

**A SUMMARY OF ALL THE ENTRIES IN WILLIAM MANNING'S ST. CROIX
LETTER BOOK (March 1808 to May 1814)**

1) [1 f.] – [1808] A List of the Members of the “Burgher Councils” of “Sainte Croix”, “St. Thomas” and “St. John”, plus the names of the “Agent for the Dutch Loan”.

Here it is recorded that the “Burgher Council of Sainte Croix” is comprised of Robert Tuite, B. Blake Chabord, Peter De Nully, George B. Kelly, Roger Ferrall, William H. Crouch and Charles Rogers.

2) pp. 1-3: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London March 18, 1808.

Manning informs the Burghers that he is lobbying the British crown on their behalf to allow St. Croix to trade directly with the United States of America; however, he has had no response, as the cabinet is too busy. He is happy to accept the Burghers’ request that he serve as the Agent of St. Croix and will fulfil the role gratis but will require £100 as a stipend for a secretary. He notes that “The stake I have in the Colony will perhaps increase my pretensions with the King’s Ministers”.

Manning says of his duties, “I will execute them with cheerfulness and fidelity”. He notes that a Committee of Parliament (of which Manning is a member) is considering allowing British distillers to buy 100,000 Hogsheads of sugar from the British West Indies (including St. Croix) in lieu of local grain (which is supposedly needed otherwise for the ongoing war effort). He hopes that this provision will “restore the produce of the West India Colonies”, but the result is far from guaranteed.

3) pp. 3-4: Lord CASTLEREAGH to William MANNING, Downing Street, March 17, 1808.

Here Robert Stewart, 2nd Marquess of Londonderry, known as Lord Castlereagh, the Colonial Secretary (in office, March 25, 1807 – November 1, 1809) informs Manning that St. Croix’s request to trade with America will be considered.

4). pp. 4-8: Petition to the King from the Burgher Council of St. Croix, December 20, 1807.

Here St. Croix petitions the British crown to be allowed to trade sugar for produce with United States, as they did when under Danish rule.

5) pp. 8-9: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, April 8, 1808.

Manning says that, sadly, there is no movement on the trade petition or the parliamentary committee’s deliberations. However, he notes that “my mercantile house” [Manning & Anderdon] is sending 4 or 5 ships from England to pick up St. Croix sugar.

6) p. 10: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, April 14, 1808.

The Parliamentary Committee had authorized the use of West Indies sugar [including from St. Croix] by Scottish and English distilleries for the next year. The decision overcame major opposition from rural English MPs whose constituencies produce grain. However, the measure must still be approved by the full House of Commons.

7) pp. 11- 25: [Articles of the Capitulation of St. Croix from Denmark to Britain, Frederiksted, December 25, 1807], “From the St. Croix Gazette of Monday, December 28, 1807”.

Here is the full text of the Agreement entered between General Henry W. Boyer, Commander of the Land Forces, and Rear Admiral Alexander Cochrane, the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval forces, that secured the surrender of the Danish Virgin Islands [on behalf of Britain], and “Lillienschold” [Hans Christopher Lillienskjöld (1862 - 1837), Governor-General of the Danish West Indies (March 22 – December 25, 1807)]. The accord has 16 Articles, and represents a conditional surrender, noting the requests of the Danes (in a column marked “As Requested”) versus what the British assented to (marked in a column as “Allowed”), all given in parallel text.

Article 1 – Denmark (“As Requested”): Danish troops are “not prisoners of war” and shall march out of their garrisons with their arms and banners and will retain most of their arms. Britain (As “Allowed”): The Danes will march out with honours but must be POWs and will surrender all weapons save for officers’ swords.

Article 2 – Denmark: the Danish POWs can remain in their barracks with normal pay and victuals until Britain can arrange, at their expense, to transport them to Denmark. They cannot enter British service but can keep all possessions. Britain: The Danish POWs will receive no pay but will get POW provisions; the British will arrange passage to Denmark ASAP for officers, or they will be given passports to go to America or other neutral countries if they so wish.

Article 3 - Agreed by Both Parties: Officers who wish to remain on the island may do so.

Article 4 - Agreed by Both Parties: The Danish King’s arms and moneys on St. Croix will be delivered up to a joint commission of Danish and British officers.

Article 5 – Agreed by Both Parties: All religious institutions will be allowed to operate freely as they were under Danish rule.

Article 6 – Denmark: All Danish laws with retained, and the judges kept on bench; the right of judicial appeal to Copenhagen will continue; all Danish civil officers to remain in post and the police will operate as usual. Britain: The Danish laws and judges will remain, but there will be no right of appeal to Copenhagen, rather appeals will be decided in London; all civil officers and police to remain as is, although the British Commander-in Chief can overrule, or dismiss Danish officials (albeit only under exceptional circumstances).

