



DECEMBER 2015

HISTORICAL CULTURAL CALENDAR



COMPLIMENTS OF:

**VIRGIN ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**DIVISION OF
VIRGIN ISLANDS CULTURAL EDUCATION**



*Building Our Future Through
Education, History and Culture!*

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
SERVING THE CHILDREN
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**



Giff Hill School - STJ

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



Gladys A. Abraham Elementary School - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



Good Hope Country Day School - STX

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education

DECEMBER 1ST

2011:

Chief Master Sgt. Neville Lee assumed his duties of the State Command Chief Master Sergeant promotion. As the third VI Air National Guard senior non-commissioned officer to hold the position, he would advised the Adjutant General on the Air Force enlisted matters. With 27 years in military service, he served as the VI Air National Guard State Human Resource Advisor and Counterdrug Coordinator.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, December 21, 2011, page 6

Picture: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/community/people/2012/02/03/neville-lee-named-new-virg-state-command-chief-master-sergeant>

DECEMBER 2ND

2011:

The Virgin Islands Daily News announced that St. Thomas native Carl Crump, along with eight (8) other athletes, was inducted in the Savannah State University Athletic Hall of Fame last month. Sixty-six year old Savanero played basketball at the university from 1955 - 1959. He averaged 25.6 points a game and is one of the all time leading scorers in the school's history.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, December 1, 2011, page 63

Picture: <http://virginislandsdailynews.com/sports/v-i-hoops-legend-crump-inducted-into-savannah-state-hall-of-fame-1.1239850>

DECEMBER 3RD

2003:

Tourism Commissioner Pamela C. Richards announced the first major boxing event to be held in the U.S. Virgin Islands would be taking place on Friday, December 5, in St. Thomas. The government of the United States Virgin Islands, in association with Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing and Sterling Promotions, would bring "Rumble in Paradise," a six-fight card event to St. Thomas, which would be nationally televised to more than 90 million viewers on the ESPN2 cable network.



Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/caribnet/2003/12/03/boxing.htm>

Picture: <http://bernews.com/2014/06/rumble-in-paradise-sound-clash-in-bermuda/>

DECEMBER 4TH

1983:

George Quenton Ward, Jr. was born. In his earlier years, he played baseball with the PAL and the Astros. He was a volunteer with the St. Thomas Rescue and played steel pan with the St. Andrews Golden Miracles. Prior to becoming a correction officer with the local Bureau of Correction, he worked at Banco Popular.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 5TH

1825:

Danish West Indies Governor Casimir Von Scholten presided over the opening of the new courthouse and jail built on St. John. The Battery, as it was called, was designed and built by freed-black John Wright.



Courtesy of

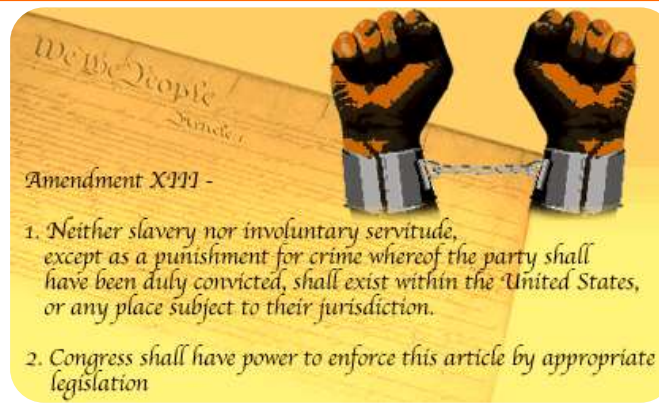
Text: Today in VI History

Picture: https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Wilhelm_von_Scholten

DECEMBER 6TH

1865:

The United States adopted the Thirteenth Amendment, which outlawed involuntary servitude or slavery. It was necessary since the emancipation proclamation ended slavery, but did not make the institution illegal. Slavery in the Danish West Indies ended 17 years earlier in 1848.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <https://historygcp.wordpress.com/unit-iv-reconstruction/13th-amendment/>

