

All mentions of Joseph Parris
Fireburn Interrogation records

The following is a collection of excerpts from the 6 books of interrogation records (1787-1880). The collection consists of 55 passages in which there is mention of Joseph Parris.

Joseph Parris, born on Barbados, employed at Plantation Lower Love, was sentenced to death and shot at the Court Martial on the 5th of October 1878

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- 55. 30th of April 1880 (book 6)

Mention #1 (book 1)

Thursday the 7th of November 1878

(...) Detainee William Arnold from Pl. Upper Love appears (...) He states that on the occasion in question, he followed James de Silva and Parris in their gang to Jealousy, Mt Pleasant /: Colquh :/ and Monbijou on the road which leads past Slob up to La Reine, where the gang split up. The one section under Parris' leadership went to Fredensborg and Slob, whilst the other section under the leadership of Marshal followed the road which divides Slob from La Reine, and they entered Barrenspot (...)

Mention #2 (book 1)

Friday the 8th of November 1878

(...) The gang was led by a man called Party - from L. Bethlehem - and it was the biggest gang the detainee had seen yet, and several of the men were armed with guns. The works were set on fire first, and then the greathouse was plundered and set on fire, either by "Party" himself or on his order, even though Parris was there and was in command (...)

(...) Parris, who was with Henry, now encouraged L. Love's laborers to come out of their houses and follow along. He threatened that if they did not obey, he would set the negro village on fire. The threat caused some of the people to come out, but then they went to Castle, where 3-4 gunshots were fired outside the negro village as a signal to the people, whom Parris then led over to Jealousy. Here, the laborers in the negro village were called together, and the whole gang was led down to the country road which leads to the plantation River, where the laborers, who had already heard the alarm down at

Jealousy, had moved up onto the road which leads there, after having met the gang which came towards them, they went to River's yard, where the big hospital was set on fire. Shortly after, a command of volunteers arrived at the plantation and dispersed the gang by firing some gunshots. The detainee further states that when the hospital was set on fire, as mentioned, the laborers from River had not yet come up to the spot. In the belief that the expedition was to go to Christiansted, they had gone past Jealousy by a field path, and they came all the way up towards Mt Pleasant. Parris, who was on horseback, saw this, and he caught up with them and got them to go back to River, where they were later dispersed by the volunteers. From River, the detainee went home, and when he came home, he found the greathouse and the works burned down (...)

(...) Bamberg from Frederiksted. Johannes Samuel, called Bamberg, appears and states that he came from the town Frederiksted to the plantation Mt Pleasant & Plessens when the greathouse burned there. He left Mt Pleasant & Plessens along with William Barnes, and it was his intention to go to Clearmont, but already at Lower Love, the detainee became aware that Parris was planning an expedition to Christiansted, which was to be set ablaze, and it was with this intention that laborers from L. Love, Castle, Jealousy, River and the adjacent plantations had been called together. The detainee followed as far as to the road which runs a bit to the east of Jealousy towards the part of the negro village which is called "new works⁵⁰", where his aunt Netta lives. He adds that he kept himself in hiding when the volunteers were at River and dispersed the gang which was gathered there. It was not until later that he went to his aunt in the negro village. Regarding what happened at Lower Love, according to William Barnes' testimony about the intended expedition to Christiansted, the detainee explains that he did not hear Henry mention what had happened at Crab Island, and he can testify that Henry had to be active in the gathering of the laborers because Parris forced him. Read aloud and affirmed, whereafter the detainee is led to his arrest (...)

(...) Detainee William Henry, guardsman at Lower Love (...) During the meal, the man whom Bamberg called Barnes started to blow the conch which he had brought with him, and when the detainee would not allow him to continue, he went outside the door, picked up a handful of stones and threatened to burn down the negro village if the laborers did not come out and participate in the upcoming expedition. When the people present heard this, some of them said that to avoid the negro village being burned, they would go on a tour on the country road with Barnes /: take a walk⁵¹ :/. Parris, who was the gang's actual leader, threatened the detainee with death if he didn't procure people and also participate in the tour himself (...) During the entire uprising, the detainee was only away from his home at L. Love twice, namely on Thursday, when he was forced to follow a gang to the plantation Adventure under the leadership of James de Silva. There, two boys broke the lock off the door to the rum cellar, and later, Christian Martin, Wren Gittens and Lucas set fire to the rum, thus destroying the works. It was Christian Martin who filled the cellar with straw and it was Gittens who set fire to the straw, and then the door to the cellar was closed and the works burned down. The other time, the detainee, threatened by Parris, followed the gang to the road which leads to Jealousy's negro village, where he escaped and went to his home. Read out and affirmed, whereafter he is led back to his arrest (...)

Mention #3 (book 1)

Saturday the 9th of November 1878

(...) Wm Barnes. Detainee William Barnes appears again, and regarding the fact that the manager from River has accused him of both ordering others to set fire to the big hospital at River and doing it

himself, he declares that along with laborers from River, he arrived too late, and Parris and his gang had already done the deed. Amongst those who were active, he mentions Thomas Allen from River (...)

(...) Edward England and Henry England, father and son, appear. They are accused of serious participation in the above-mentioned arsons at River, but they both deny having had anything to do with it (...) In the morning at 10-11 o'clock, Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel came up to /: Colq :/ Mt Pleasant where the detainee was, and they called out the negroes; they had to come down to River, where the manager's dwelling and the hospital were still standing, and they were to burn it down. Mt Pleasant's laborers followed them, and simultaneously, Parris' gang came up from Jealousy, and Allen and Samuel called to them that they should come down to River, and then they followed this gang. Parris was on horseback and had a gun, and another man, a tall, black man, had a long saber and was Captain of the gang (...)

(...) In this regard, John Lewis and George Francis, who are both placed in custody, appear. They are accused of having been part of a gang which on Friday set fire to River. They both explain, in agreement, about Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel in the same way as did Edward England; they all followed the gang which was led by Parris and a man called Henry from L. Love, who had a big saber. Though they followed the gang, they did not partake in the arson.

William Henry, who appeared this morning, from Lower Love, appears again, and is emphatically pointed out by the two Englands and by John Lewis, George Francis, Thomas Allen and Henry Samuel as being the man who was at Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ in Parris' gang, and William Henry now admits that he was part of Parris' gang up at Mt Pleasant and that he got the laborers there to come out, but he says that he did not follow it all the way to River. However, since all the above-mentioned categorically declare that he walked in the lead along with Parris, all the way to River, he also admits to this, and that it was the gang which burned down the hospital and the manager's dwelling, but he has no idea as to how the fires were started. Parris was on horseback right until the planter corps came down to River, when he jumped off the horse and left it in the yard (...)

(...) William Barnes states that John Robert did not follow Parris' gang after they had had lunch together at William Henry's. He said that he was going to go down to Diamond to see his woman (...)

Mention #4 (book 1)

Tuesday the 12th of November 1878

(...) William Barnes, who also appears, further states that the only place where he saw that John Charles was present was on Thursday at Anguilla, from where he followed the gang up to Kingshill Station, but the detainee did not see him do anything particularly evil (...) The detainee does not know whether William Henry was present at Mt Pleasant. John Robert /: John Charles :/ was also present at L. Bethlehem where he, like he had already done at Anguilla, where he saved a man whom Parris wanted to have killed, he saved either a man or a woman who, after manager Hewitt's house had been set on fire, was busy pouring water on it (...) The buildings on the other side of the road had, as it is known, already been burned down in the afternoon - he does not know how that fire came about, because he does not believe that the fires were started by Mt Pleasant's own laborers, and after the gang had burned Mac Dermoths's house - that is the greathouse - it dispersed, so there was no collected gang before Parris again gathered the mentioned gang at Lower Love on Friday morning (...)

(...) William Barnes explains how he, when Parris wanted to kill the above-mentioned people, had prevented it, he has to admit that he was present, but just like at Negrobay, he did not do anything evil. (...)

Mention #5 (book 1)

Wednesday the 13th of November 1878

(...) Planter Christian Holm, owner of the plantation Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears before the Commission (...) On Friday afternoon, when the gang was under the leadership of Parris, James de Silva was also there, and according to what the horseman Richard Addam has said, Bamberg.