Article 7 – Denmark: The British will respect all private property rights, of both real estate and movable possessions, of both those present and absent from the island. Britain: We will respect all private property on the island, except anything that might be owned by the “Enemies of Great Britain”.

Article 8 – Denmark: No civilian inhabitants of St. Croix shall be forced to bear arms against Denmark and must keep neutrality but can keep their arms; those who wish to leave the island should be allowed to do so and can appoint attorneys to sell their property. Britain: St.

Croix residents do not have to bears arms against Denmark but must swear an oath to not act against Britain but can keep arms. They can leave and dispose of their properties as they see fit.

Article 9 – Denmark: Free people of colour will keep full rights and will be “treated as the other inhabitants” Britain: Agreed, as long as they take an oath to the British government.

Article 10 – Denmark: There will be no billeting of soldiers with the inhabitants and soldiers will keep proper quarters. Britain: Agreed, but with security guarantees.

Article 11 – Denmark: Loans belonging to the Danish King shall be kept “as they are”, as private property. Britain: No, all such loans must be surrendered to the British king, but the original terms of the loans will be observed.

Article 12 – Denmark: All public archives shall be “held sacred and unmolested”. Britain: Agreed, but subject to the inspection of the British government.

Article 13 – Denmark: Britain will keep the Danish Virgin Islands as a freeport. Britain: No, the islands will be subject to same laws as other British West Indian islands (i.e., mercantilism).

Article 14 – Denmark: Britain will keep the value of currencies on the island. Britain: Agreed, but subject to His Majesty’s pleasure.

Article 15 - Denmark: Those convicted of crimes by the former Danish administration will be sent to Denmark for punishment. Britain: Agreed, but subject to some provisions of British law.

Article 16 – Denmark: The British will send two swift ships to communicate the present treaty to Denmark. Britain: word of the treaty will first be sent to Denmark via London by English ships. The treaty takes force once it is signed.

The Treaty is Signed, Frederiksted, St. Croix, December 25, 1807, by Boyer [General Henry Boyer] and Cochrane [Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane] [for Britain] and “Lillenschould” [Hans Christopher Lillienkjøld] [for Denmark], aboard the *HMS Ramillies*.

8) pp. 26-7: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London May 5, 1808.

Manning informs the Burghers that the House of Commons has not taken up the Distillery matter. The Parliamentary Committee is still meeting. There is good news in that the government will have a “more liberal” policy with respect to British West Indian trade with the United States. However, Lord Castlereagh is too busy to attend to the matter. He also provides details on the Manning & Anderdon ships to be sent to St. Croix.

9) pp. 28-30: William MANNING to Governor von SCHOLTON, London, March 18, 1808.

Casimir Wilhelm von Scholten, the former Governor of St. Thomas and St. John (1800 – March 1801, 1803 – December 1807), is in England as a POW on parole but is not allowed to return to Denmark until a special agreement to that effect is made. Manning will ask that he be allowed to live in a more convenient place, perhaps in London, Bath or Reading. He also discusses repatriation matters regarding other Danish officials. *P.S.* Manning arranged for the Governor to move to Reading, and for his son, a Danish officer, to return to Denmark on parole.

10) p. 30: William MANNING to George CHALMERS, New Street, Spring Gardens, May 16, 1808.

Manning writes to George Chalmers (1742 - 1825), a Scottish antiquarian and political operative, in his current capacity as the Chief Clerk to the Privy Council for Trade Matters. He informs him that he is the Agent of St. Croix and will receive any communications from the Board of Trade regarding that island. He notes that in St. Croix much-needed American provisions are scarce and costly.

11) pp. 31-3: At the Court at the Queen's Palace the 11th May 1808.

The King in Council (i.e., the British Cabinet) rules the Danish Virgin Islands may trade with the rest of the British Empire on normal legal terms - signed Stephen Cotrell.

12) pp. 33-4: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London May 19, 1808.

Manning announces the opening of trade from the Danish Virgin Islands to the rest of the British Empire. The sugar bill is delayed in the House of Commons. Governor Scholten's son will be going home, although the governor cannot leave England, as no agreement to that effect has been made. There are now 2,750 Danish prisoners on parole in England.

13) pp. 35-6: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London May 23, 1808.

Colonel George William Richard Harcourt (1775-1812), the newly appointed army commander and Lieutenant-Governor of St. Croix, has now left London to take up his post on the island. Manning tells the Burghers that Harcourt is "a Gentleman who will consult the interests of your colony". He continues that there is still no news on the matter of trade with America; however, he is not optimistic. Yet, he will lobby the Board of Trade to find a solution to the lack of provisions on St. Croix; they may arrange to have some delivered from the Azores (Portugal was a close British ally) or other quarters.

