

# Declaration of emancipation, 1848

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## Reference

*St. Croix Avis, Mandagen den 3die Juli 1848*, forsiden, Det Kongelige Bibliotek Monday, July 3, 1848, frontpage, The Danish Royal Library

## Commentary field

On July 3, 1848, slavery was abolished in the Danish West Indies. Abolition was the result of a successful slave revolt in St. Croix where thousands of slaves gathered in the town of Frederiksted to demand their freedom. Evidence from the following court martial points to the leadership of among others Martin King and Gotlieb Bordeaux, also known as General Buddoe. Abolition had seemingly been set on a peaceful track in the Danish West Indies. Since the 1830s, Governor General Peter von Scholten had carried through a series of ameliorative measures and in 1847, a royal edict declared that all slaves were to be freed by 1859, except newborns who were to be free immediately. But the enslaved on St. Croix were not satisfied with gradual emancipation and staged a rebellion to gain their freedom. As a response, and presumably to avoid bloodshed, von Scholten declared to the assembled slaves that they were emancipated. In contrast to other late Caribbean rebellions that were very violent, Danish West Indian slaves gained their freedom with relative peace. This was presumably due to a number of conditions, such as the British emancipation of 1838, the French degree of emancipation from April 1848, the Danish edict of 1859, and the personal engagement of Governor von Scholten and General Buddoe who both appear to have strived for a peaceful solution. The declaration of emancipation was subsequently sanctioned by royal decree in December 1848.

## Translation

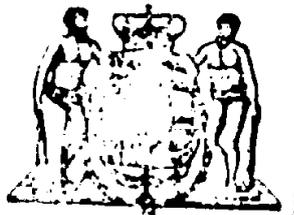
The Representative of His royal Highness [...] I Peter Carl Frederik v. Scholten [...] [original translation] Maketh known:

1.  
All Unfree in the danish westindia Islands are from to-day emancipated.
2.  
The Estate Negroes retain for three months from date the use of the houses and provision grounds, of which they have hitherto been possessed.
3.  
Labour is in future to be paid for by agreement, but allowance is to cease.
4.  
The maintainance of old and infirm, who are not able to work, is until farther determination to be furnished by the late owners.

Given under the General Guvernment's Seal and my Hand.

General Guvernment of the danish westindia Islands, St. Croix the 3d July 1848

(L.S.)          P. v. Scholten.



# ST. CROIX AVIS.

CHRISTIANSTÆD, MANDAGEN DEN 3die JULI 1848.

TRYKT OG UDGIVET AF RICHARD HATCHETT.

## WEEKLY ABSTRACT.

JULY MONTH 31 DAYS.

1	1 <sup>st</sup> day begins.
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Declaration of Independence in U. S.
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Algiers taken by the French 1830.
4	4 <sup>th</sup> Nicholas Emperor of Russia b. 1796.
5	5 <sup>th</sup> First Quarter, 5h, 11m, 2 morning.
6	6 <sup>th</sup>
7	7 <sup>th</sup>
8	8 <sup>th</sup>
9	9 <sup>th</sup>
10	10 <sup>th</sup>
11	11 <sup>th</sup>
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16	16 <sup>th</sup>
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20	20 <sup>th</sup>
21	21 <sup>st</sup>
22	22 <sup>nd</sup>
23	23 <sup>rd</sup>
24	24 <sup>th</sup>
25	25 <sup>th</sup>
26	26 <sup>th</sup>
27	27 <sup>th</sup>
28	28 <sup>th</sup>
29	29 <sup>th</sup>
30	30 <sup>th</sup>
31	31 <sup>st</sup>

**HANS KONGELIGE MAJESTÆTS**  
til Jænnark, de Venders og Gothers,  
Hertug til Slesvig, Holsteen, Stormarn,  
Dithmarsken Lauenborg og Oldenburg  
BESTAELLER

Excellence, Generalmajor, Kammerherre, Storkors af Dannebrog og Dannebrogsmænd, Storkors af Isabella den Catholske Orden, Storkors af Areslegionen, Commandeur af Guldephæ Ordren, Ridder af Hedeneu da merituorden, General Gouverneur over de danske vestindiske Oer,

J. F. C.  
**PETER CARL FREDERIK SCHULTEN**  
Gjør offentlig:

- Alle Ufræ paa de danske vestindiske Oer ere fra Dags Dato frigivne.
  - Negerne paa Plantagerne beholde 13 Maanedes fra Dato Brug af de Huse og Provisionsgrunde, hvoraf de nu ere i Besiddelse.
  - Arbejde betales for Fremtiden efter Overenskomst, hvormed Allowance ophører.
  - Enderholdningen af Gamle og Svage, som ere ude af Stand til at arbejde, afholdes indtil nærmere Bestemmelse af deres forrige Eiere.
- Givet under General Gouvernements Segl og min Haand.  
General Gouvernements over de danske vestindiske Oer, St. Croix den 3die Juli 1848.  
(L. S.) **P. C. SCHULTEN.**

(TRANSLATION)

**Maketh known:**  
1. All Ufræ in the danish westindia Islands are from to-day emancipated.

2. The Estate Negroes retain for three months from date the use of the houses and provisiongrounds, of which they have hitherto been possessed.

