

I hereby send your Excellency a summary of the records of St. Croix Prison including the decision of the commission from yesterday concerning the slaves John McKay and Jim, belonging to Shoy Estate, and William, belonging to Reeston Hill Estate. All three are put up for punishment with lashes of the whip and for a sentence of labor at the prison for repeatedly running away.

The appended documents mentioned in the transcript are enclosed.

St. Croix Prison, April 27, 1843

Your humble servant

Friderichsen

To

Lord Chamberlain von Oxholm

Colonel, Official

Order of the Dannebrog

Governor-General

Transcript (excerpt)

Of

The court records of St. Croix Prison

On April 26, 1842, afternoon, commission meeting at the prison.

The Police Chief presented the following to the other members of the commission:

A: A transcript of the police records concerning two Negroes, John McKay and Jim, both belonging to Shoy Estate, and a transcript of the police records of that prison, from which it will appear the former has often been arrested and punished for several escape attempts.

As for the latter, Jim, the Police Chief referred to a resolution presented at the commission meeting of August 7, 1841, which shows he has also been punished with twice 27 lashes for repeated escape attempts.

B: Secondly a summary of this records of this judicial authority and this prison, and an account of how often the Negro William has run away and has previously been pardoned or punished, supplied by W. Knight, owner of Reeston Hill Estate, to which William belongs.

After careful consideration of the circumstances of the three slaves mentioned above, the commission decided to submit the following to the Governor-General's decision:

1. That the Negro John McKay be punished with 27 lashes and labor at the prison for one month.

2. That the Negro Jim be punished with two times 27 lashes, executed on two consecutive Saturdays, and labor at the prison for one month.
3. That the Negro William be punished with two times 27 lashes, executed on two consecutive Saturdays and one month of labor.

As there was no other business at hand, the commission was adjourned.

Friderichsen A. Tower David Rogers

The accuracy of the excerpt is certified by

Friderichsen



Transcript of Christiansted Court Records

On April 19, 1843 the court was set in Christiansted Police Court, and a new case was tried in the presence of the Police Sergeant and the Police Officer S. Adams.

Nr. 14/1843 Police examination into the repeated escape attempts of the Negroes McKay and Jim from Shoy Estate.

The Police Chief observed that the two Negroes had been sent here from the estate yesterday.

The Negro McKay appeared before the court and explained that he suffers from hernia and therefore often has to go to the sick house, but the overseer does not believe him when he reports sick. As a result he has to lie down in the bush, and when this has happened a couple days, he is afraid to go home again and so he stays away. The reason he ran away the last time is that he called upon Mr. Woods in this town asking him to get him a hernia truss, which he had, but as the hernia truss was a

simple one and not a double one, it is hardly any use at all – and when a couple of days later he felt ill, he ran away.

After a few days the defendant reported to Major Lang, who gave him a note to take home. But because he felt ill again, he ran away again, whereupon he reported to the overseer at Seven Hills Estate, who escorted the defendant home. On being asked why he had not told Mr. Woods that he needed a double truss, or approached him later to get it, the defendant admits making a mistake. His explanation was therefore assumed to be either an excuse or a quibble, so he was dismissed.

Next the Negro Jim appeared. He explained that the reason he had run away was that his axe had been lost in the bush when he was cutting firewood and had been taken by somebody else. He was afraid that the overseer was going to punish him and therefore he ran away. A few days later he was apprehended and taken into custody by the Negro Charlie, who promised to get him another axe, but when that did not happen, the defendant decided to run away again. He offered no explanation as to why, other than that he was afraid of being punished, as stated above. He had nothing else to add to his explanation and was dismissed. The examination was closed and the court was adjourned.

Extract of transcript form St. Croix Prison Police Records

1838

Wednesday, April 25

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has been arrested for running away

Thursday, April 26

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has, by order of the Police Chief, been punished by 15 of the
tamp and labor for two weeks for running away.

Friday, May 11

William belonging to Reeston Hill has been released upon serving his sentence.

1840

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has been arrested for running away and, by order of the
Police Chief, been sent here and put to work.