14) p. 37: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London May 31, 1808.

The Distillers question will be soon and "to a certain extent" be favourably decided.

15) pp. 37-8: William MANNING to Lord CASTLEREAGH, New Street, June 1, 1808.

Colonel von Scholten complains that his requests are not being honoured. Danish POWs from St. Croix are on their way to England via Barbados; arrangements are being made there for them.

16) pp. 39: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London June 13, 1808.

The Distillers Bill, giving preference to West Indies sugar over local grains in Britain, has passed the House of Commons by a vote of 74 to 34. It will surely pass the House of Lords and become law. Also, a parliamentary report has been tabled recommending more West Indies trade with America.

17) pp. 40-1: Copy of Abstract of a reference to the Attorney General and Solicitor General, and of their answer upon the same.

This essentially affirms that the Anglo-Danish Capitulation Agreement viz. St. Croix allows the established Danish laws in St. Croix to remain in force and that any loans owed to the King of Denmark are now to go to Commissioners appointed by British crown upon the established terms.

18) pp. 41-2: Copy of the Letter of Sir John Mitchell, his Majesty's Advocate General, to Lord Castlereagh, May 21, 1808, with Memorandum: Mr. Manning addresses a letter to Lord Castlereagh..."

Here it is noted that Danish civil officers in St. Croix tried to "alienate" (i.e., hide) some Danish government property from the British upon the eve of the capitulation and to convert it into private property (such that it would not be subject to British seizure). Here a legal opinion is given that says that the transfer was valid, as it occurred before the capitulation.

19) p. 43: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, London, August 5, 1808.

Manning regrets that he narrowly missed meeting Harcourt before his departure for St. Croix; he sends him his kind regards and hopes to meet him in the future.

20) pp. 44-5: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, August 5, 1808.

The Burghers complain of a want of American provisions in St. Croix. Manning has received no answer on the matter from Castlereagh, who is preoccupied by the war in Spain. Manning will keep pressing the matter. Danish POWs in England want to go home, but Castlereagh has refused to grant this, due to "some unaccommodating conduct of the Court of Denmark". There is also a discussion of the legal status of loans owed to Denmark by enemy powers.

21) pp. 46-7: William BEATTY (Government Secretary of St. Croix) to William MANNING, St. Croix, May 26, 1808.

Here Manning is informed of the appointment of Commissioners to oversee Danish and Dutch loans owed to creditors in St. Croix. Debtors will not have to pay anything until the commissioners investigate the situation. All interested parties must submit their documentation to the commissioners.

22) pp. 48-9: Proclamation. By His Excellency Brigadier General George William Richard HARCOURT, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in... St. Croix, June 20, 1808.

A British proclamation of December 31, 1807, was "found to contain diverse matters illegal" that contradict the 1807 Capitulation Agreement regarding the surrender St. Croix. Said Proclamation is thus made null and void.

23) pp. 49-50: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, November 3, 1808.

Manning is glad that the Burgher Council likes Lieutenant Governor Harcourt and thanks them for complimenting Manning's efforts "on behalf of some of your fellow citizens". He notes the "distressed state" of St. Croix and will continue to press the matter of American trade; however, the conversations he has had indicate that the government will not allow it.

24) pp. 50-1: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, December 9, 1808.

The Burgher Council wants Manning to buy a silver plate, on their behalf, to give to Colonel Andrew Ross (who briefly served as the interim Lieutenant Governor of St. Croix earlier that year). Manning agrees to do this and to greet Ross upon his arrival in England.

25) pp.52-4: [LEGAL CASE] William MANNING to the ATTORNEY GENERAL [late 1808].

Here Manning appeals for legal redress for a Mr. Laurentins Braag, a former resident of St. Croix, but not a POW in England, who had his vessel confiscated by the British. The details of Braag's "Case" are given.

26) p. 55: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, New Street, December 2, 1808.

Manning has appealed for the granting of an allowance for "Beer or Spirits" for POW Danish seamen who are sequestered on vessels in England during the winter months.

27) p. 56: William MANNING to Captain MOTZFELDT (Reading), December 1808.

Manning concedes that he has failed to secure permission for Captain Motzfeldt, a Danish POW in Reading, England, to be repatriated to Denmark.

28) pp. 56-7: William MANNING to Mr. BENTZOIN, London, January 1809.

A letter concerning a vessel travelling to St. Croix as well as addressing the loans issue.

29) pp. 57-9: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, London, February 1809.

A brief note concerning shipping to St. Croix.

30) pp. 59-60: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, February 28, 1809.

The scope of the Distillers Bill has been extended to include Ireland. Manning notes that the gift of plate to Colonel Ross is "in great forwardness".

31) p. 60: William MANNING to Alexander MCLEAY, New Street, March 9, 1809.

