

**The appointed Court-Martial of the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1878 at Christiansværn fort, regarding the October rebellion**

*[folio 1, notice 3]<sup>1</sup>*

This document, affixed and with the seal of the presidency of St Croix, containing 284 pages, is hereby authorized as the legal protocol for the Court Martial established by order on St. Croix as of today.

The government of the Danish West Indian islands, St Croix, the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, 1878

August Garde

*[folio 3, notice 4]*

In the year of 1878, in the afternoon of the 6th of October, at 2 o'clock, the Court-Martial, appointed by the Governor by order of the 5th of this month, in the event of the uprising of the 1st of this month, convened at Christiansvernsfort, administered by the undersigned Upper Court Judge Rosenstrand as presiding Judge as well as the Legal Counsellor Police Chief<sup>2</sup> Forsberg and Police Chief Nyssum.

The Governor's appointment of the 5th of this month, which was forwarded to the presiding Judge this morning, is presented. Police chief Nyssum informs the court that, at present, around 60 people are brought in to the police and placed in the fort, all arrested for different types of activity in the uprising and the ensuing destruction. The court then takes these prisoners into custody. The Police Chief informs that the locations in the fort cannot be considered adequate for such a large number of prisoners of which several were considered to have been very active in the destruction. He recommends that some of the prisoners, in particular those which he will appoint in court, who, in his opinion, are less dangerous, can be transferred to St Croix Arrest.

Thereafter, the court assigns the Police Chief to make the necessary arrangements considering those detainees whose guilt cannot be considered very grievous, and to ensure that the unfree about whom more serious data has emerged can be completely safeguarded. The court lets the prisoners line up and emphasizes that they are indicted in order to be punished for their deeds, whereafter the prisoners are returned to the prison.

Court adjourned.

So happened *[folio 4-5, notice 5]*

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

---

<sup>1</sup> The references to the Folio point to the pages in the original, hand-written document

<sup>2</sup> According to texts from the period, the Police Chief was also called the "Policemaster"

---

In the year of 1878, on Monday the 7th of October, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Court-Martial convenes, administered as the previous day.

John Lewis of Pl: Lebanonhill is brought before the court, unchained. He was born on Rust up Twist and belongs to the Moravian congregation. He explains that last Thursday, he joined a gang which assembled at Windsor under the leadership of Augustus Hatchett, whom he called Captain, Henry James and Joe William and someone whose name he does not know, but who he called Jooka. The gang originally consisted of Windsor gang, which under the common shout "our side<sup>3</sup>" rushed forward and was joined by Concordia's gang. They passed Concordia up to Morningstar, which they, however, did not set fire to immediately, and they continued to Mt Pellier, which they set on fire. A boy, Bengt, was the first to strike a match in order to set fire to the greathouse. One of Bengt's sisters brought a bottle of petroleum to help the flares blaze. The detainee was what he calls "Vice-Captain<sup>4</sup>", and he blew a conch. He helped as well as he could to get the fire going. At Morningstar, which the gang set on fire, the detainee was not present when the fire was first started; he was inside the house where he assisted in the destruction, but the fire and smoke was too much for him. At Concordia, he was the one who broke open the allowance cellar. At Windsor, he personally set fire to the rum cellar, which Hatchett did not want burned. One man, Peter Francis, was burned to death there. From Windsor, the gang, which grew when joined by other "gangs", went to the Factori Station Glynn which some among the detainees did not want burned. During the subsequent disagreement, the detainee left the gang and went home to Lebanonhill, where he was picked up by the guard the following day and brought to town on Saturday.

Henry James of Windsor, appr. 25 years old, is brought before the court. He explains that the detainee John Lewis was the ringleader of the gang at Windsor which had 3 other leaders, namely Hatchett, Joe William and the detainee himself. The detainee was handed a conch which he immediately threw away. He followed the gang up to Mt Pellier and back again, but explains that he did not partake in the arson or any destruction. At Concordia, he separated from the others and went home. When the gang returned to Glynn, he went out to try to stop them from breaking open the cellar, in which he did not succeed. Afterwards, he stayed at home. The detainee affirms that the detainee John Lewis helped to set Mt Pellier on fire and that he was the one who set fire to Windsor's rum cellar, and that he, by and large, was one of the worst, or the worst of the gang. The gang consisted of laborers from 5 plantations. The detainee agrees with detainee John Lewis that Bengt James from Windsor was the one who set fire to Mt. Pellier greathouse. As the court finds that the case regarding the detainee John Lewis is sufficiently illuminated [folio 6-7, notice 6], it pronounces the following

## Verdict

---

<sup>3</sup> In the Danish text, the words "our side" are written in English

<sup>4</sup> Danish: "Under Captain"

The detainee John Lewis of Pl. Lebanonhill, estimated to be 22 years old, is by his own confession, which is sufficiently confirmed by what has otherwise been brought forth, proven to have actively partaken in the uprising that broke out amongst the country laborers on this island on the 1st of this month and which continued the following days. He has confessed that he was one of the leaders of a gang which assembled at Windsor and that he, with his own hands, participated in the arson of Mt Pellier's greathouse, and that he started the fire in the rum cellar at Windsor in which one of the rebels burned to death. The court unanimously finds the detainee guilty and he is sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

James de Silva of Jealousy is brought before the court. He is estimated to be 26 years old, and he states that he joined a gang at Carlton which, he says, consisted of thousands of negroes, which he followed as it proceeded and continued until Friday evening. In the beginning, the detainee did not partake in the arson, even though he was part of the gang. He did not start any fires before they reached Jealousy, as he says, doing the bid of Joseph Paris<sup>5</sup> command, and he also set fire to Slob and Monbijou where he set the rum cellar on fire with his own hands. Right from the West End, Paris was one of the ringleaders alongside Emanuel and Mason; several negroes were unwilling to follow, but the leaders, again particularly Paris, threatened and forced them, partly with beatings, to join.