DECEMBER 7TH

2011:

The Frederiksted Health Care Inc. was rededicated into its Ingeborg Nesbitt Clinic home on Strand Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix. After the ceremony held by prayer, quadrille dancing by the Alfredo Andrews Elementary School's Quadrille Dancers, remarks by officials, the clinic began offering service for the first time in three years after being shut down for mold problems.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/news/local-news/2011/11/22/frederiksteds-ingeborg-nesbitt-clinic-reopen-dec-7>

DECEMBER 8TH

2003:

Caribbean Sun Airlines were forced to cancel flights from Puerto Rico. This was due to the government refusal to register the company because its name was too similar to existing companies - Sun Airways and Caribbean Airlines Acquisition Group - operating in the territory.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, January 4, 2004, page 5

Picture: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:226xy_-_Caribbean_Sun_Airlines_DHC-8-102_Dash_8,_C-GTBP@SXM,20.04.2003_-_Flickr_-_Aero_Icarus.jpg

DECEMBER 9TH

1982:

From the stop light and intersection of the Crown Mountain Road and west to the entrance of the Harry S. Truman Airport (now Cyril E. King Airport) along the Charles Harwood Highway was renamed the Moravian Highway.



Courtesy of

Text: Legislative Archives

Picture: <http://virginislandsdailynews.com/news/moravian-church-proposes-6m-center-for-nisky-site-1.1203070>

DECEMBER 10TH

1827:

Pharmacist Peder Eggert Benzon received a Priviledge Exclusivum or Royal Danish monopoly to operate the only pharmacy on St. Croix. He opened his business at #4 Company and Queen Cross Street in Christiansted and a year later he opened another in Frederiksted.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/84/e8/08/84e8082a5588c80c2bca22d34e3d2d8b.jpg>

DECEMBER 11TH

2003:

The first Home Depot in the US Virgin Islands opened on the island of St. Thomas in Donoe area.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, January 8, 2004, page 5

Picture: http://svmowzer.blogspot.com/2011_02_01_archive.html

DECEMBER 12TH

1812:

The West Indian Company, Limited (WICO) was founded. It was the vision of Hans Neil Anderson and a subsidiary of the East Asiatic Company. It was created to provide bunkering services to the large number of ships passing through the area and in anticipation of a boom in business when the Panama Canal opened.



Courtesy of
Text: Today in VI History
Picture: <http://wico-vi.com/>

DECEMBER 13TH

1732:

The first Moravian missionaries - Leonard Dober and David Nitschmann - arrived on St. Thomas. They began the work of educating and Christianizing the enslaved. Dober was a potter and Nitschmann was a carpenter.



Courtesy of

Text: Caribbean Mission by C.G.A. Oldendorp; edited by J. J. Bossard and translated by A.R. Highfield and V. Barac, page 278 and Today in VI History

Picture: <http://anitamathias.com/2010/08/06/john-leonard-dober-and-david-nitschman-the-moravian-missionaries-who-sold-themselves-into-slavery-2/>

DECEMBER 14TH

1939:

Robert Morss Lovett was named Acting Governor. A Boston-born writer, editor and political activist, he was government secretary or lieutenant governor from 1939 to 1943. Because of his association with Left Wing Organizations, he was charged with communist subversive and forced to step down from this position as government secretary.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.librarything.com/author/lovettrobertmorss>

DECEMBER 15TH

1916:

Denmark citizens by a plebiscite sanctioned the sale of the Danish West Indies. The votes were 286,694 in favor and 157,596 against.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: http://oldcountries.co.uk/Americas/Danish_West_Indies.html

DECEMBER 16TH

1943:

Ariel Melchoir, Sr. voiced his concern about the poor judgement of both Municipal Councils. Both shared responsibility for the wholly inadequate bill creating the office of the Delegates of the Virgin Islands in Washington, which was adopted by the Legislature Assembly without thoughtful consideration, and without any real awareness of the dangers that may result.



