

2014 Annual Report



St. Thomas Historical Trust

Annual Meeting

Johansen House

March 5, 2015

www.stthomashistoricaltrust.org

President's message



To my Esteemed Trust members: This has been a year of great change here at the Trust. It has also been a year of considerable growth, which has been very exciting. I am pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Erik Miles, a Virgin Islander whose family has been here since the 1800's. We have also added additional Staff in Michael Sprowles a noted Historic Preservationist.

Charles Consolvo and Vincent Palancia continue to make great strides on Hassel Island with continuing major restoration projects. Our Step Street Project is alive and well under the new leadership of Malcolm Schweizer. A beautiful set of plans have been drawn up and approved for Bred Gade and we are in the process of obtaining quotes to complete the project.

We have a stellar selection of new candidates to elect to the Board this year. Many of them have been interim appointees and have already been hard at work accomplishing great things. Our Hassel Island and Historical Downtown Walking Tours as well as our Museum and Museum Tour continue to grow in popularity. The Hassel Island Tour is rated as the number one thing to do on Trip Advisor.

We have a wonderful year ahead of us with many new and exciting things planned. Philip Sturm is heading up an initiative that would put the Trust into the Camille Pissarro Building and operating a Pissarro House Museum. We are resurrecting our Lecture Series and House Tours and we will be hosting our third annual Coal Pot Cook Off, which is fast becoming one of the most anticipated cultural exhibitions of the year.

I trust you and your families will want to be a part of the many exciting projects we have planned for this coming year. Please continue to support us in our mission to "Identify, protect and preserve the history, sites and culture of St Thomas."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ronnie Lockhart".

Ronnie Lockhart

President

Contents

President’s message	1
Annual Membership Meeting AGENDA	2
Current Board of Directors	3
Proposed New Directors.....	4
Historical Trust Staff	6
Organizational Chart.....	7
Committee Reports	7
Treasurer’s Report.....	7
<i>Finance Committee</i>	8
Fundraising	8
Membership	9
Mission Development.....	9
<i>Tours</i>	9
<i>Museum</i>	11
<i>Furniture Caning Class</i>	12
<i>Coal Pot Cook-Out</i>	13
Task Force Reports	14
Hassel Island Initiative	14
Fort Christian	18
Step Streets	19
Thanks to our Many Volunteers	21
VOTING BALLOT.....	22

Annual Membership Meeting AGENDA

- 5:30 pm – Cash bar open
- 6:00 pm – Call to order - Ronald Lockhart, President
- 6:10 pm – Archives Council Presentation - Susan Lugo
- 6:20 pm – Pissarro Presentation - Philip Sturm
- 6:30 pm –Step Street / Bred Gade Video - Malcolm Schweizer
- 6:40 pm – Q & A (10 minutes)
- 6:50 pm –Recess (10 minutes)
- 7:00 pm –Membership meeting convenes
- 7:05 pm - President’s message
- 7:10 pm – Presentation of Awards - Vince Palancia
- 7:15 pm – Committee Reports
- 7:20 pm – Voting, ballot counting and announcement of new board
- 7:45 pm – Concluding remarks - Ronald Lockhart
- 7:55 pm – Membership meeting recesses, cash bar reopens till 8:00
- 8:00 pm - New board meets, elects officers for new term.
- 8:30 pm- New board adjourns. Bar is closed.

Current Board of Directors

Ronald S. Lockhart - President

Ronnie is the owner/proprietor of The Crystal Palace B & B and Herbie's Big Top. He has served in many Board capacities for St. Thomas community organizations, including President of the Rotary Club of St. John (1998-2000), Director, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, St. Thomas, St. Thomas-St. John Friends of Denmark, and the Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association. He earned his B.B.A. from Ft. Lauderdale University (1974). He enjoys collecting and exhibiting Danish West Indies and Virgin Islands antique postcards and professional photography.

Frances Newbold - Vice President

Frances brings great marketing experience to STHT. A graduate of Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Frances has lived and worked in the Caribbean since 1977. She manages a staff of 12 plus - from production artists to writers and distribution personnel, and currently publishes four tourist magazines (St. Thomas This Week, St. Thomas Cruise Edition, and St. Croix This Week), as well as tourist maps to 18 Caribbean islands and 11 Mexican destinations. As such, her association with STHT is a common interest, as her favorites in life include sailing, boating, Caribbean history, architecture, flora, fauna and travel.

Frank McConnell - Treasurer

Frank was born and brought up in Puerto Rico and graduated from Yale and Columbia Business School. He worked for Citibank for 30 years, mostly overseas, before retiring to St. Thomas in 1997 with his wife Peggy. They moved into their historic house in Estate Canaan, which his family had purchased in 1955. He and Peggy have been active in the Trust activities since 1999.

