



# OCTOBER 2015 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**



## Day Adult Continuing Education - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



## Edith L. Williams Alternative Academy - STT

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



**Emanuel Benjamin Oliver Elementary School - STT**

Courtesy of: Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education



# OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>:

**1878:**

Nine (9) days after her 21st birthday, Mathilda “Queen Mathilda” McBean put down her third child and four (4) months old daughter, Sophia Bastian and burned down an island.



Courtesy of

Text: St. Croix Avis, Sunday-Monday, September 30-October 1, 2007, No. 227, page 2

Picture: <http://www.virgin-islands-history.org/en/fates/the-three-rebel-queens/>

## OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>:

**1913:**

**Athyl Alzena Jurgen Sewer was born. She taught at Bethany School on St. John. Reputedly known as an accomplished organist, she offered piano and organ lessons. Respected St. John community matriarch, she was a charter member of the St. John Business and Professional Women's Club.**



# OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>:

**1960:**

**Governor John David Merwin issued and ordered that employees of the Insular Government would be permitted to take an active part on the local political campaign.**



Courtesy of

Text: Thoughts Along the Way, Ariel Melchior Sr., page 295

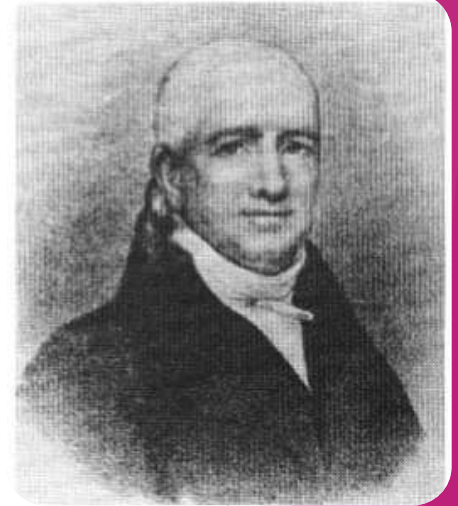
Picture: <http://www.johnson-romito.com/obituary/John-David-Merwin/Hudson-OH/1190380>



# OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>:

**1775:**

**King Christian VII of Denmark issued a neutrality edict forbidding any Danish citizen to participate on either side of the pending revolutionary war between the Americans and the British. The edict caused St. Croix native Abraham Markoe, a recent immigrant from Philadelphia, to resign his commission as Captain of the Philadelphia Cavalry, then known as the Light Horse.**



Courtesy of

Text: Today in VI History

Picture:

<http://www.snipview.com/q/People%20of%20Pennsylvania%20in%20the%20American%20Revolution>

# OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>:

**2006:**

**The Virgin Islands Daily News announced that the construction of the \$444,000.00 facility at the D.C. Canegata Ballpark in Estate Welcome opened. The weeklong events included a full slate of activities from computer classes to taekwondo for children and adults.**



**Courtesy of**

**Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 5, 2006, page 6**

**Picture: <https://vingn.wordpress.com/tag/dc-canegata-multi-purpose-recreation-center-pcc/>**

# OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup>:

**2012:**

The Ivanna Eudora Kean High School Class of 1983 hosted a Gospel 'Pan Off' at Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School. It featured pans groups from Faith Christian Fellowship Church Alive in Christ (Faith Alive), Kingdom Life International Christian Center, Wesley Methodist, and Zion Assembly Church. The first place runner-up was Wesley Methodist and the grand prize winner was Faith Alive.



Courtesy of

Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 8, 2012, page 3

Picture: <http://www.johnson-romito.com/obituary/John-David-Merwin/Hudson-OH/1190380>

# OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>:

**2012:**

**Camille Macedon, Edwin Rivera, Mirza Saldana and Asta Williams were honored in celebration of the Virgin Islands / Puerto Rico Friendship Day. This celebration was displayed at the Agriculture Fair Grounds on St. Croix.**

*A History of Friendship  
and Brotherhood*



Courtesy of

Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 8, 2012, page 4

Picture: <http://www.stcroixthisweek.com/featured-articles/a-history-of-friendship-and-brotherhood.html>



# OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>:

**1964:**

**Glen Orlando Williams, Jr. was born. He played basketball and baseball, as well as the trumpet for the school band. He represented St. Croix on the All-Star and the Virgin Islands on the National Team. He was a skilled electrician, baker, and fish pot maker. He was employed at the Martin Marietta Aluminum, and the Federal Government Department Agriculture. He later became self-employed in the fishing industry.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>:

**2013:**

The University of the Virgin Islands announced the student-run newspaper the UVI VOICE has launched a new website [www.uvivoice.net](http://www.uvivoice.net). The new site is easy-to-navigate and compatible with mobile phones and other devices. UVI VOICE online features breaking news, in-depth coverage of campus issues and offers student perspectives on national and global issues.