Joseph Paris of Pl. Lower Love is brought before the court. He was born on Barbados. He denies having been part of the large gang which came from Frederiksted and he states that he did not join until some people came to Lower Love and urged him to follow along. He then joined a group of 80 people, of which he then was one of the leaders alongside a person by the name John Barnes. In the lead of this gang, he went to a great number of plantations which they burned. He did not start fires with his own hands, but as leader or co-leader of the gangs, he has taken part in the arson of particularly Goldengrove and Negrobay.

Thomas Small appears in court. He testifies that he had heard Paris order the arson of Goldengrove. As the court finds that the case regarding the detainees James de Silva and Joseph Paris is sufficiently illuminated, it pronounces the following

### **Verdict**

The detainee James de Silva of Pl. Jealousy, estimated to be 26 years old, has confessed that he at Pl. Carlton joined the gang of, he says, several people, who departed from Frederiksted on the Wednesday, and that he thereupon followed it constantly right until Friday evening and partook in various excesses and [folio 8-9, notice 7] arson. He has set fire to several plantations with his own hands. Therefore, the court finds him guilty and he is sentenced to death.

---

<sup>5</sup> Elsewhere: Parris

It is adjudged that the detainee should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

The detainee Joseph Paris of Lower Love, who was born on Barbados but who has lived on this island for 19 years, has confessed that he led several gangs and whilst he has not set fire to any place with his own hands, he is responsible for the arson of several plantations. Thus, the court finds him guilty and he is sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Joseph Paris should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

The three pronounced verdicts are sent to the Governor and are returned shortly after with the order to fulfill the sentence by shooting.

The presiding Judge has put forth a communication from the Governor, marked with today's date, which confirms the procedure of the executions.

The three verdicts are thereafter executed at 14:45<sup>6</sup>.

Police Chief Nyssom informs the court that Augustus Hakkett, who is in hospital being treated for the burns which he sustained during the arson of the rum cellar at Windsor, and who was one of those arrested as ringleaders, has died.

Fritz Richard of Mt Pleasant is brought before the court. He is estimated to be 24 years old and belongs to the congregation of the Anglican episc. Church. He explains that Mt Pleasant's gang<sup>7</sup> remained calm when Mt Pleasant's house and works<sup>8</sup> were set on fire by Joshua Collingmoore's gang. The following day, however, they formed their own gang, led by Emanuel of Antigua, the guard Laurentius, Frank and Mengo, and they made the detainee join. The detainee admits that he, thenceforth, became one of the leaders of the gang and was called "Captain". Whilst the other 4 were armed with sabers, the detainee only had a whip. This gang set fire to Lebanonhill, both the house and the works at Canaan and thereafter [...]<sup>10</sup> at La Vallee and Rust up Twist. The detainee claims that he did not start any fires with his own hands and also, he did not give anyone orders to do so – this was done by the 4 others.

---

<sup>6</sup> In the Danish text, all mentions of time are written as, fx 2 3/4 (14:45)

<sup>7</sup> Labor gang

<sup>8</sup> The "works", also called "the factory" consisted of the mill, the curing house, the cooking house, and sometimes a distillery

<sup>9</sup> In the Danish text, the word "Captain" is written in English

<sup>10</sup> There is a gap in the Danish text

William Watt, called Scotty, is brought before the court. He is estimated to be 25 years old and belongs to the congregation of the episc. Church. He explains that he has seen the previous detainee in Mt Pleasant's gang, carrying a whip in his hand, but that the other 4 of Mt Pleasant's people were far more prominent and they were the ones who gave the orders. Capt [folio 10-11, notice 8] - /: W<sup>m</sup> Watts: / claims that the only thing he had to do with the uprising was that he came across the gang between Monbijou and Little Fountain whereto he was sent in order to check on the livestock, and he followed them to Lebanonhill and Canaan, and then he returned. He claims not to have done anything. He says that he and some other laborers from Monbijou saved the manager's items and hid them in the negro village and that Joshua Collingmoore sent them word, through 3 men, that if they did not give up the items, the negro village would be set on fire. This, however, did not happen, even though they did not hand over the items. This was Wednesday evening, and Monbijou's gang<sup>11</sup> did not follow the rebels.

Before going further regarding Fritz Richard, the court decides to seek out those members of Mt Pleasant's gang which he has mentioned and who have been arrested.

More detainees appear in court, particularly from Pl. Monbijou, but their testimonies do not yet lead to decisive information.

The court is then adjourned till 8 o'clock in the evening.

At 8 o'clock in the evening, the members of the court convene again, and the examination continues with interrogations of a share of the many detainees whose number have increased considerably since the previous day.

The court's meeting ends at 10:30<sup>12</sup>.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

---

On, Monday, the British Vice-Consul Armstrong requested to attend the interrogations in the Court-Martial in case any English subjects are questioned – the presiding Judge refers him to the Governor.

---

Anno 1878 the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Court-Martial is in sitting and is administered as the previous day.