Skip Williams - Secretary

An avid sailing and water sports enthusiast, Skip Williams grew up in St Thomas where he graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul High School in 1973. He holds an M.A. in Marriage and Therapy from Hope International University, and a B.A. in Communications from Ohio Dominican University. Commissioned in the Air Force in 1978, he served as Personnel Commander, specializing in Low-intensity Conflict Special Operations personnel selection. Over his military career, Skip was assigned to Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He retired honorably in 1995 and returned to St. Thomas to help rebuild after Hurricane Marilyn. Outside of the military, Skip has held positions as Assistant Security Manager at Disneyland and as an ordained "missionary to missionaries" for a worldwide missions agency. He also served as a marriage and family therapist for Crossroads Christian Church and Four Streams Christian Counseling. His semi-retirement in 2010, in St. Thomas, is spent actively volunteering in the St. Thomas community. Skip serves on the Board of COAST, is the St Thomas District Ombudsman for Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and regularly volunteers with the Salvation Army and the Humane Society where his wife, Lisa, is the Office Supervisor.

Mike Sheen

Mike is the owner of Michael Sheen Fiberglass. He attended Chico State University in California. His volunteer activities include Past President of the V.I. Game Fishing Club; Member, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency of St. Thomas Inc.; the St. Croix Landmark Society; and Friends of the St. Thomas Libraries. He is the Chair of the newest Facilities Committee at

STHT. He is married to Jane Benjamin Sheen, and they have two children, Toby and Michaela. Michael and Jane are inveterate collectors of West Indian antiques and ephemera.

Trevor Milner

Trevor Milner was born in Kingston, Jamaica where he completed high school at the prestigious Jamaica College. He attended the University of Toronto, Canada, receiving a Bachelors' of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering. He also obtained an MBA in Technology Management from the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica, and recently completed a Certificate in Personal Financial Planning from Georgetown University School of Professional Studies in Washington, DC. Trevor began his career in Jamaica as a Chemical Engineer at Alcoa, the Seprod Group of Companies and finally with the Industrial Chemical Company as Technical Manager. He is currently involved in a career as a Personal Financial Planner and Investment Manager. Trevor and his wife Mary, who reside in Charlotte Amalie, have four children.

Proposed New Directors

Charles W. Consolvo

Charles began practicing law in St. Thomas in 1976, and then moved into retailing. He holds a Master's degree in Maritime History and has lectured extensively on the maritime history of St. Thomas. From 1978 to 2008 he was a trustee and general counsel of Island Resources Foundation. He holds a Master's Degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of Leicester. He is a member of a number of professional societies, including the Society for Historical Archaeology and the society for Nautical Research, and is a Registered Professional Archaeologist. He has restored two historic buildings in downtown Charlotte Amalie, has two sons born here, has participated actively as a Cub Scout leader and in the youth soccer program.

David J. O'Connell

David has been registered as a Certified Public Accountant in the U.S. Virgin Islands since 1972. His education has included a BA in Business Administration and graduate courses in Finance, Accounting and Marketing from Temple University in Philadelphia. He has also undertaken continuing education courses to keep up to date in my field. David is still active as a CPA, and has also served on the Boards of the Humane Society, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and United Way. He looks forward to using his abilities to assist the Trust in its important work.

Gail Glanville

Gail Glanville is a copywriter, entrepreneur and 10,000+ hour practitioner of energy psychology. As a counselor and copywriter, she counts among her international clients holistic professionals in nine countries. As a copywriter, Gail has developed branding, event promotion and website content for a state-wide association of medical professionals in RI, for an international training institute in AZ, for a trade association in the US and Canada, and helped a range of independent practitioners transition from beginners to established professionals in their markets. As an entrepreneur, Gail was the original owner and founder of Sunbow Location Services, a St. Thomas private company that worked with the VI Film Promotion Office to attract and service motion picture and high-end TV commercial companies enjoying the variety and beauty of the islands' locations. This company created a new industry for the islands and brought \$2 to \$3 million annually in new revenues to the island economy before it was sold. Gail

was a founding Board member of the Repatterning Practitioner's Association and is a 2011 inductee into the RPA Hall of Fame. She also served as the Interim Director of the Resonance Repatterning Institute. With the founder, Chloe Faith Wordsworth, she co-authored the book about Resonance Repatterning, *Quantum Change Made Easy*. Gail has also served on the Board of the VI Conservation Society in St. Thomas, The Providence Center for Mental Health in RI, and the Vestry of St. Martin's Church in RI. Happily returned to St. Thomas after a 17-year absence, Gail is enjoying reunions with old friends and opportunities for growth with forward-looking organizations like the St. Thomas Historical Trust.

Priscilla Hintz

Priscilla Hintz Rivera is the director of PHR-Art Projects, a socially driven, multidisciplinary enterprise that specializes in arts management consulting, fine art exhibitions, curatorial services, and arts-integrated projects. Priscilla is a creative strategist with a passion for the arts. She possesses a unique combination of experience in nonprofit management, the arts, and business administration. Priscilla has been a devoted arts and cultural advocate in the Virgin Islands for the past 20 years. Most recently, as co-founder of Artvi Advocates, a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to support and promote the arts in order to enhance the cultural, social, and economic well being of the Virgin Islands. Priscilla holds a Masters Degree in Arts Administration from Goucher College and a BA in Social Sciences with a concentration in Caribbean studies from the University of the Virgin Islands. She recently obtained a professional certificate in Museum Studies from Universidad del Turabo, in Puerto Rico and an Arts Marketing certificate from Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York City. Priscilla has worked with such organizations as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., Arts Alive-Tillett Foundation, Artfusion Magazine, Trans-Caribbean Dairy Corp., and the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce.

