



DOCUMENT 1.

10 November 1843

To

His Excellency

General, Lord Chamberlain, P. v. Scholten, 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 Merité Militaire, Governor-General

I hereby have the honor of submitting an excerpt of the Prison Commission's report containing the documents submitted to the commission on the Negro Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, and request Your Excellency's decision in regard to the views of the commission. I take the liberty to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact, as revealed during the examination of said Daniel, that the people of Hope Estate from Aug. 19 to Oct. 9 this year have only been given flour and no herrings, salted fish or comparable foods. In regard to this the manager Griffith has stated that such goods were not available during the period, which, according to him, was just a few days in September. However, estate records indicate the above mentioned period.

As for this I take the liberty to point out that during the aforesaid period there probably were no herrings for sale, but it is customary that overseers and managers of estates where herrings are not available, - which occasionally it is impossible to buy-, borrow from the neighboring estates who have in stock. As for salted fish, such goods are always available, as far as I know. How to judge the dereliction of duty of the manager and attorney Mr. Thomas Nottage, by neglecting to feed the slaves on the estate, I leave to Your Excellency's decision.

Christiansted Police Office,
Friederichsen

DOCUMENT 2. Transcript of Christiansted Jurisdiction Police Court Journal

On Oct. 24, 1843 at 2 p.m. Christiansted Police Court convened in the presence of the Police Sergeant and Police Officer Halvorsen, and a new case was presented, concerning the police investigation of Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, a repeated run-away, etc.

The Police Chief produced a letter he had received from Thomas Nottage, the manager of the estate, and mentioned that the Daniel referred to in the letter had only a few days ago been arrested and brought here.

Transcript of Christiansted Police Court Record

Sept. 15, 1843

To: The Honourable Judge Friederichsen

Sir,

One person well known to you by the name of Daniel on the estate Hope, a noted runaway, has since his last confinement and punishment in the court yard absconded three times, and is still absent. After the first offence he received 11 of the tamp¹. After his second he was merely locked up during the night, with the intention of continuing it for eight days in his leisure hours. The next morning the gang not being turned out until 10 o'clock on account of the rain, he asked the man watching over him to let him fetch his shoe from the next cane piece, and took that opportunity to escape again. The same night he was taken at Barrenspot [estate] and was there locked up for the night, but contrived to break away. I beg permission, when he shall be taken, to lock him up, during his leisure hours, for one month, in order to secure his steady attendance, as his example to the rest of the gang has been pernicious.

Respectfully,
Thomas Nottage

¹ 11 lashes with the end of a rope

Daniel appeared before the court and was confronted with the contents of the letter. On being questioned, he confirmed that, as stated in the letter, he had absconded three times because of hunger – he had had to give most of his allotted flour ration to various salesmen in exchange for other food products such as salted pork, fried fish, etc., as nobody at Hope had lately received either herrings or similar foods, but only their flour rations. When the arrestee asked the manager for a quarter ration of flour, he was denied that.

During the arrestee's escape after his release on July 24 this year, he was gone for eight days, when outside of town he met one of his mates, the Negro Johan, and asked him to take him home and to intercede on his behalf. Johan did that, but the arrestee was punished with 11 lashes nonetheless.

After a few days he absconded again, as mentioned above, because of a lack of food. He went to Barrenspot Estate where he has a wife. Here he was arrested by a Negro from Hope by the name of Simon. Instead of bringing him back, he handed him over to the manager at Barrenspot, who put the arrestee in the so-called hole. The arrestee confessed that he broke out by pushing the door several times. Thereupon he went down country and was arrested in the early morning in Frederiksted by a police officer, where he was kept for about two weeks. The arrestee admitted that he escaped again in the early morning before the changing of the guard, as he was brought to the coast to fetch water. He did not wear an iron collar, as it had been removed the night before. The arrestee subsequently hid himself in the growth for eight days, after which he was arrested and brought back by a slave hunter from Hope, who brought the arrestee home. During the next two weeks the arrestee spent all his leisure time in shackles. The arrestee said that during this confinement he had only fungus and no herring – and he did not get an extra flour ration.² The manager did not know if Daniel had done what he said³ as he had said nothing about this to the manager, but he did confirm that Daniel on one occasion came and asked him for a quarter flour ration. The manager had denied him his wish, as Daniel had received the six quarters which the manager considered sufficient, not least since Daniel had so often absconded.

