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Original Correspondence: West Indies (CO 318): 1699-1830

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Content List Volume 83

Commissioners of Enquiry into the State of Captured Negroes in the West Indies, 1823 & 1824

Frame No.	Date	Correspondents	Summary
3	1823 May 13		Draft of warrant appointing commissioners to enquire into state of apprenticed Africans; commissioners Thomas Henry Bowles and John Patrick Gannon
11	1823 June 14	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Allowance – requests advance having completed his preparations for embarkation.
12	1823 August 11	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies	Dated at Tortola. Arrival at Barbados 29 th . Arrival at Tortola 5 Instant. Intend proceeding to St. Christophers on the arrival of the mail boat. Have availed themselves of Maj. Moody's advice and assistance relative to the business of the commissioners. Acknowledge receipt of commission.
15	1823 August 29	T. Bowles to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies	Dated at St. Christophers. General update. Scarce material to frame a regular and official report. Inconsiderable number of apprenticed "negroes" but could be more upon further investigation - defective/inadequate nature of the lists and returns furnished by collector. Opinion on shaky legal basis for collectors's mode of disposing of some of the "condemned negroes." Returns made by Registrar of Vice Admiralty Court require more explanation. Particular case brought before Court and reversed in Instance Court seems opposite to intent of 46 and 47 Geo. 3. and will investigate. Observations relative to free settlement of Long Look? in Tortola, which had previously been reported on.

19	1823 August 30	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under-secretary of State for War and the Colonies	Dated at St. Christophers. Arrived at St. Christophers 19 th instant; business of the commission of inquiry had already been concluded when arrived at Tortola. No prize vessels condemned at St. Christophers under slave abolition acts, therefore very few persons who form the subject of inquiry. After arrival at Fort at Brimstone Hill, intend inquiry into condition of liberated "Africans" who were British soldiers and now retired who assemble at Fort for pensions monthly.
21	1823 August 30	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under-Secretary of State for War and Colonies	<p>Dated at Tortola. Relates to female African apprentices and children. Encloses copy of letter received from A. M. Belisario at Tortola relative to alleged defects in their indentures of apprenticeship. Encloses also copy of answer. Indicates their opinion on the 2 cases of a mother, and of a boy, but asks advice from Lord Bathurst.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <p>No. 1 - A. M. Belisario to Commissioners, 1823 August 11, Tortola. Provides information on the case of a woman named Ogonka (also Sylvia), indentured to Maria Eleanor Vandergripe? in 1816. She died leaving a child, Lascia. Indenture does not provide for this event and asks how to proceed. Second question pertaining to women apprentices – normal indenture for women is 10 years without children and 14 with, but if child dies during indenture, do they serve the 10 or 14?</p> <p>No. 2 - Commissioners to Belisario, 1823 August 16. Acknowledge receipt of letter dated 11th pertaining to cases of female African apprentices and children which neither the law, the order in council, nor the indentures of apprenticeship provide for. Will apply to proper quarters for information to pursue.</p>
28	1823 Oct. 22	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Requesting instructions and communicating arguments and suggestions on various matters. Question: how to best investigate "negroes" employed in the military and naval departments given military structure and peoples of interest's stated vulnerabilities. "Creole Slaves" – definition includes very numerous class of

			<p>individuals; interpretation of law and mode of disposing of condemned creole slaves under Act Geo. 3 Cap 36 which states all slaves and natives of Africa imported from foreign colonies to be condemned and forfeited to the sole use of His Majesty. Argues creole slaves were not designed by the legislature to be included within the provision as to enlisting and apprenticing. Argues for role of collector of customs to help obviate the evils that can occur with sudden transition from slavery to freedom.</p> <p>In addition makes mention that Secretary Mr. Barrow is unwell – suffers from the heat (greatest than last ten years) and now at collector’s house in cooler temperature. Also will delay returns relative to the few African apprentices at Nevis till next report from St. Christopher where there are about 20 apprentices belonging to Mr. Forbes; and that a special report has been made of St. Christopher’s “negroes” attached to the army as military labourers.</p>
44	1823 Oct. 22	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	<p>Dated at Nevis. Topic is Mr. Barrow’s health. He had informed the commissioners he required resigning due to stated health issues and needed to leave West Indian climate. States physician’s opinion on same – “...suffers from ...nervous debility accompanied with dyspeptic symptoms, and a mind so strongly impressed with prejudice against this climate that he magnifies trivial symptoms to an alarming degree.” Advises exercise, medicines for his digestion and “cheerful amusements” if he chooses not to leave. Bowles indicates it would be beneficial to commission if he stayed and why.</p>
48	1823 Oct. 24	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq. M.P., Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies	<p>Dated at Nevis. Acknowledges receipt of letter, 20 August, with copies of 2 letters addressed to you by direction of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury relative to the Winkel Establishment at Berbice; as well as copies of documents relating to same from you for our information. Will attend to this matter at earliest opportunity.</p>
50	1823 Oct. 24	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq. M.P., Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies	<p>Dated at Nevis. Encloses accounts of monies expended by Commissioners Moody and Dougan to August 1823. [Not here enclosed.]</p>
56	1823 Oct. 24		<p>Dated at Nevis. Arrived on 16th. Enclosing report of our proceedings at St. Christophers. Indicates 2 categories of people of interest: 1.</p>