Mention #6 (book 1)

the 15th of November 1878

(...) Regarding what has emerged so far, particularly regarding Parris, who has been considered the ringleader right from Frederiksted, it is unclear whether he was in the lead of the gang when it was at Mt Pleasant and Monbijou on Wednesday evening. Also, it is unclear whether there was one or more gangs of arsonists at the time, and various detainees are questioned, and Joshua Collingmoore who, according to himself, was at both Mt Pleasant and Monbijou, though not as a leader, states that he did not see Parris there, but that Robert James was the leader. Poor Boy⁸⁶ from Monbijou and Arnold from U. Love say that Parris was at Monbijou and was responsible for leading the gang from there to Fredensborg and Slob, and he was still there when the section of the gang which Arnold /: according to his⁸⁷ previous testimony :/ heard, continued to Barrenspot, skipping Cliftonhill. Arnold then assumes that Parris led a gang whose intention it was to burn Cliftonhill, and that from there, he went down into the country. According to what has been established, he did not lead a gang from Castle over to Goldengrove the next morning, and he was not part of the gang which was dispersed at Annashope. Finally, at Fredensborg and Slob, the biggest gang, according to Poor Boy and Arnold, was assembled, but they do not know whether it was bigger earlier in the day and when it was further into the country, but according to Arnold, it was much bigger at Fredensborg than it had been when he joined it at Upper Love, because it had taken in people from the intervening plantations. Arnold believes that at Fredensborg, it consisted of 400-500 men, and Collingmoore says that when the front of the gang had reached Mt Pleasant's greathouse, the back was still on the main country road at what he calls L. Bethl.'s boundaries (...)

Mention #7 (book 1)

Monday the 18th of November 1878

(...) Thomas Contigator from Anguilla appears and states that he was born at Anguilla. He is estimated to be 25 years old and belongs to the English Church. Shortly before the riots, he was a guardsman at the pl. and when he patrolled up by the works on Thursday morning, he saw that they were on fire, and before he even reached the greathouse, the big gang which was led by Parris came up towards the greathouse, and they broke it open, and those members of the gang who entered the building started to destroy furniture, shutters etc., and shortly after, the detainee saw that the building was on fire, but he does not know who did it (...)

(...) Thomas James from Anguilla appears, born at Pl. Spanishtown, belonging to the congregation of the Moravian Church (...) The detainee believes that the gang's leader, Parris, heard the objection, because at the same time, he threatened to use his gun towards the detainee and other laborers from the plantation who were present (...)

Mention #8 (book 1)

Tuesday the 19th of November 1878

(...) Detainee Thomas Manderson from Pl. Castle appears before the Commission. He is charged with having participated in the arson at Golden Grove and Negrobay on Thursday the 3rd of October. On this account, he is interrogated regarding the origin of the gang which on the Thursday in mention haunted that area of the country and how it proceeded. He states that he, who was not out at all on Wednesday, was also at home at Castle during the night between Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesday evening, he helped to extinguish the fire in the works which did not burn down that night even though they were set on fire. He declares that it was Parris - which, due to Parris' status as ringleader of the arsons is noted as an oddity - who gave the order to put out the fire after his gang had left Castle. On Thursday morning at 8-9 o'clock, Parris, who had not stayed at the Pl. during the night, came to the plantation with a man from Upper Love (burned¹⁰⁰), John Codday /: probably shot :/ in the lead of approximately 30 people, amongst whom the detainee did not get to recognize anyone, because he was trying to stay in hiding, particularly when he heard Parris call his name. Many of Castle's laborers joined them, and the gang walked straight over the road to G. Grove. The detainee was therefore not part of it. However, shortly after, a small mob of people, only 6-8 people, whom the detainee met at the large bridge behind Castle, took him with them to the gang which had gone ahead. The detainee did not know any of them because they were from a different part of the country. They didn't exactly beat him, but they pushed him in front of them, marching and yelling "our side". This small mob reached the gang first, after it had burned down G. Grove and had reached Negrobay, where they were in the process of burning and had already more or less burned down the big greathouse (...) The detainee also mentions Bamberg, who is mentioned previously, who was in the lead with Parris and Codday. The detainee also saw the previously mentioned John Charles from Lower Love in the gang, but he did not see him being particularly active apart from at Negrobay, where he was busy with a mackerel. He did, however, see that at Envy, Parris convinced him to set fire to the house in which butcher Harrigan lived, so that the gang left Envy without really doing anything, and the house was not burned down until later, by the gang which came up from Bettys Hope, and at that time, Parris was in the lead of the gang at Manningsbay, so, according to what the detainee knows, he cannot have been the leader at Bettys Hope, such as detainee William Jones has stated in Frederiksted City Court :/ Interrogation of the 15th of October :/. The detainee does not know whether the gang which came from Bettys Hope later merged with Parris' gang.

Detainees Augustus Jeffers¹⁰¹ and Bastian from Pl. G. Grove and Thomas Small from Castle appear. They all agree that detainee Manderson was at Goldengrove, and Thomas Small states that he - Small - and Manderson immediately followed Parris and Augustus George from Castle.

Detainee Smalls states that he was at Castle when Parris came up with a gang from Lower Love. The detainee states that despite Castle and L. Love being neighboring plantations, he did not know anyone else in the gang apart from Parris, and he does not know any of the laborers from L. Love except the guardsman. Detainees Augustus and Bastian state that they followed the gang to Manningbay and no further. Detainees led away.

Following the previous detainees, John Charles from L. Love appears. During most of the day Thursday, he followed Parris' gang. He states that it was John Codday who came in and fetched Parris. The detainee did not immediately follow Parris and Codday to Castle, but since Parris, before he left, had threatened that he would return "to give a light¹⁰²" to the laborers at L. Love because they held back in following along and kept a great deal of planter Farrelly's things hidden in the negro village, the detainee found that it was advisable to follow, and he went over and met the gang at Goldengrove, from where he followed the gang on its previously described route, but he maintains that he did not himself set fire to anything, just as he, at Envy and at several other places, tried to hinder the destruction. Thus, he also intervened when they tried to force the driver Edward Ritten to participate in the arson of the works at Manningsbay, and he forced a saber away from Mons from Castle when he tried to attack the driver, whom, he believes, nevertheless received several beatings before he got away. In any case, the brawl with the driver ended with that Parris' gang did not set fire to the rum cellar which he assumes that they would have set fire to. Just as Parris' troupe came down from Manningsbay, another troupe reached this plantation, but it was not yet the gang which came from Bettys Hope. Therefore, the detainee calls it "The Middletroup¹⁰³". Now, it is not possible for the detainee to find out who was in the lead of this gang. This troupe joined Parris' troupe, and they stopped at the bridge, east of Manningsbay. They stayed there for a while until the larger gang which they had seen from Manningsbay, coming up from Bettys Hope, and which, in the meantime, had burned Envy, reached them. The detainee mentions that William Jones from Upper Love was the leader of this gang. Gang at Manningsbay¹⁰⁴, where, at the time, only the magass stacks were on fire, and at Negrobay, according to the detainee, there was such confusion that it is not possible for him to say who was more or less active. Parris and Codday were indeed the Captains, but when they reached a plantation, all the negroes rushed in from different places, and within moments, there were fires all over. At Manningsbay greathouse, for example, he met a man, Joe Cummings from Negrobay, who was busy starting fires but he does not think that he was worse than anyone else. When the gang which came from Bettys-Hope, which some of the members of Parris' gang and "the Middletroup" joined, Manningsbay's works did not stand for long, because they immediately went in and finished what had been spared. The gangs that merged at Manningsbay went on towards Anguilla, united in a big gang, and from there on, they continued as explained previously by William Barnes, amongst others. The detainee believes that John Codday, about whom the Commission has previously remarked that he was probably shot, was burned to death at Negrobay greathouse. He saw him on the top floor of the house when it was on fire, but the detainee does not know whether he burned to death or whether he got out somehow (...)

(...) On further questioning, the detainee states that after Parris had gone over to Castle with some of Lower Love's laborers, guardsman William Henry and Christian Martin gathered a little gang made up of L. Love laborers, and they crossed the road and burned Adventure.

