

Martin of Estate Boetzberg, 1843 - maroon

DOKUMENT 1

To

His Excellency

General Major, v. Scholten,

Lord Chamberlain, Knight of Order of the Dannebrog, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor, Commander of the Order of Guelph, Knight of the Order pour le Mérite Militaire, Governor-General

Enclosed I have the honor of submitting this transcript of the police records of this jurisdiction in regard to the examination of the Negro boy Martin, belonging to Boetzberg Estate, who has repeatedly absconded and during his stay in the bush has killed a sheep – both of which offences he has confessed.

And I take the liberty to submit two excerpts from the prison and police records of this jurisdiction. The records will both show how often he, Martin, has been arrested and punished.

In view of estate renter Hutchinson's remarks during the examination, and as Your Excellency presumably, by oral agreement, will allow Estate renter Hutchinson to keep Martin in shackles on the plantation, I request of Your Excellency that Martin cannot be kept working at the prison.

Christiansted Police, July 29, 1843

Your humble servant,

Friderichsen



DOCUMENT 2

Transcript

of

Christiansted Jurisdiction Police Court Records

On July 12, 1843, at 10 o'clock in the morning Christiansted Police Court was in session in the presence of Police Sergeant and Police Officer G. Adams, where there was an examination into a new case.

Nr. 26/1843. Examination of the Negro boy Martin, belonging to Boetzberg Estate.

The Police Chief observed: that estate renter Hutchinson had turned up at this police station because the boy Martin belonging the above mentioned estate, on the 23rd of last month, had again been sent here for repeatedly running maroon, and for having slaughtered a sheep in the bush. Hutchinson explained that on several occasions during the short time that he has been the renter, which is to say since the month of February, Martin has run away for no reason, and when this happens, he looks for chances to kill sheep,

both those belonging to Boetzberg and sheep from other neighboring estates. If he was not allowed to keep Martin in light irons, he would be useless on the property, and therefore he preferred that he be kept here.

With reference to the above explanation, Martin appeared before the court and, on being questioned, says that one day he stayed away because he fell asleep in the bush, and when he awoke, he found that it was too late to go to work, and therefore he was afraid to go home, but stayed in the bush near Salmon Hill¹, where one day he had a chance to catch one of the estate's sheep without anyone seeing him. He killed said sheep and used some of the meat – he then met Cornelius from Altona Estate and gave him a piece, but the latter is no further involved, whereupon the young Mr. Lang saw Martin, followed him, and later arrested him by the lagoon, and took him to the estate, from whence he was sent here.

He admits to have run away several times without, however, being able to tell the court why. The examination ended and he was returned to custody, whereupon the examination was temporarily discontinued and the court was adjourned.

Friderichsen

The transcripts are certified by

Friderichsen

DOCUMENT 3

Excerpt of transcript from

Christiansted Jurisdiction Police Records

1841

Feb. 16

Martin Negro boy belonging to Boetzberg Estate appeared with a complaint that he had been flogged by the manager at Altona Estate.

¹ Salmon Hill, also called Carinamount, is located about one-half mile east of estate Boetzberg.

Feb. 20

Martin belonging to Boetzberg Estate, arrested on Feb. 16 was chastised and released without costs.

1842

March 10

Martin Negro boy belonging to Boetzberg Estate sent here from said estate for running maroon.

March 14

Martin belonging to Boetzberg Estate was released from prison.

June 1

Martin Negro boy belonging to Boetzberg Estate sent here from (Estate) Elizas Retrat for running maroon – jailed.

June 15

Martin belonging to Boetzberg Estate was released from prison without costs after being punished.

Sept. 21

Martin Negro boy belonging to Boetzberg Estate sent from the estate for running maroon. Jailed.

Oct. 5

Martin belonging to Boetzberg Estate was released from jail without costs after being punished.

1843

March 16

Martin Negro boy belonging to Boetzberg Estate sent from the estate for running maroon, and suspected of stealing a sheep. Jailed.

April 24

Martin belonging to Boetzberg Estate was released from jail without costs after punishment.

The transcript is certified by

Friderichsen



At Water-Gut Well Christiansted, St. Croix, D. W. I.