			<p>“Negroes” who had entered the military but were handed over in 1817 to quarter master general’s department and now work as military labourers – 50 in total examined at Fort at Brimstone Hill; Fort adjutant furnished us with return of those who died since 24 August 1817 totaling 19. Second category consists of apprentices who are free now = 5; including 1. female originally apprenticed at Tortola and now at St. Christophers with her mistress; and 2. creole man illegally exported and sold at Dutch island St. Eustatius but after escaping and returning home was seized by collector. Upon trial in Vice Admiralty Court was condemned to His Majesty under 46 Geo. 3, ch. 52 and afterwards set free by collector. When asked under what authority freed, received copy of instructions which his predecessor had received from Board of Customs relative to disposal of Creoles condemned to His Majesty. Aware this was common practice but not so for Africans, even though can not find where the law makes any distinction between two classes. Discusses further the case of the liberated “negro” Thomas and discrepancy in court’s verdict between his and the illegal exporter who sold him. Record of trial obtained and enclosed. Three remaining persons of this class are young men under the protection of the governor who have expressed a wish to accept an offer of a free settlement at Trinidad.</p> <p>Enclosure: Report of negro apprentices who now reside at St. Christophers. Tabular form; title – <i>Special Report concerning Africans or Negroes attached to the Army, but <u>not</u> as Soldiers, as directed in a letter, dated 25th November 1822, from R. J. Wilmot Esq. to the late Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of all Africans liberated from Slavery in His Majesty’s Colonies, in the West Indies and South America.</i> Subtitle: <i>Negroes attached to the Army as Military Laborers at the Fort at Brimstone Hill St. Christophers – produced before the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of liberated Africans on the 1st and 2nd September 1823.</i> Headings for each row of data includes (with one example): Ship and Page in Parliamentary Return (Spanish ship <i>Venus</i> – page 85); Number (1); Nation (Ebo); Name (African – Ujimma, English</p>
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			Wellington); Apparent Age (25); Stature (5' 3"); Marks (three small marks on the left cheek); Party's account of how captured (captured on board a slave ship and brought into Tortola in 1814 and selected for the army soon after); Account given by the present commanding officer (Service – enlisted into 3 rd West India Regiment; transferred to quarter master general's department August 1817; now employed as military labourer at Fort Brimstone Hill, St. Christophers); Character (pretty fair); Religion (baptised at Trinidad; not instructed; as member of military, attends church on Sunday); State of Bodily Health (general statement for all on list – good bodily health); Remarks (This person said that he was taken on board a Portuguese slave ship but on consulting the Parliamentary Return, Tortola, we find Ujimma one of the cargo of the Spanish ship <i>Venus</i> condemned 3 Aug. 1814. (4 pp.)
65	1823 Sept. 5		Enclosure: <i>Return of Men who were received in the 15th Company of Military Labourers from the undermentioned Corps on the 24th August 1817, & since dead; St. Kitts Sept 5th, 1823.</i> Headings (with 1 example) include: Names (Casemere); Regiment received from (1 st West India); Date of Enlistment in those Regiments (5 July 1813); Date of Decease (24 th May 1818); Reputed Age at time of Death (37, 2 months); Country (Bourbon); Remarks (taken in a French Slave Ship and brought into the Isle of France? after the capture of that island by the British; same as Private Macomobo). Copy. Letter from Fort Adjutant Wigley to B. Hill, stating he is sending enclosure above; dated Sept. 27. States "all tradition of their native names is lost."
69	1823 August 29	Wm Thomson, Registrar of the Court of Vice Admiralty of Saint Christopher to Worshipful R. W. Pickwood, Esq.	Copy in the hands of the Commissioners. Return of Creole Negroes etc. condemned in the Vice Admiralty Court of St. Kitts, forwarded to the Commissioners of Inquiry by the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court. Found three cases in the records of the Court after examining the Minutes of the Court since abolition of the slave trade, and briefly summarises. One example – Court held 24 May 1823; <i>A Negro Man Slave named Thomas. Condemned to His Majesty for a Breach of the law of the 46th of the late King Cap 52 in</i>