William Henry, guardsman at L. Love, appears. He admits that on Friday morning, after Parris and Codday had gone to Castle, he and Christian Martin gathered some of L. Love's laborers and went across the road to Adventure, where they, along with Adventure's laborers, burned down the works and the other buildings. Adventure's laborers were immediately ready to join them; they went to greet them on the road and followed them to Paradise, where the laborers did not greet them but had to be hunted out in the negro village, where they joined them, and Paradise was burned (...)

(...) Then, William Jones from Pl Upper Love, born in Demerara, appears (...) At Castle's borders, George Mace passed on the command to George Cambridge with the instructions that they were to join Parris' gang, which was going to go to the Bettys Hope area, and George Mace himself went up to Castle, where Parris gathered his gang. As they walked south, they came across Adventure, Negrobay and Paradise which were all on fire, so there was nothing for them to burn, and they thus continued according to George Mace's orders. (...)

Mention #9 (book 1)

Wednesday the 20th of November 1878

(...) William Jones appears again, and during closer interrogation, he states that he did not see Mr. Peebles at Bettys Hope, and he does not know if Peebles spoke to anyone in the gang, of which he was part, in order to persuade them to give up their enterprise (...) When presented with the fact that according to what is known, Parris cannot have been at Bettys Hope when it was on fire, the detainee states that he cannot say that he particularly noticed Parris, but that he saw laborers from¹⁰⁶ L. Love there, and the agreement was that they were to meet Parris' gang in the Bettys Hope-area, so he presumed that a man whom he saw in the yard from a distance, wearing colored trousers and a gun over his shoulder, was Parris.

Detainee William Henry from Lower Love appears and states that he did not see detainee William Jones start any fires; However, he saw George Cambridge go into the curing house¹⁰⁷ with matches in his hand. Parris was not at Bettys Hope. Christian Martin had a gun.

John Charles from Lower Love appears and repeats that Parris was at Manningsbay when Bettys Hope burned (...)

Mention #10 (book 1)

Friday the 29th of November 1878

(...) The often-mentioned John Charles appears. He states that the gang which burned St Georges's works must have split up, so that the large section went over to Grove Place and continued from there, as stated many times previously, under the leadership of Robert James, whilst a smaller section went up Centerline and thus came into L. Love early in the evening. George, Thomas Critchlow, Scrapeout and Thomas Smalls from Castle were in the lead. This gang went from L. Love onwards to Castle. The detainee did not see Parris in this gang (...)

(...) Joshua Collingmoore, who has appeared previously, appears again, and on request, he states that he did not see Parris in the gang which he joined at Jealousy and which was led by Robert James.

Thomas Manderson, who then appears, however, states, as he has stated previously, that Parris was at Castle during the same evening and that he made sure that the fire which had been started in the works was extinguished, and he also thinks that he came with the gang from L. Love. Castle's works /: the greathouse was burned on Wednesday evening :/ were burned on Thursday evening by a section of the gang which also burned L. Bethlehem (...)

Mention #11 (book 1)

Saturday the 30th of November 1878

(...) Edmund Walcott from Pl. Høgensborg appears (...) In the Wednesday-gang, he also noticed Joe Spencer and Francis Buffert from St Georges, but he did not notice Party, who has been pointed out by John Peter from Concordia, but he did see Joseph Parris walk in the back of the gang when it entered Høgensborg (...)

(...) Christopher Samuel from Pl. Mt Pleasant & Plessens, born on Antigua, appears, and he also denies having been at L. Love on the evening in question. However, he states that he was at Allendale with the gang on Wednesday morning, and in that regard, he states that he went out onto the country road because he had heard that there was unrest and trouble, and he wanted to see what was going on. Approximately outside Pl. Mountain's greathouse, he met 5 people, here amongst Joseph Parris, who would not let him pass, but forced him to follow them to Mountain where a gang, to which they obviously belonged, ravaged and broke everything in the house, which they did not burn, because Mountain's laborers and particularly the women begged for it, because if it burned, it would also set fire to the negro village (...)

(...) The detainee did not know any of the other negroes who stood with Parris on the country road. He says that the negroes who were there were very careful and made sure that they could not be recognized - they created so much confusion that no one could pinpoint individuals, and if a negro called another negro by his name, he was immediately beaten down, because they were only to address each other with the cry "our side¹²⁹", which was therefore heard continuously (...)

Mention #12 (book 1)

Friday the 13th of December 1878

(...) Edward Lewis from Pl. Mt Pleasant /: Colq :/ appears (...) The detainee states that the crowd in Frederiksted was so big that it was difficult to distinguish individuals, and there were a lot of people whom he did not know, but apart from Joe la Grange he noticed Emanuel, John Samson, Joseph Parris, Party Rose, Bordeaux /: Gottlieb Robert :/ (...)

(...) Then, Cathrine Heyliger from Pl. Castle appears. She is charged with having been part of Parris' gang at Pl. River on the 4th of October.

Also, Elsey Philips from the same Pl, appears, against whom the same charges are put forward.

Both detainees admit that they were in Parris' gang at an occasion in question, but they both state that they were forced. Both detainees led away (...)

(...) The charges were made clear to each detainee, but each of them deny having joined the gang when it came to Bethlehem on Thursday - they were all at home at the plantation and they did indeed see the gang, but none of them knew a single one of the negroes who were in it, and they did not notice Party, who is from the same plantation, or Joseph Parris who is from the neighboring plantation Castle. The detainees are led away (...)

Mention #13 (book 1)

Saturday the 14th of December 1878

(...) William Strong from Pl. L Bethlehem appears, charged with having joined the gang when it came into L Bethl. and particularly with having broken open the allowance cellar. He states that he was at home at Bethlehem and that he was in the negro village when the gang came there and began to burn the manager's house. When the gang came down from there, the detainee came across Joseph Parris, who had a double-barreled gun in his hand, and he immediately grabbed him by the shirt collar and

shook him, saying that he wanted one of L Bethl's own laborers to knock the lock off the allowance cellar, but that the laborers held back too much. Thus, he forced the detainee to take a sugar ax which he carried along with the gun, and he dragged the detainee down to the allowance cellar. Here, the detainee had to hit the lock with the axe, and he hit it twice without opening the door, but, as he says, he could easily have opened the door. This made Parris impatient and because of his reluctance, he hit the detainee in the chest with the gun barrel and then knocked off the lock himself - almost all allowance cellars have a padlock. The detainee ran away immediately and did not have anything else to do with Parris or the gang, but when the gang had left the plantation, immediately after Parris had let all the carts be set on fire, he helped to try to extinguish the fire in the overseer's dwelling (...)

Mention #14 (book 1)

Tuesday the 17th of December 1878

(...) Thomas Contigator appears /: cf. interrogation of the 18th of Novbr (...) He does not know whether things were hidden in other places apart from in the mentioned negro house, and he thinks that those things which were hidden were saved. He does not know anything about anyone, himself included, telling Parris where these things were. When the gang was coming in, the detainee was at Profit¹⁸⁶, and the works were already on fire when he came into the yard. He asked Parris not to burn the greathouse, saying that it was too close to the negro village, and it was on that occasion that Parris thumped him with the gun barrel and thus forced him to go up the steps to the house in which the gang was ravaging, but he only got to the door when people rushed out because the house was on fire (...)

Mention #15 (book 1)

Thursday the 19th of December 1878

(...) Then, detainee Thomas James from the plantation Anguilla appears (...) When asked whom he particularly noticed in the gang, apart from Parris, he states that it was difficult to distinguish the individuals whereof he did not know many, because they were from far into the country, but he noticed Margreth Heyns from Slob and regarding her, he states what has been noted in the interrogation of the 18th of November (...)

(...) James Griffith from Pl Anguilla appears (...) He heard that Th. Contigator complained that the gang had not left any flour for the plantation's own laborers as they had taken it all themselves, and he saw that Parris threatened to beat him for that, but apart from that, he did not see Thomas C. do anything (...)

