

DOCUMENT 1

June 28, 1828

To:

His Excellency

Governor-General von Scholten

Lord Chamberlain, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog

It will please Your Excellency that yesterday, according to your instructions, I sent the Police Captain and two police officers to Cane Bay Estate to arrest the eight Negroes who had run away from said estate. Yesterday evening these were brought to this town and subjected to police questioning, a transcript of which I hereby have the honor of submitting to you. During the interrogation it was revealed, although not fully proven, that the Negro Simon must have been the ringleader in this desertion. It also seems as if the intention must have been to get the Negro girl Caroline, who on Wednesday was brought here and punished for bad behavior, away from the driver David. Instead they wanted to bring her to Your Excellency, because they feared that I would not be as just as you. It also seems clear, particularly in the light of the explanations given by David, Moreton, Nelson and several others, that the aforementioned eight Negroes had decided not to let themselves be arrested or punished by the driver, and to ensure that they would be able to resist arrest, they kept their cane knives and sticks with them, both in the field and at James Burrell's house. But their behavior in the latter place seems only to have been intended to imbue respect, -so that the foreman would not arrest or punish them.

Judging from their own explanations I believe that they had left the estate -without a good reason to go to the Governor-General with a complaint. I therefore humbly recommend that Your Excellency impose a suitable and appropriate punishment, which, for the sake of example, should maybe be executed on the estate and in such a way that it will be apparent that it was not me alone, but also the Governor-General, who did not accept their behavior.

In closing let me point out that during the questioning the Negro Simon exhibited a quite exceptional impudence, and I do not doubt that he is the guiltiest, and it seems to me that Moreton was the one who should be punished second-most. The Negro Paris seems very unintelligent, and the Negress Becky is believed to suffer from ill health.