Friday, February 27

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has today been released from prison

Wednesday, December 2

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has been arrested by School Master Wulff for trespassing
into his yard, by order of the Police Chief, been sent here and put to work.

Tuesday, July 5

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate, arrested on the 14th of last month for trespassing into School Master Wulff's yard was punished with 30 lashes by order of the Police Chief.

Wednesday, July 6

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate, arrested on the 14th of last month and punished has now been released.

Monday July 11

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate, arrested on suspicion of planning to run away, was sent here and put to work by order of the Police Chief.

Tuesday, July 19

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate and arrested on the 11th of this month for running away has now, by order of the Police Chief, been punished with 15 of the tamp, and was subsequently released.

1843

Thursday, March 16

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has been arrested on suspicion of planning to run away.

Friday, March 31

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate, arrested on the 16th of this month for running away has now, by order of the Police Chief, been punished with 25 of the tamp and sent to the police station to be released.

Monday, April 10

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate has been arrested for repeatedly planning to run away.

The accuracy of the extract is certified by

Friderichsen

Extract of transcript from St. Croix Prison Police Records

1839

Sunday, April 14

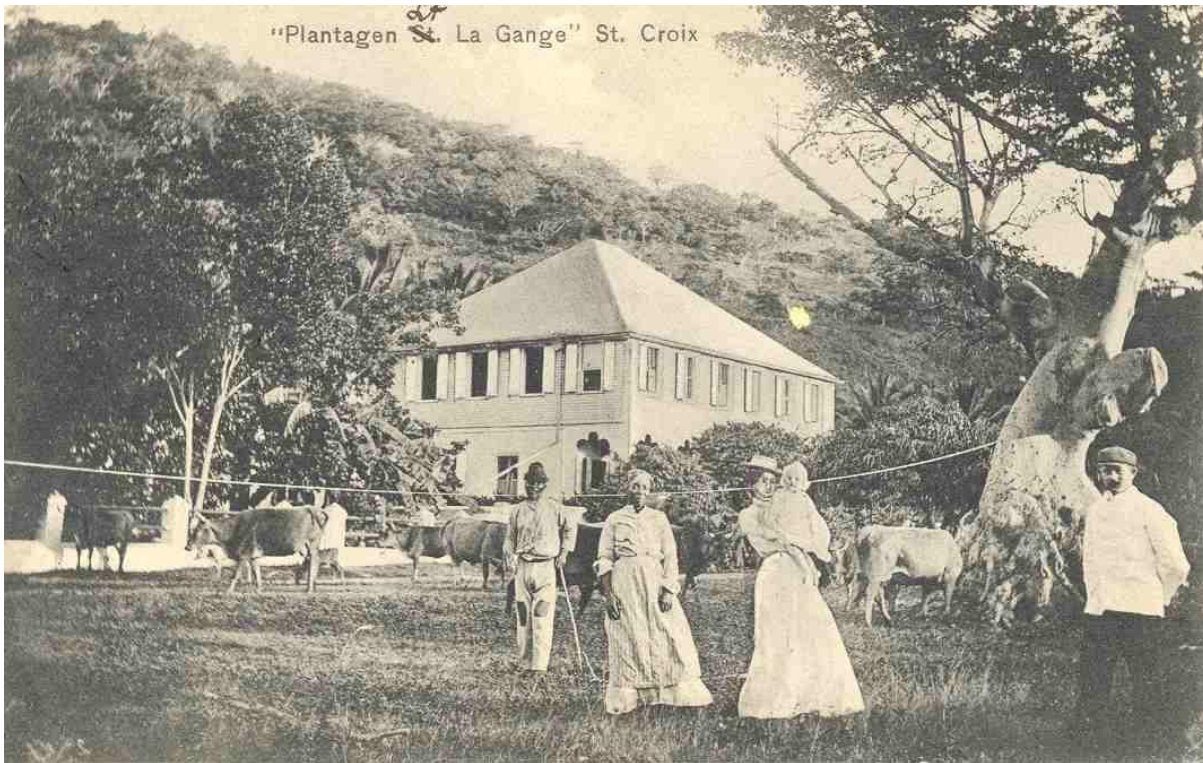
John belonging to Shoy Estate, arrested for running away, has been put to work until further notice.