Alexander McLeay (Transport Office) is advancing the requests of Danish POWs to be repatriated to Denmark.

32) p. 61: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, March 16, 1809.

Manning informs the Burghers that permission has been given from the Transport Office for many Danish POWs to be repatriated to Denmark.

33) pp. 61-2: William MANNING, Memorandum I produced to Mr. Benjamin MÖLLER, March 25, 1809.

Mr. Braag has died, so provisions are being made to deal with his papers.

34) p. 62: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, London, April 15, 1809.

Manning remarks that the Burghers highly approve of Harcourt's administration and refers to an unnamed person seeking a job on the island. Manning clearly disapproves of this individual, opining that his "endeavours will be altogether unavailing".

35) p. 63: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, May 3, 1809.

Concerns the matter of the Dutch and Danish loans.

36) pp. 64-5: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, London, May 18, 1809.

Manning tells Harcourt that he is popular with the St. Croix planters. He requests that certain papers be obtained from the Vice Admiralty Court at Tortola viz. the loans matter.

37) pp. 65-6: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, London, June 7, 1809.

Concerns the matter of the Dutch and Danish loans.

38) pp. 66-8: William MANNING to Spencer PERCIVAL, New Street, Spring Gardens, May 16, 1809.

Here Manning writes to Spencer Percival (1762 – 1812), the Chancellor of the Exchequer (in office, May 1807 - October 1809, thereafter Prime Minister until his assassination in May 1812). Agents for the Captors of St. Croix received 5 or 6,000 Hogsheads of sugar as repayment of loans. The island has shipped 4,000 Hogsheads to England to this effect, yet the overall problem remains to be resolved.

39) pp. 69-70: William MANNING to Sir Christopher ROBINSON, New Street, Spring Gardens, October 13, 1809.

Here Manning writes to Sir Christopher Robinson (1766–1833), a leading lawyer for the Admiralty (and a future Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, 1828-33), asserting

that it has been very difficult for the debt commissioners to collect loans owed to them as the related bonds are held by the Vice Admiralty Court in Tortola, and which have not been released. If a remedy cannot be enacted before the peace, the sums owed to Britain will be “wholly lost”.

40) pp. 70-1: William MANNING to Rev. ROSING, October 26, 1809.

Here Manning writes to Ulrik Frederik Rosing (1776 - 1841), the Reverend of the Danish Church in London: “Nothing can be more gratifying to me than the strong and flattering expressions of Acknowledgment on the part of the Elders of the Danish Church towards my friend Mr. Wilberforce and myself for the part we have taken in the release of the Danish Prisoners [of War]”. He hopes that “all the Danish prisoners in England” can be released but that this has not happened is due to “political expediency”. [Politics created strange bedfellows, as to mount a campaign to free the Danish POWs, Manning, a great proponent of slavery, partnered with William Wilberforce, MP (1759 - 1833), Britain’s leading Abolitionist].

41) pp. 71-3: Copy of a Petition from Revd. Rosing to William Manning, Esq., Greenfield Street, October 20, 1809.

A very kind communication regarding their mutual efforts to free the Danish POWS and lamenting this “unhappy War”.

42) pp. 73-5: Copy of a Letter from the Right Honourable Spencer Percival to Willam Manning, Esq., Ealing, October 23, 1809.

Percival admonishes Manning for perhaps going too far in raising Rev. Rosing’s hopes for the release of all Danish POWs, noting that there are good reasons for retaining some of them in England, as he fears that some, if repatriated, would rejoin the Danish military and fight against Britain in the Baltic. The Danes have not provided sufficient assurances that this will not happen.

43) pp. 75-7: Copy of a Petition from Revd. Rosing to William Manning, Esq., Greenfield Street, October 23, 1809.

Here Reverend Rosing sends translated excerpts from the ‘Minute Book of the Consistory of the Danish Church’ effusively thanking Manning and William Wilberforce for their efforts to repatriate Danish POWs in England.

44) pp. 77-80: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, November 13, 1809.

Here Manning informs the Burghers that all Danish POWs in England on parole may return to Denmark, in a sign of the happy tidings of King George III’s upcoming Golden Jubilee. He hopes peace between Denmark and Britain can be made soon. He is very honoured to have helped the POWS. Colonel Ross has arrived in Scotland in ill health; Manning will deliver his gift whenever possible. He thanks the Burghers for recommending the ships of his mercantile house.

45) p. 80: Memorandum, November 14, 1809, regarding a financial remittance viz. private plantation owners on St. Croix (ex. Fountain Estate).

Concerns funds for the purchase of a sword and also of Exchequer Bills on the account of the Fountain Estate of St. Croix.

46) p. 81-3: William MANNING to General HARCOURT, Tottendge, Herts., November 27, 1809.