Courtesy of

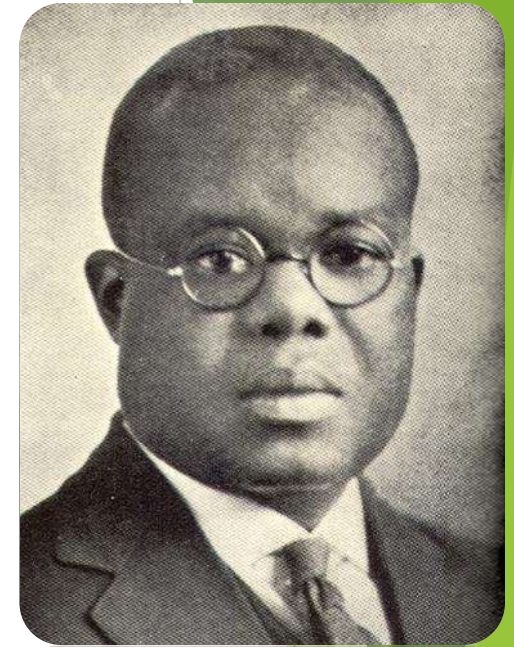
Text: Thoughts Along the Way, Ariel Melchoir, Sr., page 114

Picture: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%98reg%C3%A5rd_Museum

DECEMBER 17TH

1927:

Crucian-born writer, orator, critic and radical political activist Hubert Henry Harrison passed away in New York City from complications to appendicitis. He was a genius and an intellectual, who became known as the Father of Harlem Radicalism. Born in Estate Concordia, St. Croix, he founded the New Negro Movement and the Liberty League and he was the principal editor of The Negro World.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/harrison-hubert-henry-1883-1927>

DECEMBER 18TH

1938:

Claudette Delores O'Neale Joseph was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad. As a resident of St. Croix, she and her husband started O'Neale's Transport. She worked as a nurse for the VI Department of Health, as well as at the VI Housing Finance Authority assisting first time buyers with the purchasing of a home.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 19TH

1836:

Governor General Peter von Scholten issued an ordinance forbidding manumitted slaves from leaving the colony before a 12 month period of their freedom. This was to prevent planters from selling slaves off-island under the guise of freeing them.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, December 19, 1977, page 10

Picture: <http://www.virgin-islands-history.org/en/fates/peter-von-scholten-emancipator-of-the-slaves/>

DECEMBER 20TH

1975:

Ann Francis James was born. Annie, as she was affectionately known, was a Corrections Officer at the Bureau of Corrections on St. Croix.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 21ST

1708:

Diederick Mogenson began serving as Interim Governor of St. Thomas and St. John. He replaced Joachim Melchior von Holten, who held office for almost two years during a period of prosperity for St. Thomas and St. John.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Virgin_Islands.html

DECEMBER 22ND

2003:

The Juan F. Luis and Roy Lester Schneider Hospitals announced the first successful brain surgeries were performed in the territory. In mid December a patient on St. Croix received intracranial surgery to remove pressure on his brain. Mr. William Span, 57 years old, had a brain tumor removed in September.



Courtesy of

Text: The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, January 8, 2004, page 5

Picture: <http://www.mapp-potter.com/ken-mapp-proposes-plan-to-save-st-croixs-luis-hospital-from-decertification-insolvency-and-potential-closure/> and <http://caribbeanmedicalnews.com/2013/10/hospital-given-5-days-to-properly-store-waste/>

DECEMBER 23RD

1926:

Helena Maria Fredericks was born on St. Croix. After attending the IBM School in New York in her latter teenage years, she moved to St. Thomas and worked as a Data Processing Operator at the Department of Finance.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 24TH

1943:

