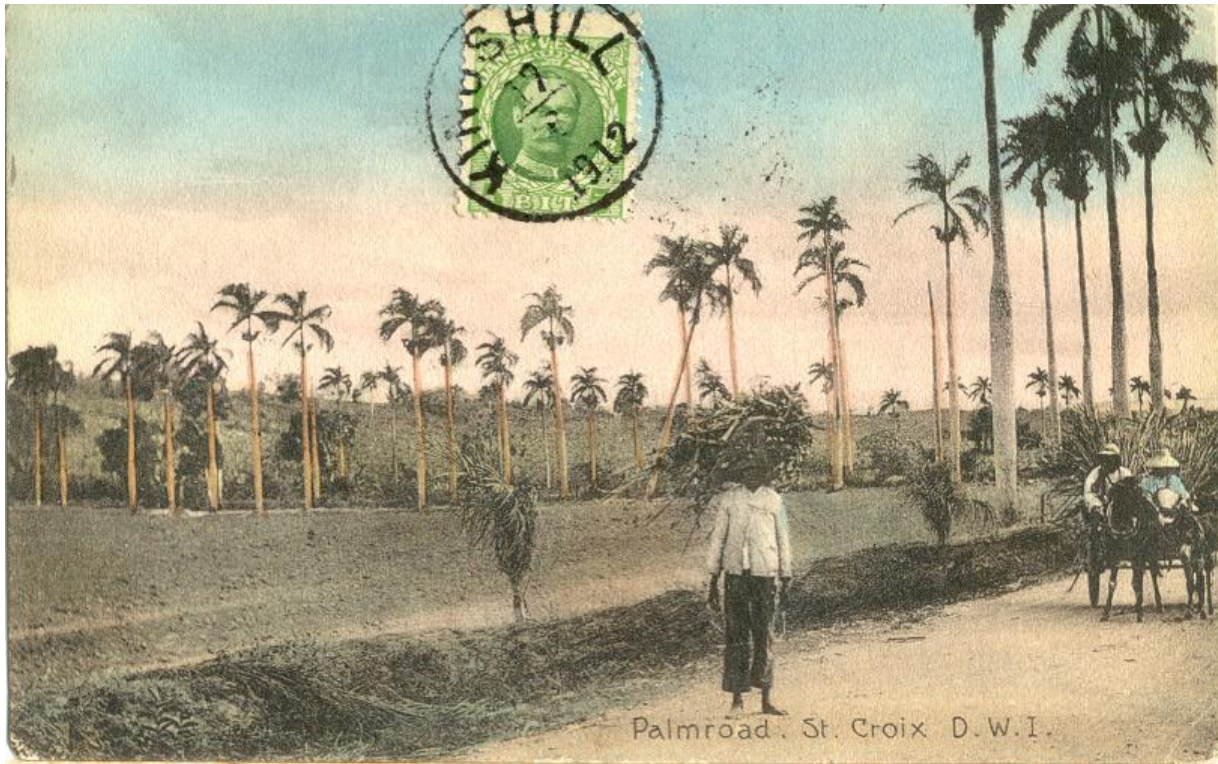


1843 Runaway Plot



George Enslaved to Charles Lucas

A mixed race Creole, born enslaved ca. 1821 on St. Croix and baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, George was a determined freedom seeker. His father was James Byam, born enslaved on St. Croix, ca. 1773, who in the 1841 and 1846 censuses was listed as a free colored, tradesman (cooper), living alone at No. 2 Watergut in Christiansted. George's mother and his original owner are unknown. In August, 1840, George was a ship's cook, enslaved to Captain Thomas (sometime James) Cooke of Christiansted, when he was convicted for housebreaking and theft, imprisoned and sentenced to eighteen months public labor. Cooke died in August 1841. In the census later that year, George was still imprisoned in Richmond jail and said to have a "bad" character. Upon his release in early 1842, he apprenticed for a while with his father before being purchased in April 1842 by Charles Lucas, who moved him onto Estate Work & Rest, which undoubtedly was his first experience with plantation life and labor. The following month, George was arrested and sentenced to six months public labor for instigating a plot among several enslaved men to flee the island. After being released from prison in December 1842, George was brought back to work at estate Work & Rest by Charles Lucas. Within few months, he began organizing the escape attempt that led to his arrest and imprisonment at the end of 1843, as documented in the present police case. He cannot be found with certainty in the 1846 census or any subsequent census. The one person who matches him closely in the 1846 census was an enslaved 26 year-old, Roman Catholic, field laborer named George residing on Estate Nicholas in Northside A Quarter. He is reported to have been a "bad" character, who had been punished for an unspecified crime in 1846. Although that George is not among those recorded as being freed on Estate Nicholas in the West End

emancipation records, he is documented in the St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church records as dying of consumption on estate Nicholas on 1 February 1850. It is also possible that George successfully escaped off-island or was officially deported as a dangerous person.

Horatio of Estate Clifton Hill

A mulatto Creole, born enslaved on St. Croix ca. 1825 and baptized in the Lutheran Church. His parents and original owner are unknown. In the census of 1841 his owner was Mathew Alexander Scott, and he was living at Scott's Mount Welcome estate in East End A Quarter. He was listed as an unmarried carpenter, with a "very bad" character – having been jailed and punished for theft and maroonage in January 1841. Sometime in 1842 or 1843, he was sold to Charles O'Reilly, owner of estate Clifton Hill, who hired him out to work at estate Work and Rest. In the census of 1846 he was listed as an unmarried cooper with a "good" character. Freed on Clifton Hill by the general emancipation of 3 July 1848, he was still there working as a carpenter in 1850. He does not appear any census after 1850.

