



JANUARY 2016



# HISTORICAL CULTURAL CALENDAR

COMPLIMENTS OF:

VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF  
VIRGIN ISLANDS CULTURAL EDUCATION



*Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!*

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE**

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
SERVING THE CHILDREN  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**



## Iqra Academy - STX

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education





## Ivanna Eudora Kean High School - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education





John H. Woodson Junior High School - STX

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



Joseph A. Gomez Elementary School - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education





## Juanita Gardine Elementary School - STX

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education





Julius E. Sprauve School - STJ

Courtesy of: <http://stjohnyouthcoalition.org/personnel/julius-e-sprauve-school/>



## Lew Muckle Elementary School - STX

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education





## Lockhart Elementary School - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



## Moravian School - STT

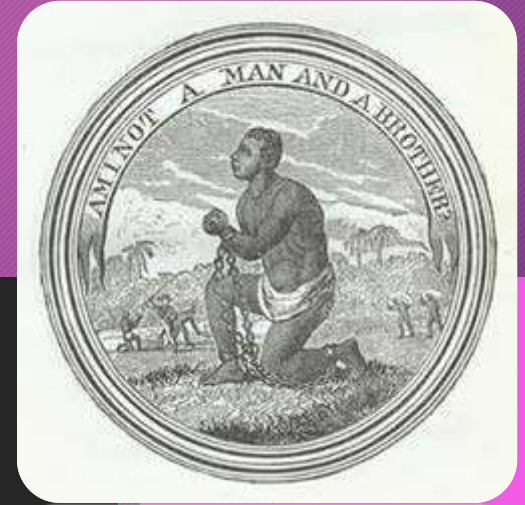
Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



# JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

1803:

The Danish Law abolishing the Transatlantic Slave Trade went into effect, but the law didn't abolish slavery. Slavery was abolished in 1848.



Courtesy of

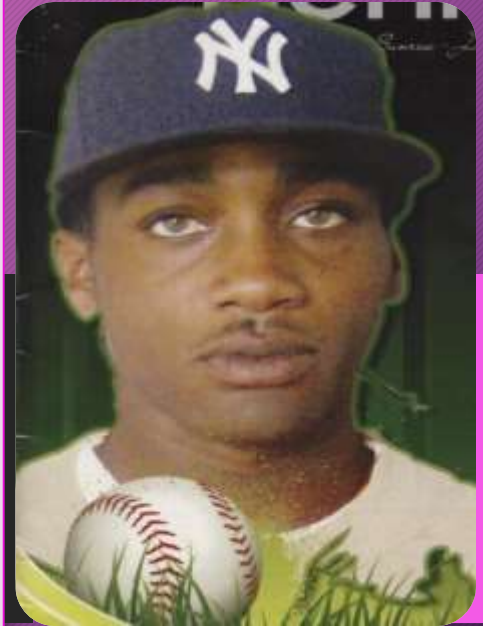
Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/abolition/abolitionistmovement/>

# JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

1988:

Ajahi Saeed Henneman was born on St. Thomas. He excelled academically and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He received his Vocational Education Certificate in the field of Plumbing. His athletic ability enabled him to travel playing baseball representing the VI. He was employed at the VI Water & Power Authority as a Meter Reader.

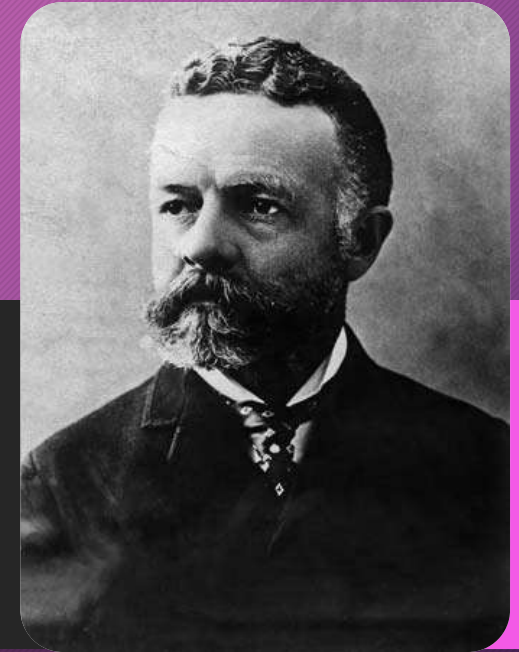




# JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

1896:

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts introduced a resolution directing the Committee on Foreign Relations to inquire and report to the Senate whether or not the Danish West Indies could be purchased by the United States or any other nation. Rumors had circulated for decades that the Danes were willing to sell the islands to Germany.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Henry-Cabot-Lodge-United-States-senator-1850-1924>

# JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

1954:

Lorraine Theresa Rodgers was born in C'Sted, St. Croix. She was a champion gardener and tended to the animals before heading to school. Accompanying her mom, she was a pioneer with selling on the road. Her family was the owner of Rodgers Variety Store, which opened in Estate Diamond Ruby in the 80s.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

1922:

Errol Olivier Sebastien was born on St. Thomas. With his Accounting degree, he worked as a Budget Analyst for the Budget Office for 34 years of hard work and dedication until his retirement. He was a member of the Tau Club. He enjoyed making macramé belts.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

1900:

Carmelita Industrious George was born on Tortola, BVI. As a resident of St. Thomas, she was among the privileged teenagers to witness the 1917 transfer. A natural entrepreneur she sold many of her delicacies that were baked in a brick oven.



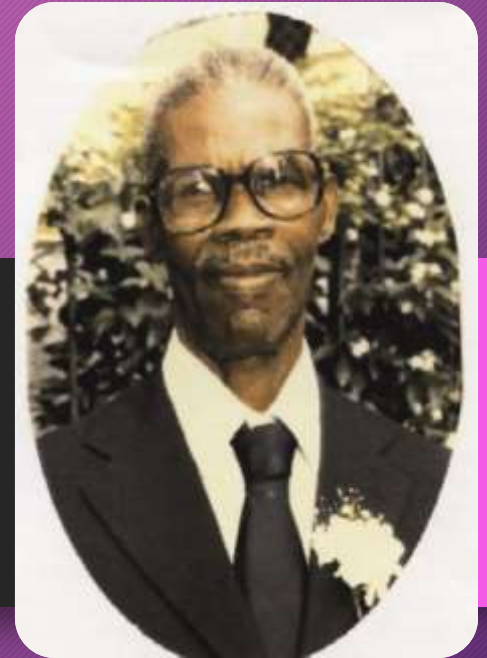
Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

1913:

Cecil Leander Williams was born in Estate Annaly, St. Croix. He was a skilled craftsman who built caskets, who became a master builder / contractor. Employed by the Department of Education in the Maintenance Division, he rose through the ranks as supervisor.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

1871:

Henry Hughes Hough, fourth Naval Governor of the US Virgin Islands, was born in the French overseas colony of St. Pierre and Miquelon, just off Newfoundland. He was the first governor of a US territory, who was not born in the US. He served from September 1922 to December 1923.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Hughes\\_Hough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hughes_Hough)



# JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

1866:

St. Thomas residents voted in favor of the Treaty of 1867. It authorized the sale of St. Thomas and St. John to the US for \$7.5 million. The treaty was approved on a vote of 1,039 in favor and 22 opposed. The sale didn't go through, due to a change in America's attitude toward expansion.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://aflipfloplife.com/usvi/usvi-history-2/>

# JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

1866:

St. John residents voted unanimously with 205 votes in favor of a sale treaty between Denmark and the US. They, along with St. Thomas, approved their sale to the US for \$75 million.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.virgin-islands-history.org/en/timeline/the-islands-are-sold-to-the-us-2/>



# JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>

1964:

Akeem Basil Newton was born in Challenger, St. Kitts. As a resident of St. Croix, he was a dedicated police officer. Recipients of his service were The American Red Cross and The Queen Louise Home. He was fond of fishing and cooking local foods, such as fungi and fish and seafood.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>

1946:

Maudlyn Veveen Frederick-Watson was born in Antigua. After migrating to St. Thomas, she worked at Crazy Cow and Sapphire Beach Resorts as a cook / chef. She purchased and operated a hot dog cart and later operated a food van for several years. She was an independent taxi owner and operator.



# JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

1924:

Clarice Veronica Warner-Vialet on St. Thomas. She worked for Carib Air Airlines as a Radio Operator, where she would verify with the tower the arrival of the flights and instructed the pilots where and when to land. She was also employed with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation as an Administrative Officer.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

1974:

In honor of her 100 birthday, Romalia Jeppe Heyliger was honored by the 10th Legislature with a resolution expressing gratitude for 28 years of dedicated service as an educator. Born on St. Thomas, she relocated to St. Croix. She was one of the founding members of the St. Thomas Teachers Association.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: [http://webpac.uvi.edu/imls/pi\\_uvi/profiles1992/Educators/Heyliger\\_R/index.shtml](http://webpac.uvi.edu/imls/pi_uvi/profiles1992/Educators/Heyliger_R/index.shtml)

# JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

1792:

The new Lutheran Church in Frederiksted was inaugurated by Pastor Martin Peter Ohm. The church, made of stone, was built to replace the original wooden church built in 1776.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://den-vestindiske-arv.dk/en/religion/lutheran-churches-on-st-croix/>

# JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>

1944:

Leslie Alfred Millin was born. He was a dedicated stalwart public servant. He served as the Director of Personnel and served as GERS longest serving Administrator for 14 years. He also served as Director of Human Resources and Comptroller at the Department of Public Works.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/community/people/2012/02/03/neville-lee-named-new-ving-state-command-chief-master-sergeant>



# JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

1917:

The United States and Denmark exchanged treaties ratifying the sale of the Danish West Indies. The exchange took place in Washington, DC and ended almost fifty years of negotiations for the sale of the islands. The formal transfer took place two and a half months later.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://www.dkconsulateusvi.com/transfer/transfer.html>

# JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

1972:

The 92nd Congress of the US voted to approve a seat for non-voting delegates from Guam and the US Virgin Islands. Since then, the VI has had five representatives to Congress, namely Ron DeLugo, Melvin H. Evans, Victor O. Frazer, Donna Christian Christiansen, and Stacey Plaskett.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://slideplayer.com/slide/6194228/>

# JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>

1941:

Roy Ellington Hodge, Jr. was born on St. Thomas. He was one of the most outstanding and dedicated police officers in the history of the VI Police Department. He received many certificates of achievement to include Certified Firearms Instructor, Police Instructor, and Open Water Diver, and Medal of Merit. He rose from being a police officer to Police Chief.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

1937:

Richard P. Spencer was born in Antigua. As a resident of the Virgin Islands, he was a cargo officer for LIAT, BWIA, BOAC, Eastern and American. He later became the assistant manager for LIAT, supervisor for Pan American Airways, and subsequently manager for Prinair Airways. He was best known as the owner and managing director of World Tours Travel Agency, Inc.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>

1927:

Beryl Eldra Hill was born. Professionally known as Calypso Bombshell and referred to as the original Market Woman of the stage, she had the natural ability to sing and compose songs. In her market dance, she would have a handbag on the head carrying a fruit laden tray, supported by a catta, and held the tray with one hand for added balanced.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

1916:

US Secretary of State Robert Lansing transmitted an appropriation request to President Woodrow Wilson for the purchase of the Danish West Indies. Lansing noted the territory's military, commercial, and political value to the US, and urged that the \$25 million figure be paid before April 17th.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Lansing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Lansing)



# JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

1917:

The Injunction of Secrecy on the convention and report on purchase of the Danish West Indies was lifted. Entered into confidentially in the fall of 1915, the negotiations were possibly one of the worst kept secrets in international circles. This was reportedly kept a secret to preserve Danish neutrality.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://northtexaslegalnews.com/category/texas-employment-law-2/temporary-injunctions/>

# JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

1961:

Beverly Esterline Thomas was born on Antigua. She worked in the hospitality industry at the front desk at Bluebeard's Castle and before at Castle Trading for many years. She was a lover of Carnival and would participate in the Enchantments of Jam Band Troupe, Mystique, and Hugga Bunch Carnival Troupes.



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

1625:

All charges against Governor Adolph Esmith were dropped. Under his term, St. Thomas has known as a safe haven for pirates. He particularly enjoyed capturing and looting British ships, which led to a strained relationship between Denmark and Great Britain. Included in the many charges was his offer to the Swedish Ambassador for a non-violent overthrow of St. Thomas.