Abraham Johannes of Windsor is brought before the court and explains that on Thursday morning, John Lewis, who had been amongst the rebels down country, arrived at Windsor and announced that he had been sent by the rebels to bring along Windsor's gang<sup>13</sup>. Henry James and Joe Williams were immediately

---

<sup>11</sup> Labor gang

<sup>12</sup> The Danish text says 10 ½

<sup>13</sup> Labor gang

ready to join him and gathered the gang which continued up to Mt Pellier, such as has been previously explained by John Lewis; they had both been called Captains and they were armed, Henry James with a cutlass and a cane, Joe William with an ax. They marched in the front of the gang and only went back when someone fell behind or tried to shirk and desert in which case, they walked behind them and drove them onwards. He has not seen either Henry James or Joe Williams start fires with their own hands, but they gave orders to start fires. The gang passed Morningstar and went to Mt Pellier because the three Captains John Lewis, Henry James and Joe Williams did not think the gang was sufficiently big after Morningstar gang<sup>14</sup> had joined, and they wanted to include Mt Pellier gang<sup>15</sup>.

Joe Williams is brought before the court. He was born on St John, estimated to be 20 years old. He explains that John Lewis, when he came to Windsor, met the whole gang<sup>16</sup> sitting by the road, and they followed John Lewis. The detainee had an ax in his hand, and Henry James had a saber, and these two marched at the front. However, he claims that once they reached Morningstar, he was not a leader, for the people said that he was not good enough to be a leader. Lucas Isaac from Concordia was henceforth the leader of the gang, and it was he who opened the allowance cellar at Morningstar [*folio 12-13, notice 9*] and distributed allowances to the laborers.

Henry James is again brought before the court and now admits that he was armed with a saber and that he marched at the front of the gang from Windsor; he was indeed inside Morningstar's greathouse when it burned. The detainee grew up in planter Queale's house and has been his coachman. He also admits that it was he who blew the conch when the gang marched out from Windsor.

John Adams is brought before the court and explains that it was the gang from Windsor which was eager to get everything burned at Morningstar, and they yelled at the people there who sided with their Master. Especially Henry James was loud, shouting that they were stupid if they sided with Farrelly because he was a fervent member of the citizen's council and as such, he favored not giving the laborers higher wages.

At 12 the court meeting is adjourned

At 3 the court resumes

By request, the driver from Pl. Kingshill, George Marquis, a man who is commonly deemed decent and who has kept himself away from the movement, appears, and he states that a man from Mon Bijou, commonly called Poor Fellow, was the instigator of the arson of the works at Fredensborg as well as the greathouse and also Slob. In addition, he saw that another man from Mon Bijou, Sylvester, was continually part of the gang.

---

<sup>14</sup> Labor gang

<sup>15</sup> Labor gang

<sup>16</sup> Labor gang

William Holter, called Poor Fellow, is brought before the court and questioned, but he denies the charges. From the plantation<sup>17</sup> Golden Grove, Augustus George of Pl. Castle Burke is brought before the court. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church and is estimated to be 25 years old.

August Leffers, David James and Francis Bastian, all of Pl. Golden Grove, are brought before the court. Through Police Officer Dendler, they have charged Augustus George for having been one of the leaders of the arson of Golden Grove. They repeat the charges in the most certain and solemn way, stating that Augustus George was one of the leaders of a very violent gang which, under the leadership of Joseph Paris, came from Castle and Lower Love; they rushed in to the negro village to force the laborers at Golden Grove to join, but, according to their claim, almost none wanted to. The gang then set fire to the works and the greathouse and then continued to Envy and Manningsbay, and Gustav George was supposedly part of the gang.

Augustus George admits that he, alongside Paris, was in the lead of the mentioned gang, and he admits that this gang set fire to both Goldengrove and Negrobay.

The court session ends at 5:15<sup>18</sup>.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

---

In the year 1878 on the 9th of October in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Court-Martial is in session, administered as the previous day.

John Adams, born on the plantation Lower Love is brought before the court. He belongs to the congregation of the English Church and is 20-25 years old. According to police reports [*folio 14-15, notice 10*] and a great many statements, he is singled out as having been one of the worst instigators amongst the laborers at Morningstar and in particular for having fronted the gang and blown a conch and for having been particularly active in the arson of both Morningstar's works and greathouse. In court, he admits that he was present in Farrelly's house when it burned.

The laborers from Morningstar, Henry Ward, James Gums and Peter James, are brought before the court. Henry Ward and Peter James saw him<sup>19</sup> at the front of the gang from Morningstar, blowing a conch, and they thus consider him to be the leader of the Morningstar gang. He marched next to Henry James from Windsor, one of the main leaders of the gang which came up from Windsor. James Gums has, with his own eyes, seen him set fire to Farrelly's house.

---

<sup>17</sup> Generally called "Estates" in the Danish West Indies, but "Plantations" in Denmark

<sup>18</sup> The Danish text says 5 1/4

<sup>19</sup> John Adams

Henry James is brought before the court again, and he confirms that John Adams marched in the front of the Morningstar gang, blowing a conch. They marched side by side alongside Joe Williams from Windsor, and John Adams was active at both Montpellier and Morningstar.

John Adams is brought before the court and repeats that he was inside Farrelly's house when it was set on fire, without having starting the fire himself, and he denies marching at the front of the gang, but he affirms that he had a conch, and he admits that he broke open the door to the curing house, when the gang returned from Montpellier.

The present people from Morningstar state that John Adams was the worst of the gang from there on.

