



The Society of Virgin Islands Historians

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians is an association of professional historians and associate members, located on the island of St. Croix, but serving all of the Virgin Islands. The membership of the Society hails from the Virgin Islands, other Caribbean islands, the United States, Denmark and other countries. The society promotes the study and advancement of local history through a number of activities, the most prominent among them being the publication of articles and documents, the holding of an annual meeting and conference and the promotion of issues vital to local history and preservation. <http://vihistorians.net/about-society-of-virgin-islands-historians/>



Acknowledgments

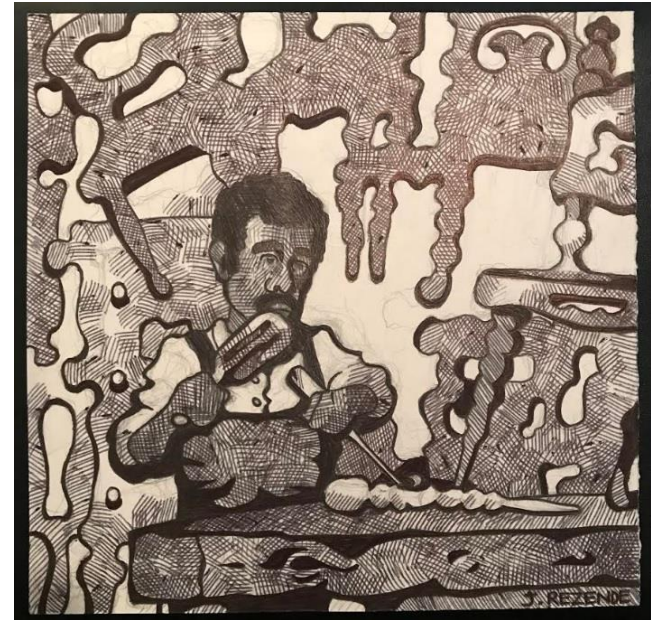
Photo of watercolor by Jeffrey Rezende jrez1236@gmail.com

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Kimarie Engerman, Dean,
University of the Virgin Islands <https://www.uvi.edu>

Special donations by Aletha Baumann, Arnold Highfield, and John Stout

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians
in association with
The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
of the University of the Virgin Islands
present

Crucian Lifestyles through Many Decades



January 18, 2020

University of the Virgin Islands
Albert A. Sheen Campus
Great Hall

Crucian Lifestyles through Many Decades

Registration..... 8:30-9:00

Welcome

Elizabeth Rezende, President of SVIH 9:00-9:15

Memorials to AR Highfield

Aletha Baumann, Vice President of SVIH

Erik Gobel, retired archivist Rigsarkiv, Copenhagen, read by Nina York.....
..... 9:15-9:30

Presentations

Branding of St. Croix Tourism by Joseph Boschulte, Commissioner of
Tourism..... 9:30-9:50

Don Alvarez de Velasco, Afro-Crucian Cousin of Alexander Hamilton by
George Tyson, Historian..... 9:50-10:10

*The Life of Casper Alexander Holstein: An Examination of his Early Life,
Philanthropic Work and Political Philosophy* by Ronald Hewitt, Historian,
St. Croix Educational Complex 10:10-10:30

Refreshment Break 10:30-10:45

*Overview of upcoming archaeological investigations by a Danish team in St.
Croix* by Laura McAtackney; *Overview of upcoming NPS proposed
archaeological investigations* by Meredith Hardy; and *News notes:
Association of African-American Museums* by Chenzira Davis Kahina 10:45-
11:00

Preservation Woodworking by Mark Kragel, St. Thomas 11:00-11:15

**Roundtable Discussion on Woodworking: History, Preservation, and
Future** by Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism Woodworking Project
(CHANT)

Moderator: Dean Hodge

Presenters: Vegan Ellis, Andre Mc Bean, Afreekan Southwell, Carol
Spanner, Rick Starr, and Thia Tyler 11:15-11:45

Closing Remarks President Rezende..... 11:45 until

Biographies

Joseph Boschulte is the Commissioner for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, Chairman of The West Indian Company Limited (WICO), and a board member of the Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA). Earning an MBA from Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia, he has held high-level managerial positions in transportation, utilities, telecommunications, finance, government development and investment banking. He was the President and CEO of The West Indian Company Limited, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at the University of the Virgin Islands, Senior Vice President, Corporate Finance with Wachovia Securities in Atlanta, and Vice President of Bank of America Securities. <https://www.visitusvi.com/>

George Tyson is a historian and a long-time resident of St. Croix. He has taught at the University of the Virgin Islands and served as the executive director of the St. Croix Landmarks Society. He is president of the Virgin Islands Social History Associates and director of the St. Croix African Roots Project, a group that is engaged in digitizing and studying biographical and demographic records. <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~visha/>

Ronald Hewitt is a native Virgin Islander who studied history at Morgan State and Cornell Universities. He serves as a social science teacher, instructing students in American History at St. Croix Educational Complex. ronsey308@hotmail.com

Mark Kragel learned the trade of a woodcrafter as a child in Missouri. Both of his parents are wood furniture collectors. Since residing on St. Thomas, he has developed a deep fondness and reverence for the timeless beauty, elegant lines and historical significance of West Indian furniture. He works as a restorer of treasured West Indian pieces. perseveranceww@gmail.com

Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT) is an organization which offers a wide array of heritage and nature tourism activities. They have received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to conduct classes in woodworking for the next generation and are planning renovation of a building in the Free Gut, Frederiksted. <http://chantvi.org/>