

All mentions of Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) and Mathilde Mac Bean Fireburn Interrogation records

The following is a collection of excerpts from the 6 books of interrogation records (1787-1880). The collection consists of 13 passages in which there is mention of Axeline Elizabeth Salomon and Mathilde Mac Bean.

Axeline (Agnes) Elizabeth Salomon was sentenced to death for encouraging and participating in the murder of the 2 soldiers at Plantation Carlton. This sentence was later commuted to hard labor in prison for life. She was transferred to "Christianshavns prison" in Copenhagen, Denmark, on the 19th of June 1882, and was sent back to St. Croix on the 18th of December 1887.

Mathilde Mc Bean was sentenced to death for encouraging and participating in the murder of the 2 soldiers at Plantation Carlton. This sentence was later commuted to hard labor in prison for life. She was transferred to "Christianshavns prison" in Copenhagen, Denmark, on the 19th of June 1882, and was sent back to St. Croix on the 31st of December 1887.

1. 23rd of November 1878 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(book 1)
2. 12th of December 1878 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(book 1)
3. 18th of January 1879 Mathilde Mac Bean (book 4)
4. 21st of January 1879 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(book 4)
5. 25th of January 1879 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilde Mac Bean (book 4)
6. 14th of February 1879 Mathilde Mac Bean (book 4)
7. 28th of February 1879 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(book 4)
8. 20th of June 1879 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilde Mac Bean (book 5)
9. 19th of July 1879 Mathilde Mac Bean (book 5)
10. 4th of April 1880 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(+ Mathilde Mac Bean (book 6)
11. 17th of April 1880 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(+ Mathilde Mac Bean (book 6)
12. 1st of May 1880 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(+ Mathilde Mac Bean (book 6)
13. 10th of July 1880 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes)(+ Mathilde Mac Bean (book 6)

Mention #1 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) (book 1)

Saturday the 23rd of November 1878

(...) **Axelina Elizabeth Salomon, called Agnes**, from Pl. L. Bethlehem, appears regarding the interrogation obtained in Frederiksted Police Court on the 9th of October. She states that on the Wednesday morning in question, after having been at Carlton as explained in the mentioned interrogation, she went straight home to Bethlehem. Regarding the goings-on at Carlton, she still admits that she threw a stone at a soldier - because she saw a soldier in Carlton's yard - but she says that the soldier did not fall to the ground after she threw the stone, and she only did it because everyone else in the mob harassed her because she didn't do anything. It was John Christian /: Flanders shot :/ and Joseph /: Heyns :/ who got the rabble mob, which the detainee came across on the way, outside Carlton, to go into the plantation. About approximately 7 o'clock, the detainee had just set off towards town, as she in a room which has a bed, and under the bed¹¹⁸. Right outside Carlton, she came across a rabble mob which made it impossible for her to pass, as it swept her along with it as it, as mentioned, went into Carlton under the leadership of Flanders and Joseph. It was Flanders who told the mob that

there were two soldiers at Carlton and that they were to go and get them. The largest section of the mob went along when Flanders walked up through the negro village to get round the plantation yard, whilst the smaller section, with Joseph in the lead, walked down the avenue up to the yard. Flanders had a cudgel in his hand, whilst Joseph had a sugar axe and a knife in his hand. The sugar axe was fastened to a cane. On particular request in that regard, the detainee states that she threw a stone at the soldier before anyone had attacked him, that the stone was the size of her fist, that her throwing of the stone did not fell the soldier so that he tumbled to the ground, but that he was beaten down by Flanders and Joseph. On his flight, the soldier which the detainee speaks about had reached the cistern which is situated between the greathouse and the stable. She saw the soldier fall to the ground because of others' beatings and then, horrified and yelling, she ran away. The detainee did not see any other soldier, and she does not know if he is the one who was pursued by Harrison, because she did not see or notice this pursuit with the saber /: cf. the Court Martial Protocol of the 12th of October :/

Joseph Heyns from Pl. Carlton appears, whom the detainee **Agnes** with absolute certainty recognizes as the Joseph whom she has mentioned. She¹¹⁹ decidedly denies having participated on the mentioned occasion and she states that the goings-on in Carlton's yard took place whilst she was still at Roses Hill where she lives, and from where she first came down to Carlton, and then, the soldiers had already been brought on onto the country road /: cf. the Court Martial interrogation :/

However, detainee **Agnes** maintains that he is the one, and she states that on the day when they were brought in chains from the English ship to the prison, she saw the detainee, whose name she did not know before, and she asked other prisoners who he was, because she recognized him as the man from the rabble mob at Carlton.