## UVI VOICE

University of the Virgin Islands • St. Thomas and St. Croix

Courtesy of

Text: [http://www.uvi.edu/news/articles/2013/12\\_003\\_voice.aspx](http://www.uvi.edu/news/articles/2013/12_003_voice.aspx)

Picture: <http://uvivoice.net/tag/pageantry/>

# OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>:

**2007:**

**The Daily News announced that the Seventh-day Adventist Church on St. Croix had donated \$25,000.00 to the Virgin Islands Cardiac Center. This would assist in developing the center at Juan F. Luis Hospital.**



**Courtesy of**

**Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 10, 2007, page 4**

**Picture: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/07/prweb12831069.htm>**

# OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>:

**1923:**

**Vida Welsh was born in Challengers Village, St. Kitts. She taught at Palmetto Point School in St. Kitts. As a resident of St. Thomas, she was employed at the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital until she retired. Musically inclined, she enjoyed singing in the church choir.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>:

**2012:**

The VI Daily News announced the celebration of October Sunday at Magen's Bay Beach. It is a community Music Festival with 36 years of traditional giving to those in need. Created in 1977 by Polly and Frank Watts, all proceeds benefited the Family Resource Center and its mission to give shelter and encouragement to victims of violent crime.



Courtesy of

Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, Thursday, October 12, 2012, page 4 (entertainment insert)

Picture: <http://stsjlga.com/category/pumpkin-cup-golf-tournament/>



# OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>:

2013:

The St. Croix Source reported weekend events of the Third Caribbean Symposium on Genealogy and History, which explored "The Role of Religious Institutions in Caribbean Genealogy" being held on St. Thomas. It explored the vital role of local religious institutions, "whether in the role of persecutor or the persecuted, whether as a place of refuge or the oppressor." The day marked the third symposium of the Virgin Islands Genealogical Society, Inc.



Courtesy of

Text & Picture: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/news/local-news/2013/10/13/genealogy-symposium-using-church-records-find-your-roots>



# OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>:

**1914:**

**Esterline Davis Penn Parrilla was born in St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. She and her husband operated one of the most popular restaurants in the Upstreet area. Later she operated the Aluminum Bar and Restaurant. As an accomplished cook, baker, and restaurateur, she was an exceptional seamstress and tailor. Her entrepreneurial career spanned over 60 years.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**

# OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>:

**2011:**

**In support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, WTJX Television aired Telling Amy's Story across the territory. It follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred in November 2001.**



**Courtesy of**

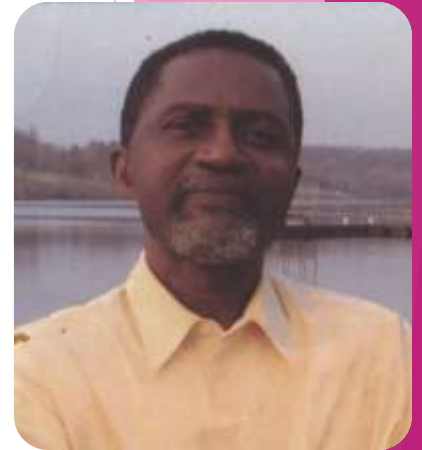
**Text:** <http://www.eyeonannapolis.net/2015/09/06/aaccs-fall-film-series-focuses-on-sexual-violence-against-women/>

**Picture:** <http://wkok.info/2015/05/29/>

# OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>:

**1945:**

**Allen Augustus Walters was born on St. Kitts. He was employed with John's Tiles Company. Later he became a pastor of the gospel and worked in several Caribbean islands, as well as taught at the St. Thomas / St. John Seventh-day Adventist School. After his retirement, he began his own business, Walters' Tiles.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>:

**2009:**

**Volunteers at the St. George Village Botanical Garden on St. Croix came out to replace plants that had been wiped out during Hurricane Omar.**



**Courtesy of**

**Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 19, 2009, page 5**

**Picture: <http://mangoworldmagazine.blogspot.com/2015/07/us-virgin-islands-mango-melee-packs.html>**



# OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>:

**2012:**

The nomination of Magistrate Judge Kathleen Mackay to replace Superior Court Judge Brenda Hollar was announced. Alumni of St. Joseph High on St. Croix, she practiced law privately. She also served as a Magistrate Judge since July 2009.



Courtesy of

Text: The Virgin Islands Daily News, October 19, 2012, page 4

Picture: <http://stthomassource.com/content/news/local-news/2013/02/12/mackay-smith-watlington-sworn-superior-court>



# OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>:

**1962:**

**Alvin Oliver Powell, Jr. was born on St. Thomas. He worked at the VI National Park on St. John, tour escort with Travel Services, Inc., and a ramp agent with PR International Airlines (Prinair). He also served as Office Clerk with the GERS and as an Enforcement Officer with DPNR. While at DPNR, he was also a boat captain and graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 90-1 of the VI Police Academy.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**

# OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>:

**2012:**

With the theme, 'Celebrating Our Roots, Heritage and Culture' the annual USVI/BVI Friendship Day was celebrated on St. John. With the festival starting with a mini-parade, a welcome program was held at Franklin Powell Park in Cruz Bay. Cultural demonstrations included broom making, fish net making, dumb bread making, and local delicacies taking place at Annaberg Plantation. Entertainment was provided by Mungo Niles Dancers and music by Smalls and the Music Makers.