Christiansted Police Department, June 28, 1828

Your humble servant

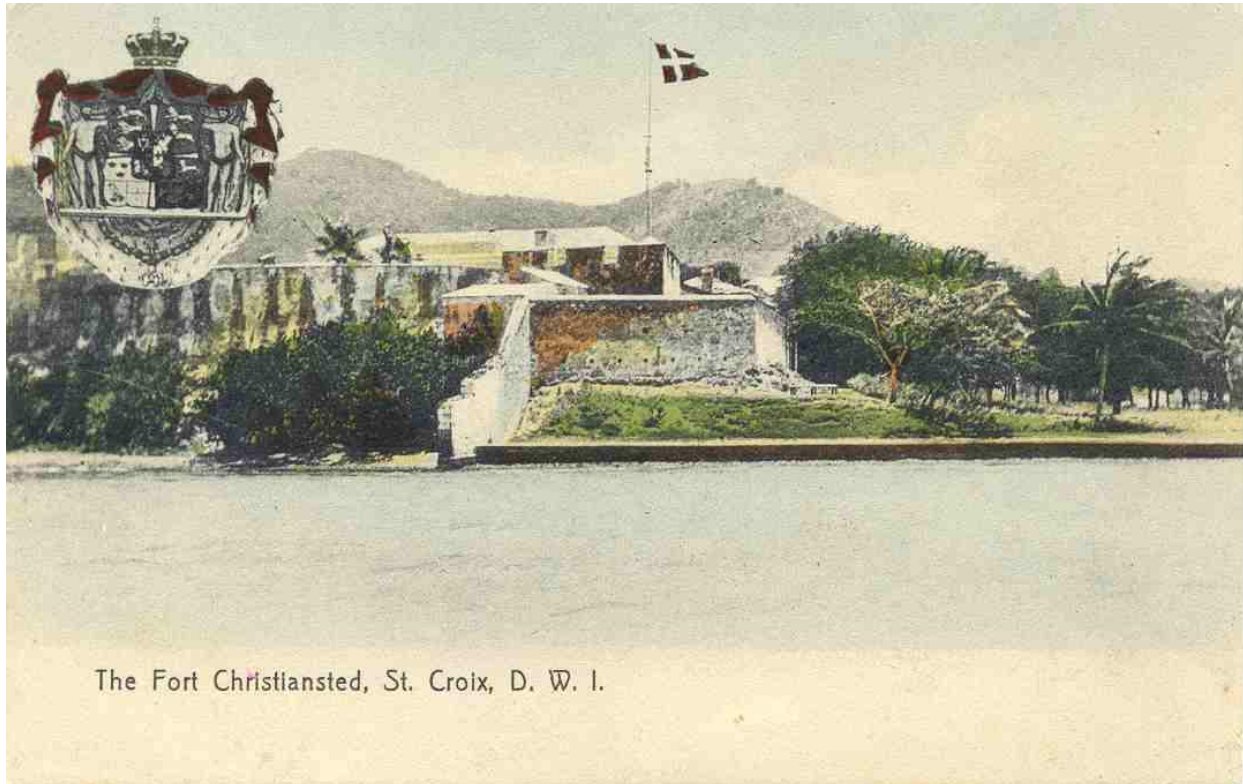
Kjellerup

To:

His Excellency  
Governor-General von Scholten  
Lord Chamberlain, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog

Police Chief Kjellerup

June 28, 1828



## DOCUMENT 2

On June 27, 1828, at precisely 6 o'clock in the morning, there was a session of Christiansted Police Court in the public Courthouse at 10 King Street. The session was presided by the undersigned as Police Chief and Police Clerk, and present were Police Captain Johne and Police Officer F. Andersen.

The following was undertaken:

### New Inquiry

Nr. 16/1828 The Police vs. the Negro Simon and others belonging to Cane Bay Estate

The Police Chief observed that two days ago he was informed by Robert Smith that eight Negroes from Cane Bay Estate, namely Simon, Abraham, Paris, Goodluck, Nelson, Moreton, Becky and Jane had left the estate for no reason according to the Manager or Manager of that estate, James Burrell.

Yesterday morning Planter John Plaskett came into the office and said that on his way into town he passed by Cane Bay Estate. Here he heard some noise and saw a good deal of Negroes gathered in front of the Manager's house, and when he asked about the reason, they told him that some Negroes, who the day before had run away, had just come back and were rebellious. When he, Plaskett, said that they had better arrest the ringleader of these rebellious Negroes, they answered him that the leader would not let himself be arrested, and that the 7 slaves who were with him wouldn't allow it either, but had declared that, if such was the case, they would all be arrested. Plaskett added that, as far as he could observe, the rebellious Negroes had armed themselves with sticks and cane knives.

In view of his report by John Plaskett, of which His Excellency the Governor-General was informed, the Governor-General ordered the eight Negroes arrested immediately. Police Captain Johne and two Police Officers Jensen and Schreihuber proceeded to Cane Bay Estate and arrested the aforementioned slaves, who were brought to this prison house last night at approx. 6 o'clock.

On his way to the estate the Police Captain received a letter from James Burell to the Police Chief with a report about the episode and the information that the aforementioned Negroes had left the estate again. The produced letter reads like this.

The produced letter reads like this:

Most honorable

Police Chief Kjellerup

Sir,

I wish to inform you that the eight Negroes who yesterday morning deserted, came back this morning. I sent for them and asked them about the reason for their desertion. They came armed with sticks and axes. Simon, the leader of the group, made a lot of noise and seemed threatening. He said that the Governor did not know that Caroline had been flogged, for if that had been the case, it would not have happened. They left yesterday because they wanted to go to Høgensburg [estate belonging to Johannes Sobotker] to speak with the Governor, but they discovered that he had gone into town.

I again asked them why they had deserted, but did not receive an answer. It was clear to me that if I had ordered the ringleader arrested, they would be prepared to use their sticks and axes.

Their manner was rebellious and threatening and was observed by Mrs. Burrell and Captain Groos, who happened to be present for reasons of work. I ask you to contact His Excellency, and I swear that I have not in any way mistreated any of these Negroes, to which my driver can bear witness.

I ask that Simon be kept imprisoned for a while as his behavior is very dangerous and threatening. The group eventually let me know that they would go to His Excellency, to which I answered: "Go ahead", and they have now left. Among them is a poor new Negro, by name of Paris, and I am convinced that he hardly knows what he is doing, but has been swayed by the others.