The detainee¹²⁰ maintains that it cannot have been him whom she saw. The detainee is charged with having participated in the arson at Pl. Whim. The detainee denies having participated in the arson at Whim, of which he is charged. The gang which burned down Whim came there from Carlton, where the works were burned on Thursday at noon at 12-1. Whilst Whim burned, the detainee, amongst others, hereunder also the detainee Alexander Blackmann were busy bringing planter Skeorch's things into safety, and the detainee was in the yard, close to the cistern, when the gang, taking a shortcut through the "Leespond", had direction towards the works. The leaders of the gang were William Washington, previously from Goodhope, Joseph Briggs from Fredensbog, James Spencer from Høgensborg and Sophia from Høgensborg. This last-mentioned person had a little basket fastened on her side with matches and under her arm, she had a bottle of kerosene. Joseph Briggs, who has previously lived at Carlton, showed the way to the rum cellar, which was then broken open by William Washington and James Spencer, and then Sophia started the fire. As soon as the fire was lit, they came up to the yard and went to the cellar which is situated below the greathouse. When Zanko and Good Hope wanted to get going on the allowance cellar immediately, Briggs threatened him and said that he would chop off his head if he opened the allowance cellar before he was given the order, and he had him first open Mr. Skeoch's own cellar, where the gang indulged in a barrel and other drinks which they found there; then, Washington broke the lock of the allowance cellar with an axe whilst James Spencer and Sophia went up to the house, followed by the driver and the detainee, who tried to stop them from destroying it and setting it on fire. There were 4 barrels of flour and a barrel of salt fish in the cellar, which had been broken, so the people could take what they wanted. A large quantity of flour and fish was thus taken away by the women, carrying it in pillowcases, aprons and scarves, and what they could not carry away was spread in the yard. The gang also threatened to burn down the negro village because they believed that Carlton's laborers were not sufficiently eager and willing to join them, and they didn't want to follow the gang to Høgensborg. At the same time, however, a group of soldiers had just arrived, and the gang spread all over in the sugarcane fields and in the negro village. 7 were shot. This

gang was thus dispersed, and the detainee maintains that he was not part of it, neither at Whim nor any other place.

According to what this detainee has stated and what has come forth in the various statements on Thursday, this gang burned down Williamsdelight, Enfjeldgreen and partially Diamond, along with Good Hope, Whim and Carlton.

Mention #2 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) (book 1)

Thursday the 12th of December 1878

(...) Detainee Joseph Spencer appears. He is presented with the various charges which are held against him, that he has participated in the committed excesses at several places - apart from participation in the gang which burned down Carlton on Thursday, to which he has admitted - namely, in Frederiksted town, at Carlton on Wednesday morning, at Concordia and at Grove Place, and he denies having participated in the excesses at these places. He did not leave his home at Høgensborg before Wednesday afternoon between 12 and 2 o'clock. At Two Williams School House, he came across a big crowd of people who made a commotion and moved backwards and forwards and then they moved towards Westend. They talked about - it was mainly Agnes from L. Bethlehem who talked about it - that there were soldiers at Wheel of Fortune, and then someone from inside Concordia's yard yelled that there were soldiers in there. He states that it was John Peter and a woman called Rebecca who called in the gang like this, and then the plantation was burned. Thus, the detainee saw the gang at Concordia, but he was not part of it in Frederiksted, and he was not at all at Carlton on Wednesday morning or at Grove Place (...)