Manning follows up on Harcourt's enquiry with Sir Christopher Robinson (Admiralty) relative to the bonds issue. Mr. Bishop, the King's Proctor, requested that Manning write a Memorandum on the matter. He discusses a dispute over bullion collected by a British ship in Veracruz, Mexico. Otherwise, Manning has little news and is a bit disengaged as he is these days usually at his country home and is oblivious to much that goes on in London. He remarks upon military events of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. Manning asks Harcourt to investigate his offer to send ships to pick up the loan sugars. He also recommends his friend Mr. Blois, who has arrived in St. Croix.

47) p. 84: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, December 13, 1809.

Manning recalls that he has thanked Spencer Percival, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his assistance in securing the release of the Danish POWs in England.

48) pp. 85-7: Address of Thanks of the Danish Prisoners, released on 25th October 1809, to The Right Hon.ble Spencer Percival, Chancellor of the Exchequer, London November 9th 1809.

Here the liberated Danish POWs thank Percival for their release.

49) p. 87-8: William MANNING to The EARL of LIVERPOOL, New Street, Spring Gardens, February 20, 1810.

Manning informs Robert Banks Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool, the Colonial Secretary (in office, November 1, 1809 – June 11, 1812) of the "inconvenience" that the inhabitants of St. Croix have endured since the change of governance and asks that the crown to render relief to the island. He implies, but does not explicitly mention, the notion of allowing St. Croix to trade with the United States.

50) p. 89: William MANNING to J. CHAPMAN, New Street, Spring Gardens, March 16, 1810.

Manning asks Mr. Chapman (of the Colonial Office) to consider the (here unspecified, *but please see next letter*) request made in a letter from Mr. Tuite, a member of the Burgher Council of St. Croix.

51) pp. 90-2: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, April 3rd 1810.

Manning remarks that Lt. Governor Harcourt has departed St. Croix on an ‘Expedition’. He notes that Mr. Tuite (a member of the Burgher Council) has asked the British government for permission to allow ships from Norway (then a part of the Danish Kingdom) to travel “unmolested” to St. Croix to deliver “Articles most wanted in the Colony”, in exchange for the produce of St. Croix. However, Manning makes clear that the government will never allow this.

52) pp. 92-3: William MANNING to Alexander McLEAY (Transport Office), 17 Buckingham Street, 29th June 1810.

Manning asks Alexander McLeay (Transport Office) to issue a passport to reach Denmark for Captain Kommerlé, a liberated Danish POW who has arrived in England on his way home from St. Croix.

53) pp. 94-5: William MANNING to the EARL of LIVERPOOL, London, July 13th 1810.

Manning brings to the Colonial Secretary’s attention the petition of Mr. Krause, a member of the Burgher Council of St. Croix, that asks the government for a loan of 110,000 Pieces of Eight (an enormous sum) against his estate in St. Croix. The proposal apparently has General Harcourt’s recommendation. He asks the Treasury to consider the request.

54) p. 95-: William MANNING to Edward STEVENS, London, 29th August 1810.

Manning writes to Edward Stevens (1754 – 1834), and Antigua-born physician and diplomat who was a major figure in St. Croix. He notes that Stevens has recommended William and Christian Krause to him. These gentlemen visited Manning in England, and that he will do all he can to assist them.

55) pp. 96-8: William MANNING to General HARCOURT (St. Croix), London, 20th November 1810.

Here Manning tells how he is waiting for government rulings on the matter of the loans. He reveals that the trading house of Williams and Wilson has gone bankrupt, which will cause “very serious inconvenience to the Planters of St. Croix”. Moreover, there is also a rumour of the failure of another key mercantile house connected with St. Croix. The Treasury will not grant Mr. Krause his requested loan, as they cannot extend more largesse to Danish planters than they do to British estate owners.

Manning remarks that the Distillers Bill will expire on December 31 next, and that there has been no action to renew it, which is a very serious concern.

He also thanks Harcourt for his attention to Manning’s plantation in St. Croix: “from which in the last few years I have had considerable Returns in proportion to the size of the Estate, and the small number of Negroes upon it.”

56) pp. 99-100: William MANNING to N. MEYER (St. Croix), London, 20th November 1810.

Manning sends to St. Croix, via Mr. Krause, a “very handsome Sword” that Mr. Rogers had ordered on behalf of the Christiansted Company of Militia (Christiansted is St. Croix’s second town), for the late Colonel Romeling, their former commander. The sword took too long to make here in England. The militia officers should decide what to do with the sword.

57) p. 100: Memorandum, November 1810.

This Memorandum regards an application to allow Colonel Vervier, the former Governor of the French colony of St. Martin, who is a POW on parole in Bishops’ Waltham, England, to be given permission to visit London. Manning took up the case, but Vervier’s request was denied. However, Manning did ensure that Vervier was not transferred to Scotland, which was the crown’s rumoured intention.