Mention #16 (book 1)

Tuesday the 24th of December 1878

(...) The detainee Thomas Manderson from Castle, who has appeared previously /: cf. interrogation of the 18th of Nvbr :/, appears (...) During further examination, the detainee repeats that the 3 sisters Gwynn went along with Parris' gang from Castle over to Goldengrove. However, he does not think that the old Gwynn was there, as he was ill with bad eyes. He does not think that the son, Joseph Gwynn, was there either, because he went around with a bandaged head because of a blow which he is to have received during the riots in Frederiksted on Tuesday night. Almost all Castle laborers went

along with Parris' gang on that Thursday. Most of them did so because they were afraid of what harm Parris would do to them otherwise, so it is difficult for the detainee to point out individual persons. He says that after Parris had given the order, Moses Benjamin was the first to come to get him - the detainee - out, but he did not find him, and then, Parris himself came into the negro village, but didn't find him either. Thus, Moses Benjamin was one of those who did not follow along with the gang. Christian Ferdinand also followed the gang, with a gun in his hand, as the detainee has stated previously. Andrew Daniel, who is living with the Gwynn' girls' mother at the moment, was also there, but the detainee did not see that he was more prominent than anyone else. Thomas Small was also there, and he presumes that he was there voluntarily, because according to what he has heard, Thomas Small was already at L. Love on the previous evening, and he had gone out straight away on Friday. At Negrobay, when Coddday had been burned, the detainee saw that Parris took Coddday's gun and gave the saber, which he had carried hitherto, to Smalls. According to what he has heard, the gun belonged to planter Finnegan, who had left Upper Love before the gang arrived and had left his gun behind. The detainee continues to say that it was Smalls who returned on Friday morning, after Parris had gotten as many laborers as he could from Castle, and who forced the guardsman Mark to go along, but he said that it was on Parris' orders. Mark resisted for a long time even though Smalls said that if he refused to follow along on his own accord, he would have 4 men drag him along, and he also threatened him, but finally, Mark had to go along, but he demanded that two women, Elizabeth Nilson and Elizabeth Mesias go along as well. The last mentioned was from the same country as Parris¹⁹⁹, and Mark, who was very afraid of Parris, thought that she could prevent him from hurting him. However, when he reached Parris, he did not avoid getting 4 strikes with the flat side of the saber on his neck. Smalls met Mark at the detainee's door, where he was telling the detainee how afraid he had become when Parris and the gang came in, and he had even relieved himself in his trousers out of fright, and thus, the detainee also had to go along. However, he held himself back, and Parris left Jealousy right after having gotten Mark to go along, and before the detainee arrived there, and then the detainee turned back. The detainee repeats his statement that Bamberg was in the gang on Thursday, at least at Negrobay, and he also came into Castle with Parris' gang on Friday morning. At the time, he had a new sugar axe in his hand. The detainee heard that he had got it at Mt Pleasant on the previous evening, where he is to have distributed several new axes which were in planter Mac Dermott's house when it was burned (...)

Mention #17 (book 4)

Monday the 30th of December 1878

(...) John Francis, also from Lower Love, appears. He is charged with having been part of the same gang and is in particular arrested for having been active at Paradise. He states that he did not follow the gang on Thursday, and he was not at Paradise. Likewise, he did not follow the gang on Friday, when Joseph Parris gathered his group at L Love (...)

(...) Detainee Joseph Cummings from Pl. Negrobay appears (...) The detainee did not see how the fire was started in the house because he was outside, so the first thing he saw was the smoke billowing out of the ground floor windows. Neither does the detainee know who set fire to the old cooking house⁹, which is now used as horse stables, but along with the others, he took part in putting out the fire, and afterwards, he stopped Parris from burning the manager's¹⁰ house, which is close to the negro village, but Parris then demanded that the laborers from Negrobay follow the gang, or else he would burn the negro village (...)

(...) Samuel James from Negrobay appears and he also states that Wilhelm Rodgers was the first person who entered the negro village with the gang and went straight up and opened the driver's house,

which he entered. However, the detainee presumes that Rodgers had been forced by the leaders Joseph Parris and Augustus George to show them where the driver, who had gone into hiding, lived (...)

(...) John Charles from Pl. L. Love appears (...) Then, the crowd, inside as well as outside, swarmed the driver and dragged him down the steps towards the cooking house, shoving and beating him, and they forced him to open the door. The detainee intervened and made Parris let the driver go, and then what happened occurred as stated previously (...)

Mention #18 (book 4)

Wednesday the 8th of January 1879

(...) Detainee Fritz Ballentin from Pl Mt Pleasant /: Colq⁴² :/ born at River. He states that he indeed was at Hermitage on Thursday, but at the time, it had already burned down. On Friday, he followed the gang over to River, but when he came to River, he immediately ran back through the negro village and escaped. He was at home when Parris' gang came to Mt Pleasant on Friday, and regarding the allegation that he destroyed the carts and set them on fire, he says that he had just come from the carpenter's workshop with his axe, when a young man, whom he did not know but who had a gun, forced him to destroy the carts. He does not admit to anything more (...)

Mention #19 (book 4)

Saturday the 11th of January 1879

(...) Edward Ritten, driver at Pl. Mannings Bay has been summoned and appears. He is a man of mature age. It is made clear to him that he is to testify as a witness, and that he is to be meticulous. He then states that on Wednesday evening, alongside a couple of other people, he tried to force planter Patterson's (...)⁵⁹, to safety, as well as they could, as it was to be expected that a gang would come to the plantation. Around noon on Thursday, a gang did indeed come to the plantation from the Envy area, it consisted of people from a large number of plantations, of which a large number were strangers to the witness. Parris was the leader whom they all obeyed and who led the destruction. John Charles from L. Love was what the witness would call Captain, but he did not harm anyone, on the contrary (...) ⁶⁰ him in particular that the greathouse did not burn at the time, and likewise, when the witness was surrounded and Parris threatened to kill him, it was John Charles who intervened. When the gang came, it went directly towards the greathouse on whose steps the witness stood, and they started to bring in magass and had probably set it alight in the little gallery across the steps, when John Charles, alongside the witness and a couple of other people from the plantation, made them abstain from doing it. The crowd dragged the witness along and forced him to open the door to the curing house. At the time, the rum cellar was already set on fire by Mathilda /: shot :/ who also set fire to the magass stack, which the witness saw himself. When the works were on fire, the witness wanted to leave, shouting "now it's all over", because he heard threats around him, when Parris said that later, the witness would surely inform on them, and therefore it would be best to kill him, and he ordered David James, who acted as "Mate", to hold him down. The witness asked David James to let him go, reminding him that one day, he would be brought to justice, but he held onto him until Parris came along with a long knife with which he first jabbed the witness (...) ⁶¹ cheek, next to the left eye and then wanted to cut his throat, but as Parris was about to start the cut, a man, Charles Philip from Manningsbay, put his hand between and caught the cut, so the end of his one finger was cut off. David James kept holding him, but detainee Joe Cummings, who had also grabbed him, let go when the witness asked him to. However, detainee John Charles came up and pushed Parris away, so the witness could escape. Before the gang

left, it set fire to the negro village which the detainee believes was done because they had found so little in Pattersen's house. In the afternoon, a small gang under the leadership of a negro called Clarke /: escaped in a boat :/ arrived and burned down the greathouse. The first gang was very large, but the witness cannot identify anyone else apart from Augustus George, who was shot, and the previously mentioned people. He also saw Bastian from Golden Grove, but he did not do anything and he was so drunk that he fell asleep in the yard.

Detainee David James from Goldengrove, born at Fredensborg, appears. He admits that on Parris' order, he took hold of the driver Ritten and held him. He says that he had to do it because Parris, who was armed with a gun, had ordered him to do it. Also, as well as the detainee himself, a number of other people took part in holding the driver on Parris' orders (...)

(...) The driver Ritten continues that regarding the detainees John and James Murphy, he saw them follow Parris' order and fetch magass from the magass stack in order to bring it to the works when the fire was to be lit there, but when the witness spoke to them and asked them to remember that the day would come where they would be held accountable, they threw away the magass and ran away through the magass stacks, so in reality they did not bring any magass to the fire (...)

(...) Daniel Thomas from Pl. Goldengrove has been summoned and appears. He is enjoined to be truthful as a witness and then he states that he did not see John Gwynn at GoldenGrove, but when the gang came in, he was beaten by Parris and Augustus George, so he had to withdraw, and he did not see who was in the gang. The witness affirms his testimony and stands down (...)

