and Counsellor Sarauw were present, and then was performed [*Folio 31b-32a, notice 36*] the

Criminal Case

Supreme Judge Lemming, Counsel for the prosecution
ctr:

Detainees No

1. James Emanuel Benjamin (Mannie) from Mt Pleasant
2. John Hodge from Fredensborg
3. George Henry from Sprat Hall
4. Francis Harrison from Prosperity
5. Emanuel Jacob from Prosperity
6. David Cameron from La Grange
7. Susanna Abrahamson (Bottom Belly) from Prosperity
8. Isaac Anthony from Frederiksted
9. Axelina E. Solomon (Agnes) from Bethlehem
10. Mathilda Mc Bean from Pl: Cane
11. Joseph Bowell from Høgensborg
12. Joseph Spencer from Høgensborg
13. Hans Christian from Williams Delight
14. John Thomas Sobers from Becks Grove
15. Christopher Samuel from Mt Pleasant (Plessens)
16. George Michael from Envy
17. Thomas Critchlow from Pl: Jealousy
18. William James from Grove Place
19. George Callender from Enf: Green
20. Henry England from Jealousy
21. William Arnold from Upper Love
22. William Barnes from Rust up Twist
23. George Simmons from Barren Spot
24. Richard Gibbs (Seeley) from Barren Spot
25. Edward Lewis from Mt Pleasant

26. Henry Barker from Høgensborg
27. Joseph Briggs from Fredensborg
28. William Henry from Lower Love
29. Christian Martin from Lower Love
30. Wren Gittens from Lower Love
31. George Cambridge from Upper Love
32. James Cox from Diamond
33. Joseph Williams from Windsor
34. Mary Thomas from Sprat Hall
35. Johannes Samuel (Bamberg) from Frederiksted
36. Joseph James from Enfield Green
37. John Samuel from Anguilla
38. Thomas James from Anguilla
39. James Griffith from Anguilla and also
40. the charged Rebecca Frederik from Cane

All the accused are presented unchained.

Counsel for the prosecution Supreme Judge Lemming attends and brings the case before the court by presenting the subpoena, whereafter he presents the action order and the interrogation inquiry along with the accounts, whereafter he presents a document from yesterday to which he refers.

The detainees are informed of the content of the accounts of the detainees' claims and they are, individually, encouraged to add whatever they consider to be relevant in this regard, but none of them have anything to add to what they have stated during the course of the inquiry and after the action is made clear to them.

Council for the Defense Hauschett attends and presents his defense order and requests a loan of the cases' documents and respite for three weeks. [*Folio 32b-33a, notice 37*]

The Commission grants the requested loan and in agreement with the request of the Council of the Defense, the next movement of the case is fixed to Saturday the 31st¹⁸, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock.

All detainees are led away.

Court adjourned

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw

¹⁸ The Danish text adds the abbreviation "ds:", the meaning of which is unclear

In 1880, on Friday the 13th of August, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort. Both Commission members Supreme Judge Rosenstand and Counselor Sarauw were present.

And then was performed

The Criminal Case

Supreme Judge Lemming, Counsel for the prosecution
ctr:

The detainees: no 1. James Emanuel Benjamin (Mannie) from Mt Pleasant, amongst others:

The Commission remarks that within the expiry of the 3 weeks which were accorded on the 10th of last month, the Council for the Defense, Supreme Attorney Hauschett, had reported that he had not been able to advance the case to such lengths so as to be able to present his defense plea, wherefore the Commission had granted him additional respite until further notice, and all those concerned have been informed of the agreed postponement.

Attorney Huschetth then informed that he was ready to further the case, and it was fixed for today, and all those concerned have been notified, and particularly all those charged have been appropriately summoned.

All those charged, 40 in all, appear, unchained.

The Council for the Defense, Supreme Attorney Hauschett, appears and returns the case documents, and he presents his defense plea of the 11th of this month, and with reference to this, he embarks on the case.

The detainees are informed of what the Defense has noted regarding their persons, overall, as well as for each individual, and they are again encouraged to present whatever they further have to add.

Then, detainee Emanuel Jacob appears and repeats those denials which he presented during the interrogations regarding the attack on Mrs. Ramsay's house and the arson at Mt Stewart. [*Folio 33b-34a, notice 38*] He has nothing further to add.

Counsel for the prosecution, Supreme Judge Lemming appears and requests loan of those documents which the Defense has presented today and of those documents which were previously presented by the party and he requests respite until tomorrow.

Loan approved, and the Commission fixes the execution of the case for tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock, of which the detainees are informed.

Detainees led away.

Court adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand
C Sarauw

In 1880, on Saturday the 14th of August, in the afternoon at 1 o'clock, the Commission convened in Frederiksfort.
Both Commission members, Supreme Judge Rosenstand and Counselor Sarauw were present.
And then was performed:

The Criminal Case
Supreme Judge Lemming, Counsel for the prosecution
ctr:

Detainees No 1. James Emanuel Benjamin (Mannie) from Pl: Mt Pleasant amongst others.
All detainees, 40 in all, appear, unchained.

Counsel for the prosecution, Supreme Judge Lemming appears and returns the case documents which he borrowed on the given¹⁹ date, and with reference to these, he embarks on the case.

That which has occurred is presented to the detainees and they are informed that the case will now be judged, in case any of them have something to add.

Then, detainee Richard Gibbs (called Sealey and also Junky) appears. He is informed that the additional inquiries have shown that he was seen on the country road in the vicinity of Friedensfeldt Church on Wednesday evening at the time when the gang was at Jealousy, wherefore it is unlikely that he should have walked from Allendale to Barrenspot. He also states that that was not the case, but that he from Allendale followed along with the gang to St Georges, and from there on to Grove Place and further onwards to River and Upper Love, so that he was part of the gang when these plantations were plundered and burned. [*Folio 34b-35a, notice 39*] He claims that he did not personally participate in either plunder or arson, but at the same time, he admits that when the allowance cellar at St Georges was broken into and the flour barrels were opened, he took possession of some corn flour which he carried home, wrapped in a scarf. Also, apart from the bottle of Genever at Allendale and the bread at Work & Rest, this corn flour is the only thing he robbed. It was when the gang came into Jealousy that he left it and went homewards, until he, when he passed through Clifton Hill, came across the gang. He continues to claim that went straight ahead to get to Barrenspot, even though it is made clear to him that the gang spent several hours getting from Jealousy to Clifton Hill, as it burned several plantations in the meantime, whilst the detainee, if he had walked straight ahead, could not have spent more than half an hour, and in this regard, the detainee cannot give any explanation but

¹⁹ The Danish text says "G. Dato"

just maintains that he was not with the gang at the intervening plantations. The detainee affirms his statement and steps down.

All detainees are then led away since none of them have anything to add.

Then, the Commission takes the case to judgement.

The court [*Folio 35b, notice 40*] and the Commission are adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand

C Sarauw