58) pp. 101: William MANNING to George HARRISON (Treasury), New Street, Spring Gardens, December 11th 1810.

Manning asks the Treasury to help the St. Croix’s planters clear bonds relating to their estates.

59) pp. 102-3: William MANNING to General HARCOURT (St. Croix), Tottendge, 14th December 1810.

This regards the payment bills owed to the planters of St. Croix, and notes that large amounts of money will not be advanced to “Estates in Foreign Colonies” without ample security.

60) pp. 104-6: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 17th December 1810.

The ill health of King George III has caused much anxiety at Westminster, delaying government business. The Distiller’s Bill expires on December 31 next. While 90,000 Hogshead of West Indian sugar is currently stored at the docks of London, it cannot be used by distillers until the government renews the bill. Manning will intervene, but things are not looking good. West Indies mercantile houses are going bust in London and in Liverpool. Colonel Ross, having recovered his health, is in London and will collect his silver plate, for which Manning has paid Rundell and Bridge £500. Due to Manning’s lobbying, the Post Office has increased St. Croix’s accommodation on the Transatlantic packets.

61) p. 107: William MANNING to J. Blake CHABERT (Bristol), Tottendge, 4th January 1811.

Manning informs the Burghers that the Treasury had sent favourable news on the Loan Bonds matter (please see next letter).

62) pp. 108-9: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 18th January 1811.

Manning notes that Harcourt will have told the Burghers about the Treasury having resolved the Loans problem, as the Bonds have been delivered from the Vice Admiralty Court of Tortola and will be paid out in full. In England, the matters surrounding the recent ascension

of the Regency is distracting attention away from West Indian matters. The Distillery Bill needs to be renewed (as it was allowed to expire), and this will be the first matter of attention when Parliament returns to colonial affairs. Meanwhile, the Treasury will provisionally allow the distillers, by their own free choice, to decide whether to use local grains or West Indian sugar; they will make their decisions based upon the price. Rises in barley prices and a shortage of grain will probably lead to expedited renewal of the Distiller's Bill. It is noted that duties on British West Indies sugar entering Britain are 27%.

63) p. 110: William MANNING to Messrs. BATTILLI & MASKE, Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society (St. Croix), London, 17th February 1811.

Manning has been asked to be the British representative for the Agricultural Society of St. Croix. He accepts this charge and encloses a bill for £100 for his expenses.

64) pp. 111-2: William MANNING to the Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society of St. Croix, London, March 5th, 1811.

Here the matter of making diplomas for members the Agricultural Society of St. Croix is discussed. They should be printed on vellum by the engraver Neale, in addition to making bound record books for the Society's use.

65) pp. 112-4: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 19th March 1811.

Manning informs the Burghers that Parliament is taking up the renewal of the Distillers Bill. As the government is leaving the matter to the free choice of the distillers, the respective commodity prices (after any duties) are key. There was then a duty of 12s. 3d. per gallon on West Indies "Sugar Wash" to be used by British distillers.

A chart imbedded in the text shows the costs of either option, that while being almost even, the numbers give West Indies sugar a miniscule edge. Thus, to produce 252 gallons of Corn spirits, it would cost £151 17s. 6d., while to produce the same 252 gallons with sugar, it would cost £151 15s. 9d.

Manning also provides 2 full pages of statistical charts:

p. 115: 1) Chart on Lefthand Side: "Account of Goods imported from the West Indies into the West Indies Docks [London] between 1803 and 1809"; 2) Chart on Righthand Side: "Average price of Sugar, 1809-1811", which shows sugar prices to have been reasonably stable.

p. 116: Chart: "An Account of Goods imported from the West Indies, and landed in the West Indies Docks in the years 1803,4,5,6,7,8,&9", including the "Number of Ships" involved each year, signed George Tennant, Accountant, West Indies Dock House, 2nd February 1811. The chart has categories for sugar, rum, cotton, ginger, coffee, cocoa, pimento, indigo, and wine. While prices went up and down over the years, the overall trend has seen a decent rise, ex. the sugar price in 1803 was £138,337, while in 1809 it was £159,147. The annual number of ships visiting the docks in 1803 was 374, while in 1809 it was 488.

66) pp. 117-8: William MANNING to Johannes B. MULLER (St. Croix), London, 22nd March 1811.

This letter concerns “military views” advanced by Muller, as well as Manning’s receipt of Muller’s report on the state of the sugar crop in St. Croix. He also discusses Parliament’s arrangement to allow British distillers to use West Indian sugar.

67) pp. 118-9: William MANNING to the Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society of St. Croix, London, 11th April 1811.