Respectfully and humbly yours,



estate other than the above mentioned. He admits that he was the leader yesterday at the Manager's and had told him that he treated the Negroes on the estate badly and particularly the accused, although he has been on the estate and has known him since he was a child. He said, moreover, that the surrounding planters must be behaving better towards their Negroes as none of them complain etc. – to which statement James Burrell did not answer. – He denies being the first to leave the estate the day before yesterday, and he refuses to say who was the first, stating that the Police Chief could ask the other arrestees about that. He denies that he had left the estate yesterday morning after the discussion at James Burrell's house.

As he did not want to, or could not, offer more details, he was returned to custody.

After that the Negro Abraham of Cane Bay Estate appeared. He was born on the estate, is Church of England, does not know his age, but is believed to be 22 years old. He does not know who was the first to suggest that they should go to the Governor-General to complain. The reason offered by the accused for complaining was that he did not have his dinner and his Sunday to himself, as each dinner he had to cut two bundles of grass, and on Sundays he had to sweep the court yard together with the other slaves, which took until late morning. He overheard the conversation between Burrell and Simon yesterday morning, during which Simon blamed Burrell for having on Monday having let the driver punish Caroline too severely; he did not hear anything other than that. He denies having left the estate yesterday morning after they had been to the Manager's house. The reason that they were carrying cane knives with them was that they came directly from the sugar harvesting, and the sticks they had used for protection on the previous day and they had not had time put them aside. Besides, the Manager treats them badly. He has flogged Moreton for taking some sugar foam, and the accused has been punished for a wound on his foot. That, however, happened more than a year ago. Others he has not yet flogged. He was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negro Moreton of Cane Bay Estate. He was born in this town, is Danish Lutheran, does not know his age, but is believed to be about 20 years old. He was bought by R. Smith from a man by the name of Shaw 8 years ago and has been moved to the estate.

The other day all the slaves decided to go the Governor-General with a complaint, but later they had second thoughts and assumed that eight slaves would have the same effect as if they all went. Therefore the other slaves stayed on the estate, while those eight went to Høgensborg Estate. When they did not find the General there, they came back to Cane Bay.

He gives as the reason for the intended complaint the very same reasons as Simon with the one addition that in the evening Susan was jailed after they had returned from the Governor-General. Moreover he adds that the driver David was asked to accompany them to the Governor-General with the complaint, but that David answered that if he knew that Burrell would be chased off the estate, he would do it, but as he couldn't be sure of that, he would side with the Manager. The reason that they had come to the Manager's house with sticks and axes, was that they had just come from the field, where they had been cutting cane, and the sticks they had had with them from the day before for protection if they were to be attacked. On being thoroughly questioned as to why they had the sticks with them in the morning in the field, he declared that it was to be able, if need be, to prevent the Manager or the driver from flogging them without reason or cause. He now adds that it was for the same reason that they brought their sticks to the

