

David W. Knight Sr.

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Introduction

David W. Knight Sr. is a cultural resource consultant, historian, and author, based on St. Thomas in the U. S. Virgin Islands. He has spent much of his professional life exploring the primary records of the Virgin Islands and Danish West Indies in libraries, repositories, and archives throughout the Caribbean and abroad. His professional goal has always been to bring the rich historical legacy of the Virgin Islands into sharper focus through improved public access, education, and awareness.

Among Mr. Knight's published works are a number of volumes that address the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora – two of which have become standard references in the field. In addition, he has a long list of historical background studies and cultural resource surveys relating to the United States and Danish colonial periods in the Virgin Islands to his credit.

Along with his research and writing, Mr. Knight remains active in preservation advocacy and educational outreach throughout the Territory. He has worked on numerous television and film projects, both nationally and internationally. In his pursuit of knowledge, David has traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, South and Central America, Canada, the United States, Eastern and Western Europe, the United Kingdom and Scandinavia.

Mr. Knight previously served on the Presidential Advisory Council of the University of the Virgin Islands, and was an active member of the board of the St. John Historical Society for thirteen years - during which time he held the position of society president for four terms. He is a supporter and advisor to the Caribbean Genealogical Library on St. Thomas, as well as a long-standing member of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians.

Mr. Knight continues to serve the Virgin Islands Territory as a Commissioner on the St. Thomas/St. John Committee of the State Historic Preservation Commission.

His past projects include:

Historical Consulting

Consulting Historian: Tutu archaeological investigation (Director Elizabeth Righter, VI Historic Preservation Office, 1997).

Project Historian: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Estate Vessup, Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, (VI Historic Preservation Office, 1998).

Project Historian: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Estate Adrian, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John (VI Historic Preservation Office, 1998).

Project Historian: Cinnamon Bay Archaeological Project (National Park Service, 1999).

Consulting Historian: Syracuse University Department of Anthropology Field School Program, field studies: East End, St. John; Cinnamon Bay, St. John; Estate Eensomhed, St. Thomas; J. M. Magens property, St. Thomas (Professor Douglas V. Armstrong, program director, 2000 – 2007).

Project Historian: Water Island Archaeology Project (Professor David G. Anderson, director, Southeast Regional Archaeological Center, National Park Service, 1999 – 2003).

Consulting Historian: *Haunted Caribbean* (Greystone Inc., for the Discovery Channel, 2001).

Project Historian: *Moments in Time: The St. John Slave Revolt, 1733* (Terra Nova TV for the History Channel, 2002).

Project Historian: *Cruz Bay, St. John*, “Inside,” episode #21 (Carol Fava, series director, TV2, St. Thomas, VI, 2002).

Project Historian: *Estate Eensomhed*, “Inside,” episode #na (Carol Fava, series director, TV2, St. Thomas, VI, 2002).

Consulting Historian: *Roots Unknown*, episode # 1: “Slaves in Our Family” (Alex Frank Larsen, series director, Medialex Films & TV, Denmark, 2003).

Consulting Historian: *Von Sklaver, Rum und Piraten*, “Ostsee Report Special” (Udo Biss, series director, for German National TV, 2004).

Consulting Historian: Identification of documentary resources relating to #1A Kongen’s Gade (contracted by International Capital & Management Company, St. Thomas USVI, 2005).

Consulting Historian: Committee to design the commemorative quarter for the U.S. Virgin Islands produced by the United States Mint in 2009 as part of its States and Territories series (appointed by the Office of the Governor, Honorable John P. de Jongh Jr., St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 2008).

Consulting Historian: Design of a commemorative quarter for the Virgin Islands National Park for production by the United States Mint as part of its National Parks series (U.S. Mint, Washington, D.C., 2008).

Project Historian: *St. John Place Names Project: mapping St. John’s cultural geography, c1840 – 1940s* (Robin Swank & Elroy Sprauve project directors, St. John Historical Society [jointly funded by the VI Humanities Council and the St. John Historical Society], 2009).

Consulting Historian: Historical background of the West Indian Company, Ltd. (private contract, November 2014).

Cultural Resource Surveys and Historical Resource Assessments

Cultural Resource Survey: *Phase 1A Cultural Resource Survey for Parcel 5a, St. Joseph and Rosendahl* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1998).

Cultural Resource Survey: *A Phase 1A Cultural Resource Survey of Parcels #1 & 1b Estate Bellevue, 37 in the Frenchman's Bay Quarter of St. Thomas, in the United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1999).