Manning sends word that the Agricultural Society of St. Croix diplomas and books are ready.

68) pp. 119-20: William MANNING to Christian KRAUSE (St. Croix), London, 11th July 1811.

Manning informs Christian Krause, a Danish subject, that he unknowingly perhaps left England for St. Croix without the proper British governmental permissions. Upon discovering this, Manning has contacted the authorities and retroactively remedied the situation.

69) p. 121: William MANNING to the Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society of St. Croix, London, 16th July 1811.

Manning notes that the seal for the Agricultural Society of St. Croix diplomas is ready.

70) pp. 122-4: William MANNING to Sir Rupert GEORGE, Bart. (Transport Office), London, New Street, Spring Gardens, 8th November 1811.

Manning requests to the Transport Office for the release of Danish sailors who are held as POWs aboard ships in England.

71) pp. 124-5: William MANNING to Mrs. De NULLY (Gloucester Place, Portman Square), 21st November 1811.

Manning discusses his effort to release a Danish POW who is friend of the De Nully family (Peter De Nully was a member of the Burgher Council of St. Croix).

72) pp. 126: William MANNING to General HARCOURT (St. Croix), London, 22nd November 1811.

Manning writes to Harcourt: “Having thought it desirable to cause a new Edition of Dr. Collins’s Work on the management of Negroes to be published, I take the liberty” to send you a copy “bound in Russia” [this refers to *Practical Rules for the Management and Medical Treatment of Negro Slaves, in the Sugar Colonies* (London: 1803, 1811)]. In a P.S., Manning remarks that he also sent copies to Hugh Elliot (Antigua), James Athill (Antigua), John Julius (St. Kitts) and Sir William Young (Tobago).

73) pp. 127-8: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, January 16th, 1812.

Here Manning bears good news for St. Croix's sugar planters, as the Chancellor of Exchequer has banned the use of grain by distillers in Britain in favour of West Indies sugar, commencing on February 1 next to the end of 1812.

p. 129: 2 Statistical Charts: "Weekly Prices of Sugar 1811" / "Average Prices of Sugar 1811".

These charts show that sugar prices dipped from 45 Shillings or so per Hogshead at the beginning of 1811 down to around 33 Shillings per Hogshead in the summer but recovered to around 43 Shillings per Hogshead by the end of the year.

74) p. 130: William MANNING to the Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society of St. Croix, London, 7th February 1812.

Here Manning provides an account of his expenses while acting as the representative of the Corresponding Committee of the Agricultural Society of St. Croix.

75) p. 131: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 18th March 1812.

Manning reiterates that the bill to ban the use of grains for British distillers is realized, so West Indies sugar (including from St. Croix) will be used in its stead. Also, the government had allowed trade of British West Indian produce with the United States via Bermuda, an arrangement in which St. Croix is eligible to participate.

76) pp. 132-4: William MANNING to George HARRISON (Treasury Chamber), New Street, Spring Gardens, 3rd March 1812.

Here Manning gives the Treasury notice of a petition from several inhabitants of St. Croix protesting a government measure whereby "certain Negroes & c., which had been the property of the King of Denmark, but which were, soon after the capture of the Islands, sold at Public Vendue by the English Prize Agents and Commissioners", and requests that such property be returned or that appropriate compensation be made. *A.P.S.* give news of the assassination of Prime Minister Spencer Percival.

77) pp. 134-5: William MANNING to Judge GIRELLERUP (St. Croix), London, 17th June 1812.

A friendly note to a prominent Danish jurist who had recently returned to St. Croix from London.

78) pp.135-6: William MANNING to Johannes B. MULLER (St. Croix), London, 17th June 1812.

Another friendly note to a prominent Danish contact. Notes the difficulties in reorganizing the government in the wake of death of Spencer Percival.

79) p. 136: A brief note, dated 7th September 1812, that mentions that the Burgher Council of St. Croix was falsely informed of the death of William Manning, causing him to be dropped from their correspondence.

80) p. 137: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 7th November 1812.

Manning sends documents from the Office of the Council of Trade.

81) p. 137: William MANNING to “his friends in the Colonies”, London, 23rd December 1812.

Manning congratulates his “his friends in the Colonies” on the “improved circumstances of the Sugar Market”.

82) pp. 137-8: Mr. LACK (Office of Trade, Whitehall) to William MANNING, 30th October 1812.

Manning receives news that an Order in Council has been proclaimed that opens limited trade between the British West Indian Islands (including St. Croix) and the United States, concerning specific commodities, and this will be permitted until June 30, 1813, subject to applicable duties.

83) p. 139: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, February 19th, 1812.

Manning laments the “deep affliction” of his family upon the death of his eldest son, revealing that this tragedy has interrupted his correspondence with St. Croix. He has also gained word of the very unfortunate death of Lieutenant Governor Harcourt. He notes that Major General George William Ramsay has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of St. Croix (serving 1813–15).