Mention #20 (book 4)

Saturday the 1st of February 1879

(...) Arrestee Francis Samuel from Pl Mt Pellier, born at Sionfarm, appears. He states that on Wednesday, he heard that one of his sisters had been burned at Grove Place, wherefore he went down there. He came across the gang, which was still there, and Joseph Parris forced him to go along, and thus he came over to Mt Pleasant, where he got away from the others and went to Upper Love, where he spent the night. The next morning, he went from Upper Love over to Lower Love along with a couple of laborers from Upper Love, and from there he went with the aforementioned John Charles and joined in with Parris' gang, right after Golden Grove had burned, and he followed it on its course until L Bethlehem had burned, but he did not do anything.

Detainee John Charles from Pl. L. Love appears and after having been enjoined to be truthful, as he is to give testimony about other people, he states that the detainee Francis Samuel came over to Lower Love along with some others, here amongst Grant from Mt Pleasant and Bois Bea /:2124:/ from Upper Love, and together, they went over and met Parris' gang, as previously stated by the detainee. He does not know how far Francis Samuel followed the gang, and he did not notice whether he did anything. Francis Samuel told the detainee that they had beaten Flemming's son thoroughly /: We have had Mr. Flemmings son wellbeaten¹²⁵ :/ and that they had also beaten Buffert from St Georges and pressed him into the fire, because he had spoken up for Flemming's son (...)

Mention #21 (book 4)

Wednesday the 19th of February 1879

(...) Manager John Field from Pl. Jealousy, born in New York, appears after having been summoned. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. Questioned regarding detainee William Thomas Harper /: interrogation 23rd of January :/ he states that on Friday afternoon, when Parris' gang had been through the plantation in the morning, the detainee prowled around the yard, so the witness had the impression that Parris' had ordered him to point at him¹⁶⁹. On this occasion, the guardsman asked him what he was doing, and he grabbed the guard man's arm¹⁷⁰. He has not heard that the detainee was at the plantation on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning (...) He further believes that it was Joshua Collingmoore who, on Friday morning, when Parris was there with his wild gang, told Parris that the witness was at the plantation and got Parris to leave. When Parris was there, the detainee was hiding in a sugarcane field with the guardsman John Peter, and he did not see it himself. Also, Collingmoore has told him that Parris had threatened to return in the evening and burn down the negro village if he did not get hold of the witness, but as is well known, Parris' gang was dispersed at River on the same afternoon (...)

Mention #22 (book 4)

Thursday the 20th of February 1979

(...) Abraham Samuel from Jealousy, born in Frederiksted, has been summoned and appears. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness, and he is enjoined to be truthful. Questioned about what occurred between himself and detainee Harper, he states that when he came home from the so-called Garden, where he was a guardsman, on Friday afternoon, on the same day as when Parris had been at the plantation with his gang in the morning, he was on horseback, and when he came into the yard, he saw the detainee sitting on the old mill balcony¹⁷³, and the detainee believes that he was guarding the house where the manager was hiding, without, however, being able to present a reason for this presumption apart from it being self-evident that Parris, who had been looking for manager Field in the morning, had ordered Harper to guard him, as he was the only white man who was out in the country (...)

(...) Detainee Joshua Colling Moore appears. First, he states that he believes that the business between Abraham and Harper took place on Sunday, but after further interrogation, he believes that it was the same day as Parris' gang was at Jealousy. However, he believes that it took place in the morning, before Parris had arrived, but after some thought, and after the witness maintains that it was in the afternoon, he is not so sure.

Detainee Thomas Critchlow appears and states that the business between Abraham and Harper took place in the afternoon on the same day as Parris' gang came in the morning (...)

Mention #23 (book 4)

Saturday the 22nd of February 1879

(...) All the damage at Hermitage was done by Mt Pleasant's laborers who, later in the day, when they came down the Hermitage road with Parris' gang, in order to go to River, tried to, and partially succeeded in getting the gang to go through the negro village in order to force Hermitage's laborers to follow along (...)

Mention #24 (book 4)

Wednesday the 26th of February 1879

Henry Patrick, laborer at Pl. River, born at Annally, has been summoned and appears (...) **Joseph Parris** and John Charles were in the lead of the next division, which the witness keeps calling “the firemen¹⁸⁶”, and this division immediately began to set fire to first the magass stack and then the rum cellar and the additional parts of the works. John Charles - and **Parris** - did not start the fires themselves, but gave “strong words of command¹⁸⁷” (...)

(...) On Friday, around 2 o'clock, another gang came down to River, led by **Parris**, who rode a horse which belonged to the manager at Jealousy, and also William Barnes from Rust up Twist (...)

(...) Sam. William from Pl. River, born on Barbados, has been summoned and appears (...) When the witness had seen the beginning and when a pair of Wilson's black trousers and bed had been thrown out of the window, he went away, crying, towards the magass stacks, which he saw were ablaze. There, he met John Charles from Lower Love and **Joseph Parris** at the largest magass stack, which they had just set on fire. They looked so wild that the witness became afraid and ran into the negro village, but he came out again a moment later to see who was about, but he was chased back by John Charles and **Parris**, who wanted to get him, so he did not see anything else that evening, and in particular not what happened when the gang returned from Fountain. When this statement is presented to him, the witness adds that at the same time as he saw John Charles and **Parris** at the magass stacks, he also saw that Regius from U. Love set fire to the rum cellar, prompted by Henry England, who had only been at the greathouse for a moment and made sure that things were getting on, and he was here, there and everywhere. The witness also adds that it was H. England who got the gang to come to River. Urged by the driver, the witness, along with other laborers from River, had gone out to the country road to see if any gang was approaching and to try to keep them away. There, they met H. England at River's border. He was alone and must have run ahead of the gang in order to scout whether he would meet any resistance at River. When the gang approached G. Place, he waved with his hand, whereupon it went to River. The witness further states that H. England had been in the Arrest in Frederiksted right before October for threatening manager Wilson at River, who would not allow him to come to the plantation, because he always stirred up trouble. Then, the witness mostly kept himself in hiding in a sugarcane field, in fear of John Charles and Joseph **Parris**, except when he saw that there was peace and no danger (...)

Mention #25 (book 4)

Saturday the 15th of March 1879

(...) Detainee John Charles appears and states that **Parris** was one of those who were with him. He also claims that he was not at River but stood in Upper Love's negro village when River burned (...)

Mention #26 (book 4)

Thursday the 20th of March 1879

(...) Christian Yttendahl from Christiansted, born at Marysfancy, appears (...) The witness did not hear that she, at the time, yelled that the plantation had to be set on fire, but according to what other people have told him later, she was with the gang when it returned in the afternoon, when the greathouse was burned. The gang which did this, at around 5 or 6 o'clock in the afternoon, was a very large gang, so

large that when Mt Pleasant's yard was full of negroes, the swarm still reached far out onto the main country road. This gang was led by Parris (...)

Mention #27 (book 4)

Saturday the 22nd of March 1879

(...) Jasper James, driver at Pl: Anguilla, born at Anguilla, has been summoned and appears (...) The witness asked some questions when he came out again, and he was told that the leaders had been Parris and Cox, and that Jones and John Charles had also been there, but he heard that Cox had objected to the burning of the greathouse because it was too close to the negro village (...)

(...) John Adam, guardsman at Anguilla, born at Antigua, has been summoned and appears (...) Thomas Contigator walked in the lead as if showing them the way, but the witness does not know who else was in the lead of the gang. He heard that Parris' and Cox' names were mentioned, but he did not know any of them (...)

Mention #28 (book 4)

Tuesday the 25th of March 1879

(...) Detainees Thomas James, John Samuel and James Griffith appear, the three laborers from Anguilla who have admitted that they participated in setting fire to Blessing magass stack. They all state that John, Elizabeth's son, was not with them, but they maintain that there were three strangers who got them to go along. Regarding the destruction at Anguilla they state, on request, that apart from Parris, there was another leader, who was just as officious and of approximately the same building as Parris, but they did not know his name (...)

Mention #29 (book 4)

Wednesday the 26th of March 1879

(...) Then, detainees Felitia Gwynn and Henrietta Gwynn appear and now admit that they themselves, as well as a third sister, detainee Jane Gwynn, the latter of whom lived together with Augustus George who was shot according to the court martial's verdict, followed after - they did not go with - Parris' and Augustus George's gang to Goldengrove, but they could not avoid it, because at Castle, Parris herded anyone who could stand out of the negro village, continuously threatening to set the negro village on fire if everyone did not follow (...)