Patricia LaCorte

Patricia LaCorte was born in France and a graduate of Cordon Bleu in Paris has been sharing her culinary concepts with Virgin Islanders and visitors for over three decades. Currently Patricia is the owner and Executive Chef of Oceana Restaurant, Grande Cru Restaurant, Fresh Bistro and Fresh Scoops Gelateria. She has also been intensely involved in the Historical Trust's past fundraising efforts.

Vincent "Doc" Palancia

Vincent John "Doc" Palancia, was born and raised in Brooklyn NY. Formal Education includes an MS. ED, in Counseling, and BA Degrees in English and Psychology. Serving over 20 years as a Major of United States Marines', he is a veteran of Vietnam, Beirut, and Desert Storm. While on active duty, he served the Office of the President of the United States as Marine 1 Helicopter Co-pilot for President James Earl Carter III. After military retirement, he had several other successful careers as a Court Mediator for the State of North Carolina, Middle school guidance counselor, Home construct contractor and finish carpenter. As a world traveler, amateur military historian, he became interested in the military history and historical significance of Hassel Island several years ago. He now serves on the Board of Directors, is Chairman of the Hassel Island Task Force, and as is his passion, Lead Guide for the Hassel Island tours. He is a semi-retired, full time resident of St. Thomas in and is married to love of his life, Doris.

Malcolm Schweizer

Malcolm Schweizer is the District Sales Manager for FedEx in the Caribbean, managing employees throughout the islands. He has received numerous leadership awards in his 25 years with FedEx. Malcolm volunteers at My Brother's Workshop, teaching wooden boat building on Saturdays. He is also a member of the board for the St. Thomas Chapter of the Salvation Army. Malcolm owns a historic home on Crystal Gade which he has spent the past year restoring to its original beauty. He resides there with his wife Amy and daughter Petra.