84) p. 140: William MANNING to the Viscount MELVILLE, 13th March 1813.

Manning informs Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville (an influential Privy Councillor and former First Lord of the Admiralty) of the Memorial submitted by residents of St. Croix discussing matters of naval protection for the £1.5 million worth of property that is shipped to and from the island.

85) p. 141: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 15th March, 1812.

Manning has met with Lord Melville on the important matter of providing adequate naval protection to shipping in and out of Frederiksted (the capital of St. Croix). He expresses his pleasure at the recent improvements in the prices for St. Croix’s produce.

86) p. 142: William MANNING to George HARRISON (Treasury Chamber), New Bank Buildings, March 1813.

Submitting the petition of Mr. Muller regarding his request that his loan be paid to him by the British crown, along with recommendations endorsing his request.

87) p. 143: Record of Correspondence: William MANNING to General RAMSAY (St. Croix), London, 22nd May 1813.

Manning writes to the new Lieutenant Governor of St Croix asking him to give a Mr. Rije, a Danish planter of St. Croix, a letter of free passage for travel between Europe and the island.

88) pp. 143-4: Record of Correspondence: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 28th May 1813.

Manning informs the Burgher Council that the sugar of Martinique and Guadeloupe (two islands occupied by the British) were to be admitted to the English market, pursuant to specified duties.

89) p. 144: Record of Correspondence: William MANNING to Johannes B. MULLER (St. Croix), London, 23rd June 1813.

Manning informs Muller that the Treasury has not yet considered his petition.

90) p. 145: William MANNING to General RAMSAY (St. Croix), London, 27th May 1813.

Manning again requests a letter of free travel passage for Mr. Rije.

91) p. 146: William MANNING to Johannes B. MULLER (St. Croix), London, 21st July 1813.

Manning will support Muller's intended application to be appointed as the Comptroller of Customs of St. Croix. Muller is a man of "respectably on the island" and had previously served as the Inspector.

92) p. 147: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 5th November 1813.

Manning informs the Burghers that the application of the West Indies Committee to the Board of Trade to grant comprehensive trading privileges with the United States had been submitted and is now being considered.

93) p. 148-9: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 16th November 1813.

Manning regrets to tell the Burghers that the government will likely not consent to allowing St. Croix, or any other British West Indian islands, to open a comprehensive trade with the United States.

94) pp. 149-151: William MANNING to Peter CANVANE (St. Croix), London, 13th December 1813.

Manning will support Canvane's petition to the Treasury to be appointed as the Searcher and Writer of Customs at St. Croix.

95) pp. 151-2: William MANNING to Edward STEVENS (St. Croix), London, 21st January 1814.

Manning requests that Stevens assist him in advancing his entreaties to the Treasury regarding the repayment of loans issue. A *P.S.* notes that Mr. Harrison of the Treasury has taken up the matter.

96) pp. 152-3: William MANNING to Johannes B. MULLER (St. Croix), London, 25th January 1814.

Manning informs Muller that the Treasury will not agree to his request to pay him the loan money.

97) pp. 154-6: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 25th January 1814.

Manning acknowledges a transfer of £400 to him from the Burghers for his services as Agent. He regrets that the crown has maintained a "rigid policy" towards now banning shipping between St. Croix and the United States. He also laments that the Treasury has refused to pay the moneys owed to the St. Croix planters viz. the loan issue. There is now diplomatic manoeuvring in London to make peace, with the Austrians conveying messages to the British from Denmark; however, St. Croix will not be returned to Denmark until a general peace has been signed.

98) pp. 157-9: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 8th February 1814.

Manning notes that his tenure as Agent will soon come to an end as the "Treaty of Peace between this county and Denmark" will be signed later that month, so returning St. Croix to Denmark. While Manning supports the return of St. Croix to Danish rule, he is worried that the several ships then en route from St. Croix to London laden with sugar will not be allowed to sell their cargo there if they arrive after the peace is signed, and will be forced to continue on to Denmark, where the sugar market may not be as buoyant, much to the detriment of the island's planters.

He expresses that it has been his honour and pleasure to serve the island as Agent and wishes the Burghers well, both as a group and individually.

99) pp. 160-1: William MANNING to the BURGHER COUNCIL of ST. CROIX, London, 6th May 1814.

Manning remarks that the sugar market in London is "wholly suspended" as the alcohol refineries are overwhelmed with product. The Danish General Peter Lotharius Oxholm, who

is due to take over St. Croix as the incoming Governor-General of the Danish West Indies (he would serve in that office, 1815-6.), is visiting London. Manning has met with him several times, ironing out details about the fate of the Danish POWs that remained in British hands.