Cultural Resource Survey: *A Phase 1A Cultural Resource Survey of the Remainder of Parcel 17-8 Estate St. Peter, #2 in the Little North Side Quarter of St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1999).

Cultural Resource Survey: *A Phase 1A Cultural Resource Survey of Parcels 3a-7 through 3a12 Estate Zootenval, #3 in the Coral Bay Quarter of St. John in the United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1999).

Historical Resource Assessment: *Preliminary Report Concerning the Prehistoric and Historic Resources on Estate Botany Bay, #7 West End Quarter, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2000).

Historical Resource Assessment: *A Preliminary Assessment of Cultural Resources on Parcels 6A-1, 6A-1-1 & 6A-1-2 Estate Hansen Bay, #6 in the East End Quarter of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2003).

Cultural Resource Survey: *A Phase 1A Cultural Resource Survey of Parcels 3a-15, 3A-16 through 3a28 Estate Zootenval, #3 in the Coral Bay Quarter of St. John in the United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2003).

Historical Resource Assessment: *An Assessment of Known and Potential Cultural Resources on the Mahogany Run Property Located Within the bounds of Estate Lovenlund, #2 in the North Side Quarter, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2004).

Historical Resource Assessment: *A Preliminary Assessment of Cultural Resources on Parcels 7A and 7C Estate Hanson Bay B, #7 in the East End Quarter of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2004).

Historical Resource Assessment: *A Preliminary Assessment of Cultural Resources within Parcels 18-I, 18-J, 18-K and 18-M Estate Bovoni, #1 & #2 Frenchman's Bay Quarter, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands* (Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2004).

Historical Background Studies & Reports

Historical Background Report: *A Brief History of Estate Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Island* (for Elizabeth Righter, Tutu archaeological investigation [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1997]).

Historical Background Study: *Preliminary Survey of the Ownership and Development of the Lindholm Estate on St. John* (for attorney Brion Morrisette [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1997]).

Historical Background Report: *A Documentary History of the Cinnamon Bay Estate, 1718 – 1917* (Virgin Islands National Park, St. John [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 1997]).

Historical Background Study: *Hans Haagensen House, #30-31 Dronningen's Gade, Kongen's Quarter, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas VI* (contracted by Michael Ball [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, September 1998]).

Historical Background Report: *The Story of Estate Lindholm, 1718 – 1917* (compiled for Lindholm Guest House [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, September 1999]).

Historical Background Study: *Robert Notman House, #6A&B Dronningen's Gade, Kongen's Quarter, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas VI* (contracted by owner Michael Ball [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, September 2000]).

Historical Background Report: *A Brief History of Little Reef Bay, with a special glimpse into the lives of Catherine Michel and her heirs* (compiled for the St. John Historical Society, 2000).

Historical Background Study: *Estate Concordia: A Brief Documentary Overview* (compiled for the St. John Historical Society, 2000)

Historical Background Report: *A History of Estate Botany Bay, #7 West End Quarter, St. Thomas United States Virgin Islands* (contracted by Botany Bay Partners, LLP [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2001]).

Historical Background Report: *Annaberg: A Preliminary Survey of Sites within the Annaberg Historic District* (jointly funded by the Virgin Islands National Park and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2001]).

Historical Background Report: *Annaberg: An Updated Survey of the Annaberg Factory Complex, with Overviews of Contributing Sites within the Historic District* (jointly funded by the Virgin Islands National Park and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2001]).

Historical Background Report: *The History of Water Island in the Danish West Indies, 1672 – 1917* (contracted by Southeast Regional Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, FL [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2003]).

Historical Background Study: *Thatch Cay (aka The Hope), East End Quarter, St. Thomas, VI* (contracted by Level3 Consulting, San Diego, CA [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, 2004])

Historical Background Study: *J. M. Magens House, #26 & 27 Kongen's Gade and #28 & 29 Dronningen's Gade, Kongen's Quarter, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas VI* (contracted by Michael

Ball for the Syracuse University Department of Anthropology Archeological Field School [Virgin Islands Historical & Genealogical Resource Center, March 2007]).

Historical Background Study: *A Historical Timeline of the History of Estate Misgunst in the Reef Bay Quarter of St. John, 1724 - 1910* (compiled for St. John Historical Society, 2009).