			<i>consequence of illegal Exportation from the Island of St. Christopher to the Dutch Island of St. Eustatius.</i>
72	1823 Oct. 4	Commissioners to Worshipful R. W. Pickwood, Esq., J. V. A: Court	Copy. Dated at St. Christophers. Makes a point of the case of Thomas, found in the return just received, who was illegally exported from St. Kitts to St. Eustatius, stating exporter, James Maillard, was acquitted. Finds this an anomaly in these cases and request an abstract of the trial.
75	1823 Oct. 4	R. W. Pickwood to Commissioners	Acknowledges receipt of letter on the 4 th . Will furnish abstract of trial of James Maillard as requested. Adds additional comment. Enclosure: Copy of trial, <i>King vs. James Maillard</i> , at Saint Christopher; trial occurred 1823 April 8 at the Court of Kings Bench and Common Pleas on charge of feloniously removing and carrying away from said island to foreign island a slave named Thomas to be treated as a slave and sold. Acquitted and discharged. Signed Thomas Harper, Secretary.
79	1823 Oct. 3	Collector of Customs at St. Kitts to Commissioners	Copy dated at Custom House, St. Kitts. In reference to the list collector delivered to commissioners, encloses extract of letter to commissioners of customs with respect to the list deemed insufficiently explicit, and also an extract of letter pertaining to the question on what grounds the men Hamilton and Joseph were set at liberty; plus an amended list [not included here]. Enclosures: No. 1 - Letter from Nat. Coffin, Collector and W. H. Male, Comptroller to Commissioners. Acknowledge receipt of letter of 16 November relative to condemnation of a mulatto man named Charles Hamilton in the Instance Court of Vice Admiralty. Tells Hamilton's situation and asks advice on how to proceed with this now freed person. No. 2 - Extract of letter from Commissioners to Collector and Comptroller at St. Kitts dated 21 July 1822. Provides directions pertaining to the removal of slave Joseph to St. Kitts for proceedings in Vice Admiralty Court; if condemned to dispose of

			conformable to 47 Geo. 3 Cap 36 Sec. 7, and Order in Council 16 March 1808. If native of Africa or Creole to set him free.
86	1823 Dec. 5	T. Bowles to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Private. Dated at Nevis. Concerns the conduct of Mr. Gannon of which he disapproves and describes as not helpful to the cause, one concern is effect on persons of interest. Secretary to Commission, Mr. Barrow is about to tender resignation officially; unwell. Mentions "negroes" expect "free Paper" at Christmas; always expecting this paper at certain festive times of the year. Also mentions Methodist missionaries ought to be carefully watched and why.
97	1823 Dec. 5	T. Bowles to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Dated at Nevis. Acknowledges receipt of circular of 31 Sept containing suggestions and distinctions to be observed with reference to private and public correspondence.
99	1823 Dec. 8	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under-secretary of State for War & the Colonies	<p>Dated at Nevis. Relates to his dispute with Bowles on the mode of taking examinations, refers back to meeting together in Nevis on 30 Oct. Provides examples, as well as enclosures pertaining to matter of whether examinations of "African Apprentices" should proceed with both commissioners present together, to which Gannon objected on grounds contrary to tenor of instructions. Disputes causing much interruption and delay. Governor's response - agreed examinations ought to be taken jointly. Bowles then declared intention of appealing to higher authority.</p> <p>Enclosures in order scanned:</p> <p>No. 6. Copy of letter. Cha. Maxwell, Captain General to J. Gannon, Esq.; dated at Government House, St. Kitts, 1823 Nov. 7. Opinion both should be present during examinations.</p> <p>No. 5. Copy of letter. Gannon to Governor Maxwell, dated at Nevis, 1823 Nov. 5. Details difference of opinion between himself and Bowles; work suspended for some days due to. States Bowles at fault and unwilling to change his mind. As Bowles requested, referring subject matter to your decision. Objects to Bowles' statement in enclosure no. 4. [Enclosures numbered A, B. and C</p>