Historical Trust Staff

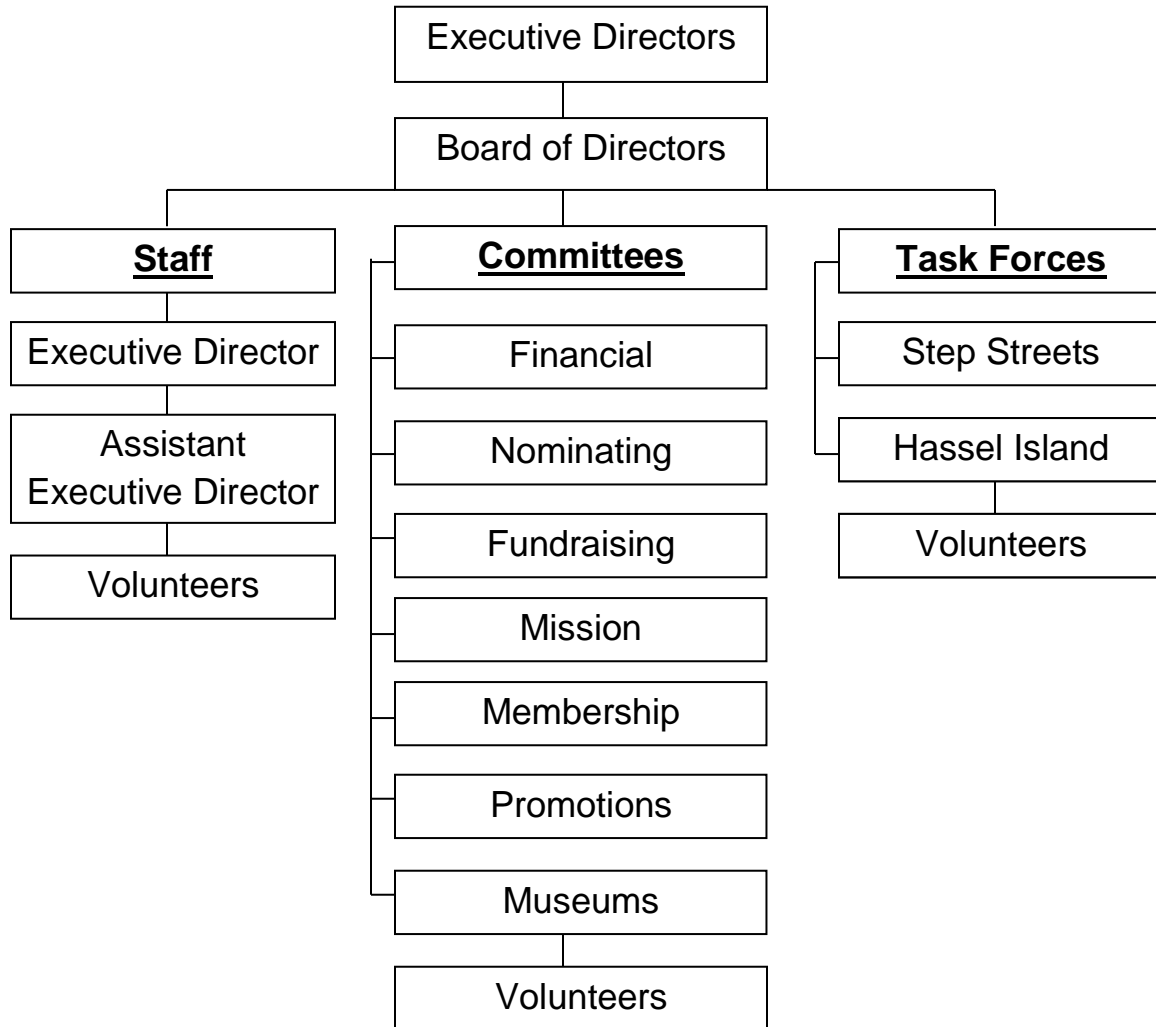
Erik Lief Miles

Erik joined the Trust Staff in June of 2014 as the new Executive Director. He is a fourth generation Virgin Islander, and his family came to St. Thomas in the 1800s with the West India Co. His Great Grandfather Rasmus Johansen was the Chief Engineer who built the WICO dock. Erik attended public and private schools on St. Thomas and England, graduating from Sts. Peter and Paul, later attending the University of the Virgin Islands. While going to school, Erik worked in his Father's photography and film studio as well as for the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife as a Field Data Technician, where he later helped to develop the VI Tree Boa Habitat Assessment Protocol. He has spent thirty years working camera in the film industry on documentaries, music videos, commercials, episodic television and feature films. Some of the more notable are "Any Given Sunday", "There's Something About Mary" and "Analyze This". He has worked as a cameraman for NOAA, NASA, National Geographic, BBC, The Cousteau Society and many more. For further information on Erik's professional film career you can go online to www.studio5films.com or to the International Movie Database @ www.imdb.com. He has served on the Hassel Island Task Force for several years, and recently produced the film on Hassel Island which is premiering at the Trust's annual meeting.

Michael R. Sprowles

Michael has joined the Trust as our new Assistant Executive Director in January of 2014. He is a native of western Pennsylvania and has over 11 years of experience and education in the field of historic preservation. His experience includes time in academics as a professor and archaeologist, as well as time with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States Army working with largely post-Columbian period sites. During this time, he participated in a variety of historic preservation projects, such as Native American consultation and international artifact repatriation. Michael's research has appeared in numerous academic journals, newspapers, television interviews, and radio shows. He holds a Master's degree in applied archaeology and a Bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology. He is also a registered professional archaeologist, a certified grant writer, and has offered his expertise on a number of excavations and projects on St. Thomas. His beloved wife Marisa has also been involved with the Trust, guiding children's tours across Hassel Island for most of 2014.

Organizational Chart



Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2014, the Trust had \$247,872 in its two bank accounts, down from \$296,776 as of September 30, 2013. Most of the reduction was in the Hassel Island account, down from \$161,648 to \$108,563 as various projects were completed. The balance in the General Fund was \$139,217.

Total income for the year, excluding Hassel Island and other restricted donations and grants, was \$133,395.

Principal contributors were:

Gala (net of expense) _____ \$53,593

Shansi Miller's Art Exhibition _____ \$31,331

Membership Dues _____ \$14,771
 Other Grants and Donations _____ \$10,992

Principal Expenses were:

Payroll _____ \$75,669
 Insurance _____ \$6,495
 Auditing and Accounting _____ \$16,588
 Utilities _____ \$4,496

This year promises to be challenging. Income from the Gala was down to about \$32,000 and we will probably not benefit from a one-time event such as Shansi's exhibition.

A copy of the audited financial statements will be available online and through the Historical Trust office.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee currently consists of Frank McConnell, Charles Consolvo, Julia Vargas, and Trevor Milner. We are also looking for new members.

Fundraising



2014 Halloween Gala, "Myth, Magic, and Storybook Characters." Image Courtesy of Erik Miles.

The 2014 Halloween Gala Fundraiser at Oceana was once again a great success. As of Dec 31, 2014, the gross revenue was \$45,260. The net profit for the Trust after all expenses were accounted for was \$28,117. Unfortunately, this marked a decrease in revenue of roughly 45%, mirroring the current economic situation of the territory.

However, fundraising for specific projects was a resounding success in 2014. The Virgin Islands Council of the Arts granted us \$3,000 to help conduct the 2nd Annual Coal Pot Cook-Off. These funds allowed us to reimburse chefs for their ingredients, as well as hire Milo's Kings and the Mungo Niles Cultural Dancers for the event. Charles Consolvo has also successfully applied for a number of grants. The Trust received a \$500 grant from the Community Foundation for the Virgin Islands to aid in transporting children facing economic hardship, allowing dozens of children to experience Hassel Island's historic sites whom would not have otherwise been able. In addition, the Trust received a \$10,775 Urban Forestry grant from the United States Forestry Service, creating an interpretive garden of native vegetation and signage on Hassel Island. Hassel Island's historic lime kiln also underwent a substantial restoration effort (as described below), thanks to a \$126,900 grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs. In addition, work began restoring Hassel Island's iconic Cowell's Battery, thanks to combined donations of \$27,000 from Diageo VI and \$10,000 from Avna Cassenelli.