Mention #3 Mathilda Mac Bean (book 4)

Saturday the 18th of January 1879

(...) Detainee Mathilda Mac Bean from Pl: Cane, born at Pl: Roses-Hill, appears. She maintains, as she has done throughout, that she partook in the beating of the soldiers at Carlton. She was at home at Cane, when she heard a lot of noise from Carlton's yard, and she ran over there. At the time, she did not know that there were soldiers at Carlton, but as soon as she arrived there, she saw two soldiers come running out of the stable door towards planter Skeoch's house, and she saw that at least one of them was struck down, but she cannot say who did it or how. During closer interrogation, she maintains that she cannot point out anyone in particular from the crowd and that she did not recognize anyone, and she gives the usual answer, that there was "too much of people"⁸⁰ for her to be able to distinguish anyone. Finally, she remembers a man named John Christian /: Flanders shot :/. Led away (...)

Mention #4 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) (book 4)

Tuesday the 21st of January 1879

(...) Susanne⁹⁷ Abrahamson alias Bottom Belly, claims that in the Arrest down in Frederiksted, detainee **Agnes** had spoken about who it was who at Carlton had thrown the soldier from Skeorch Gallery down into the yard, but the others in the Arrest had told her that she was not to give up any names, and in particular not the one name, as he had just gotten married.

(...) Then, **Axelina [Folio 48b-49a, notice 145] E. Salomon, called Agnes**, appears. She states that the two persons whom she has accused are Joseph Reynolds, who is a guardsman at the plantation, and John Charles, a man who was born at Sionfarm. These two men threw the soldier head first over the gallery, so that he fell down into the yard. She did not see Joe Spencer in the gallery. When confronted with her previous testimony, that she ran away as soon as she had thrown the stone at the soldier, she first states that she threw the stone after the soldier who had been thrown over the gallery and she tried to run⁹⁸, but then she returns to her previous statement that she threw her stone when the soldier ran from the stables towards Skeorch's house. She maintains that she has only seen one soldier, and at the same time she states that there were many people and such disorder that it was difficult to distinguish anyone. She did not see Mathilde Mc Bean, whom she knows. During further interrogation, she states that she was involved in the goings-on at Carlton very much against her will, as she was peacefully on her way to Frederiksted on a legal errand. At Høgensborg, she came across several negroes who would not let her pass, and she received both a cut with a knife in her arm and a violent blow with a cane in her head, whereafter she had to follow the crowd which was led into Carlton, led, as she has stated previously, by Joseph Heyns and John Christian. She did not see Alex Blackmann (...)

Mention #5 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 4)

Saturday the 25th of January 1879

(...) Detainees **Mathilda¹⁰⁶ Mc Bean** and **Agnes** appear, both of whom the witness recognizes and names. After being confronted with the witness' testimony, Mathilda Mac Bean maintains that she did not raise a hand or throw stones at any soldier, while **Agnes** only remarks that she does not know which soldier she threw a stone at (...)

Mention #6 Mathilda Mac Bean (book 4)

Friday the 14th of February 1879

(...) On Thursday morning, when the witness thought that the unrest in that area of the country was over, probably around 8 o'clock, he heard conch blowing from the Høgensborg area, and soon after, he saw a gang come from Canee and through Williamsdelight's sugarcane fields. A woman from Pl. Eleonora came running up to him, crying and asking him to hide, for Gods' sake, or else he would be killed. The witness, his overseer and driver then went into a sugarcane field from where the witness could not distinguish individual persons or the details of what was going on. The witness has been told that Barther from Høgensborg was the person who broke open the allowance cellar, and that **Mathilda Mac Bean** was the first to force entry into the house where she began the destruction. The witness had not heard whether she also set the house on fire. Edmund from Høgensborg is said to have set fire to the rum cellar. Joseph Briggs from Kingshill is said to have set fire to the negro village when Wms Delight's laborers refused to join, but the fire was extinguished by George Simmons. Furthermore, he

mentions that Joseph and Jenny Spencer, Washington, Sophia and Hester and Joseph Callender were all active in the gang, but he cannot, at the moment (...) ¹⁵⁵ say anything in particular which they did. On request, the witness says that he did not use porters at Williamsdelight. The witness knows nothing about detainees Steven Francis and Edward Francis from Høgensborg. The statement is affirmed by the witness and he stands down (...)