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture: <http://listverse.com/2013/09/28/10-amazing-female-pirates/>



# JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

1929:

Ida Fahie was born on Tortola, BVI. After relocating to St. Thomas, she worked as a chef at restaurants like Palm Passage and Sebastien's on the Waterfront. In her carnival booths, she would prepare tarts, breads, cakes and delicious foods. She was also employed at the Department of Health and Human Services.



# JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

1915:

Iris Elaine Samuel was on St. John. She was a home maker and had a passion for cooking, baking and sewing. She worked for the Department of Health for many years. After her retirement she became a member of the Senior Citizens Center of Anna's Retreat.



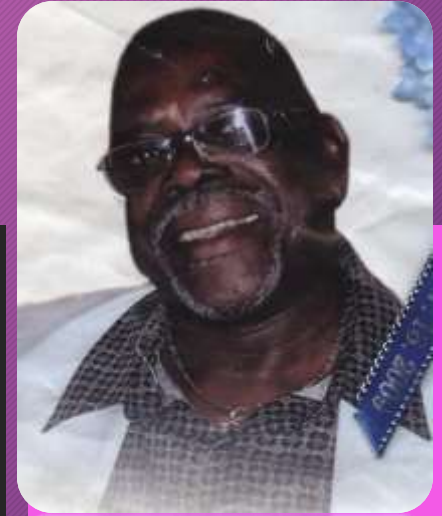
Courtesy of

Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

1950:

Donald 'Boysie' Stanley George was born on Tortola, BVI. He worked at Public Works as a Trader Helper (plumber) before he was transferred to the VI Water & Power Authority where he worked in Water Distribution. Avid Carnival supporter, he assisted the Rising Stars and gave freely of his time to the Carnival Committee.





# JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>

1933:

St. Johnian Coolridge Stanford Dalmida was born. After his honorable discharge from the Armed Forces, he worked at the VI National Park Services in the Maintenance Division. He served as chairman and a member of many committees for the mission of the VI National Park Services. He was an active Architectural Draftsman and a member of the St. John Dancers and the Mungo Miles Cultural Dancers.



# JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>

1917:

Valdrena Malvena Fraser was born in Hope Estate, Tortola, BVI. As a resident of St. Thomas, she became known as the lady with the cart who traveled up and down the hillsides wherever construction sites were to sell her pates, fry fish, johnny cakes, and drinks. She was later employed as a custodial worker and then as a paraprofessional with Special Education with the Department of Education.



# JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>

1922:

Rupert Waldemar Benjamin Ross was born in F'Sted, St. Croix. After graduating from high school, he was employed as an Office Clerk at Rueben Neazer's Trucking & Hardware Store, and later at the Rum Distillery of the Virgin Islands Company. After holding several other jobs, he was drafted in to the US Army. After being honorably discharged, he returned to VI Corporation in Bethlehem Sugarcane Factory as a personnel officer. The company was purchased and subsequently changed its name to Martin Marietta Alumina, where he retired as a Personnel Representative. He was a member of the Rotary Club of St. Croix West, Paul Harris fellow, Bromley Berkeley American Lion Post 33, and the Aldersville Senior Citizens Club.



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet





*Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!*

To receive monthly complimentary electronic  
Historical Cultural Calendar,  
kindly contact ....

*Virgin Islands Department of Education  
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

ST. THOMAS / ST. JOHN

Mailing Address: 1834 Kongens Gade, STT, VI 00802

Physical Address: J. Antonio Jarvis Annex, STT, VI 00802

Telephone Number: 340-774-0100 x: 2804, 8043, 2806, 2808, or 2809

Fax Number: 340-777-4342

Email Addresses: [alpbenjamin@stj.k12.vi](mailto:alpbenjamin@stj.k12.vi); [mmartin@stj.k12.vi](mailto:mmartin@stj.k12.vi);  
[vbryson@stx.k12.vi](mailto:vbryson@stx.k12.vi)

Website Addresses: [www.vide.vi/](http://www.vide.vi/) or <http://viculturaled.vide.vi>