			<p>mentioned herein are found scanned after No. 1. These are to explain reasons for opinion.]</p> <p>No. 4. True Copy. Bowles's statement, signed by Barrow, Secretary to Commissioners of Inquiry, dated 1823 Oct. 30. Business of commission better facilitated if each commissioner had power of examining separately and of presiding alternately without requiring the presence of both at the same time. Advantages would result from this – commissioners would be able to divide their labours equally and all chance of useless discussions (so much to be dreaded and deprecated) would be precluded. Both agreed to refer matter to Governor Maxwell for a provisional decision.</p> <p>No. 2. True Copy. 1823 Nov. 3, dated at Nevis. Gannon's statement, signed by Barrow, Secretary to Commissioners of Inquiry. Opinion commissioners had not the power to examine alternately and separately under present instructions, even though personally agreeable to. Until further instructions from Wilmot Horton, business should proceed. Offered Bowles form of proceeding to meet his wishes and at same time conformable to spirit of instructions – commissioners examine on alternate days but in presence of both and after examiner in chief for the day had finished his examination of apprentice without any interruption from colleague, then latter should be allowed to put questions as to the state and condition of the apprentice. Bowles disagreed, wished to apply to governor for decision and suspend business in meantime. Bowles afterward consented that examination of some apprentices of G. C. Forbes Esq., who had come to town that morning for the purpose, should proceed but not be considered as a precedent going forward. Included certification by L. Gordon, Collector that above statement is correct as a witness to the meeting of 30 Oct.</p> <p>No. 1. Extract of letter, 1822 Sept. 9, from R Wilmot, Esq. to Major Moody and J. Dungan, Esq., Commissioners of Inquiry.... In which instructions of Earl Bathurst for deciding differences of opinion</p>
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			<p>between the Commissioners are laid down. Backs up Gannon's proposal for having different opinions entered in minutes by Mr. Barrow, Secretary.</p> <p>No. A. Abstract from Commission appointing T. H. Bowles and J. P. Gannon, Esqs. to be commissioners for enquiring into the state and condition of "Africans or Negroes" liberated from slavery under the acts for abolishing the slave trade. Statement relative to issue.</p> <p>No. B. Copy. Mr. Wilmot's letter 1822 Jan. 14. Indicates Lord Bathurst's desire for commissioners to "<u>jointly concur</u> in obtaining the desired information <u>as in all other objects of the mission.</u>"</p> <p>No. C. Copy. Barrow, Secretary to Gannon. Answer of Mr. Barrow to query on subject, 1823 Nov. 3, dated at Nevis. Best of knowledge, previous commissioners interviewed together African apprentices.</p>
125	1823 Dec. 8	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Nevis. Private. Dispute with Bowles relative to the mode of taking examinations.
129	1823 Dec. 9	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Nevis. Acknowledges circular 31 Sept. relative to public and private correspondence of the commissioners. Directed to keep both distinct.
130	1823 Dec. 9	Barrow, secretary to commission to Lord Bathurst	Dated at Nevis. Due to health, requests to go home with better climate and air.
133	1823 Dec. 9	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Nevis. Offers his services for enquiry into West India matters unconnected with the duties of the commission.
135	1824 Jan. 12	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P. Under secretary of state for war and colonies	<p>Dated at Antigua. Encloses document of an African apprentice after examination. More complete report on African apprentices in Nevis forthcoming. Encloses copy of Collector's list of Africans who were residing in that island in 1816, together with accompanying and corresponding lists of Africans accounted for by the commissioners.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examination sheet of African apprentice named Mozzo. Column headings include:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ship and Page in Parliamentary Return ("Venus", 86)b. No. of the Indenturec. Nation (Ebo)d. Sex (male)e. Name (African and English – Peter Ingram)f. Stature (5' 4")g. Apparent age (28)h. Marks (tattooed on the body as described in indenture)i. To whom apprenticed and place of residence (G. C. Forbes, Esq., Bush Hill, Nevis)j. Trade Craft or Employment (fisherman)k. Date of indenture, term of indenture, indenture whether perfect or imperfect (Imperfect as not being according to the form of indentures transmitted by the commissioners of customs, 1821).l. If trade to which the apprentice is indented be taught and if not how employed (trade to which indented has not been taught him, has at present no fixed occupation).m. Religion (If baptized, if instructed, if attends worship).n. Party's account as to present condition, local attachments, etc. (has worked in field and done usual business of field negro; has 6 pints of corn meal and 2 herrings per week; master allows him 3 yds of bamboo and 3 ? of brown (Osnaburgh stuff) annually; his mistress used to give him 6 yds of each. Cohabitated 3 years with creole slave on Mr. Forbe's estate. He says Mr. Forbes is a good master and he likes Nevis and does not wish to quit the island; dissatisfied with field labour and wishes to return to former employment as fisherman.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o. Account and character given by the master or mistress (Master says very good, hard working, well disposed boy, that he wished to teach him trade of fisherman. Furnished a boat, lines, nets, etc. Mulatto man was to instruct him but boat and implements destroyed and plan thus failed, he was then employed to cultivate provision grounds. Afterward he worked occasionally in the field – out of crop season has been employed as watchman. Mr. Forbes intends to try him again as a fisherman as soon as boat is finished. He is willing to give up indenture. p. Account given by other persons (Where the general outlines of the accounts given corresponded, it was often considered to be not necessary to require the evidence of other persons.) q. Actual condition, proficiency in trade or employment, character etc., as collected from this Inquiry (Cannot be supposed to have acquired a competent degree of skill in employment of fisherman to which he was indented. r. What probability of finding maintenance at the expiration of apprenticeship (As has been occupied since the first year of apprenticeship in cultivating land, or as a watchman, his qualifications as an artisan cannot be great.) s. Remarks (Conditions of indenture with regard to this apprentice have not been fulfilled. Attempt however appears to have been made during the first year of the term to cause him to be instructed in trade to which he was indented and with that view some considerable expense was incurred. <p>2. List of Prize Negroes condemned at Tortola apprenticed for the term of 14 years by the Hon. W. Turnbull, Esq. and F. Ingram Esq., Collector of Customs at Tortola, and now residing in Nevis. Table format – names; sex; age; date of</p>
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			<p>indenture; master or mistresses' names; trade, craft or employment. Signed at bottom L. Gordon collector 1816 Dec. 31.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Also includes separately, pages with "Remarks" for each person above listed. Two examples:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Davy has served out his time. Earns half a dollar per day. Married a slave and has three children. Is a cooper. Is very industrious and intelligent. Regularly employed throughout the year as a cooper. Has a house which he built himself.b. Sally's term of apprenticeship has expired. Delivered male child about 4 weeks ago. She has fever and is without proper support. She has a reputed husband (a slave) but his character is bad, and he has 5 children by another woman.4. Copy of letter from L. Gordon, Acting Collector, dated at Customs, Nevis, 1822 August 12. Heard complaint of Arrah and appears from marks on posterior he has been very severely flogged with cart whip, contrary to intention of order in council under which he was apprenticed. Request punishment for driver who flogged Arrah. Apprentice is blacksmith and ought not to be in the field. Trust this will not happen again or legal repercussions. [Arrah is to be found in above listing and remarks.]5. Geo. Bucke to L. Gordon, Collector, 1822 August 12. As requested, sent punished apprentice to see you. Apprentice did not come to me to complain but went to town. As did not appear till this morning, out of my power to see whether they were more than the 2 or 3 allowed which the driver stated had given him. Please communicate what you would like done.6. Extract of letter from Lieut. General Sir James Leith, dated Head Quarters, Antigua, 1815 Nov. 21. Refers to circumstances previously learned about, and his letter dated 1815 July 27, wherein a case was stated to your Lordships of 29 prize slaves having been apprenticed out to
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			Mr. Forbes, a lawyer of Nevis, by the present collector of Tortola, who appears to be a well meaning man who erred through ignorance. Appears impossible that the good treatment and civil rights of these people during the time of or at the end of their apprenticeship could be properly looked after in Nevis by their only legal guardian as the law now stands, and even less protected at the end of their apprenticeship if their masters took them to foreign islands which also occurred.
163	1824 Jan. 15	J. Gannon to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under-Secretary of State for War and Colonies	Dated at Antigua. Encloses a short summary of contents of despatches which have been transmitted from the commissioners of enquiry into state of liberated Africans to the Colonial Department. May be shorter summary than expected but not so in future. Enclosure: Summary of each piece of correspondence from 1823 Aug. 11 to 1824 Jan. 15.
168	1824 Jan. 15	Commissioners to Lord Bathurst, Principal Secretary of State for Colonies & War	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of letter, 1823 Nov. 20. Will apprise Mr. Mclean of Tortola of your directions. The island is not ready for us yet, so will go to Tortola first and will report from there.
170	1824 Feb. 11	William Barron, secretary to commission to Earl Bathurst	Dated at Pimlico. Offers services to succeed the ill Mr. Barrow as secretary to the Commission and provides qualifications. One is he has been an officer of the Commissariat in the West Indies for upwards of ten years. Provides names as references to his character, including previous commissioner Major Moody.
175	1824 Feb. 13	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under Secretary of State for War and Colonies	Dated at Antigua. Transmitting report of inquiry into state and condition of apprenticed Africans in the island of Nevis. Explains why delayed. Encloses extract of letter of late Sir James Perth to the Lords of the Treasury relating to subject of report. [Not included.]
179	1824 Feb. 13	Commissioners to Hon. Earl Bathurst, Principal Secretary of State for War and Colonies	Dated at Antigua. Agreeable to directions in letter dated 1823 Nov. 20, informed Mr. Maclean of Tortola we were instructed to hold a meeting of the commission at Tortola for the purpose of inquiring into the special case referred to in letter addressed to Bathurst by