The community has been very generous this year in supporting the Trust in its mission of opening the Hassel Island National Park to visitors and residents to enjoy. The following is a list of major donors who have supported the Trust:

A.H. Riise, Alpine Securities, Bellows International, Brent Mills, Budget Rent a Car, Charles Consolvo, Avna Cassinelli, Cornelius and Trudie Prior, Donald Kimelman & Family, Diamonds International, Filippo Cassinelli, Drew Grabfelder and Shansi Miller, John A. Digges, Isidor Paiewonsky & Associates, Jewels/Little Switzerland, Premiere Wines and Spirits, Southland Gaming, Shane Brunt, Frannie & William Newbold, Patricia La Corte, John A. Sellon Charitable Trust, Peter J. Sellon Charitable Trust, and White Bay Group.

Membership

Total paid membership as of December 31, 2014 was 243. This marks a slight drop in our membership since the time the previous year, of 270. This is still a great improvement over the 41 paid members in 2010. However, we still have quite an opportunity to engage the major part of our community and the world in our endeavors.

Please make every effort to get your friends to join us, with our web presence at www.stthomashistoricaltrust.org and PayPal, it is very easy.

Mission Development

Tours

As with the museum, the Trust's social media marketing efforts are bearing fruit. Exponentially more visitors are contacting the Trust, asking about booking tours.

Hassel Island Tours

Hassel Island tours for the calendar year 2014 saw over 350 visitors to the Island. This increase in visitors would not be possible without the assistance of our volunteer tour guides, Marisa Sprowles and Michael Ibarren, who have come aboard to lead tours, as well as Shari Charnock, currently in training. Our other guides are, Charles Consolvo and V. J. "Doc" Palancia.

Sea Tow Virgin Islands plays a big part in the tours, ferrying visitors over the harbor to the site of the Creque Marine Railway, Careening Cove or the Garrison House area. Doc, Charles, Marisa, and Bob led numerous tourists, locals, adults, children in church groups, and school groups to Hassel Island. Tour interest is growing exponentially, with January of 2015, by itself, offering tours to over 75 individuals. In addition, local schools continue to show a growing interest in tours.



2014 Hassel Island Members Tour. Photo Courtesy of Michael Sprowles.

Historic Downtown Walking Tours

2014 saw the continuation of Historic Downtown Walking tours. Volunteer Margaret Abbott has been gracious enough to head most of these tours. Numbers here have been steadily growing as well, with the Downtown Walking Tour quickly becoming a preferred (and no cost) field trip for public schools and youth organizations. Donations are always welcome.



2014 Addelita Cancryn Tour of Downtown. Image Courtesy of Michael Sprowles.

Museum

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the St. Thomas Historical Trust Museum, the only free museum in town, is highly trafficked by visitors and residents alike. The Museum offers a glimpse of what St. Thomas was like many decades ago. The visitors are intrigued by the history of the various items on display and often request permission to take pictures.

2014 offered some interesting additions to our museum, as well. Our board member, Mike Sheen, has also loaned a large collection of historic “Stereoviews,” providing three-dimensional glimpses of island life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Although modest, our first Native American display was added to the museum, outlining the Saladoid culture investigated during January, 2014’s Main Street excavations. Through the efforts of our board of directors and our executive director, the Trust museum has also been contacted regarding a number of large and rather high-profile collections. Although tempting, the museum first endeavors to create an environment to preserve these collections in perpetuity (such as temperature, humidity, and light regulation). We hope to be able to display this and many other exhibits at our new location.

Our off-island visitors learn about the museum from the Internet (Trip Adviser, our website, Facebook and Twitter), magazines like Destinations, and by word of mouth. The museum has leveraged old-fashioned community outreach to get the word out to tourists, promoting it to

Main Street merchants, downtown restaurateurs and taxi drivers. Our visitors market come from all across the world – the United States of America, Mexico, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland and locally. The visitors from off island always remark that the Museum was the highlight of their trip. Locally, students from various schools and summer camps have visited the Museum and their interest was in the cannon ball and the old rifle. The pictures of Main Street in the 1920's caught their eyes and they were able to see the similarities and identify the buildings as they are today. They as well as other visitors were surprised to learn that road on which they drove on Veteran Drive was once water. They were able to see this from the old photos.

We encourage our membership to take advantage of this historical and cultural entity, and encourage others to visit the Museum and learn more about our history. Please come and volunteer as our Museum is staffed with volunteers. Our Museum is advertised in "This Week" magazine, "Trip Advisor," and Google Maps, and that is how many visitors find us. Also we have "rack cards" and they are handed out at the Visitor's Booth at Hibiscus Alley and other establishments. However, you can find us in the building adjacent to the Roosevelt Park on Norre Gade.

Our expert museum docents for 2014 were Peggy McConnell, Mary-Ann Hickey, Bernice Turnbull, and Millie George.

Library

The library has expanded since its creation in 2013. The shelves have quickly been filling with donations from numerous sources, including two sizable collections donated from Edward Williams and Rosemary and her daughter Rochelle Galiber. This library remains publically accessible for reference purposes (sorry, books must remain in the building), and a scanner is also now available for this purpose.