Historical Background Study: *A Timeline of the Establishment of the Town of Cruz Bay, St. John* (compiled for the St. John Historical Society, 2010).

A Historical Background Report: *The Town of Cruz Bay on the Island of St. John in the Virgin Islands of the United States* (Department of Interior, Historic Preservation Fund Sub-Grant Program, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Office, 2012-2013 (updated and revised, January 2014).

National Register of Historic Places Nomination: *Cruz Bay Town Historic District* (VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Office, 2016).

A Comprehensive Phase III Historic Data Recovery Project: *Estate Thomas and Estate Raphune on the island of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands of The United States* (Funded by the Department of Transportation, under contract to New South Associates, 2020-2021).

LNP Publications

David W. Knight, editor, Gary Horlacher, translator, *The 1688 Census of the Danish West Indies; Portrait of a Colony in Crisis* (USVI, Little Nordside Press, 1998 [Second printing, 2017]), pp. 80, ISBN: 1-891610-01-5.

David W. Knight & Laurette deT. Prime, *Virgin Island Exodus; The United States Citizen's Identification Card System of 1918 and the Post-Transfer Quest For Opportunity Under the United States Flag* (St. Thomas, USVI, Little Nordside Press, 1998 [Second printing, 2017]), pp. 84, ISBN: 1-891610-02-3

David W. Knight & Laurette de T. Prime, editors, Gary T. Horlacher, translator, *St. Thomas 1803; Crossroads of the Diaspora* (St. Thomas, Little Nordside Press, 1999), pp. 185, ISBN: 1-891610-03-1.

David W. Knight, *A Brief History of the Cinnamon Bay Estate on St. John in the Danish West Indies, 1718 - 1917* (St. Thomas, USVI, Little Nordside Press, 1999), pp. 87, ISBN: 1-891610-05-8.

David W. Knight, *Understanding Annaberg; A Brief History of Estate Annaberg on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands* (St. Thomas, USVI, Little Nordside Press, 2002 [Second printing, 2017]), pp. 48, ISBN: 1-891610-08-2.

David W. Knight Sr., *The Enigmatic History of Water Island in the Danish West Indies, 1672 – 1917* (LNP 04841, 2017), pp. 223, ISBN: 1-891610-06-6.

David W. Knight Sr., *Cruz Bay from Conquest to Exploitation, A Forgotten History* (LNP 04841, 2017), pp. 219, ISBN: 978-1-891610-09-7.

Contributing Author

The Archaeology and History of Water Island, U.S. Virgin Islands, David G. Anderson, David W. Knight and Emily Yates (Prepared by the Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service for the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, C.C., 2003).

Enduring Eloquence; A Brief Background of Historical Images of St. John, David W. Knight (Steve Simonsen, *Living Art* [St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, Steve Simonsen Photography Inc., 2003] pp. 198, ISBN: 0-9743166-0-1).

Annaberg Sugar Mill (V.I. National Park interpretive brochure for the Annaberg sugar factory self-guided walking tour [National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2004]).

Historical Archeology of Cinnamon Bay Shoreline Estate: Explorations of a Small Cotton Estate and its Transformation in an Emerging Danish Sugar Economy, St. John, United States Virgin Islands, Douglas V. Armstrong, Mark Hauser, and David W. Knight ([National Park Site Designation: VIIS 191] Syracuse University Archeology Research Center, 2005).

Maps, Matricals, and Material Remains; An Archaeological GIS of Late-Eighteenth-Century Historic Sites on St. John, Danish West Indies, Douglas V. Armstrong, Mark W. Hauser, David W. Knight, and Stephan Lenik (Basil A. Reid, editor, *Archaeology and Geoinformatics; Case Studies from the Caribbean* [Tuscaloosa, Alabama, University of Alabama Press, 2008] pp. 234, ISBN: 978-0-8173-5470-1).

From Slave to Planter: George Francis of St. John – Compliance or Complicity, David W. Knight (Arnold R. Highfield & George F. Tyson, *Negotiating Enslavement; Perspectives on Slavery in the Danish West Indies* [St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Antilles Press, 2009] pp.218, ISBN: 0-916611-10-8).

St. John, Life in Five Quarters; Selected Readings from the archives of the St. John Historical Society, Eleanor Gibney, David W. Knight, Bruce Schoonover & Robin Swank, editors, (St. John, USVI, St. John Historical Society, Inc., 2010), pp. 219, ISBN: 978-0-9842740-0-0.