

MARTIN OF ESTATE BOETZBERG

Estate Boetzberg, comprising 150 Danish acres, was located at End A Quarter No. 4. Originally a cotton estate, its owners began cultivating sugar cane in the mid-1790s. In 1832, the plantation was taken over for debt by the Royal Loan Commission in the name of the King of Denmark. Thereafter, until emancipation in 1848, Martin and his fellow slaves were the property of the King (and State) of Denmark. Between 1832 and 1849, the plantation and the enslaved laborers attached to it were rented out to several individuals who continued to produce sugar. In 1843, 46 persons enslaved to the King of Denmark were attached to the plantation, 70 acres of cane was under cultivation and the renter was John Thomas Hutchinson (see below), who lived there with his wife, sister and 10 of their enslaved domestics.

It is noteworthy that in 1842-1843, twelve enslaved persons died on estate Boetzberg, while only one enslaved child was born.



Martin was born enslaved on estate Boetzberg in 1826, and was baptized in Friedensthal Moravian Church on 10 June 1827. His father was Callin or Collin enslaved to Vogelsang, about whom nothing else is known, other than that he cannot be found in the census of 1841 or any other records in the Database. Martin's mother was Angelique, a Creole born on Boetzberg in 1790, who worked as a field laborer until about 1817, when she became superannuated. An

inventory of 1826 stated that one of her legs needed to be amputated because it was being eaten away. She was alive in 1834, but not in 1841.

In the 1841 census, Martin was listed as a member of the small gang with a “bad” character. In the 1846 census, described being a “very bad” character, he was incarcerated in Richmond prison for running away and theft. He was freed on estate Boetzberg in the general emancipation of 3 July 1848, but died less than four months later on 25 October 1848. His reported cause of death was “crazy”.

John Thomas Hutchinson, who had started renting estate Boetzberg in 1842, was a White Creole, born on St. Croix ca. 1806 and baptized in St. Johns Anglican Church on 22 January 1808. His parents were Scottish ship captain and merchant Thomas Hutchinson and his wife Charlotte, who resided in Christiansted. Raised in Christiansted, John Thomas Hutchinson inherited urban property as well as several slaves from his parents. In 1838, he married Jane Eliza Watlington also a Crucian Creole. In 1836, he took out a Burgher Brief as a plantation manager. Prior to leasing Estate Boetzberg, he had been employed for several years as a manager on Estate Judith’s Fancy. After his lease to Boetzberg ended in 1849, Hutchinson moved to Christiansted, where he pursued a successful career as a butcher and merchant. He died in Christiansted in 1881.