			Maclean dated 1822 Dec. 12. Due to not receiving a reply, will commence business in this island. Will write Mr. Maclean again.
181	1824 Feb. 14	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	<p>Dated at Antigua. Encloses papers relative to subjects in West India. [Note: Enclosure No. 1 not included - Statistical Table of the Virgin Islands for two periods – 1815 and 1823; received from physician of the Island of Tortola.]</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <p>No. 2 – From the Treasurer’s Office at Nevis, table showing revenues and expenditures for the years 1818 and 1822 (includes under Expenditures - total amount paid to “Registrar of Slaves,” and amount paid to owners of “negroe” who was executed for burglary; and under Revenue – Capitation tax on “slaves.”</p> <p>No. 3 – Concise and general view of the condition of “slaves” in the Island of Nevis. “Taken partly from what fell under my own observation while I resided there and partly from what I learned through unbiased persons on whose information and veracity I could rely.” (11 pages.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ food rations, money in lieu of, provision grounds ○ habitations ○ clothing ○ industry/personal profit ○ work-day regimes, field work, violation of Nevis Amelioration Act of 1818 ○ grant of waste lands, planters’ self interest ○ Antigua – slaves’ treatment comparative to Nevis ○ moral progress and civilization – religion, marriage ○ “slaves” in towns – hired out, situation if no work in town, planters’ hardship/debt and effect on slaves
203	1824 Feb. 15	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of private letter of the 7 th ulto. relative to the question submitted to the governor of St. Kitts.
207	1824 Feb. 15	T. Bowles, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P.	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of letter of the 7 th ulto. States his letter respecting Creole “slaves” was written previous to