Mention #7 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) (book 4)

Friday the 28th of February 1879

(...)Then, the mentioned John appears and states that his name is John Richard, born at Adventure. At the outbreak of the revolt, he lived at Envy. He states that on Wednesday morning, he wanted to go to work, but butcher Andrew Harrigan, who lived at Envy, a black man as the detainee himself, started to talk about that it was no day to go to work, and that the laborers were better off going out walking on the country road, where the other negroes were, because otherwise, they would probably come to the plantation. Then, the detainee walked out to Centerline, where he met a big gathering of negroes at Høgensbro, and they were loud and noisy and blew conches. It was with this swarm that he entered Carlton, where the two soldiers were, and whom the negroes then mistreated. He particularly noticed Clark and John Taylor /: both from Bettys Hope and on the run :/ and detainee **Agnes**, who, with canes, was beating one of the soldiers, who, fleeing and chased, tried to get to the house's staircase, but was dragged down to the foot of the stairs, where he was beaten (...)

Mention #8 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 5)

Friday the 20th of June 1879

(...) Then, Joseph Reynold from Pl. Carlton appears. He is summoned to give testimony regarding the goings-on at Carlton on Wednesday morning. He was sitting behind a privy behind the yard and he can only testify regarding the detainees **Agnes** and **Mathilde Mac Bean** such as was done in Frederiksted Police Court on the 9th of October last year. Detainee Richard Watzen appears alongside him, and their testimonies are compared, partly with each other and partly with the testimony given by overseer Mr. Kay on the 25th of January of last year, and there is some confusion regarding where each of the two soldiers had been struck down, and the Judge decides to have the circumstances more closely determined through an examination in situ. Joseph Reynolds stands down and the detainee is led away (...)

Mention #9 Mathilda Mac Bean (book 5)

Saturday the 19th of July 1879

(...) Robert Cummings has been summoned and appears. He is an overseer at Pl. Cane and was born in Scotland. He states that he was at home at Pl. Cane when a gang consisting of approximately 50 negroes, mostly Høgensborg laborers, came in on Thursday morning at about 7-8 o'clock. He regarded

John Washington as the leader of the gang, and he also noticed James Spencer and Henry v. Bracke. They broke shutters and doors to pieces inside the house and they destroyed what little household effects the witness had. Also, they broke open the allowance cellar in which there was almost nothing, but they only set fire to a sugar field. The witness cannot say that he himself was harassed, but afterwards, he has heard that it had been said that he should be killed. Henry v. Bracke was one of those who made the most noise, yelling “our side” and rummaging in the house, but otherwise, the witness cannot point out any particular deed. The gang was not at the plantation for more than approximately 15 minutes, and then it continued to Williams Delight. The witness was inside his house whilst the gang rummaged there, but naturally, he could not offer resistance. Throughout the unrest, the witness stayed inside his house, so he cannot give any further information. The witness did not see anything of the goings-on at Carlton on Wednesday morning. Mathilda Mac Bean’s father is employed at Cane, but according to what Mac Bean has told the witness, Mathilda has not confided in him. The witness presumes that the goings-on at Carlton took place between 8 and 9 o'clock (...)

Mention #10 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 6)

Friday the 4th of April 1880

(...) 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
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

Mention #11 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 6)

Saturday the 17th of April 1880

(...) 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 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 Wms 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.

Mention #12 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 6)

Saturday the 1st of May 1880

(...) 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 magass¹⁵ 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, 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 on, 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 (...)

Mention #13 Axeline Elizabeth Salomon (Agnes) + Mathilda Mac Bean (book 6)

Saturday the 10th of July 1880

(...) Both Commission members, Supreme Judge Rosenstand and Counsellor 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 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.