Wednesday, May 15

John belonging to Shoy Estate was released upon serving his sentence.

Tuesday, November 19

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate was, by order of the Police Chief, punished with 30 of the tamp and the same day released from prison.



1840

Friday, April 17

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate arrested for running away

Monday, May 4

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate was punished with 25 of the tamp by order of the Police Chief and subsequently released.

1842

Monday, March 21

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate was yesterday arrested and put in the town jail for stealing sugar cane. Today sent here by order of the Police Chief and put to work.

Monday, April 4

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate , arrested on the 21th of last month for thieving, was, by order of the Police Chief, punished with 25 of the tamp and subsequently sent to the Police Station to be released.

1843

Wednesday, April 19

John McKay belonging to Shoy Estate arrested for repeatedly running away.

The accuracy of the extract is certified by

Friderichsen

Submitted at St. Croix Prison Commission on April 26, 1843

Friederichsen A. Tower David Rogers

Extract of transcript from the Police Records of Christiansted Jurisdiction

1838

April 25

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate sent here from the estate for repeatedly running away and, by order of the Police Chief sent to St. Croix prison to work there until further notice.

1840

February 21

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate, sent here from the estate for running away, put in prison.

March 27

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate and arrested on the 21st of last month was punished with 15 of the tamp and released without costs.

December 2

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate arrested for running away by Police Officer Clausen – sent to the prison

1841

January 7

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate arrested and the 2nd of December sent to the prison to be punished with 12 of the tamp and released without costs, other than 4 rix dollars to catch him and one real for the Prison Inspector.

June 13

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate arrested by School Master Wulff, who found him in his yard stealing firewood.

June 14

William belonging to Reeston Hill Estate arrested yesterday and sent to the prison

July 6

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate arrested June 13 and sent to the prison the day after is released without costs

July 11

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate was arrested by Police Officer Gindrup for running away. Transferred to the prison

July 19

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate was released from the prison

1843

March 16

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate arrested by School Master Wulff who found him in his yeard. Sent to the prison

March 31

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate and was arested March 16 and sent to prison was punished with 25 of the tamp and released without costs

April 9

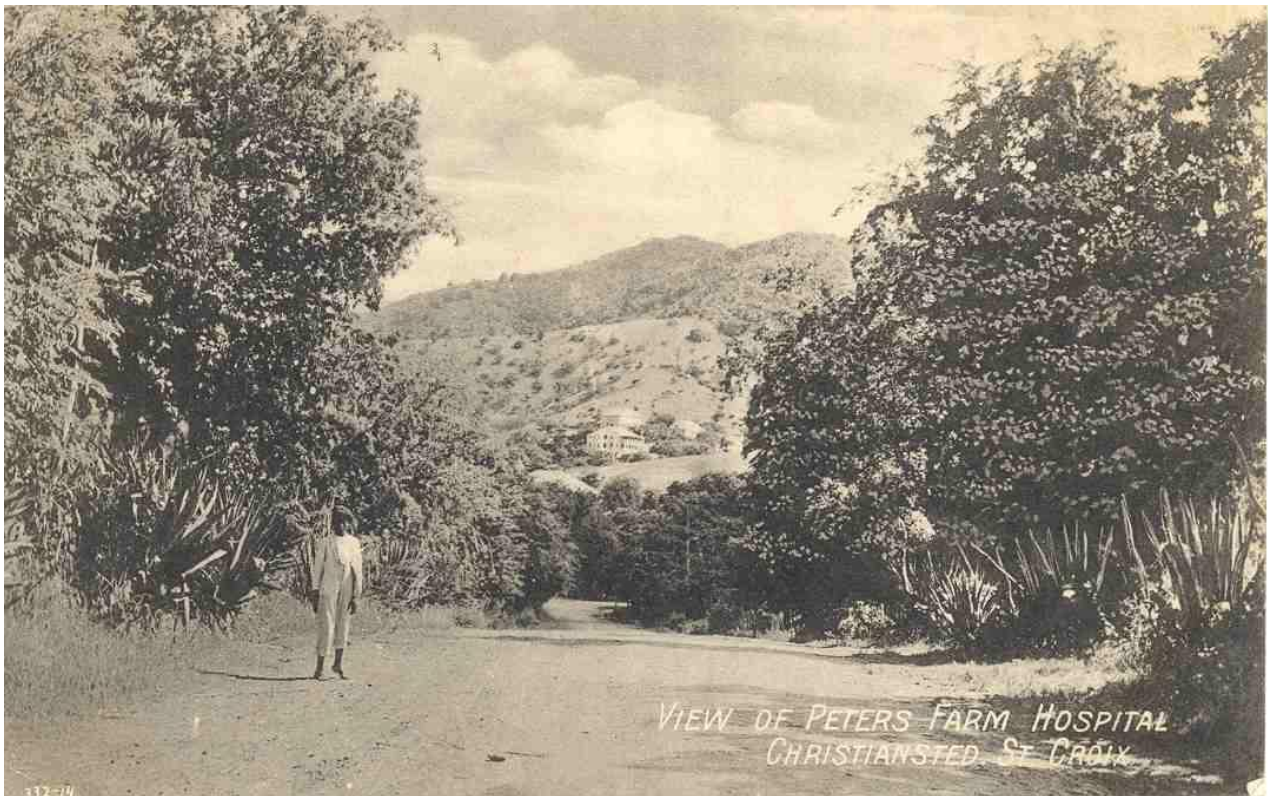
William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate brought in for constantly running away

