



## The Society of Virgin Islands Historians Presents

### *Recent Research into Social Interaction*

#### **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.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Chenay Bay Beach Resort, Christiansted, VI  
Cottages by the Sea, Frederiksted, VI  
Danish West Indian Society, Copenhagen, Denmark  
University of the Virgin Islands, Kingshill, VI

Photograph of the Deaconesses is from the National Museum of Denmark



Unknown photographer/Ukendt fotograf. National Museum

January 16, 2016

St. George Village Botanical Garden  
127 Estate St. George  
Frederiksted, Virgin Islands

## Recent Research into Social Interaction

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

### Welcome

Dewey Hollister, Executive Director, St. George Village  
Botanical Gardens ..... 9:00-9:15

Elizabeth Rezende, President of SVIH ..... 9:15-9:30

### Presentations

*Daughters of the Trade: Interracial Marriages on  
the Gold Coast, Africa* by Pernille Ipsen.... 9:30-10:00  
Questions and Answers ..... 10:00-10:15

Break ..... 10:15-10:30

*The Deaconesses and their Role in Social Services  
on St. Croix 1904-1917* by Sara Holm-Meier ..... 10:30-  
10:45  
Questions and Answers ..... 10:45-11:00

### Remembrances and Comments from the Audience

Moderated by President Rezende ..... 11:00 until

## Biographies

**Elizabeth Rezende** serves as a consultant for the National Park Service (NPS), Christiansted Historic Site. She has assisted college interns in creating posters and exhibits with historical information on the neighborhoods of Christiansted: Free Gut and Gallows Bay and is completing the exhibit on Water Gut. She is presently working with the NPS staff to create new waysides for the Christiansted Historic Site. She and Anne Walbom presented a set of 20 rarely-seen photographs of the town of Christiansted with commentary which was published in the Society of Virgin Islands Historians' publication: *Christiansted at 275: Celebrating the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Christiansted, St. Croix*. She has contributed numerous articles to the annual Islands in Between conference of the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. [erezende576@gmail.com](mailto:erezende576@gmail.com)

**Pernille Ipsen** has a Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen and specializes in the cultural and social history of the Atlantic world with a broad interest in interracial marriage and developments in social categories of race and gender during European colonialism and encounters with "others" around the globe. Her book *Daughters of the Trade: Atlantic Slavers and Interracial Marriage on the Gold Coast* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) is a history about the production of race in the Atlantic world. The book follows five generations of marriages between African women and European men in an Atlantic slave trading port on the Gold Coast. It begins in the early 1700s when Christiansborg became the headquarters for the Danish slave trade in West Africa. It ends in 1850, after the European side of the slave trade had officially been abolished. It shows how intermarrying with Europeans opened a special position for Euro-Africans in the increasingly stratified Atlantic world. [pipsen@wisc.edu](mailto:pipsen@wisc.edu)

**Sara Holm-Meier** has a Master of Arts in History with a final thesis on Danish philanthropic women who went to the Danish West Indies from 1904-1917. She has always had a special interest in social history – mainly that of women and children – and particularly in the period from 1850 to 1930. Her interest in the Danish West Indies comes from a saying in her family, that a woman from my family had twins with a prince of the royal family and was sent off to the islands in order to hide the embarrassing situation. Hence her curiosity as to whom the Danish women on the islands were and Erik Gøbel from the National Archives kindly led her attention towards single philanthropic women who went to the islands to work and not just following a husband. [smeier77@hotmail.com](mailto:smeier77@hotmail.com)