Courtesy of

Text: Islander Trader, October 18, 2012, page 33

Picture: <http://stthomassource.com/content/news/local-news/2012/10/21/st-john-celebrates-bvi-connections>

**OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>:**

**1912:**

**Beatrice Wallace Christian was born. She took employment from a local corporation as a seamstress. She was also employed as a teacher for Judge Theile, head cook for Judge Hoffman and Earl Nelthropp and several Naval Base Commanders.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**



## OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>:

**1961:**

**Avery Anselmo Frett, Sr. was born on St. Thomas. As a Physical Education teacher, he worked at BCB Middle School, Ivanna Eudora Kean High School and CAHS Adult Continuing Education Program. He coached volleyball, track and field, softball, baseball, flag/tackle football and basketball. As a volunteer extraordinaire, he volunteered with American Red Cross of the VI, St. Thomas Rescue, Inc., the Boy Scouts of America, and the Ultimate Campers Adventure and Mentoring Club.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**



# OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>:

**1937:**

**Carmelo Ventura was born on St. Croix. He served his country in the US Army. He joined Club Comanche as an electrician and became a Licensed Master Electrician. He owned and operated Ventura's Electric. His residential and commercial projects expertise are evident at The Bressi Homes at Estate Shoy, Spy Glass Hill Homes, Rasmussen Enterprises, and many more.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>:

**1958:**

At a Board of Trustees meeting, Alonzo G. Moron, President of Hampton Institute and a Virgin Islander, expressed the negative impact on his presidency and on the College due to time devoted to react to unwarranted accusations, rumors, and collusion.



Courtesy of

Text: <http://stx.k12.vi/profileindex.html>

Picture: <http://www.dhs.gov.vi/aboutUs.html>

# OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>:

**1970:**

**Colvin Terrance Georges, Sr. was born in St. Thomas. Known as Wormy, in his earlier years he worked as a waiter, gas attendant, and sales person. In the police academy, he received highest physical fitness score, perfect attendance, and exemplary service awards. As a member of the VI Police Department, he served as a police officer and then a member of the Special Response Team (SWAT).**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>:

**1937:**

**Eugene Thomas Werts was born in North Carolina. He was named to the All-city/Country, All-District, All-Conference and All-State Negro AAA (NCNHAA) basketball teams during his high school years. He served in the US Army as a Top Secret Documents Specialist. He was Assistant Professor of Physical Education, Head Basketball Coach and coordinator of Athletics at the College of the Virgin Islands. He was instrumental in bringing intercollegiate sports to the college. He served as head coach of the VI Olympic Basketball Team. He was inducted into the Winston-Salem/Forsythe County High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**



# OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>:

**1928:**

**Rudolph Alphonso Jennings was born in St. Thomas. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He joined and served the New York City Fire Department with distinction through the ranks to Captain. He also served his people as Chief with the VI Fire Department. He was a licensed owner-operator of the Ginger Bread House Day Care Center, as well as being employed as a supervisor at the US Postal Service in St. Thomas. He was well-known and loved owner-operator of Taxi 1152.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet

# OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>:

**1934:**

**Melanie Naomi Vanterpool Francis was born in St. Thomas. She worked as a teacher at the Goodwill School. Later she began a career in the travel industry working for Caribair, Eastern Airlines, and later with the International Travel Agency. She later served as an Assistant Public Relations Officer for the VI Port Authority.**



**Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet**

# OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>:

**1915:**

The first issue of The Herald appeared. D. Hamilton Jackson's newspaper was to recite all the wrongs suffered by the black majority, including police brutality, frequent abuses of the work contract system, and acts of repression by the authoritarian political system.



Courtesy of

Text: Rothschild Francis and Freedom of the Press in the USVI Islands, by William W. Boyer, page 3

Picture: <http://stthomassource.com/content/news/local-news/2010/10/31/territory-celebrates-d-hamilton-jackson-day>



# OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>:

**1945:**

**Cecilia M. Walters-Smith was born on St. Thomas. Her teaching career began at Inter American University in San German, Puerto Rico as an elementary student teacher. Being assigned the Julius E. Sprauve School, she effectively used sports as a catalyst to improve classroom performance and social confidence. She was part of the revival of volleyball in the 70's. At Charlotte Amalie High School, she taught Business, as well as coached volleyball, Academic Quiz Bowl, and Science Bowl teams.**



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



# OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>:

**1910:**

Ector Carlos Roebuck, Sr. was born in St. Thomas. He served as an apprentice at West Indian Company. He later started his own business known as Mr. Fix-It. He joined the Department of Education as a Maintenance Engineer and later became the Superintendent of Maintenance of School Plants for the Virgin Islands. He initiated the summer youth maintenance program in the public schools. At CAHS, he organized the first Junior Tennis Club in the VI. An avid sportsman, he was versed in tennis, chess, boxing, and Pinochle. He was known for promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of the VI and well-known for his Bru Nansi stories.



Courtesy of  
Text & Picture: Funeral Booklet



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

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