Volunteers

We wish to thank our scores of wonderful volunteers. Because of their service in the museum, leading walking tours, helping with cleanups we have been able to serve our visitors. We would like to continue to have this cultural and historical display available in the future. Please join the volunteers for a day a week or a couple of hours. Your generosity of time helps to keep the museum open.

Furniture Caning Class

This 10 week workshop has taught the art of chair caning. Those who took the class have caned a small stool which they could use, gift or sell at the conclusion of the workshop. The attendees have also gained direct experience in re-caning antique furniture. The target audience was primarily those seeking to learn the "lost" art of caning. However, it also appealed to individuals who were out of work, physically disabled, or people seeking to learn a trade to support themselves. The purpose of this class was three-fold. Because the Historical Trust has

identified less than 10 professional caners in the territory, of whom many are advanced in years, there is a need to preserve the historical art/craft of chair caning. Second, there are many antiques in the territory which are caned, and either need repair now or will require it. Third, with an unemployment rate of 13.2 percent, there are many people who can learn this art, and gain a rapid return on their time and tuition investment in this workshop.



2014 Furniture Caning Class. Images Courtesy of Michael Sprowles

The next class which we hold will be shorter in length, more affordable and will be bolstered by much more intensive advertising well in advance of the class. We must also extend a special thank you to Master Caner, Mr. Kenneth Richards for making this all possible and working with the Historical Trust and students to make the course such a success.

Coal Pot Cook-Out

Fort Christian played host to the Trust's second annual Coal Pot Cook-Off on Saturday May 24th, 2014. Thanks to the assistance of the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, many, many volunteers, and the goodwill of the community, the Coal Pot Cook-Off presented the arts and traditions of the Virgin Islands to many people who have not experienced this tradition for many years and those who have never experienced this kind of event before. In addition, the Trust was able to organize and execute this event, sharing an iconic cultural symbol of the island, while managing to defray all involved costs.

We promoted the event over the radio – it was featured on AM1000 and WSTA prior to the event. We also promoted the event via print publication, email, and social media to over 1000 individuals directly.

This project was completed with the aid of the Virgin Island Historic Preservation Office and the use of Fort Christian and its power, the Virgin Island Waste Management Authority and their waste receptacles and removal, and the numerous chefs who came out to compete (often

drawing fan bases of their own). The event also received considerable attention in the VI Source, and the Daily News.

The event was preceded and followed by Historical Trust interns removing trash and debris on the lawn. An estimated 600 people attended the event on Memorial Day weekend, and experienced the coal-pot skills and delicious creations of five of the island's top chefs.

In addition to the amazing smell of the coal smoke and the island dishes being prepared over the fires, attendees danced to the sounds of Milos Kings, who played quadrilles and other music. Mungo Niles Cultural Dancers led the crowd with their beautiful steps to the quadrille caller. At the end of the day, Chef Harry Ralph of Hook Line and Sinker was the 2014 Coal Pot Champion.

The Coal Pot Cook-Off would not have been possible if not for the aid of coordinator (and former Executive Director) Pamela Montegut. In fact, volunteers are critical to this event. We'd like to specially thank Larise Hodge, for having this great idea to begin with, and all the wonderful volunteers and competitors who made this day a success.

Task Force Reports

Hassel Island Initiative

“Who will tell the story, if there is no story to tell?”

The Hassel Island Task Force started the year with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Virgin Islands National Park Service (VINPS) and Lease Agreements with the Virgin Islands Department of Natural Resources, for Prince Frederick's Battery, the Garrison House and Cowells' Battery/Signal Station.

The Urban Forestry Grant Project from the VI Department of Agriculture commenced in 2011 has been completed with the planting of indigenous flora at Creque Marine Railway as well as interpretative signage, and a brochure with map, photos and plant descriptions.

Garrison House roof replacement and restorative stone work in furtherance of Garrison House utilization as Hassel Island Museum are complete. A proposal of work for The Garrison House Museum Design has been submitted. Future Garrison House plans are to restore one section of the fence that surrounded the structure at time of the British Occupation 1807-1815.

Restoration work on the Lime Kiln has also been completed thanks to Charles Consolovo and a Technical Assistance Grant from the US Office of Insular Affairs. Stone Masonry LLC from St. John was contracted to do the work.

Additionally, now that restoration of the Lim Kiln is complete, Stone Masonry LLC will commence restoration stonework on Cowells' Battery as per agreement with DPNR. Future

planning for Cowells' Battery/ Signal Station is to board-up the Barracks House at Signal Station and in future, raise funds to restore the Barracks House.

The construction plans to reconstruct the Machine Shed at Creque Marine Railway have been drawn and are awaiting construction plans approval at NPS level in Washington, D.C.

Trail and site clearing continues monthly and as an outcome of successful Hassel Island Task Force meetings with NPS, The Trust, and Alan Wentworth. The Trust and VINPS have established and agreed upon guidelines for Trail and site clearing.

Hassel Island DVDs were donated to every school on St. Thomas, helping to share the island's unique history with the next generation of heritage preservationists.

2014 saw an increase in visitors to Hassel Island as well as three very successful Hassel Island trash clean-ups.