Manager's house. They then told the Manager that they would complain to the General, and to this Burrell answered that they could go, and when they said that the General was not at Høgensborg, Burrell answered that he had gone into town. They intended to leave immediately, but as they feared that Burrell had set up a guard to stop them, they decided to go into the field first. In connection with the flogging the accused claims to have received, he showed his body, particularly the place where the flogging was supposed to have been inflicted. The court could not judge if Moreton has ever received what one would call a proper beating as there were no visible marks. He was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negro Nelson of Cane Bay Estate, where he was born. He does not know his age, but is believed to be between 30 and 40 years old and is Church of England. On being thoroughly questioned he offered the same information as Moreton. He moreover added that the sticks were for defending themselves so that they would have a chance to bring the complaint to the Governor-General. Other than that he had no more to say. He was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negro Goodluck of Cane Bay Estate. He was born on the coast of Africa, does not know his age, but is believed to be between 30 and 40 years of age and is of the Moravian persuasion. He offered the same story as the Negro Simon with the one addition that the Manager forces them to work on Sundays sweeping the court yard and throwing grass, which takes until late in the morning. He had no stick with him neither to the field nor to the Manager's house yesterday morning, but he did bring his sugar axe, because he had not had a chance to put it aside. As he had nothing further to add, he was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negro Paris of Cane Bay Estate. He was born on the coast of Africa, is of the Moravian persuasion, does not know his age but is believed to be between 40 and 50 years old. He states as the reason for his intended complaint to the Governor-General that the Manager flogged him because he had gone to Canaan Estate last Sunday, without being able to show the marks of such a punishment, however. He was, besides, totally incomprehensible and apparently mad, so no coherent or understandable explanation was to be had from him. He was therefore dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negress Becky of Cane Bay Estate, where she was born. She does not know her age, but is believed to be between 50 and 60 years old and is of the Moravian persuasion. The reason for the intended complaint was that the Manager mistreats the Negroes on the estate, not anyone in particular, but everybody. The day before yesterday there had been no ringleader or any one person who was the first to suggest that they go to the Governor-General, but the Negro laborers all agreed on it with the exception of the driver. He said that if he knew that the Manager would be driven off, he would gladly join their party, but as he was not convinced of it, he was going to side with the Manager. However, the Negro laborers decided that it would be enough if eight people went and complained on everybody's behalf, and therefore the others stayed on the estate. She cannot tell whom the Manager or the driver have flogged most recently. She herself has been flogged, but she does not remember where and when and is unable to show any marks. She carried no stick yesterday at the Manager's house, just her sugar axe, but she did observe that Simon, Abraham, Moreton, Nelson and Goodluck had sticks with them in order, she heard them say, to defend themselves if they were attacked. After having been to the Manager's house, they did not leave the estate, but went to have their lunch and after that back to work. As she knew nothing besides, she was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the Negress Jane of Cane Bay Estate, where she was born. She is of the Moravian persuasion, does not know her age, but is believed to be about 30 years old. As far as relates to the case, she agrees with the Negress Becky except for claiming that she did not know of, or had heard of, the reason for Simon, Abraham, Moreton and Goodluck to have been armed with sticks. On being repeatedly questioned she insisted that her reason for complaining was that the Manager and the driver flog the gang too much or lock them up in the prison house. However, she could not give any names of individuals who had been treated thus. She herself had not been flogged, but the Manager had once threatened her with a flogging because she came too late from church to throw grass. He had said that if she had not been plenty ill already, he would have flogged her for her negligence. Other than that, she had to admit that she had no cause for complaint, but that it was because the Manager mistreated the other Negroes. As she offered nothing further by way of explanation, she was dismissed and returned to custody.

Next up was the driver, David, born on Cane Bay Estate where he belongs. He is of the Moravian persuasion, does not know his age, but is believed to be about 40 years old. He was admonished to speak the truth, and then he explained that he was not at home on Wednesday and had had no conversation with the Negroes when eight of them left. Nor did he have any idea that they were about to leave when, ordered by the Manager, he brought Caroline to this court. Simon has later stated that they left the estate to stop him (David) on the road with Caroline, with the intention to take her away from him and take her with them to the Governor-General. They believed that at that point in time she had been sufficiently punished on the estate. He, the witness, had, however, come too far away from them, and they did not manage to catch up with him. When they had returned yesterday morning and started the harvesting of sugar, each of the six Negroes had their sticks with them, and they moved these sticks with them as they worked their way through the sugar field – apparently intending to rebel if the Manager got it into his mind to punish them for their desertion. Yesterday morning Burrell called upon the witness and asked him if the eight runaways had returned, and when the witness answered in the affirmative, he asked him to tell the runaway, but now returned, Negroes to come to his house. The witness went into the field and asked them to go to Burrell's house, to which they immediately agreed. The men brought their cane knives and sticks, and Becky and Jane their cane knives. The witness asked them to take the lead, but Simon said 'no' – they didn't want him to walk behind them and told him to take the lead, an order which, due to the circumstances, he considered it necessary to obey. They then followed him to the Manager's house and formed a line outside the door from which it appeared that Simon was the ringleader. The Manager asked why they had deserted, to which Simon, as spokesman, answered that it was because the Manager had arbitrarily punished Caroline and sent her on to the police chief for further punishment without the Governor-General's knowledge or consent. On this occasion he gave a sort of speech lecturing Burrell on how an Manager should handle himself. The contents of this lecture the witness does not recall, however. As Simon spoke, he stood with a stick in his right hand, which he moved back and forth, and with a sugar axe in his left hand, which he kept still. And he and the others assumed a threatening position. Then they left the Manager's house, stating that they would go to the Governor-General. They went some distance down the road, but turned back shortly after, and later they returned to their work. The witness has no reason to believe that the Negroes on the estate have even the smallest reason to complain.