Court adjourned at 10:30<sup>20</sup>

Court resumed at 12:00

As the court finds the cases regarding the detainees Henry James of Pl. Windsor, John Adams of Pl. Morningstar and Augustus George of Pl. Castle sufficiently illuminated, it pronounces the following

### Verdicts

The court is convinced that the detainee Henry James of Pl. Windsor, born on St Eustatius and estimated to be 25 years old, on the basis of everything that has been brought forth in the meticulous examination and when also his own confession is taken into consideration, actively partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the laborers on this island on the 1st of this month and which continued during the following days, and he has in particular been one of the leaders of a gang which was formed at Windsor and which, after the laborers from other plantations had joined them, set fire to the plantations Montpellier, Morningstar and Concordia.

It is adjudged that the detainee Henry James of Pl. Windsor should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

The court is convinced that the detainee Augustus George of Pl. Castle, born on Cotton Valley and estimated to be 25 years old, according to the testimonies that have come forth during the examination, in particular from the laborers on Pl. Golden Grove, actively partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the laborers on this island on the 1st of this month and which continued during the following days, and he has been one of the leaders and he has, in concurrence with the given testimonies also admitted that we has *[folio 16-17, notice 11]* one of the leaders of a gang which was established by Joseph Paris, and which with great use of violence attacked Pl. Golden Grove and burned this plantation as well as the plantation Negrobay and several other plantations to the ground.

---

<sup>20</sup> The Danish text says 10 1/2

The court unanimously finds the detainee guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Augustus George should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

The court is convinced that the detainee John Adams of the plantation Morningstar, born on Pl. Lower Love and estimated to be 20-25 years old, according to the given testimonies, particularly from the laborers on the plantation Morningstar, actively partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the laborers on this island on the 1st of this month and which continued during the following days, and he has particularly been the leader of Morningstar's laborers when they, encouraged by the gang which was formed at Windsor, joined this gang which set fire to and destroyed the plantations Montpellier and Morningstar, and at the latter, the detainee was a directly active participant in the arson.

The court unanimously finds the detainee guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee John Adams should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

The verdicts are sent to the Governor and are returned with the order to fulfill the sentence by shooting, whereafter the execution takes place at 3 o'clock.

At 15:30<sup>21</sup>, William Holder, alias Poor Fellow, of Pl. Monbijou is brought before the court. He was born on Barbados but has been in this country for 16 years and states that he was 14 when he arrived on this island. He states that he usually goes by the name Poor Boy. It is noted that the court has received several charges against the detainee for acting as leader of a gang which was responsible for several arsons Wednesday night at Slob, Fredensborg and Kingshill, Lebanonhill, Canaan and Rust up Twist. The detainee states that Wednesday evening, whilst Slob and Fredensborg were burning, he was not further away than at Monbijou livestock fold and that on the entire day Thursday, when the other plantations burned, was not further away than Little Fountain.

George Marquis, driver at Pl. Kingshill, is brought forth and explains that Poor Fellow was the leader of a gang which came from Monbijou on Wednesday evening and which set fire to the works and the greathouse at Fredensborg and Slob. Whilst in his own house, which the gang set fire to, or partly outside said house, the witness quite clearly both saw and heard how Poor Fellow raged outside with a saber in his hand. The same driver has brought forth 3 men, Anthony Mayk., Benjamin David and Coffy. Anthony Mayk. heard Poor Fellow shout and demand fire down by the works at Fredensborg, and he set the

---

<sup>21</sup> The Danish text says 3 1/2

magass ablaze, and thereafter he set fire to the overseer's house<sup>22</sup> and finally, the greathouse. All the time, Poor Fellow was very active and slashed at the witness with a saber when he tried to save manager Dams. Koks. bed [folio 18-19, notice 12]. From Fredensborg they continued to Slob.

Benjamin David, who that evening was appointed guard at Fredensborg, also states that Poor Fellow was the leader. He threatened the witness and said that if he showed his face in Fredensborg, he would put him on the mill, and the witness clearly heard Poor Fellow give the gang the order to set both Fredensborg and Slob on fire.

From Fredensborg greathouse, where he was, Coffy heard Poor Boy, down by the works yell his "strike the light"<sup>23</sup>, and he saw him lead the arson of both the factories and the greathouse. The detainee Poor Boy now admits that he was amongst some of Monbijou's people on Wednesday evening, and that they followed Silva's and Collimoor<sup>24</sup>'s gang which came from Mt Pleasant, and that he, at Fredensborg and Slob, did indeed participate in the destruction there, but he says that he was only a common soldier.

During closer interrogation, the detainee explains in more detail, regarding different things, that he knows that the movement which broke out in Frederiksted was caused by the police coming in between some negroes who were fighting in a rum shop. He was not himself in the West End, but he believes that it was Collemoor and Paris and Emanuel along with a Bordoe<sup>25</sup>, who currently is a laborer at Pl. Orange Grove here in Christiansted. Bordoe, he says, was wounded in the shoulder by one of the other Captains somewhere between Mt Pleasant and Jaloui, because he gave a wrong order. He believes that the movement had been planned for a long time and that it originated<sup>26</sup> near West End and he thinks that there are other leaders apart from the 4 negroes who began the goings-on in the West End.

A person who calls himself Robert James, who is from the plantation Orange Grove and who was wounded in the left shoulder, is brought before the court. He pretends that he had continuously been at home at Orange Grove during the uprising, and that he was arbitrarily wounded by a sugar ax. He is, however, recognized by both detainee Poor Fellow and another laborer from Monbijou called Watch, who goes under the name Skotti<sup>27</sup>, as the man who, amongst the leaders from Westend went under the name Bordeaux.