(...)

Mention #30 (book 4)

Friday the 28th of March 1879

(...) Detainee George William from Pl. Adventure, born at Pl. Windsor, appears. He states that on Thursday morning, he had to follow Parris' gang from Castle over to G. Grove and to Morningstar whereafter he, who had done nothing during the entire procession, went away. The revolver which he had /: cf. Fr. Police Interr. of the 23rd of November :/during the entire procession was one that Parris

had given him to hold, and because of that, the detainee became so afraid that he ran away. Due to the circumstances, it is found that the detainee can be released, and he is then released for the time being (...)

Mention #31 (book 4)

Thursday the 3rd of April 1879

(...) Then Joe Carr appears again, and after having been enjoined to be truthful, he states that he was not at Anguilla, but that **Parris'** gang, which came across him at L. Bethlehem's guardhouse, took him up to Kingshill's station. He knows nothing about whether Nancy Sawernier was at Anguilla and has not said anything about it to carpenter Jones. The witness' explanation as to where he came across **Parris** makes his testimony unreliable on the whole, but he maintains it under further interrogation, and he stands down (...)

(...) Hester Prince from Pl. Goldengrove, born at the same place, has been summoned and appears. A decent elderly woman who is in charge of 2. class laborers. She is enjoined to be truthful as a witness and then states that she was at G. Grove when the laborers from Castle, under the leadership of **Parris** and August George, stormed into the plantation (...)

(...) Mary Ann Cutshure from Pl. G. Grove, born at Pl. Upper Love, washing girl at G. Grove, appears. It is made clear to her that she is to give testimony as a witness and she is properly enjoined to tell the truth. She then states that she was driven from the negro village by the gang in the same way as the previous witness. As far as she could see, the gang only consisted of laborers from Castle, under the leadership of **Parris** and Augustus George, and it was driven from the negro village into the yard, where she was during the fire. There was such commotion and wildness that she could not make out the details. She saw the 3 sisters Gwynn amongst the crowd down by the magass stack, but she dare not say that she saw them set fire to anything or that they were worse than anyone else. She particularly noticed them because she knew them well and that is why she mentioned their names to manager Didricksen as well as mentioning **Parris** and George, but she has not told him that she has seen them start fires, but that they were at the magass stack and she saw the magass stack on fire, and she thus presumes, as do other people, that those people who were by the stacks were those who set them on fire (...)

(...) Particularly after the testimony given from witness Prince, the Commission finds cause to remark that **Parris'** gang's used severe violence towards other negroes, particularly when it is taken into consideration that a decent woman as the witness, whose loyalty there is no doubt about, had to follow along (...)

Mention # 32 (book 4)

Saturday the 5th of April 1879

(...) James Henry, field laborer at Castle, born at Cotton Valley, has been summoned. It is made clear to him that he is to give testimony as a witness and it is strongly emphasized that he should be truthful. He then states that he was at home at Castle on both Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon when the gang haunted the plantations. Even though **Parris** was in the gang on Wednesday evening, it was detainee George Michael who was the leader of the gang. He was armed with both a revolver and a saber, and it was he who led the destruction. First, they destroyed and burned the greathouse and then the works. The witness believes that George Michael had the driver Samuel Woods open the allowance

cellar and let people from the gang roll out a barrel of flour - 5 barrels had been brought to safety beforehand - from which the gang helped themselves. Then, the rum cellar was opened, and a barrel of rum was rolled out, and first, the gang helped itself to the rum, and then Parris or George Michael set fire to the rum, so the flames went sky-high and the fire caught the distilling house. Directly after, the gang left, and Parris gave the order to put out the fire in the works - the greathouse had burned down - which the plantation laborers did (...)

(...) On Thursday morning, when Parris and John Coday came into Castle to organize a gang which could go to the South Side, they were so violent and threatening that they did not allow anyone they came across to stay at home (...)

Mention #33 (book 4)

Thursday the 17th of April 1879

(...) Detainee William Henry from Pl. Lower Love appears (...) The detainee did indeed go over to Castle with Parris, but he had threatened that if he found out that Castle's laborers stayed at home, he would return and set fire to the negro village (...)

Mention #34 (book 4)

Monday the 28th of April 1879

(...) Detainee William Holder, called Poor Boy, from Pl Monbijou, appears. When asked whether detainee Johannes Sylvester was at Fredensborg and Slob on Wednesday evening, he states that he did not see him, so he does not believe that he was there. It was Parris and De Silva who were the ringleaders over there. For a moment, outside Monbijou, there was an exchange of words between De Silva and Parris regarding whether they, as Parris thought, should continue up to Morningstar or if they, as De Silva thought, should go towards Fredensborg (...)

Mention #35 (book 4)

Saturday the 3rd of May 1879

(...) Detainee Peter Andrew from Pl. Whim appears again (...) . The detainee is rather deaf and has a problematic pronunciation, which makes him difficult to interrogate, but he states again that he can only give very few pieces of information because he only knows very few negroes from up country. He has thus not known either Party, Parris or Emanuel or Bamberg. Detainee led away (...)

Mention #36 (book 4)

the 7th of May 1879

(...) Detainee William Barnes appears (...) At River on Friday, he was not inside the hospital, which was already completely occupied by Parris and his gang, which the detainee had parted from at Jealousy (...)

Mention #37 (book 4)

Tuesday the 20th of May 1879

(...) William Jeffers from Pl: Goldengrove has been summoned and appears (...) He saw that Augustus George ran down to the overseer's house, and that Parris was in the manager's house, and shortly after, both houses were on fire (...)

(...) Detainee Augustus Jeffers appears and repeats his previous testimony regarding how Jane Gwynn set fire to the magass stack, and during further interrogation, it emerges that his statement regarding the whereabouts of the magass stack, in which end the fire was started and how it was set, is consistent with witness William Jeffers' testimony. He adds that overall, Jane was very violent. After the magass and the curing house were on fire, and when the gang and in particular both Parris and George were in the rum cellar, he heard her yell to Augustus that he had to bring Wilhelm Holm or at least his head - and the detainee explains that Wilhelm Holm is a cart man who had been given Augustus' cart to drive, which both Augustus and Jane - August's woman - were angry about (...)

Mention #38 (book 4)

Tuesday the 27th of May 1879

(...) Henry Samuel from River, who continues to maintain that what the laborers from Mt Pleasant says is untrue, that he and Thomas Allen got Parris' gang to go from Mt Pleasant down to River on Friday by telling them that the manager's dwelling and the hospital still needed to be destroyed, but he admits that he and Thomas Allen followed the gang, perhaps that they even marched in the front, down to River (...)

Mention #39 (book 4)

Friday the 30th of May 1879

(...) Detainee Edward Washington from Pl. L. Bethlehem appears (...) Later in the day, when the gang came from Kingshill to L. Bethlehem, the detainee was by the works, where he lives. The gang split up, so that the one half went down to the works, and the other half went to the other side of the road to the buildings there. Both Party and Parris were in the latter half (...)

Mention #40 (book 4)

Saturday the 31st of May 1879

(...) Martin Prior, driver at Pl: Lower Love has been summoned and appears (...) After John Charles had accompanied manager Brady up to Christiansted on Wednesday afternoon and had returned around 3 o'clock, the witness did not see him until Friday afternoon, when Parris' gang had been dispersed at River and the negroes returned, because the witness had had to keep himself more or less hidden since Wednesday evening (...)

Mention #41 (book 4)

Friday the 6th of June 1879

(...) It is remarked that during an inquiry which was set up yesterday at Pl. St Georges, it had become most likely that the man who was wearing a military cap, a cartridge pouch and a gun, mentioned by Bona Thomas and Francis Boffert on the 24th of the previous month, was **Joseph Parris**, but the ownership seems to be very questionable, and it cannot be concluded whether the items worn by the man were stolen from the murdered soldiers (...)