3. Labour is in future to be paid for by agreement, but allowance is to cease.

4. The maintenance of old and infirm, who are not able to work, is until further determination to be furnished by the late owners.

Given under the General Government's Seal and my Hand.  
General Government of the danish westindia Islands, St. Croix the 3d July 1848.  
(L. S.) **P. C. SCHULTEN.**

## Notice.

### The Burgher Council

WILL PROVIDE A SUPPLY OF  
**CORNMEAL**

for such Estates, the Proprietors of which are unable to obtain the same, in consequence hereof I am directed to request the respective Planters to forward to this office the necessary requisitions within the 5th of next Month.  
Burgher Councils Secretary's and Bookkeeper's Office, St. Croix 26th June 1848.  
**H. M. KEUTSCH.**

**THE DEBTORS OF**  
**Messrs. P. E. BENZON (Apothecary.)**  
**AND P. C. BECKETT**  
are hereby reminded to pay unto Lawyer **HANS BERG**, the amount of their respective Accounts, within the 8th July next, as the necessary steps for enforcing the same, will be taken after that time.  
Bassend 26th June 1848.

**THE UNDERSIGNED**  
Having resolved to leave this Island in the course of the present month, earnestly solicits those in arrears to him to come forward with settlement of their accounts; he trusts that attention will be paid to this Advertisement and that promptly.  
Christiansted St. Croix 3d July 1848.

**H. L. LEMMERMANN.**

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM  
**NEW YORK.**  
Fulton Market Family BEEF in 1 & 1/2 Barrels.  
Rounds of BEEF & TONGUES in 1/2 Barrels,  
likewise  
New York PEARL STARCH in whole and half Boxes.  
**SWEET MILK CHEESE.**  
**Danish Ham.**  
OATS in Hogheads and Barrels.  
Navy and Pilot BREAD, &c.  
**J. A. CLINDINER & Co.**  
West End June 19. 1848.

**ST. CROIX,**  
Christiansted 3d July 1848.

The outbreak among the insal population which took place on Sunday evening last the 31<sup>st</sup> inst. at Frederiksted, and which resulted in their general emancipation by Governor General von Scholten in behalf of His Majesty, prevented the issuing of the Gazette in due time. We trust, however, regularly to resume our usual duties—though things still continue somewhat disquieted and out of tone.

**SAYLE W**  
July 1st, Danish Brig Arctic, Capt. Jacobson, for Copenhagen with Produce.

**WEEKLY ALMANAC.**  
 JULY MONTH 31 DAYS.

M	3	1 <sup>st</sup> Day days begin.
T	4	Declaration of Independence in U. S.
W	5	Algiers taken by the French 1830
T	6	Nicholas Emperor of Russia b. 1796.
F	7	
S	8	First Quarter, 5h, 11m, 2 morning.
SA	9	

**HANS KONGELIGE MAJESTÆTS**  
 til Danmark, de Venders og Gothers,  
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 Ditmarsken Lauenborg og Oldenburg  
**BESTALFER**

Excellence, Generalmajor, Kammerherre, Storkors af Dannebrog og Dannebrogsmænd, Storkors af Isabella den Catholskes Orden, Storficer af Æreslegionen, Commandeur af Guelphes Ordenen, Ridder af Ordenen du mérite militaire, General Gouverneur over de danske vestindiske Oer,

J. E. C.  
 PETER CARL FREDERIK V. SCHOLTEN

**Gjør vitterligt:**

1. Alle Ufri paa de danske vestindiske Oer ere fra Dags Dato frigitte.

2. Negerne paa Plantagerne beholde i 3 Maanedr fra Dato Brugen af de Huse og Provisionsgrunde, hvoraf de nu ere i Besiddelse.

3. Arbeide betales for Fremtiden eller Overeenskomst, hvorimod Allowance ophører.

4. Underholdningen af Gamle og Svage, som ere ude af Stand til at arbeide, afholdes indtil nærmere Bestemmelse af deres forrige Hæser.

Givet under General Gouvernementets Segl og min Haand.

General Gouvernementet over de danske vestindiske Oer, St. Croix den 3. die Juli 1848.

(L. S.) P. v. SCHOLTEN.

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