Tomorrow, the court is to relocate to Westend, and it decided to bring along the so-called Robert James, who was probably the wanted Bordeaux from Westend.

The court's residing Judge then ordains that the court tomorrow is to relocate to Frederiksted, whereafter its meetings here are temporarily postponed.

The court adjourns at 6 o'clock.

---

<sup>22</sup> Danish: Underforvalterboligen

<sup>23</sup> In the Danish text, the words "strike the light" are written in English

<sup>24</sup> Elsewhere: Collemore, Collingmore, Collingmoore

<sup>25</sup> Elsewhere: Bordeaux

<sup>26</sup> The Danish text says "hører hjemme" (belongs)

<sup>27</sup> Elsewhere: Scotty

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssum

---

In the year 1878 on the Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October in the middle of the day at 12 o'clock sharp, the Governor's Court-Martial, appointed by order of the 5<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of the uprising which broke out the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, is set in Frederiksfort, administered by the undersigned Upper Court Judge Rosenstand, Legal Council Police Chief Forsberg and Police Chief Petersen.

The British Vice Consul Du Bois is present during the interrogation of British subjects.

The Police Chief in Frederiksted brings Thomas Graydon before the court. He is charged with being the leader of the gang of rebels who started fires in the town Frederiksted as well as plantations in the countryside. He states that he was born on Barbados but has been in this country for 5 years. He is 34 years old. The court goes over the details in the statements in Frederiksted's police proceedings concerning the detainee and confront him with the given statements.

The detainee maintains that he did not participate in the goings-on further than having been in this town the night between Tuesday and Wednesday [*folio 20-21, notice 13*] when the fires blazed in the town, and later in different places in the country where plantations burned, but he denies having started fires himself or having given the order to do so.

The court then passes the following

### **Verdict**

The detainee Thomas Graydon of Pl. The William, born on Barb., 24 years old. In the light of the testimony given during the examination, the court is convinced that he did actively partake in the uprising which broke out amongst the plantation laborers on this island on the 1<sup>st</sup> and which continued the following days, and it is particularly proven that he from the beginning of the uprising in Frederiksted was very active in promoting and encouraging arson and attacks on the fort.

The court unanimously finds the detainee guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Thomas Graydon should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

The detainee Samuel Henry of Pl. Concordia, estimated to be around 25 years old, is brought before the court. He was born on Antigua and has resided on this island for 16-17 years.

The court goes through the police minutes regarding all the detainee's explanations. The detainee was wounded in his left hand, which, he explains, happened when a shot was fired from the fort into the mob

when they tried to storm the fort. The detainee is thus charged with participation in the killing of planter Fountaine on the outskirts of town, but he denies this charge, which is not sufficiently substantiated, and the court does not find it advisable to defer his case after proof in this item. Furthermore, the court finds that his case is sufficiently illuminated and pronounces the following

## Verdict

The court is convinced that the detainee Samuel Henry of Pl. Concordia who was born on Antigua and estimated to be 25 years old, according to his own confession, which is sufficiently strengthened by what is otherwise disclosed, partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the farm laborers on this island on the 1<sup>st</sup> and which continued the following days, and it is particularly proven that he was exceedingly active during the attacks on the fort on which occasion he was shot in the wrist and he endeavored to set fire to the petroleum stock.

The court unanimously finds the detainee to be guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Samuel Henry should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

The verdicts are sent to the Governor, who resides in Frederiksted, and they shortly after return with an execution order which is thereafter executed at 3 o'clock.

The court's session [*folio 22-23, notice 14*] is thereafter adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

---

In the year 1878 on the Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Court-Martial is in sitting, administered as the previous day.

The detainee Daniel Philip of Pl. La Grange, born on St. Kitts is brought forth. According to his own statement, he is 20 years old. The court goes through everything that is noted in the police minutes regarding the detainee, according to which he was one of the worst ringleaders in the destruction in Frederiksted town as well as at the plantations on the North side. Also, according to his own testimony, he passed on orders to instigate arson, which he received from, in particular, the ringleader Graydon.

The detainee Robert James of Pl. Orange Grove, born at Peters Rest, is brought forth. He is estimated to be 25 years old. He was sent here, to Frederiksted, by the court after having been identified by Poor Boy and Scotty from Monbijou as being he who had been wounded by another group member.

The detainee Joshua Collingmore of Pl. Jealousy is brought forth and explains that, after having helped manager to hide at Pl. Jealousy, he ran over to Monbijou in order to also help recover Field's horse,

which Paris had seized, and there he met Paris' big gang in which the detainee Robert James was also a leader, alongside Emanuel and Lewis from Mt Pleasant, who is the one who slashed Robert James in the shoulder with an axe when they brawled regarding who was in command. Robert James was the ringleader in the arson of Monbijou. The deponent saw him personally lead the burning of the magass stacks.