Mention #42 (book 4)

Tuesday the 10th of June 1879

(...) Detainee John Charles from Pl. L. Love (...) When planter Farrelly came home on the Sunday after the unrest, the laborers gathered around him and immediately told him that those who had come and set fire to the plantation were the laborers who had previously worked at L. Love but had left, but they said nothing about themselves, and they even told Farrelly that they had not participated in anything at all. At the time, Farrelly knew that the detainee had been out on Thursday, but he was really inclined to believe that they had remained calm, except, of course, **Parris**. When Parris had been tied up, he let a piece of paper pass on to Farrelly on which he had let Daniel Nibbs write something down, which was presumably the names of other negroes whom **Parris**, who was absolutely aware that he was to be shot, believed had deserved the same fate as himself. The witness was present when the laborers distributed the flour amongst themselves on Thursday evening, but he did not have more to do with it than anyone else, and he only heard about the accusation against his person after he had been arrested, and likewise, it was only now that he heard the accusation that he set fire to the old manager's house. Regarding his presence at River on Wednesday evening, the detainee states that when the gang left Grove Place, he was at home at L. Love where he, as several others, sat in a tree, and he saw how the gang stopped at the crossroads between U. Love and River. Alongside some more laborers from Lower Love, approximately 8-12 people, he also ran over to River, to whence the gang had turned down before he and the others arrived. There, he saw **Parris** with the gang, but he was in no way with him and he absolutely did not burn down the works alongside him. Along with the others, he arrived after the magass was on fire in various places around the yard and in part of the works. He adds that the driver had told him and others that they should try to keep the gang over in that area, so that it wouldn't come to L. Love. As stated, the detainee went from River straight back to Lower Love. He had not met G. Michael and he did not know anything about him and his trough³⁶⁴ before he met him in Lower Love yard. The detainee is presented with the fact that he has previously stated /: 15th of March :/ that on Wednesday afternoon, he passed or was at U. Love along with **Parris**, but he repeats that he did not see **Parris** until at River (...)

Mention #43 (book 4)

Friday the 13th of June 1879

(...) The smith Andrew O' Reilly from the Station Kingshill has been summoned and appears (...) Regarding the arson of Kingshill Station's buildings, the witness can only say that it was a negro, whom the witness was afterwards told was called **Parris**, who was in the lead. When the witness showed himself at the gate in order to look for the approaching gang, **Parris** fired two shots at him, whereafter the witness quickly mounted his horse and rode away. The gang consisted of approximately 600 people and one part of it approached the southern gate, and the other part went towards the gate, but the witness does not know anything about them having approached the Station and carefully surrounding it, as if they expected it to be occupied by troops (...) The witness can thus not give any information as

to who carried out individual acts under Parris' leadership and particularly not about who set fire to the Station building (...)

(...) Detainee George Michael appears (...) He and the gang had reached the Gregre-gut when he heard someone call the gang back, and then he saw that someone had taken hold of Carty, whom he freed and brought into his house, and from there, he went to the rum cellar, which had already been broken open by L. Love's own laborers (...) From there, the detainee went with the gang, which had swelled with laborers from L. Love and Castle, over to Castle, where he did not set fire to anything, but where Parris and John Coddard burned down the greathouse. The works, however, were not burned. From there, the detainee went to Slob, where he was with a woman when this plantation burned (...)

Mention #44 (book 4)

Saturday the 14th of June 1879

(...) Driver Samuel Wood from Pl. Castle, born at the same place, appears (...) He then states that on Wednesday evening, he was at the Pl. when the gang came in from L. Love. In the lead was Joseph Parris, whom the witness knows well, and a tall negro whom he was later told was called George Michael (...) After the gang were finished at the greathouse, they attacked the manager's house. However, the witness had spoken to two of them, one of them was George Michael and the other was a short, stumpy fellow, and he had asked them not to burn the works, but George Michael just replied by asking the other fellow who was speaking and what he wanted. Parris had gone ahead to the manager's house under which the allowance cellar was situated (...) The witness pointed at a puncheon which the crowd then rolled out and they broke the bottom out of it, and then they took whatever rum they wanted and set fire to the rest. The burning rum flowed into "the canroom³⁶⁹", and the fire spread up to the distilling house. The witness cannot say who set fire to the rum. When the gang, immediately after, swung away, the witness called to Castle's laborers to get the fire extinguished, which Parris, who had stayed back a bit, did not resist but he helped the witness. G. Michael had left. The witness did not see Thomas Critchlow (...)

(...) The witness did not see Parris' gang at Castle on Friday, but he heard that a conch was blown in the negro village, and it was said that it was Bamberg who blew the conch. The witness affirms his testimony and stands down (...)

(...) Ferdinand Petersen from Pl: Castle, born at the same place, has been summoned and appears (...) Parris and G. Michael walked in the lead and he³⁷¹ had a gun in his hand, so he was in no doubt that they were the leaders (...)

(...) The driver called the laborers to put out the fire, and Parris returned, saying that Castle's laborers were not to follow, but that they should stay and put out the fire. Then, Parris ran after the gang again, and they walked away on the main avenue, but the witness does not know where they went (...) On Friday morning, the witness saw Parris come into Castle negro village with a flock of negroes from L. Love, where he shot his gun to create a disturbance (...)

(...) Then, James Henry from Pl. Castle appears (...) In the gang which came on Friday, and which the witness unwillingly followed over to Jealousy Gut, apart from Parris, he also knew Richard Normann, Wm Barnes and Bamberg, and the latter blew the conch. The witness saw Jacob claim that it was either George Michael or Parris, who lit the rum (...)

(...) Detainee George Michael appears and states that he and Thomas Critchlow were in the lead of the gang when it came to Castle's negro village. Parris greeted them there, and then he led the gang straight up to the merchant Kjerulff's dwelling. The detainee was inside the house, but he claims that it was Parris and John Codday who were responsible for the destruction. The detainee says that he was on the ground floor when the fire was started upstairs, and he did not participate in the destruction. He states that Parris gave the driver the order to open up the allowance cellar, but he does not know whether the driver obeyed or how the cellar was opened (...) He claims that it was not himself but Paris who gave the order to roll out a rum barrel, and he states that regarding the lighting of the rum barrel, someone held a light over the barrel, stuck it into the rum, and thus, the works were set on fire. He says that the driver did not talk to him about burning the works, but he did hear the driver talking to Thomas Critchlow while the detainee was standing there (...)

(...) The witness affirms his testimony adding that on Friday morning, when Parris was gathering his gang at L. Love, he was sleeping, so he does not know anything about Bamberg. Witness stands down (...)

Mention #45 (book 4)

Monday the 16th of June 1879

(...) Daniel Gibbs from Pl. L. Love, born at Pl. Diamond, appears (...) Then, along with a lot of other L. Love laborers, John Charles went over to River - Parris was probably there as well -, but as far as the witness knows, as he was not there himself, most of them did not go further than to U. Love, where the driver stopped them (...)

(...) Detainee William Henry appears and continues to claim that the fire in the machine room, which was started by Felitia, to whom Joseph Parris drew the witness' attention, but that she did not do it on her own, but along with a great many others who brought magass to it, was not put out by St Rose, but that it was still burning when the gang returned, and that Thomas Smalls took some long pieces of magass from "the gangway", lit them by the fire and brought them to the magass which had been gathered in the rum cellar³⁸⁰(...)

(...) Detainee Felitia Benjamin is presented with witnesses Gibbs' and Rose's testimonies, which they adamantly maintain, and she continues to deny having started a fire in or by the machine room, and likewise, William Henry repeats his statement, adding that again on Saturday, when Felitia came into the plantation, J. Parris repeated to him that she was the woman who set fire to the works (...)

Mention #46 (book 5)

Tuesday the 17th of June 1879

(...) Fritz Ballentine from pl. Mt Pleasant appear (...) He did indeed have his axe on his shoulder, but he also had various other tools with him which he /: interrogation of the 18th of January :/ had just salvaged at Mt Pleasant. He repeats that, just like he only chopped at a cart at Mt Pleasant because

Parris was out for him because he was idle, he had not been able to avoid joining the swarm which went over to River (...)

Mention #47 (book 5)

Friday the 4th of July 1879

(...) Detainee Joshua Collingmoore appears, about whom it is noted that he was also at Cliftonhill. He denies it firmly and maintains that during that evening, he did not go further than to Monbijou, from where he brought manager Fjeld's horse, which Parris had taken at Jealousy and left at Monbijou, home to Jealousy, where he then stayed for the rest of the night. Detainee led away (...)

