

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians
in association with
The St. Croix Friends of Denmark
present



Casper Holstein (1876-1944)
A Man of Influence & Philanthropy in the Virgin Islands

January 16, 2021
8:30 a.m. - Noon

Via Zoom
980 5913 2796

Agenda

Welcome

Elizabeth Rezende, President of Society of Virgin Islands Historians	8:30
Francine Lang, President of St. Croix Friends of Denmark	8:35
Julie Frederiksen, Vice President of St. Croix Friends of Denmark.....	8:40
Aimee Sanchez, IT Coordinator	8:45

Presentations

Moderator: Susan K. Beach, Secretary, Society of Virgin Islands Historians	8:50
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Ronald Hewitt, Social Science Teacher, Educational Complex
Casper Holstein's Christiansted Background

Carl Christensen, Former Director VI Small Business Administration
Casper Holstein's New York City (Harlem) Background

Break	10 minutes
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Chester Williams, Former Director VI Small Business Development Center
Immigrant Organizations in Harlem 1940-1960

Elizabeth Rezende, President of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians
Casper Holstein and the VI Congressional Council of New York

Questions and Answers

Aimee Sanchez, IT Coordinator	20 minutes
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Acknowledgments and Closing Remarks

President Rezende

About the Speakers

Ronald Hewitt is a native Virgin Islander who graduated from St. Croix Central High School. He studied history at Morgan State and Cornell Universities. He serves as a social science teacher, instructing students in American History at the St. Croix Education Complex. He presented an overview of Casper Holstein's life at the 2019 SVIH Annual Meeting and, using that paper, he has agreed to expand his work and present at this multi-paper series on this important Virgin Islander. ronsey308@hotmail.com

Carl Christensen was born in St. Croix and migrated to New York in 1946. He attended grammar and public high school there, graduated from Fordham University in NYC with a degree in finance and entered the US Navy in 1955. He worked on Wall Street with the brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch and Manufacturer Hanover Bank from 1960-1970. He returned home and worked with the Virgin Islands National Bank, Peoples Bank and with the Small Business Administration from 1970-2015. He first presented his paper on Casper Holstein as part of the Rotary Mid-Isle 2019 Black History Month observation. carlchristensen06@yahoo.com

Chester Williams was born on St. Croix and pursued early education there. He then migrated to New York and graduated from the James Monroe High School in Bronx, NY. He then enrolled in Pratt Institute and a year later he was drafted in the Army and served two years with the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He returned to Pratt and graduated with a degree in advertising. During his 14 years working in advertising, he was a member of a number of Virgin Islands organizations in the city. In 1967 he returned to St. Croix and was employed by the VI Department of Labor as a recruitment officer, placing returning Islanders in employment positions. In 1974 Williams became the Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Council for Vocational Education. In 1988 he joined the staff of UVI's Small Business Development Center and five years later became its director. chesterrwilliams@gmail.com

Elizabeth Rezende has retired as a Virgin Islands government employee of 31 years. She had taught English at Central High and Arthur Richards Jr. High, worked as a reading and cultural education specialist at the Department of Education and a research and development officer for the Division of Libraries. She taught Virgin Islands and Caribbean History at the University of the Virgin Islands for 28 years. She has written extensively on the neighborhoods of Christiansted: Gallows Bay, Free Gut and Water Gut. Most recently she has focused on the political activism of the Virgin Islands' diaspora in New York City and D. Hamilton Jackson's 1915 visit to that community. erezende576@gmail.com

Acknowledgements



Provost Camille McKayle, University of the Virgin Islands.
[University of the Virgin Islands \(uvi.edu\)](http://uvi.edu)



Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts.
[Art Museum | Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts CMC Arts | St. Croix](#)

Aimee Sanchez, Technology Coordinator. aimee_maria@hotmail.com

Photo courtesy of Schomburg Center for Black Culture, New York.

Upcoming Events by the Society of Virgin Islands Historians

On Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at noon (AST), Deidre Calley will be speaking on “John Bordeaux’s Time in New York City.” John Bordeaux was the name that Moses Gottlieb used after he was exiled from St. Croix. He was one of the leaders of the Emancipation revolt, July 3, 1848.

Deidre Calley is the Deputy Director with the Nassau County, New York’s Office of Legislative Budget Review. She earned her master’s degree in Economics from Boston University and a bachelor’s degree in Economics and Art History from the College of the Holy Cross. She has conducted historical research on the one-room schoolhouse in Hempstead, NY and won a Certificate of Recognition from the Incorporated Village of Hempstead.

Consider. . .

After listening to the papers today, I ask you to spend half a minute thinking why the study of Virgin Islands’ history is important to you. We must learn to live with COVID, be informed about the world around us, understand climate change and follow our interest in Virgin Islands history and culture because we have a relationship with this special place.

Why not become a member of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians? Our membership process is easy. Please contact erezende576@gmail.com for a membership application. Ask two friends who are members of the Society to vouch for your interest and sign the form.

Send the form to Society of Virgin Islands Historians, PO Box 26425, Christiansted, VI 00824. Remember: The only qualification for membership is an interest in history. The society is comprised not only of scholars but also of people with an interest in learning more. Once you received your acceptance, the dues will be \$40 by check through the mail.

Any questions? Call Betsy Rezende 340-998-4147 Our website: www.vihistorians.net

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/>

St. Croix Friends of Denmark



The St. Croix Friends of Denmark was formed to foster a greater awareness of the heritage of St. Croix. The St. Croix Friends of Denmark encourages and promotes activities that help St. Croix residents benefit from a better understanding of relevant historical, educational and cultural information. That information is derived from exchanges with Danish citizens and the Danish West Indies Society.

<http://friendsofdenmarkstx.org>