It is also correct that the Negro Johan brought Daniel home, but he was not punished for that reason. However, the manager had him punished with 11 of the tamp because at Orange Grove Estate, where he was arrested and from where he was sent back, he had stolen some flour etc. A few days later Daniel absconded again and was arrested at Barrenspot Estate, where he was put in the so-called hole, from which he broke out again and was absent for two or three weeks, whereupon he was brought back by a slave hunter that the manager had sent to find him. The slave hunter told the manager that Daniel had been arrested in Frederiksted, where he had succeeded in escaping the Fort. The manager knew nothing more of this. When Daniel, as mentioned above, had been brought home, he was, as far as the manager remembers, in his leisure time locked up for four days, until Mr. Nottage ordered him transferred to the police. The manager confirmed that Daniel had only received fungus and water, as is the custom for arrestees. He denies, however, having said that it was by order of Mr. Nottage.

² It is not clear if the other slaves had received an extra flour ration which was not given to Daniel.

³ This must be a reference to Daniel's explanation that he had to exchange his flour ration for fish.

Rigsarkivet, West Indian Local Archives, General Government #2.28.99, Nr. 466/1843
Estate Hope

The arrestee Daniel appeared before the court and was confronted with manager Griffith's account, particularly as regards the incidents on Orange Grove Estate. Daniel answered that he had not been to Orange Grove, nor had he stolen anything from that place, but he had stolen a shirt and some biscuits from the Negro Paddy, who is a watchman at Mr. Mcbrousgaard's farm in this town. When he later passed by Orange Grove Estate, he was arrested and sent home, where he was locked up and, on the next day, punished with 11 of the tamp. He maintained that he had also been punished when the Negro Johan brought him home, which the manager present, Griffith, denied.

Daniel was also confronted with manager Griffith's explanation that he had only been locked up for four days after he had been brought back by the slave hunter. To this he answered that he might be mistaken, as he does not remember exactly, and that it could have been only four days. Other than that he agreed with Griffith's account, and was returned to his cell. Manager Griffith left having been asked as soon as possible to submit the police record from Hope Estate, whereupon this examination was postponed and the court adjourned.

On Nov. 2, 1843 at 10 o'clock Christiansted Police Court convened in the presence of the Police Sergeant and Police Officer Høstmark, and the following case Nr. 43/1843 concerning the police investigation of the repeated desertions etc. of a Negro by the name of Daniel belonging to Hope Estate was treated.

The Police Chief observed that manager Griffith had submitted to the court the police report drawn up at Hope Estate. The report was perused in relation to the case, and as to the punishment of Daniel, nothing had been entered from the 24th of July to the present. One exception is the 29th of September when, as mentioned during the examination, he was sent home from Orange Grove Estate for theft and was punished with eleven of the tamp. Furthermore it appears from the above mentioned report that from Aug. 19th to Oct. 9th this year the laborers at Hope have received neither herrings, salted fish nor similar foods.

The said report was then returned and the examination closed. The court was adjourned.

Friederichsen

The submitted report is attached.

The accuracy of the transcript is certified by

Lidenchsee

Open to inspection at St. Croix Prison



DOCUMENT 3. Excerpt from St. Croix Prison Commission records

On Nov. 8, 1843, at 1 o'clock p.m. the commission had a session, as is customary. The Police Chief presented to the members of the commission: On Daniel belonging to Hope Estate.

a) A transcript of the police court records of this jurisdiction in regard to the examination of the aforesaid Daniel, in which it is stated that he has confessed that since July 24th this year, having been released from this prison, he has absconded on three occasions, and during one of these desertions he was arrested at Frederiksted Fort, from which, during the examination, he admitted that he had succeeded in escaping. He had also escaped from his confinement at Hope Estate and was later arrested and imprisoned at Rauenholt Estate.

b) A transcript of the police records of this jurisdiction mentioning other instances where during the year 1837 Daniel was arrested and punished, and from which it appears that he has fled no less than three times after having broken the shackles which he had been placed in.

c) A transcript of the police report from the prison containing other instances where the aforesaid Daniel from 1838 and up until this date has been arrested and punished. From this transcript it also appears that in 1839 he escaped from Frederiksted and on two occasions from public labor in Christiansted.