			his receipt of circular of 30 Sept. and letter of 18 Oct. Notes official communications will not in future be made in separate letters from commissioners.
209	1824 Feb. 23	William Barron, secretary to commission to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Upper Belgrave Place. Prepared to comply to proceed to join commission in West Indies first of March packet. Requests reimbursement for expenses.
211	1824 March 2	William Barron, secretary to commission to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Upper Belgrave Place. Pertains to when his salary date begins.
213	1824 March 3	J. Gannon, commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under Secretary of State for Colonies & War	Dated at Lincoln Inn. (Presented to the House of Commons, Paper No. 463 of 1827.) Observations on the case of three Antigua African sailors named Farrah Pierre, George Bliss and Robert Simpson, seized on board the schooner "Ocean." Same subjects found in letter from collector of customs at Antigua 14 th Dec. At examination, no documents produced by customs explaining their circumstance of capture and condemnation. Should be regarded differently from other captured "negroes" condemned to His Majesty; probably free before arrival at Antigua. [Enclosures not included.]
217	1824 March 26	Commissioners to Earl Bathurst, Principal Secretary of State for Colonies and War	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges letter of 23 Dec. conveying Lord Bathurst's instructions relative to female African apprentices and their children in consequence of an application from Mr. Belisario of Tortola. Have written him. Heard from Mr. McLean to meet up. Enclose MacLean's letter and copy of letter from collector of Tortola, which explain reason expedient to come here rather than wait at Tortola. Would like to finish here before start special inquiry at Tortola. Enclosures: No. 1 – George Beare, Collector to Commissioners; true copy signed by Barrow, secretary to the commissioners. 1824 Feb. 23, at Tortola. Acknowledges receipt of Mr. Gannon's letter of 15 th ulto and joint one of the 13 th acquainting Earl Bathurst's direction for a further meeting of the commission at Tortola respecting Mr. Maclean's apprentices. Enclose letter by Mr. Mclean.