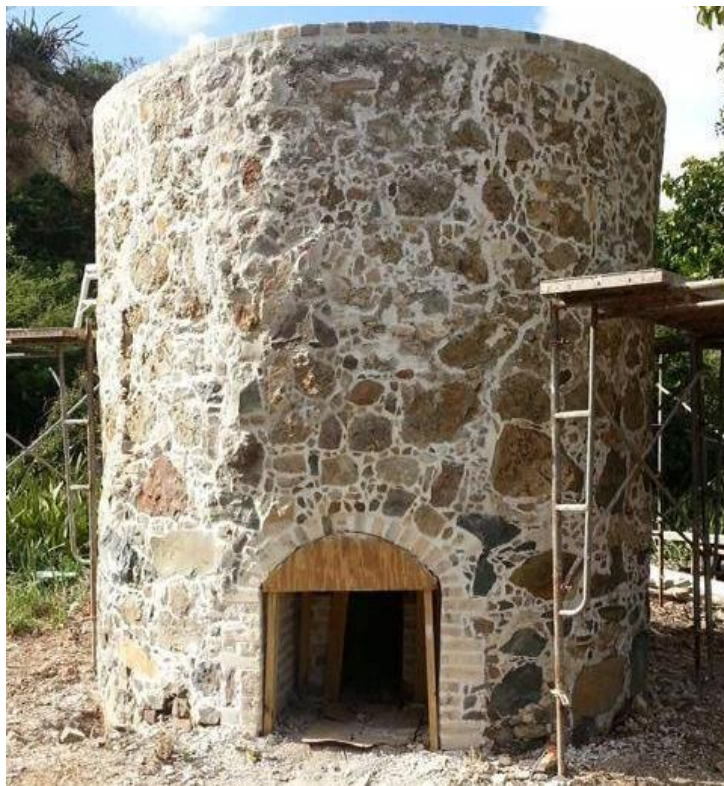
Partnering with University of the Virgin Islands, Marine Advisory Services, and Coast Week Island Clean-Up Coordinators, in three events, over 90 volunteers attended, collecting and removing over 300 bags of trash, not to mention other items washed up on Hassel Island Shores.



The Garrison House after Restoration. Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia.



The Lime Kiln Prepared for Restoration. Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia



The Lime Kiln Under Restoration. Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia.



Volunteers Collecting Beach Trash from Careening Cove on Hassel Island. Image Courtesy of Charles Consolvo.



Alan Wentworth's Sea Tow Boats Hauling away trash collected on Hassel Island. Image Courtesy of Charles Consolvo.



Mr. Sean Krigger, Acting Director of the VI State Historic Preservation Office examining the restoration work done on Prince Fredericks Battery. Image Courtesy of Erik Miles.

None of the above Hassel Island accomplishments could be achieved without the hard work of our trusty volunteers funded by our major donors, Avna Cassenelli, Filippo Cassenelli, Sebastian Cassenelli, Diageo VI, Inc, Alpine Securities, Kimelman Family Foundation, White Bay Group, Joanne Bozzuto, Prior Family Foundation, John Digges, and Budget Car & Truck Rental. Please consider volunteering your time or make a contribution (or both!) to preserve our heritage and history on Hassel Island

Fort Christian

2014 was a big year for Fort Christian. For the first time in many years, the fort opened its doors for over 200 third graders from Gladys Abraham, E. Benjamin Oliver, and Joseph Gomez elementary schools. This would not have been possible without the help of the Virgin Islands Department of Libraries, Archives, and Museums and its members. In addition, a large number of volunteers made sure that these children were able to fully appreciate their first ever experience inside Fort Christian. These volunteers were: Rev Bob Johnson, Sue Johnson, Millie George, Maria Elena Sarria, and Deloris Jowers.

The Historical Trust was also able to help the physical state of Fort Christian, as well. With the help of the phenomenal artistic talent of Shansi Miller, the Trust was also able to coordinate an art exhibition and fundraiser for Fort Christian. This event was incredibly successful through the generous support of long-time Trust members and new donors alike. In addition, the final

pieces to repair the north face of Fort Christian's clock tower have arrived. Unfortunately, the historic clock master, Marshall "David" Neal passed away this past year. The Trust would like to offer our condolences to his daughter and family, and thank them for sending the remaining clock parts to us.

As can be seen at the time of this report, the government has recommenced restoration of Fort Christian. The walls have been painted, and glimpses of interior work can be seen through the gate and windows. With the Fort nearing completion, we look forward to the work being done by this summer.

Step Streets



Proposed Bred Gade Step Street Restorations. Image Courtesy of Jon Euwema

This report covers the period 3rd quarter of 2013 to the end of 2014.

The step street committee started the period with many grand plans. They included:

1. Completing a registry of all step streets along with their characteristics and pertinent information.
2. Developing a community outreach program to involve the citizens of the Garden Street area in the renovation of the Bred Gade step street.
3. Developing ideas for fundraising utilizing the step streets.
4. Utilizing the rest of the DPNR grant to effect some repairs, and start the renovation of the Bred Gade Step Street.