April 10

William belonging to Beeston Hill Estate and arrested yesterday sent to prison

The accuracy of the extract is certified by

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Statement of William Andersen's Character from 1840 [...] to Date.

1840 January the 6th William absent from the 6th until the 16th brought home not [finished] [...] in Hospital

from the 16th until the 22nd which time he thought pro [...] to [dismissing] him from Sickhouse, and the Morning of his [dismissing] absentio himself 29 Days when taken up [...] Mean from Cattle Coakly who was [...] of [...] and brought home.

February 29 absentio himself April the 4th taken up in town not [finished].

April 27th absentio himself May the 10th taken up in West and imprisoned. Anno the 7th taken [...] of Westend [...] and brought home.

Anno the 15th absent from Work until 10 o'clock put under [Dimple] Arrest for Eight Days.

September the 20 absent from Work till 10 o'clock brought home by his Mother and pardoned.

8 Oct again absent till 11 o'clock brought home by his [Sister] and pardoned.

*November 23. Absentio himself taken up in [...] and put in Nuo Prison sent home the 7 January
1842*

*January the 3rd absentio himself – Taken up in Estate [...] the 1st February sent under [Dimple] Arrest for
Eight Days after being [released]*

[...] himself sick , which time [...] 35 Days.

*May [burde der stå marts?] the 18th Monday absentio himself - brought home [Dimple] Arrest for Eight
Days.*

April the 6th Monday absentio himself 2 Days brought home and pardoned.

*June the 13 Monday absentio himself taken [...] and put in Nuo Prison where he remained until the 6th
July.*

Run away again taken up in [...] the 11th July. Released on the 19th July.

May the 17th Monday. William absent

June the 9th brought home and pardoned

October the 10th absentio himself – brought home after [...] Days of absence. Pardoned.

October 17th absentio 4 Days brought home. Put under [Dimple] arrest for Eight Days

Novbr 8th William absent - on Monday

15th brought home [Dimple] Arrest in [...] Days

Novbr 28th Monday absentio himself for 8 Days brought home by John Martin and not [finished]

1842 January the 3rd Monday William absent

1843 January 13th William absent brought home [...] Nuo Prison.

April the 1st absentio again was taken up at [...] by the Driver , on [...] sent to [...]

W. [Knight]

[...]

25th April 1843

Submitted at St. Croix Prison

Commission on the 26th of April 1843

Friderichsen A. Tower David Rogers