			No. 2 – H. C. Maclean to Commissioners, 1824 Jan. 24 at Tortola. Willing to accommodate a meeting concerning treatment of his apprentices.
215	1824 March 26	Commissioners to Earl Bathurst, Principal Secretary of State for Colonies and War	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of letter of 10 Jan. 1824 relative to African apprentices who have been enticed away from British colonies in the West Indies by Spanish subjects and sold at Puerto Rico, where they are detained as “slaves.” As directed will investigate such situations. Transmitted copy of your letter to governors D’Urban and Maxwell.
227	1824 March 26	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton Esq., Under Secretary of State for War & Colonies	<p>Dated at Antigua. Enclosed copy of letter from George Wyke, collector of customs at Antigua relative to Africans who are subsisted at the expence of government in the African Hospital. Detailed various circumstances connected with the condition of these people, and concluded with plan of employing them for their own support by fishing. Also encloses our answer. States the number of Africans supported by the collector has greatly increased in past few years and that work would be beneficial.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <p>No. 1 – George Wyke, collector to Commissioners, 1824 march 3 at Custom House, St. John’s. (6pp.) Expands on points made during the examination, such as labour, reasons for lack of indenture papers; plus proposal for employment for both men and women, reasons why including support of African Hospital.</p> <p>No. 2 – Commissioners to George Wyke, Esq., Collector of Customs, 1824 March 16 at Antigua. Acknowledge receipt of letter of 34th. Explains not empowered to give sanction to proposed plan but will transmit for consideration of the secretary of state.</p>
241	1824 April 6	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under Secretary of State for War & Colonies	Dated at Antigua. Encloses letter from Benjamin D’Urban with 2 enclosures – No. 1 – copy of letter to Benjamin D’Urban by Hugh Edwards, sitting magistrate of St. John’s; No. 2 – copy of answer to magistrate’s letter. Concerns the authority the commissioners have

			<p>to enquire into cases of apprenticed Africans which have been previously decided by the local magistrates.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <p>No. 1 – B. D’Urban to Commissioners, 1824 March 2 at Government House. Transmits copies of letter received from Hugh Edwards, a sitting magistrate of St. Johns and my answer to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter. Hugh Edwards to B. D’Urban, 1824 Feb. 26 at St. John’s. • Letter. B. D’Urban to Hugh Edwards, Esq., Justice of the Peace, one of the Sitting Magistrates St. John’s. 1824 March 1 at Government House.
252	1824 May 11	Commissioners to Earl Bathurst	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledge receipt of letter of Feb. 1824 respecting Mr. Barron’s appointment to succeed Mr. Barrow as secretary to the commission of inquiry. He arrived 29 th ulto. Mr. Barrow has proceeded to England by “Norton” Packet.
254	1824 May 11	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledge receipt of letter of 11 March delivered by Mr. Barron on his new appointment.
256	1824 May 11	Commissioners to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at Antigua. Almost finished in Antigua, on the way to Tortola in few days for special inquiry requested by Lord Bathurst on behalf of Mr. Maclean. After will return to Antigua to finish report on state and condition of “negroes” liberated in that island.
258	1824 July 7	Barrow, past secretary to commission to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., M.P., Under secretary of State for War & Colonies	Dated at Marchmont Street. Acknowledges receipt letter of 25 th ulto. relative to report having reached Lord Bathurst that Misters Bowles and Gannon conducted themselves towards each other in a manner to bring disgrace upon themselves and reflect discredit upon their office. Confirms truth. Health – weak so leaving town for a bit. Gannon gone to Antigua and Bowles too in another boat.
261	1824 July 9	William Barron, commission secretary	Dated at Antigua. “Private & confidential.” Relative to the disagreements between the commissioners. Distracted and inefficient state of commission, and little guidance for himself.
265	1824 Sept. 7	Commissioners to Earl Bathurst	Dated at Antigua. Acknowledge receipt of letter of 24 July relative to our being relieved from the duties of our commission and to return to Europe.

