



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator

TEL: (340) 773-1082

FAX: (340) 713-2430

jamal.nielsen@dpr.vi.gov

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DPNR CELEBRATES D. HAMILTON JACKSON MONTH

Commissioner Dawn L. Henry, Esq., along with the employees and staff of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources are proud to celebrate November as "David Hamilton Jackson Month".

Bill No. 3101230, now Act. No. 7771 (Act), was sponsored by Senator Myron D. Jackson, Secretary and Chair of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation of the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Act No. 7771, designating the month of November as "David Hamilton Jackson Month," tasks DPNR's Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Office and the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums with highlighting D. Hamilton Jackson's achievements and contributions, and with developing appropriate programs and ceremonies within their statutory jurisdictions for the celebration.

"For all his achievements, D. Hamilton Jackson is probably best known for securing concessions from Denmark in 1915 to establish a free press in the Danish West Indies," according to Commissioner Henry. "This is why for the past 67 years we have celebrated territory-wide November 1st as Liberty Day, or Freedom of the Press Day. As the intrepid editor of *The Herald*, the first free press newspaper in the Danish West Indies, D. Hamilton Jackson used his publications and his own considerable oratorical skills to advocate vociferously and organize actively for labor unions and to establish and protect the rights of workers." *The Herald* was published daily except Sundays from 1915 to 1925.

In celebration of David Hamilton Jackson Day on November 1st, and to educate the public on his significant contributions, the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums has an online tribute to Jackson on its website homepage which contains information on D. Hamilton Jackson, including a link to Act. No. 7771, a scanned copy of *The Herald* (November 1, 1915), a continuous PowerPoint slideshow presentation prepared by the Territorial Archives featuring the

major events in the life of this accomplished Virgin Islander. Preserved editions of the newspaper have been digitized in accordance with Act 7771 of the Virgin Islands Legislature. The digitization was accomplished under a collaborative grant project between the Digital Library of the Caribbean, DPNR/DLAM's Territorial Archives and the University of the Virgin Islands and funded by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) in 2015-2016. The digitized issues of *The Herald*—787 over 3,000 pages thus far—are viewable through the library's website as well as other links to historical resources on Mr. Jackson.

The online tribute will remain on the homepage for the entire month of November. During the month, DPNR will also showcase and exhibit the tribute at the Florence Williams Public Library on St. Croix.

For more information, please contact Ingrid Bough, Territorial Director of Libraries, Archives and Museums at the Florence Williams Public Library (340) 773-5715, Susan Lugo, Territorial Archivist via email at susan.lugo@dpnr.vi.gov at the Charles Wesley Turnbull Regional Public Library at (340)774-0630 or Sean Krigger, Director Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office at (340) 776-8605. Visit the website at www.virginislandspubliclibraries.org

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