George Francis of Pl. Mt Pleasant is brought forth and explains that he was at home at Jealousy Wednesday evening. Robert James arrived with a gang and said that he was Captain. When the gang set fire to Jealousy, the deponent ran home to Mt Pleasant where the gang turned up shortly after. There, Robert James had almost killed a woman because she refused to lead the gang up to the manager's house. De Silva did this and the group set fire to everything. When they had done that, Edward Lewis from Mt Pleasant got into a quarrel with Robert James regarding whether they should go to Hermitage or Monbijou. Lewis' gang went to Hermitage and Robert James' went to Monbijou. Robert James now explains that it is not true that he was in his house the whole time, but when he heard that there were fires in the Westend, he went down country; at Kingshill, he met Paris' group, which through violence forced him to follow, and he followed the gang on its procession. In the gang, he was called Captain, and he also heard the yell "Capt. Bordeaux" but he does not admit to being Captain. He says that he has a brother called Bordeaux, but he did not see him in the group.

As the court, regarding the detainees Daniel Philip and Robert James, find that the case is sufficiently illuminated, it pronounces the following

### **Verdicts**

The court is convinced that the detainee Robert James of Pl. Orange [*folio 24-25, notice 15*] Grove, born on the plantation Peters Rest, estimated to be 25 years old, actively partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the plantation laborers on this island on the 1<sup>st</sup> and which continued the following days, and it is particularly proven that he joined the group under the command of Paris, which vandalized and set fire to a great part of the wealthiest plantations in the middle of the country.

The court unanimously finds the detainee to be guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Robert James should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

The detainee Daniel Philip of Pl. La Grange, born on the island St Kitts is, according to his own statement, 20 years old, and in the light of the examination, the court is convinced that he actively partook in the uprising which broke out amongst the farm laborers on this island on the 1<sup>st</sup> and which continued the following days, and it is particularly proven that he partook in the arson of plantations on the North side in that he distributed orders which he was given by the ringleaders, namely Thomas Graydon.

The court unanimously finds the detainee Daniel Philip to be guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Daniel Philip should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

Prior to the conviction, Robert James explained that Joseph Paris played havoc throughout the country under the proclamation that “the negroes should unify and fight for liberty and that all whites should be killed<sup>28</sup>”, whilst Daniel Philip explained that Thomas Graydon rushed forward and gathered his gang under the same call. Both the convictees stated that they belonged to the episcopal church.

The Governor orders the two sentences which have been pronounced today to be executed, and the execution is carried out at 4 o’clock.

James Steward, head teacher at the Citizen School in this town, is brought forth and explains that yesterday afternoon, he helped to arrest a man called John Charles of Pl. Carlton who was singled out as a participant in the murder of the two soldiers, and John Charles confessed to him that he was amongst the people who threw the one soldier over the balcony from Pl. Skeoch’s gallery down to the violent commotion. The gang leader Carib Captain James Tidmarsh gave the same explanation.

The detainee John Charles is brought forth and confesses that he has said what is specified to Steward and Tidmarsh, but he denies having thrown the soldier over the gallery, where he indeed was present in the crowd. He declares that the soldier did not die from the fall but from the abuse which was subsequently carried out by the mob below. He has heard that it was Joe Harris who took the soldier’s saber and stabbed him in his waist, but he did not see it himself.

The court *[folio 26-27, notice 16]* is adjourned at 6 o’clock.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

---

In the year of 1878, on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, in the morning at 8 o’clock, the Court-Martial is set in Frederiksfort, administered as the previous day.

The detainee John Charles is brought forth.

Andreas Crawford, overseer at Pl. Carlton is brought forth and explains that after the soldiers had been carried out and placed on the country road, the detainee told him that he – the detainee – was the one who threw the soldier over the gallery.

James Evans, called Cock, of Pl. Carlton, is brought forth and explains that he had to go into hiding because he had tried to hinder the mob in gaining access to the soldiers. However, from his hiding place,

---

<sup>28</sup> The quote is written in Danish: ”at Negerne skulde samles og slaaes for Liberty og at alle Blanke skulde dræbes”

he saw everything that went on in the gallery, and he saw with absolute certainty that it was John Charles who threw the soldier over the gallery and that he grabbed his legs and let him somersault over the gallery.

Prince of Carlton, a person who looks like a boy, but who came here 17 years ago from Barbados, is brought forth. He explains that he was below the gallery when the soldier was upstairs, and he saw with absolute certainty that it was John Charles who instigated the throwing of the soldier over the gallery, and that, when the soldier clung to one of the posts, he took his knife and cut the soldier's wrist in order to make him let go. The witness then saw that John Charles followed the cart on which the mistreated soldiers, who were not yet dead, were transported to the country road, and on the way, he continuously abused the soldiers, and finally, when they had been thrown onto the country road, he pressed sharp Prickly Pear thorns into their heads.

Cathrine O Carol and Louisa Jackson, both of Carlton, are brought forth. They are both known by overseer Crawford and they also declare that they saw John Charles throw the soldier over the gallery. Louisa Jackson also saw that John Charles followed the cart which transported the soldiers onto the country road, carrying a large cane in his hand, but when he was in the gallery, where he had been all the time in order to keep the mob away, she could not see very far.

Richard Watzon is brought forth and explains that he saw John Charles when he followed the cart which transported the soldiers, and that he hit one of them in the head with his cane when he tried to lift his head.

John Charles is born on Sionfarm, is estimated to be 35 years old and belongs to the Catholic Church.

The detainee Joseph Harrison is brought forth. He was born on Jamaica, has been in this country for 8 years and is estimated to be 30 years old. He is not a permanently employed plantation laborer, but for the last 4 months, he has worked as a "carter" on Pl. Carlton. He belongs to the episc. Church.