268	1824 Sept. 7	Commissioners to Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for War and Colonies	<p>Dated at Antigua. Encloses papers relative to special enquiry into the case of Mr. Maclean and his female African apprentices as directed.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <p>No. 1 – Report of Proceedings in the special case of Mr. Maclean and his female African apprentices Kitty and Amelia, held at Tortola by the Commissioners of Inquiry into the condition of apprenticed Africans. Includes witnesses. Commissioners’ introductory summation compares Kitty and Amelia’s statements of 2 years’ ago with present concerning their treatment – food, clothing, work and workload. Inquiry was to focus on 2 questions: 1. Before previous examination 2-years ago, the 2 female apprentices had or had not been improperly treated; 2. Whether the punishment inflicted by Mr. Maclean after that examination was or was not in the strict and proper sense of the term “a slight punishment.”</p> <p>Conclusion to no. 1 – not improperly treated. Conclusion to no. 2 – Maclean violated order in council and indentures of apprenticeship – females forbidden to be employed in “labors of agriculture.” This violation would initially have justified removal from Maclean’s service but as time has elapsed and women stayed, opinion now inexpedient.</p> <p>Respecting punishment inflicted by Mr. Maclean to Kitty previous to first examination merely on suspicion she had killed sheep of which she had eaten, believe was highly improper and intemperate. Also based on evidence, a “slight punishment” was used for women: Kitty states received only “about a dozen” stripes and Amelia states she got three stripes; does not appear the skin was cut or lacerated by this punishment or that they were rendered incapable of resuming their usual jobs. Makes references to separate examinations of the women – documents “A” and “B.”</p>
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			<p>No. 2 – Examinations “A” and “B” being copies of first examinations of the African apprentices Kitty and Amelia taken before the former commissioners, Major Moody and Mr. Dougan, in 1822. Examination “A” - Accounts by Mr. Maclean, apprentice Moquo or Kitty, and Adaca or Amelia, extracted from the examinations.</p> <p>No. 3 – Examination “B” being minutes of the meeting to examine special case relating to Maclean’s apprentices. (12 pp.)</p> <p>No. 4 – Copies of affidavits delivered in by H. C. Maclean after the special enquiry held at Tortola in June 1824. Affidavits by John Lettson, sr. of the Island of Beef Island one of the Virgin Islands, Esq.; Henry Clinton Maclean of Guana Island one of the Virgin Islands (husband of Miss Frett - stepdaughter of Mr. Lettsom and carer of Lettsom’s apprentice, Kitty); Frances Sullivan Maclean (responsible for care of female apprentices); Henry Wheatley (house carpenter) residing in Island of Tortola one of the Virgin Islands. (9 pp.)</p>
302	1824 Oct. 8	William Barron, secretary to commission to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under Secretary of State for War & Colonies	<p>Dated at Antigua. Commissioners left on the 2nd, left their papers with me, including 29 schedules containing 252 examinations. Documents far from forming complete detail of the disposal of the whole of this class of persons who have been liberated in Antigua, due to differences between commissioners preventing completion of report. New commissioners have more work to do – special enquiry into the state of Africans attached to army; examination of few more apprentices – those dead and those whom no satisfactory account can be obtained. Printed Parliamentary return of captured “negroes” presents list of 75 persons who have never been produced before the present collector and are unaccounted for; this list will be augmented. New commissioners to arrive at Barbadoes.</p>
306	1824 Oct. 8	William Barron, secretary to Commission to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq., Under secretary of State for War & Colonies	<p>Dated at Antigua. As directed in letter of 13 August, encloses copy of declaration of John, an African apprentice at Tortola. Indicates Horton had received report from St. Christophers.</p>

			Enclosure: Declaration of John McLean an African apprentice taken before Major Moody, commissioner for captured Africans, taken 29 July 1822 at Customs House, Tortola. (6 pp.) He had been taken off Brig from Africa onto an armed schooner to Spanish Town about three years ago; Tom Harragin (free black man) came aboard and took him home where he worked the ground until Tom died, then woman living with Tom sent him on boats trading to St. Thomas and Santa Cruz. Ill treatment by Tom and woman. States some "people in Spanish Town told him he was free." Mentions boy from same boat he was taken from.
315	1824 Nov. 27	T. Bowles, past commissioner to ?	To preserve my character would like to request an interview to solicit advice, even though had short acquaintance at Tortola.
317	1824 Nov. 29	T. Bowles, past commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Requests permission to submit a statement respecting the disagreement between himself and Mr. Gannon.
318	1824 Dec. 11	T. Bowles, past commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Statement in vindication of his conduct with respect to the disagreement with Mr. Gannon.
326	1824 Dec. 20	T. Bowles, past commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Requests salary and passage money to England.
328	1824 Sept. 28	William Barron, secretary to Commission	Dated at Antigua. Certifies receipt by Bowles of his salary as commissioner since joining commission 1823 August 5 to 1824 August 5.
331	1824 Dec. 24	T. Bowles, past commissioner to R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.	Dated at 8 Hill Street. Requests permission to submit a statement of the result of his enquiries into the state of captured Africans.