Estate Hope

After careful consideration of the listed circumstances, and as it seems necessary to impose upon Daniel a long and severe punishment, the commission decided to submit to His Excellency the Governor-General that Daniel be punished with twice 27 lashes with the cat-o'-nine tails⁴ on two succeeding Saturdays and with four months of public labor.

As no other cases had come in, the meeting of the commission was closed.
Friederichsen, A. Fowler, David Rogers

The accuracy of the transcript is certified by
Lidenchsee

DOCUMENT 4. Excerpt from Christiansted Jurisdiction Police Records

1837

March 16

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, arrested by a slave hunter from the same estate.

March 22

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, who on March 16 was arrested by a slave hunter from the same estate, has again been put in an iron collar to replace the one he broke. Subsequently he was released without costs. He has been doing street work.

June 9

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, has been brought here for running maroon and having broken the shackles he had been sentenced to.

June 14

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, was on the 9th of June brought here from the estate for running maroon and for having broken the shackles he had been sentenced to. Subsequently he was released without costs. He has been doing street work.

June 21

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, has been brought in for having refused to do his work.

June 17

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, has been brought in last month from the estate for refusing to do his work. He has been punished with 50 of the tamp at the Justice Post. He has been released without costs as he has been doing street work.

⁴ The cat-o'-nine tails is a harsher punishment than ordinary lashes.

Rigsarkivet, West Indian Local Archives, General Government #2.28.99, Nr. 466/1843
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August 31

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, has been brought in for running maroon.

September 4

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, was on the 31st of August brought in from the estate for running maroon. He has been punished with 50 of the tamp at the Justice Post.

September 5

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, who on the 31st of August was brought in from the estate for running maroon and who was yesterday punished, has now been released without costs. He has been doing street work.

October 10

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, has been brought in from the estate for stealing a turkey and has been punished with 50 of the tamp at the Justice Post.

October 11

Daniel, a Negro belonging to Hope Estate, who yesterday was arrested and punished, has been released at no costs.

The accuracy of the transcript is certified by

Lidenchsee

Submitted to St- Croix Prison Commission, Nov. 3, 1843

Lidenchsee, A. Fowler, David Rogers



Rigsarkivet, West Indian Local Archives, General Government #2.28.99, Nr. 466/1843
Estate Hope

DOCUMENT 5. Excerpt from St. Croix Prison Journal

1838

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, is, in accordance with the Police Chief's decision, to be punished for running maroon on several occasions with 30 of the tamp and one month of labor.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, is punished with 30 of the tamp and hard labor.

Monday, Feb. 12

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, is released as his sentence is served.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was arrested in Christiansted at Christiansted Prison and sent here in the evening.

Friday, Nov. 16

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was arrested on Nov. 15 and, in accordance with the Police Chief's decision, punished for running maroon with 30 of the tamp and one month of labor.

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was released upon having served his sentence.

1839

Monday, July 1

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was arrested for running maroon and has, by order of the Police Chief, been sentenced to labor until further notice.

Monday, Aug. 12

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was, by order of the Police Chief, punished with 30 of the tamp.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was released from police custody.

Sunday, Nov. 10

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, was arrested for running maroon in Frederiksted, but has escaped and was arrested here for running maroon.

1840 Thursday, Feb. 27

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has disappeared from his labor in town while under the supervision of Street Commissioner Mota.

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Monday, March 2

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, who on Feb. 27 escaped from town, has today been apprehended and brought here.

Wednesday, March 4

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has, by order of the Police Chief, been punished with 30 of the tamp for absconding from his work.

Wednesday, April 1

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has been released from police custody.

Saturday, April 18

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has been arrested for refusing to work.

Wednesday, April 22

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has, by order of the Police Chief, been punished with 30 of the tamp and subsequently released.

Wednesday, June 14

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, has been arrested for running maroon and for theft. By order of the Police chief, he has been sent here and sentenced to labor.

Monday, July 24

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, who was arrested on June 14 for running maroon and for theft, has, by order for the Police Chief, been punished by 25 of the tamp and subsequently released.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

Daniel, belonging to Hope Estate, who has been arrested on several occasions for running maroon etc. has, by order of the Police Chief, been sent here and sentenced to labor.

The accuracy of the transcript is certified by

Lidenchsee

Submitted to St. Croix Prison Commission, Nov. 8, 1843

Lidenchsee, A. Fowler, David Rogers