Richard Watzon is brought forth. In the police minutes /: Folio 54 :/ he has stated that Joe Harrison took the saber from one of the soldiers and then stabbed him in the side. He now explains in further detail that when the soldiers fled from the stables, after they were given [folio 28-29, notice 17] the message that the mob was coming after them, Harrison managed to grab the saber away from one of them, and then he followed the soldiers up to the staircase which leads to the gallery. The witness saw that Harrison stabbed the soldier in the side three times, and one of the stabs was a quarter deep.

James Evans is brought forth, and regarding the murder at Carlton, he further explains that it was Harrison who first arrived at the stables door in order to pull the soldiers out of the stables, and he pushed aside the stable hand Richard, who tried to hide the soldiers from the mob at the door. The witness saw and heard him yell to the mob that the soldiers were inside the stables. When, after the yell, the soldiers tried to flee, he grabbed one of them, drew his saber and chased him round the yard like a madman, slashing him with the saber.

Richard Samuel, who is a groom at Carlton, is brought forth. When he heard that the mob had gotten wind of where the soldiers were hiding and that they were coming through the negro village to get hold of them, he hid them in the stables. Harrison came rushing to the stable door, whilst the rest of the mob was busy destroying the soldiers' wagon and he hailed the mob, hollering that he had found the soldiers. He managed to tear the saber away from one of them, and he chased him through the yard with blows and slashes. When the witness saw blood flow, he ran away.

Joseph Sealy is brought forth and explains that when he left the negro village and came up to the house, the soldiers were already being mistreated. The mob abused them most awfully with ax slashes and stones and canes. They were lying, half dead, at the foot of the house, and Joe Harrison was amongst those who beat them at the time when he had a cane.

Prince is brought forth again and explains that he saw Harrison chase the soldier with the saber. When the soldier attempted to flee up the stairs, he grabbed him by the neck and tugged him down again. After all witnesses had been brought forth, Harrison continued to declare that he had not, with the sabre killed or taken part in the killing of any of the soldiers. He had, as many of the others, pursued him with a cane.

The detainee John Charles is brought forth again and confesses that he had been amongst those who threw the soldier over the gallery, but that he had not done it alone.

The court finds that the case regarding the detainees which have been interrogated today is sufficiently illuminated and it pronounces the following

### **Verdicts**

The court is convinced that the detainee John Charles of Pl. Carlton, born on Pl. Sionfarm, estimated to be 35 years old, after what has come forth through testimonies and, partly, through his own confession, actively partook in the murder which was committed on two soldiers at Pl Carlton, Wednesday morning the 2nd.

The court unanimously finds the detainee John Charles to be guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee John Charles should be sentenced to death. *[folio 30-31, notice 18]*

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

The court is convinced that the detainee Joseph Harrison of plantation Carlton, born on Jamaica and estimated to be 30 years old, after what has come forth through testimonies and in particular through several identical testimonies, was one of the ringleaders and also the most active participant in the murder which was committed on two soldiers at Pl Carlton, Wednesday morning the 2nd.

The court unanimously finds the detainee Joseph Harrison to be guilty and he should be sentenced to death.

It is adjudged that the detainee Joseph Harrison should be sentenced to death.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

The detainees are led away.

Later, General War Commissioner Major G. Gyllich<sup>29</sup>, Police Assistent, is brought forth in court. He explains that he was out with the Police Chief on Tuesday afternoon, endeavoring to keep the order amongst the mobs which, at that time, were starting to converge in the yard and play havoc. Here, he met Ferdinand Ludvig – who, according to the police minutes, was an active participant in the arsons – on the street, in a mob, where he, yelling and hollering, whipped up the mob.

The witness had the absolutely certain impression that he was actively instigating and bringing about a commotion. During the night, when the witness was confined and under siege in the fort along with the police force, and whilst the arsonists were raging in the town, he could see, from the fort battery whose surroundings were completely illuminated by the fireburn<sup>30</sup>, Ferdinand Ludvig standing by the fire in merchant John Moore's shop.

He rushed around in the same excited way as he had done during the afternoon. He was one of the most fervent in ripping products out of Moore's shop in order to throw them on the bonfire which the rebels compiled from the goods which were hauled out of the shops. Ferdinand Ludvig is always on the spot when there is trouble.

The Police Officers Glasgow and Sehested are brought forth in court and state, with regard to the given testimonies, that all through the afternoon, they saw Ferdinand Ludvig amongst the mob. He was waiting and yelling and continually had his hands full of stones and big conches, in all ways challenging the police, inciting the men to wreak havoc.

Lewis Golden is brought forth. He has previously stated that, many times during the day, he had seen a heavy black man, who was one of the worst, inciting the mob.

Ferdinand Ludvig is brought forth, and the witness immediately recognizes the man he has described.

Then, Golden explains that as early as in the morning, shortly before 11, he saw Ferdinand Ludvig walk around in the streets [*folio 32-33, notice 19*], acting up like a mad man, even though he was walking alone at the time. Two police officers, Glasgow and Larsen and several negroes from the countryside tried to calm him down, but he swore that no one was going to touch him today, not even the Police Chief

---

<sup>29</sup> The Danish text reads: “Overkriegscommissair G. Gyllich, Politiassistent “. “Overkriegscommissair” translates “General war commissioner”. Gyllich was also commander of the Frederiksted fire corps. Additionally, since the text adds “Politiassistent”, this is also added

<sup>30</sup> The Danish text uses the word “Ildebrand” (directly translated: Fireburn)

himself. The witness lost sight of him at the time and believes that he went out into the countryside, but later on in the day, he saw him again, this time he was infuriated and joined a mob. This was around 4 o'clock, when the mob stopped the Police Chief's wagon. The deponent has not seen the detainee attack the fort or seen him any of the places where arson was committed.