Albert Bryan, Sr. was born. Raised in Savan of St. Thomas, his highly esteemed career in the banking industry started. Due to his stalwartness, he was called upon to move to St. Croix to realign the Citibank branches. He was instrumental in the creation of social clubs - Gentlemen of Savan and Crucian Gentleman - and presided over them for a number of years.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 25TH

1918:

Army, Navy, and US Marines stationed in St. Thomas and terrorized the Savan-area residents for the second consecutive night. Though unclear what sparked it, it was believed it was from two unrelated incidents - one of a man to drop a stick when ordered by the Police Magistrate and another of a man running through the streets to avoid being captured after his scuffle with the military.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Commandos

DECEMBER 26TH

1950:

Noel Eugene Brin was born in St. Thomas. He relocated to St. Croix, and opened the Rex Record stores on St. Thomas and St. Croix in the early 1970s. Farming was his love and he planted different local fruits and vegetables. One of his 'original drinks' was the sorrel wine.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 27TH

1901:

A large contingent of Danish colonists led by bands, waving flags, and cheering for the king took to the Christiansted's streets. They were protesting the planned sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. Participating in the orderly march were representatives of the native, official and planting elements.



Courtesy of
Text: Today in VI History
Picture: www.pinterest.com

DECEMBER 28TH

1935:

Women in the US Virgin Islands were granted the rights to vote after Judge Albert Levitt of the District Court ruled in favor of Edith Williams, Anna M. Vessup, and Eulalie Stevens. They filed suit against the Board of Elections after they were denied to be registered as voters in the 1936 election. Judge Levitt said the Colonial Law 124 didn't intend to limit the rights to only men.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://quotesgram.com/womens-rights-to-vote-quotes/>

DECEMBER 29TH

1914:

Johanna Husband Williams was born in the Danish West Indies in the village of Lower Bethlehem, known as Old Works. Growing up she was known as Johanna Osborne. She worked at the Community Center in Upper Bethlehem during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Her family moved to Estate St. Georges and lived in the great house (known today at St. Georges Botanical Gardens). While there they operated a baking business. The family was forced to relocate to New York when World War II began and the economy dropped. However in 1969, she returned home and worked as a Head Start Teacher in Estate Profit.



Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 30TH

1928:

Charles Wellington Smith was born in Carrot Bay, Tortola. As a resident of St. Thomas, he was gainfully employed as dedicated skilled painter / maintenance worker with the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

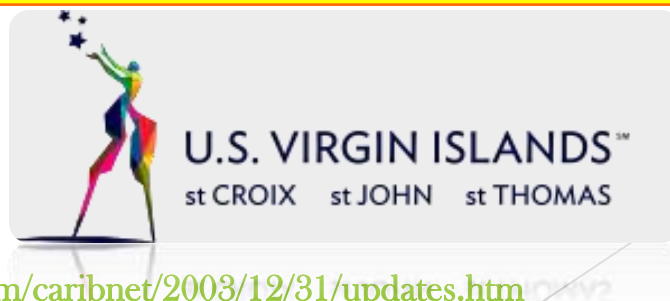


Courtesy of
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

DECEMBER 31ST

2003:

The USVI Department of Tourism released an updated list of properties that were participating in the new "USVI Ice Breaker" promotion, which would provide nightly hotel rates starting as low as \$105.00. St. Croix properties participating included The Buccaneer Hotel, Antilles Resorts-Club St. Croix, Antilles Resorts-Colony Cove, Carambola Beach Resort, Chenay Bay Beach Resort, Divi Carina Bay Beach Resort, Frederiksted Hotel, and Sugar Beach Condominiums. The Westin Resort & Villas St. John participated on St. John. On St. Thomas Best Western Carib Beach Resort, Best Western Emerald Beach Resort, Bolongo Bay Beach Club, Holiday Inn Windward Passage, Marriott Frenchman's Reef, Sapphire Beach Resort & Marina, Secret Harbour Beach Resort, and Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort & Spa participated.



Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/caribnet/2003/12/31/updates.htm>

Picture: <http://www.visitusvi.com/>



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