The Negro Simon was recalled and was confronted with David because their explanations conflicted. Although Simon admitted that, both in the field and at the Manager's house, he had had a stick and a sugar axe in his hands, he denied that he had them for a purpose. In the morning he had come from Canaan



Estate, where his wife lives, and had brought his stick, which he kept with him in the field. He admits that he would not let the driver walk behind them for fear that he would grab them from behind and therefore ordered him to walk in front. He added that he wanted the driver in front because he believed that the driver would not dare turn around and grab one of them out of fear. That is to say fear that they would run away, which, however, he declared had not been their intention.

Simon now admitted that yesterday morning he spoke to the Manager, like David had explained, and that they had formed a line, and that he, Simon, was the one who spoke to the Manager. As no further agreements could be obtained, they were both dismissed. After all the arrestees had been confronted with the driver, Simon, and each other, and when no agreements could be obtained, Simon and the other arrestees were returned to custody. The police chief produced a sworn in statement from Captain and Inspector Groos dated today, which pertains to the case of the Negroes from Cane Bay Estate.



The produced statement reads like this:

Cane Bay, June 27, 1828

At the request of Mr. Burrell, at whose residence I have spent a week in my capacity as Inspector of the North Side, I hereby testify under oath if deemed necessary:

“That on Wednesday morning the Manager reported that eight Negroes, including two Negresses, had gone maroon from their work. In the morning of the next day, around 8 o’clock, the aforementioned eight Negroes showed up at the residence and placed themselves close to the stairs, like soldiers in a threatening position, each one armed with a stick and an axe. One of the Negroes by name of Simon, who stood at one side and seemed to be the leader, spoke to Mr. Burrell. He said that they intended to go to Høgensborg to report to His Excellency the Governor-General that Mr. Burrell had let a Negress, Caroline, be punished in



the town, and that the Governor-General had ordered that she not be punished. Mr. Burrell told them that that was not the case, and if they insisted on leaving, they should go into town where they would find His Excellency. They said that he was only trying to mislead them – they knew he was at Høgensborg. They now gave a long speech accompanied by many threatening movements with their sticks and cane knives – especially the aforementioned Simon. Then they went on their way, but later it was reported that instead of going to Høgensborg, they had returned to the fields. In the afternoon they were picked up by Police Captain Johne, and the rest of the slaves returned from their work and made an awful ruckus. They did not return to their work again until late in the afternoon and had to be forced by Mr. Burrell and Th. Smith.”

Frid. Groos

Produced at Christiansted Police Court, June 27, 1828, in case nr. 16/1828

A. Kjellerup

End of interrogation.

### **DOCUMENT 3**

In the context of the interrogation of the eight Negroes from Cane Bay Estate who were arrested for rebellion, the aforementioned Negroes will all be returned in shackles by the police and an escort of mounted soldiers to the estate where, in the presence of all the slaves, they will be punished thus:

The Negro Simon :	125 lashes
The Negro Moreton:	90 lashes
The Negro Abraham	70 lashes
The Negro Goodluck	70 lashes
The Negro Nelson	50 lashes
The Negress Jane	50 lashes

The Negro Paris and the Negress Becky are pardoned, the former because of his unintelligence and the latter because of her health.

Two men, equipped with the requisite whips, will accompany the group to execute the sentence, and it is to be carefully supervised that it is done properly.

The mounted soldiers are to be suitably paid from the Provincial Coffers for this extra service.

To Captain von Magens

June 28, 1828

The Captain is hereby requested to let a command of four mounted soldiers report for duty on Monday morning at 6 o'clock at the Courthouse to escort some Negroes to Cane Bay Estate, where they are to be punished.

For this extra service they will be suitably paid from the Provincial Coffers.

Anders Kjellerup  
Police Chief and Police Clerk  
At Christiansted Court On St. Croix In The West Indies

#### **DOCUMENT 4**

Transcript of Christiansted Jurisdiction Police Journal June 30, 1828

[The following Negro men and women] belonging to estate Canebay who on the 26 of this month were arrested for disorderly conduct at the estate were by order of His Excellency the Governor-General returned to the estate and there received the following punishments:

Simon with 125 lashes, Moreton with 90, Abraham, Goodluck and Nelson with 70 lashes each, and Jane with 50 lashes. Paris and Becky were pardoned.