The detainee confesses that he has walked around town and caused trouble, but he had no intention of organizing an uprising and certainly not committing arson in the town.

Peter Carl Johannes is brought forth and explains that he saw and heard Ferdinand Ludvig several times during the day, walking around like a lunatic, sometimes alone and sometimes along with a few others and in small or larger mobs. He yelled that he was indeed a cruzan but that he was going to join the Barbadians. That afternoon, he saw the detainee in the front of a mob, throwing stones and conches at a soldier on horseback, who was out trying to keep the order. The witness did not see him at the attack on the fort or during any acts of arson, but also, he had no opportunity to do so.

Louis Philip Abbot is brought forth and explains that he saw Ferdinand Ludvig in the afternoon. He was part of a mob, throwing stones at the mounted military who were out trying to keep order amongst the mob. Later during the afternoon, the witness saw him in a mob, throwing stones at the fort. He did not see him actively participate in arson, but still, he could well have been there.

Cand. Phar. S.W. Stevens is brought forth and explains that he recognizes the detainee as a man who was pointed out to him as Ferdinand Ludvig, and whom he had seen in the afternoon, around 4-5 o'clock, in a mob outside the pharmacy. He was in a startled, agitated condition and he swore and cursed, particularly he heard him say the following words, "I am going to die to night but I will see it out<sup>31</sup>".

The prisoners are led away and the witness steps down.

The verdicts pronounced today are executed at 2:30<sup>32</sup> this afternoon, whereafter the court session is adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      P. Petersen

---

In the year of 1878, on the 14th of October, in the morning at 9 o'clock, the Court-Martial is in session in Christiansværnsfort.

Edward Lewis of Pl Mt Pleasant is brought forth. Yesterday, he had been taken prisoner, he had been taken in the bushes at Mt Eagle, where he had gone into hiding. He explains that, on Wednesday the 2nd, in the afternoon, Paris' gang came to Mt Pleasant and threatened and forced, partially with beatings, the

---

<sup>31</sup> In the Danish text, the words "I am going to die to night but I will see it out" are written in English

<sup>32</sup> The Danish text says 2 1/2

laborers at Mt Pleasant, who had hitherto remained calmly at home - except for Emanuel, whom Edward Lewis believes to have followed the swarm right from the beginning. The detainee explains that it was he who, with an ax [folio 34-35, notice 20] slashed one of the leaders - he does not know his name - in the shoulder, when he tried to force the detainee and other people from Mt Pleasant to follow along in order to arson Monbijou.

Mt Pleasant's people now parted from the main gang and went over to Hermitage which they, along with Hermitage's staff, burned down. From there, led by Manuel, Printz and Mingo, they went through Monbijou, whose laborers they convinced to go along with them to Lebanonhill, Canaan and over the hills down to the North coast. However, the detainee left them at Canaan and went home. From the time when the military began to pursue the gangs, he went into hiding in the bushes on the hills. Emanuel was with him up there, but he fled when the people from Hermitage came up yesterday and arrested the detainee. The detainee states that he has been beaten, primarily by Paris and the man whom he wounded, and he was forced to join the gang. He has marks that bear witness to beatings.

As a consequence of the initiation of the court's many examinations of the many participants in the uprising throughout the day, a number exceeding 100, John Samson is brought forth later. Ferdinand Ludvig has accused him of taking an active part in the uprising in Frederiksted. He confesses that he had been in Frederiksted on Tuesday afternoon, but he denies taking part in the riot, and when confronted with Ferdinand Ludvig, the latter cannot with certainty point him out as one of the participants, but he states that he had heard about John Samson that he had ridden on one of the fort's horses and that he had riled up the mob.

The court's session is adjourned 4:30<sup>33</sup>

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssom

---

On the 30th of October, in the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the Court-Martial's members of Christiansted convene in Christiansværnsfort.

A communication from the government of the 28th is presented in which the Court-Martial is lifted and the court is informed that the government has appointed a Commission which is to examine and rule in cases concerning the crimes committed by participants in the uprising. The court then agrees to submit this communication to its protocol and to send the government a copy of the same.

The presiding Judge notes that, after the Court-Martial has ended its session in Frederiksted, and as the Governor left the island for a few days on the 14th, it was an agreement between the Governor and the Upper Court Judge that the Court-Martial should not deliver more verdicts than imperatively necessary, as it is to be succeeded by a Commission, which is now appointed, and this insight has been communicated to the other members of the court.

---

<sup>33</sup> The Danish text says 4 1/2

The court thereafter finds that there is no imperative need for succinct convictions of any of those guilty, and that it is not necessary under these premises to continue examinations of the nature that lies within the court's jurisdiction.

Therefore, the court has not held any session since the 14th, neither here nor in *[folio 36-37, notice 21]* Frederiksfort.

The court is subsequently adjourned.

Ph Rosenstand      Forsberg      M R Nyssom

Presented in the inquiry commission on the 4th of November, 1878

Ph Rosenstand

*[loose leaf, notice 25]*

The proceedings of the Court-Martial will, after having been presented in the first court in peacetime, be on loan and sent to St Thomas in order to be supplied with the government seal and then be registered in court. It was not possible for the police to gather reliable information regarding the destroyed plantations (partially or completely) and other property concerning what is still standing, and also when plantations burned.