5. Solidify and build an effective Step Street Committee which would be sustainable.

Although we were not successful in fulfilling all our objectives, there was substantial progress. The biggest achievement of the step street committee was to complete a design and renovation plan of the Bred Gade Step Street. Jon Euwema a local designer was hired and it is the opinion of the Step street Committee and the Trust's Board that a good job has been done. The objective of the design is to restore the step street and its appurtenances in a historically authentic fashion and to be a beautiful working infrastructure for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

It is important to realize that it will take money to implement this renovation plan. The step street is a large area and an estimate shows that funds just shy of \$75,000 will be required to restore this step street. Innovative methods will have to be used to obtain the required funding. Most of all it will require the effort and hard work of our Trust members and a revitalized Step Street Committee.

--Trevor Milner

Step Street Committee Chair

Many, many thanks to our wonderful donors and volunteers

<i>Anne Chauncey</i>	<i>Leigh Goldman</i>	<i>Susan & Michael Hancock</i>
<i>AH Riise</i>	<i>Louis Viutton</i>	<i>Thora Einarsdottir</i>
<i>April Newland</i>	<i>Louis Beschulte</i>	<i>United Technologies</i>
<i>AT&T</i>	<i>Ludence Turnbull</i>	<i>Virgin Islands Ecotours</i>
<i>Barry Hughes</i>	<i>Mac Davis</i>	<i>White Bay Group</i>
<i>Bellows International</i>	<i>Maria Coner</i>	<i>The Berry Family</i>
<i>Bernice Turnbull</i>	<i>Maria Elena Sarria</i>	<i>The Cassinelli Family</i>
<i>Bill Fett</i>	<i>Marisa Sprowles</i>	<i>The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands</i>
<i>Bill Newbold</i>	<i>Mary Ann Hickey</i>	<i>The Kimelman Family</i>
<i>Bob Inbarren</i>	<i>Marty Olson</i>	<i>The Mighty Bright Company</i>
<i>Bread and Cakes</i>	<i>McAvia Colaire</i>	<i>The Paint Depot</i>
<i>Cobia Fagan</i>	<i>McKim Colaire</i>	<i>Moore Russell Dodson</i>
<i>CYOA</i>	<i>Merchant's Market</i>	<i>The Prior Family Foundation</i>
<i>Daryl Smalls</i>	<i>Millie George</i>	<i>The Ray Miles Family</i>
<i>David Neal</i>	<i>Monetrick Olive</i>	<i>The Vento Family</i>
<i>Davis Polius</i>	<i>MSI, Inc.</i>	<i>The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts</i>
<i>Dee Baecher-Brown</i>	<i>Mucki Wesley</i>	<i>The Wentworth Family</i>
<i>Department of Public Works Commissioner</i>	<i>My Brother's Workshop</i>	<i>The West Indian Company</i>
<i>Edward Williams</i>	<i>Nina White</i>	
<i>Elli Ausubel</i>	<i>Pat Torchia</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Boin</i>	<i>Patricia LaCorte</i>	
<i>Felipe Ayala II</i>	<i>Peggy McConnell</i>	
<i>Glazier Premier Distributors LLC</i>	<i>Philip Sturm</i>	
<i>Ginger & James Martin</i>	<i>Rochelle Galiber</i>	
<i>Hughes Electric</i>	<i>Rodriguez Auto Parts</i>	
<i>Idalia Dockery</i>	<i>Rosemary Galiber</i>	
<i>Island Business Graphics</i>	<i>Rev. McDonald Colaire</i>	
<i>Jack Ervin</i>	<i>Rev. Robert & Susan Johnson</i>	
<i>Joanne Bozzuto</i>	<i>Ronnie Penn</i>	
<i>Justin Todman</i>	<i>Scott Bradley</i>	
<i>Kendall Canfield</i>	<i>Sea Chest Ace Hardware</i>	
<i>Kenneth Richards</i>	<i>Sea Tow Virgin Islands</i>	
<i>Landerson Benjamin</i>	<i>Shansi Miller</i>	
	<i>Shari Charnock</i>	
		<i>DPNR's Department of Libraries, Archives and Museums Director</i>
		<i>Ingrid Bough, The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office: Levi Farrell, Airall Fontaine and Sean Krigger</i>

VOTING BALLOT / PROXY

For return on or before March 5th 2015. If you prefer to vote electronically, votes will have to be received before March 3rd .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TERM FOR 2014 – 2015

The following have completed their two-year term and have offered to extend themselves for re-election for another year to assist with balancing board terms:

FRANNIE NEWBOLD	_____	_____
SKIP WILLIAMS	_____	_____
	YES	NO

Interim directors offering themselves for election for the upcoming two years are:

CHARLES CONSOLVO	_____	_____
DAVID J. O’CONNELL	_____	_____
GAIL GLANVILLE	_____	_____
MALCOLM SCHWEIZER	_____	_____
PRISCILLA HINTZ	_____	_____
PATRICIA LACORTE	_____	_____
VINCENT “DOC” PALANCIA	_____	_____
	YES	NO

The following Directors will complete their term in 2015: **RONALD LOCKHART**

The following Directors are not offering themselves for re-election: FRANK MCCONNELL, MIKE SHEEN, SHANE BRUNT, TREVER MILNER, and STEPHEN JONES

Member’s Name *(please print)*

Member’s Signature

Proxy Name *(if applicable. please print)*