

## *Mary “Thomas”*

**Verdict No:** 70 / 1882

**Prisoner No:** 12 (Fp 628)

**According to** *The highest rescript of Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1881 which conveys the*

**Verdict of** *November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1881*

**Sentenced to** *Hard labor in Prison<sup>1</sup>*

**for** *Life*

**Sentenced by the Court of first Instance by** *The Commission Verdict of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1880*

**The sentence expires**

*Handed over to Christianshavn’s Prison on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1882*

*Initiated the sentence on St. Croix  
Arrest September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1881*

*Was immediately moved up to Class of Constraint 3<sup>2</sup>*

~~**departed**~~ *shipped to the Chief of Police on St. Croix: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1887, according to the communication of the chief inspector of 31/10 87*

<b>Description</b>	<b>Height:</b> <b>Limbs:</b> <b>Eyes:</b>	<b>Figure:</b> <b>Hair:</b> <b>Nose:</b>	<b>Conscripted or enrolled in the Navy</b>
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<sup>1</sup> In the prison records of Mary Thomas, Agnes Salomon and Mathilde Mc Bean, the Danish text says ”tugthuset” (penitentiary). In the prison record of Susanna Abrahamsen, it says ”forbedringshus” (correctional house). Both are abbreviations of the full name of the prison, to which all 4 women were sent, namely ”Christianshavns tugt-, rasp- og forbedringshus”.

<sup>2</sup> In the Danish prison system, prisoners were divided into ”classes of constraint” (Danish: tvangsstadier). A higher class meant more privileges. 1st class prisoners had no access to education and were only allowed to read the Bible. 2nd class prisoners had more privileges and could write letters and receive visitors. 3rd class prisoners had further privileges. They had more liberty during labor and could wear clothes that were more civilian than the prison uniforms etc. An inmate could be moved a class up or down depending on his or her behavior.

	<b>Hue:</b>		<b>Speech:</b>			
<b>Generalia</b>	<b>Special features:</b>		<b>Previously punished:</b>			
	<b>Place of birth:</b> <i>Antigua</i> <b>Place of maintenance:</b> <b>Last place of residence:</b> <b>Livelihood:</b> <b>Age:</b> <i>40 years</i> <b>Religion:</b> <i>The English</i> <b>Confirmation:</b> <b>Can read:</b> <b>Can write:</b> <b>Is unmarried and has 3 children, is separated:</b> <b>Health status at arrival:</b>		<i>For abuse of her child against  10 x 48 hours of Water and Bread (1872)  Theft with 4 days of prison</i>			
<b>The crime of which the prison is convicted:</b> <i>Participation in looting and arson during the revolt on St. Croix in 1878.</i>			<b>Information about the prisoner's former way of life:</b>			
<b>Brought to the prison</b>	<b>Money or valuables:</b> <i>1 ring 1 pair of earrings</i>		<b>Clothes and suchlike:</b>			
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Punishment</b>	<b>Been on the list of laziness</b>	<b>Earned overtime</b>	<b>Been to the hospital</b>		<b>Remarks</b>
				<b>Date</b>	<b>Illness</b>	
				<b>1882</b>  <b>From</b> <i>20/7 1882</i> <b>To</b> <i>24/7 1882</i>  <i>From 11/11 82</i>	  <i>Febrilis<sup>3</sup></i>  <i>Scurvy</i>	

<sup>3</sup> Febrilis: fever

				<p>To 11/11 82</p> <p>From 17/1 83 To 27/1 83</p> <p>From 12/2 83 To 16/2 83</p> <p>From 9/4 83 To 14/4 83</p> <p>From 12/7 32 To 30/7 83</p> <p>From 15/10 83 To 27/10 83</p> <p>From 14/1 84 To 28/1 84</p> <p>From 10/11 84 To 15/11 84</p> <p>From 21/11 84 To 1/12 84</p>	<p><i>Febrilis<sup>4</sup></i></p> <p><i>Menstruation pains</i></p> <p><i>Kardialgi<sup>5</sup></i></p> <p><i>Catarrh</i></p> <p><i>Pyelitis<sup>6</sup></i></p> <p><i>Calsrenal (?)</i></p> <p><i>Colica</i></p> <p><i>Catarrh</i></p>	
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<sup>4</sup> Febrilis: fever

<sup>5</sup> Kardialgi: heart cramps

<sup>6</sup> Pyelitis: a bacterial infection of the renal pelvis

				From 14/12 84 To 27/12 84	Catarrh venta	
				From 27/4 86 To 4/5 86	Do.	
				From 19/6 86 To 30/6 86	Do.	
				From 30/12 86 To 8/1	Cholic	
				From 22/1 87 To 29/1 87	Do.	

**Mary Thomas**  
**Named "the Queen" during the revolt on St. Croix**

*Unmarried, 3 children, appr. 40 years old, born in Antigua: Came to St. Croix in 1869. Submitted from Christiansted on the July 19th, 1882, for life imprisonment according to the royal resolution of September 3rd, 1881. According to the commission sentence of September 2nd, 1880, and the supreme court ruling of May 23rd, 1881, she was sentenced to life imprisonment for the participation in plunder and arson during the revolt on St. Croix in 1878 (She was one of the most intense agitators of the men, egging them to destruction). Previously punished in 1872 with 10x48 hours' water and bread for the mistreatment of her child and in 1875 with 4 days imprisonment for theft. Commenced the punishment in St. Croix arrest house on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1881. Is a member of the English church.*

*Class of constraint: Cl. 3*

*April 19<sup>th</sup>, 83; Cl. 4*

*June 25<sup>th</sup>, 85, Cl. 3*

*August 25<sup>th</sup>, 85, Cl. 4*

*December 18<sup>th</sup>, 87, returned to Christiansted in order to endure the remains of the sentence there.*

*Signed by the warden, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1887*

**Permission to write letters and speak to relatives:**

*24/8 84 Mrs Vilhelmine Petersen, care of mr. Larsen, ... of the ....., Christiansted*

*16/11 84 Mrs Larsen, Christiansted*

*22/2 85 do.*

*3/5 85 do.*

*7/6 85 do. Richmond, St. Croix*

*16/8 85 do.*

*23/12 85 do.*

*18/7 86 do.*

*7/11 86 do.*

*20/2 87 do.*

*19/9 87 do.*

*11/12 87 do.*

**Class of constraint**

**Class 3:** (g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)

**Class 4:** 19/4 83: (g-g)(g-g-g)(g-g)(g-g-g)(g-g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)

(g-g)(g-g)(g-g-g)(g-mg-g)(g-mg-)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-g)

(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(-g) (25/5 struck an inmate) reduced to

**Class 3:** 25/6 85 (g-g)(g-g)

**Class 4:** 25/8 85 (g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-g)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-ill)  
(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-g)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)  
(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)(g-mg)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The Danish grading scale system at the time (The "Ørsted scale") was: **ug** (excellent), **mg** (very good), **g** (good), **tg** (rather good), **mdl** (mediocre), **slet** (bad)