

On the 6 books of the Interrogation Records

The Commission's interrogations of a total of 430 detainees and numerous witnesses began on the 5th of November 1878 and was concluded on the 15th of August 1880. The Commission originally consisted of 3 members: Supreme Judge Philip Rosenstand, Bailiff Carl Sarauw and Police Chief Anton Forsberg.

On the 11th of December 1878, it was decided to divide the interrogations between the three Commission members, each focusing on certain gangs. The records of each of the commissioner's inquiries were collected in individual books (Rosenstand in book 1, Sarauw in book 2, Forsberg in book 3), there are some overlaps in time. For this reason, the interrogation books are not strictly chronological.

Forsberg fell ill and left the Commission on the 31st of December 1878, after only 2 months of interrogations, whereafter the Commission solely consisted of Rosenstand and Sarauw. However, also Sarauw suffered from bad health and was often absent. The bulk of the interrogations from 1879-1880 were thus carried out by Rosenstand alone.

The Interrogations Records are collected in 6 "books", the details of which are listed below:

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

At the outset of the interrogations, all three Commissioners Rosenstand, Sarauw and Forsberg were present. The keeper of the register was Police Principal B. Dendtler. The interrogations were carried out at St. Croix Arrest in Christiansted.

After the 11th of December 1878, the interrogations in Book 1 were carried out by Rosenstand alone.

Book 2: Interrogations from the 21st of November 1878 until the 6th of March 1880

These interrogations were carried out by Sarauw (except for the very last notice, where Rosenstand was also present). The keeper of the register was William Didrichsen.

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

These interrogations were carried out by Forsberg. The keeper of the register was E. Christensen. Book 3 also contains a couple of loose sheets from the 14th of December 1878 and the 22nd of December 1878.

Book 4: Interrogations from the 30th of December 1878 until the 16th of June 1879

These interrogations were carried out by Rosenstand. Keeper of the register was B. Dendtler, now “Assistant Chief Constable Dendtler”.

Book 5: Interrogations from the 17th of June 1879 until the 30th of January, 1880

These interrogations were carried out by both Rosenstand and Sarauw (who, however, was often absent). The keeper of the register was Police Principal B. Dendtler (towards the end of the book “Inspector Dendtler” or “Arrest Inspector Dendtler”).

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

These interrogations were conducted by Rosenstand and Sarauw (who, however, was often absent).