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## Entry Nr. 036 Johannes

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

<i>Catalog number:</i>	<b>36</b>
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	<b>Johannes</b>
<i>Date account recorded:</i>	1767
<i>Date account first published:</i>	2000-2002
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*Source:*

Aspects of her life story printed on p. 1773 in vol. 2, Part 3 of C. G. A. Oldendorp, *Historie der caribischen Inseln Sanct Thomas, Sanct Crux und Sanct Jan, insbesondere der dasigen Neger und der Mission der evangelischen Brüder unter denselben: kommentierte Ausgabe des vollständigen Manuskriptes aus dem Archiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität Herrnhut*, edited by Gudrun Meier et al. (= Volume 51 in the series *Abhandlungen und Berichte des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden*). Berlin, Germany: VWB, Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000-2002.

*Comments:* None

*Text of Account:*

Original German –

“Johannes auf Klein Prinzeß, ein Amina, wurde als ein kleines Kind nach St. Thomas geführt und zog von da nach St. Crux, als dieses Eiland unter die dänische Herrschaft kam und bebauet zu werden anfang. Er war also einer der ersten Einwohner desselben, diente als Koch, litt dabei Schaden an seinen Augen und wurde deswegen damals in des seligen Kretschmers\* Cur getan. Hiedurch wurde ihm sein Gesicht eine lange Zeit erhalten, aber endlich verlor er es gänzlich. Seit einem Jahr fing er an nachzudenken, wo er in der Ewigkeit, die er in seinem hohen Alter herannahen sahe, bleiben würde. Er wurde verlegen ums Selig werden, mit den Brüdern bekannt, mit seinem Sündenelend zum Heiland gewiesen und an den selben gläubig und sehr verlangend, durch die heilige Taufe von Sünden gewaschen zu werden, ehe er aus der Zeit ginge. Dieses geschahe auf seinem Krankenlager zu seiner großen Freude und einige Stunden darauf nahm der Heiland diese mit seinem Blute noch zuletzt gereinigte und geschmückte Seele zu sich ins ewige Leben. Nathanael begrub abends seine Hütte und legte dabei an ein großes Leichengefolge ein kräftiges Zeugnis vom Heiland ab.”

\* According to Gudrun Meier (see above reference), Gottlieb Kretschmer was a doctor and surgeon who arrived on St. Thomas in 1735 and died a few months later on St. Croix.

English translation (by Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“On Klein Prinzeß [Little Princess – the name of a plantation] was an Amina man named Johannes, who was taken as a small child to St. Thomas and went from there to St. Croix as this island came under the authority of the Danes, who then began to develop it. He was thus one of the first inhabitants of the same and served as a cook. He suffered damage to his eyes in doing so and received the esteemed Kretschmer treatment.\* As a result of this he regained his sight for a long time, but in the end lost it entirely. For a year he had begun to ponder where he might spend eternity, which he could see approaching at his advanced age. With humility he sought sanctification, came to know the Brethren [members of the Moravian church], and was led in his sinful misery to the Savior, in whom he came to believe. He longed to have his sins washed away by holy baptism before time ran out on him. This happened on his sickbed, to his great joy, and a few hours later the Savior took his soul, which had been washed and adorned by the Savior’s blood, to everlasting life. In the evening Nathanael [a Moravian missionary] buried his remains and delivered a powerful message about the Savior to the large funeral procession.”

\* According to Gudrun Meier (see above reference), Gottlieb Kretschmer was a doctor and surgeon who arrived on St. Thomas in 1735 and died a few months later on St. Croix.

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