(...) Then, detainee William Barnes appears again (...) During a further examination of his overall activity, it emerges that on Friday morning, when he had left Parris' gang and had stayed at Jealousy, he did not know that Parris had gone down towards River. He thought that he had gone "up the country" which had been the intention, because it had been remarked that Bonne Espearance's mill was moving, which Parris and his gang found to be very bad and had to be thwarted. He did not know that the gang was at River before he reached River along with the laborers from River which he met, as explained previously, and who also didn't know that Parris had gone to River over Hermitage. As stated previously, Parris, who was very determined that day, had gone from plantation to plantation and had gathered people to reach town with a great mass (...)

Mention #48 (book 5)

Tuesday the 15th of July 1879

(...) It is remarked that at the inquiries conducted at Pl. Slob, it has emerged that the ringleaders of and in the gang which ravaged during the night between the 2nd and 3rd of October at approximately 12 o'clock and which burned down the plantation's works, greathouse etc., must primarily be considered to be Bradshaw, Newton, Joseph Ross /: Monsieur :/, De Silva, Parris and John Lewis of which the 3 last mentioned were shot according to the verdict of the Court Martial, and the 3 others were killed in other ways, as is often mentioned (...)

(...) Detainee William Henry appears and states that Bamberg was with the gang all the way from Lower Love to River, but he does not know anything in particular about how far up Bamberg was at Mt Pleasant or what he did there. It was solely Parris who oversaw the arson, and the detainee does not know who helped him (...)

Mention #49 (book 5)

the 19th of July 1879

(...) Elizabeth Messer from the town Frederiksted, born at Butlerbay, has been summoned and appears. It is noted that she stood next to Margreth Heyns in Anguilla's yard. She states that she had come across the gang by chance as early as at Goldengrove, and that a man called Parris and Augustus George forced her to follow along (...)

Mention #50 (book 5)

Thursday the 31st of July

(...) In order to give information regarding various points which presented themselves as the Judge reviewed various parts of the case, detainee William Henry from Pl. L. Love appears.

1. Regarding Adolph William who appeared yesterday, he states that on the tour on Thursday, he noticed Joe William with the red cloth around his neck, but he did not see him act as a leader at any place. Also, he does not believe that Joe William was responsible for burning down L. Bethlehem's works, as Barnes has believed. The detainee sat alongside George Cambridge and a couple of others at the edge of a ditch below Kingshill's hill, when Joe William passed by along with some others, but at that time, a gang had already gone down to the works under the leadership of either Parris or Party. The detainee, who was unhappy about following any longer, went home without touching upon L. Bethlehem. He does not know whether Cambridge did the same, but it is not probable that Cambridge /: which Edward Washington has stated :/ took part or even himself set fire to L. Bethlehem's works.
2. The detainee saw the people from Mt Pleasant, mentioned by Joe William, that is Allick Edward and Henry Thomas, on the tour on Thursday, but he does not know whether they particularly burned Anguilla. He also saw James Cox but not that he was a leader. He does not know whether he was particularly prominent at Anguilla. The only "Captains" at Anguilla that he knows of are Parris and Party (...)
7. Bamberg's braggings at Lowe Love on Friday morning were perhaps more about that he had tried to help the whites in Frederiksted than that he had participated in the excesses. In any case, the detainee remembers that on the next morning, he complained that a man called Nathan and a couple of others wanted to shoot him. He spoke about that he had thrown out some axes from some place and had accidentally hit an old man's foot, and this must be the reason why he was being pursued; otherwise, he would not have left Frederiksted. He did not say that he had had anything to do with the gang at Mt Pleasant or that he had distributed axes to the negroes, but only that he had taken an axe when they had been thrown out to scramble for. He said that he had been present when Mt Pleasant's works /: Plessens :/ burned, but he stressed that he had nothing to do with it. At L. Love, he had a conch, but the detainee does not know whether he blew it and in any case, when Parris wanted him to blow it to call people to turn out, he pretended that he didn't know how, so Barnes blew until John Charles stopped him.
8. The detainee knows and saw for himself that on Sunday morning, after the last gang had been dispersed on Friday, Parris had Daniel Nibbs write out two papers of which he said that the one contained a specification of those people who had participated in the destruction of L. Love, and he gave it to manager Finegan. According to the detainee, the other paper contained the names of those people whom Parris believed had offended as severely as he had himself and who ought to be shot like himself. The detainee does not know what happened to this paper. Parris had completely accepted that he would be shot. As soon as on Thursday evening, the detainee saw him sitting under a Calabash tree, crying, and when the detainee asked him what was the matter, he replied that he knew that he would be dead come next Thursday, but on Friday morning, he was as violent as ever before. Regarding himself, the detainee repeats what is perhaps already noted as stated by himself, but which in any case was stated by detainee Wren

Gittens /: 7th of April :/ that it was not the intention of the detainee and the other labourers of L. Love to disrupt Adventure, but after John Coddady had threatened them to gather, they had gone to join Parris' gang, and some of Adventure's labourers had beckoned them to come in while they were still on Centerline, and after that encouragement, they had turned down the road to Adventure, and more of Adventure's labourers greeted them and walked in their lead up to Adventure's yard. He maintains that he did no harm at all.

Regarding Parris' paper, it is remarked that the Judge has previously heard that manager Finegan has stated that he has given the mentioned paper, which he had received, to Christiansted Police Chamber, where it has probably been mislaid in the torrent of reports which came in during the first days, after the content, which only concerned L. Love, had been noted. Nothing is known about the second paper.

Mention #51 (book 5)

Saturday the 2nd of August 1879

(...) Detainee John Charles further states that he cannot actually say that Bamberg was eager to form a gang that morning at Lower Love. It was Parris who was responsible for it, but it was not difficult to get the rest of Lower Love's labourers to go along (...)

(...) Andreas Posset from Pl. River, born at U. Love, appears (...) Allen walked away, and the witness does not know where he was the for the rest of the night, but the next morning, he was at the plantation again - he belonged there - but left again and did not return until later during the day, and this time, he was accompanied by Parris' gang, who burned down the buildings which had been spared on Wednesday (...) Allen walked away, and the witness does not know where he was the for the rest of the night, but the next morning, he was at the plantation again - he belonged there - but left again and did not return until later during the day, and this time, he was accompanied by Parris' gang, who burned down the buildings which had been spared on Wednesday (...)

(...) Henry Patrick from Pl. River appears. His testimony of the 26th of February is reviewed with him, particularly regarding what various detainees have later stated. He then states, in further detail, that the main gang was indeed at the Pl. when he saw John Charles come in from the U. Love area. There were also fires here and there in the magass yard, but according to the witness, none of the big magass stacks were on fire, and neither were the works, and he maintains that John Charles commanded alongside Parris (...)

(...) Then, detainee John Charles appears, and the witness states in further detail that when he came to River, the works were on fire and the little curing house at the road was on fire, and Regius had built a fire in the rum cellar, but the woodwork above had not yet caught fire, and all over the yard, the "cush cush" magass was on fire, so the magass stacks would also ignite, but he maintains, however, that both the detainee and Parris were in command, and he explains in further detail that they ordered more magass to be brought in. Thus, in a way it is true that the gang was almost finished at River when the detainee came in, but he and Parris made sure that it was set properly on fire and that it did not go out again (...)

Mention #52 (book 6)

Friday the 4th of April 1880

(...) James Emanuel Benjamin from the plantation Mt Pleasant, born on Antigua³, states that he is twenty odd years old, which corresponds with his appearance (...) 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 gang⁵ which burned and destroyed the plantation Mt Pleasant, where the detainee himself was employed, particularly by ringing the bell (...) On the way to River on Friday, he just followed **Parris**' orders, as did the rest of Mt Pleasant's laborers (...)

Mention #53 (book 6)

Monday the 19th of April 1880

(...) 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 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 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 (...)

Mention #54 (book 6)

Tuesday the 20th of April 1880

(...) The detainee William Barnes from the plantation Rust up Twist appears (...) 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 (...)

Mention #55 (book 6)

Friday the 30th of April 1880

(...) Detainee Edward Lewis from the pltn: Mt Pleasant appears (...) 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 (...)

(...) 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 (...)

(...) The detainee William Henry or Henry William from the plantation Lower Love appears (...) 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 (...)