Bill aka Billy of Estate Castle Coakley

A Creole, born enslaved on Tortola ca. 1795, and baptized in the Anglican Church. His parents and original owner are unknown. He was brought onto Estate Castle Coakley between 1819 and 1824. In the census of 1841 he was listed as an unmarried member of the big gang, who had been punished several times. He is not listed on estate Castle Coakley in the census in 1846 and he cannot be traced with certainty after 1843.

Theodore aka Theodore Williams

A Creole, born enslaved on St. Croix ca. 1818 and baptized in the Lutheran Church. His parents and original owner are unknown. In the census of 1841 he was listed as an unmarried, butler and house servant of "good" character enslaved to merchant Adam McCutchin and living at 1-2 Hospital Street in Christiansted. In the 1846 census he was still a domestic in the same household with an "indifferent" character. Freed by the general emancipation of 3 July 1848, he married Adelaide aka Angelina Heyliger in the Christiansted Lutheran Church in November 1849. Between 1851 and 1857, the couple had three children (Catharine Augusta, Louise M. and Anna O. Williams) all of whom were baptized in the Lutheran Church. During that period Theodore was employed as a carpenter and a sailor in Christiansted. By 1857, the family had moved to Frederiksted and Theodore was working as a cook aboard the *West End Packet* that sailed between St. Croix and St. Thomas. In 1860, both he and his wife were unemployed. Neither Theodore nor any of his family members appear in the 1870 census, or any other records after 1860. Presumably, the family left St. Croix sometime during the 1860s.

Andrew of Estate Seven Hills

A Creole, born enslaved on St. ca. 1803 and baptized in the Anglican Church. His parents and original owner are unknown. He was sold by merchant Charles Augustus de Doute to Captain Dahl, who placed him on his estate Seven Hills in 1841. He was listed there in the census of 1841

as an unmarried member of the small gang with a “good” character. In 1845, he had an appraised value of Ps. 400. In 1846, he was listed as an unmarried member of the big gang on estate Seven Hills with a “good” character. He was freed on estate Seven Hills by the general emancipation of 3 July 1848. He cannot be traced with certainty after that date.

Richard of Charles Doute

A Creole, born enslaved on St. Croix ca. 1808 and baptized in the Anglican Church. His parents and original owner are unknown. In the census of 1841 his owner was merchant Charles Augustus de Doute, formerly of Guadeloupe, and Richard was working as a groom in the Doute household at 13 Strand Street, Frederiksted. Richard was unmarried and said to be “too fond of rum, insolent and badly disposed”. On 3 December 1842, Richard received public punishment for a crime. A month later Doute transferred him to Captain Peter Axel Dahl, the Danish Harbor Master of Christiansted, who put Richard to work in the cane fields of his sugar plantation named Seven Hills in East End Quarter A. In the census of 1846, Richard was listed as an unmarried member of the big gang on estate Seven Hills. He was freed on estate Seven Hills by the general emancipation of 3 July 1848. He cannot be traced with certainty after that date.

Nicholas of Major Joseph Plaskett

A Creole, born on St. Croix ca. 1817 and baptized in the Anglican Church. Parents are unknown. He was brought onto Estate Grove Place (owned by Joseph Plaskett) between 1824 and 1841. He was listed in the census of 1841 as 24 years old, Anglican, unmarried, member of the big gang with a “good” character. He was listed in the census of 1846 as 30 years old, Anglican, unmarried, member of the big gang with “tolerable” character. He is recorded on Grove Place in 1847. But it is not known if he was freed by the general emancipation of 3 July 1848, as no list of those freed in Prince Quarter has yet materialized. He cannot be traced with certainty after 1847.

John Charles aka John Charles Heyliger

A Creole, born enslaved on St. Croix ca. 1793, and baptized in the Anglican church, he was bought free sometime between 1816 and 1832. His parents and original owner are unknown. He was listed on the free colored census of 1831-1832 as an unmarried fisherman living in Christiansted. In 1841, he was an unmarried fisherman, living at 55 King St. in Christiansted. Also at this residence was Jane James, a 43 year-old enslaved washer, who Charles would marry on 25 April 1846. The couple lived together in Christiansted until Jane’s death in 1854. Thereafter, Charles lived alone as a pensioner at various addresses in Christiansted until his death in 1871.

Joseph enslaved to Charles Lucas

A Creole, born enslaved on St. Croix ca. 1815. His parents and original owner are unknown. Between 1841 and 1844 he belonged to Charles Lucas and was not attached to any plantation. In the census of 1841, he was listed as unmarried, a mason, a member of the Moravian Church, having a “tolerable” character and residing on Estate Work & Rest. Although he escaped punishment for his involvement in the 1843 runaway plot, in 1844, he was arrested, whipped and

sentenced to two months imprisonment for going maroon after stealing from the store house at estate Work & Rest. His story after 1844 cannot be determined. He cannot be found in the 1846 census or traced with certainty in subsequent censuses.

