

## **Document #1740-03-23-03- A Negresse Named Bradiguene on the Auction Block**

### **K4BL Abstract:**

In March of 1740, an enslaved woman named Bradiguene traveled to the office of the Intendant in New Orleans. There, she faced a crowd of enslavers who gathered to bid for her purchase. As property of the King, Bradiguene likely lived on the King's plantation, located on the present-day West Bank of New Orleans in Algiers and Gretna and home to a large community of enslaved people.<sup>i</sup> During the height of the slave trade to French-controlled Louisiana, enslaved people originating from Senegambia, the Bight of Benin, and the Congo regions who disembarked in Louisiana traveled first to the King's plantation before enslavers gathered to purchase them. On this day, Bradiguene crossed the Mississippi River to the *Vieux Carré* where Nicolas Henry, the Clerk of the Superior Council, purchased her and inscribed this sale permanently into the archive.

<https://www.lacolonialdocs.org/document/4828>

### **LHC Card:**

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Document C 40

Year 1740

March 23

**LHC Abstract:** Sale of negresse, Bradiguine, belonging to the King to Mr. Henry.

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Language - French

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Names: Black - Brandiguene (Henry); Bradiguine (Henry)

Names: White - Jean Baptiste Claude Bobé Descloseux; Bobé Desscloseaux; Nicholas Henry;

Edmé-Gatien de Salmon

Names: Native- n/a

Keywords - sale, slave auction, womanhood, displacement, mobility, drum

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Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]  23 Mars 1740  Vente d'une  Negresse  Bradiguene  Cotté  N.°443.</p> <p>fo 14  (2827.)  (14586.)</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p>Lan mil sept Cent quarante le vingt troisième jour  du mois de mars En vertu de lordonnance de monsieur  de Salmon Commissaire de la marine ordonnateur  et premier Juge au Con<sup>eil</sup> Superieur de la Louisianne  Il a été publié et affiché dans tous les Endroits  de cette ville dimanche Dernier vingtieme  du present mois et Rendüe publique Cejourd_ huy  au son du tambour dans tous les Carrefour  de cette ville, et s[']y estant trouvé nombres  D[']enchérisseurs Nous Jean Baptiste Claude  Bobé Desclauseaux, Con<sup>cer</sup> de la marine  accompagné du Greffier Con<sup>ce</sup>  sommes  transporté a l'intendance a l'effet de proceder  a la vente et adjudication dune negresse</p>	<p>[page #1] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]  March 23, 1740  Sale of a  <i>Negresse</i>  Bradiguene  Numbered  N.°443.</p> <p>fo 14  (2827.)  (14586.)</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>In the year one thousand seven hundred and  forty on the twenty-third day  of the month of March by virtue of the order of  <i>Monsieur</i>  de Salmon, <i>Commissaire</i> of the Navy,  <i>ordonnateur</i>,  and first judge of the Superior Council of  Louisiana  It was published and posted in all parts  of this city last Sunday, the twentieth  of this month, and made public today  by the sound of the drum at all public squares  of this city, and there being found a number  of bidders, we, Jean Baptiste Claude  Bobé Desclauseaux, Commissary of the Navy,</p>

Nommé Bradiguene appartenant au Roy  
après avoir fait publier que toutes personnes  
Seront recues a y Encherir en payant comptant  
Le prix de leur adjudication et ap[r]e[s] avoir  
Eté Enchery par diverses personnes Jusque  
A la somme de deux milles livres par le sieur  
Henry et ne s'y estant trouvé dautres  
Encherisseurs Lad[ite] negresse luy a été  
adjudgé et a payé a l Instant comptant  
Lad[ite] Somme de deux mille Livres En

[f. 1 verso] [dig. 3]

Mains du tresorier de la Marine En Cette Colonie  
au moyen de quoy Il demeure bon et Libre  
possesseur de la[dite] Esclave pour En jouir  
Comme d[']un bien a luy appartenant fait à  
L'hotel de l Intendance Les Susd[it] jour mois  
Et an et a signé  
[Signé:] henry  
[Signé:] Bobé Desclosseaux

accompanied by the Clerk of the Council,  
went to the Intendant<sup>ii</sup> for  
the purpose of proceeding  
with the sale and auction of a *negresse*  
named Bradiguene belonging to the King  
after having made public that all people  
will be received to bid for her by paying in  
cash  
The price of their adjudication/auction and  
after having  
been bid for by various people until  
the sum of two thousand *livres* [bid/offered] by  
the *Sieur*  
Henry and not having found other  
bidders, the aforementioned *negresse* was  
adjudicated to him and paid immediately in  
cash  
the said sum of two thousand *livres* in[to] the

[p. #2] [dig. 3]

hands of the treasurer of the Navy in this  
Colony  
by means of which he remains the rightful and  
free  
possessor of the aforementioned slave to enjoy  
as a possession belonging to him, made at  
the office of the Intendant the above mentioned  
day, month,  
and year and signed  
[Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry  
[Signed:] [Jean Baptiste Claude] Bobé  
Desclosseaux

Please note that what appear to be typos (missing spaces, abbreviations, misspellings, strikeouts, superscript) appear in the original manuscript, but are corrected in the more modernized translation. For more on our editorial practices see <https://docs.k4bl.org/bestpractices>.

i. After the retrocession of Louisiana by the Company of the Indies back to France in 1731, the plantation of the Company of the Indies became the King's Plantation. Located on today's West Bank of New Orleans, the plantation spanned across the neighborhood of Algiers and part of the city of Gretna. According to the census taken in 1731, nine years prior to the sale of Bradiguene, two hundred and thirty enslaved Africans or people of African descent lived on that land. This included twenty-nine children. See Charles R. Maduett, Jr., *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1972), 121. To learn more about the management of the plantation including the design of the cabins for the enslaved community, see Shannon Lee Dawdy, "Proper Caresses and Prudent Distance: A How-To Manual from Colonial Louisiana," in Ann Laura Stoler, ed., *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2006), 140-162. For more on the West Bank, see Richard Campanella, *The West Bank of Greater New Orleans: a Historical Geography* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 2020).

ii. By late August of 1749, engineer Ignace François Broutin designed plans for two new buildings on Toulouse Street in today's French Quarter in New Orleans. One building housed the Intendant and his offices, while Broutin designed the other for the enslaved *domestiques* of the Intendant. The second building featured the kitchen and laundry room. See *Façade et élévation du bâtiment de l'intendance du côté de l'entrée, prise sur la ligne ponctuée cotté a-b sur le plan de l'autre part à la Nouvelle Orléans le vingt trois août MDCCXLIX*, August 23, 1749, Archives Nationales d'outre-mer 04DFC98A; *Façade et élévation du bâtiment de l'intendance du côté de l'entrée, prise sur la ligne ponctuée cotté C.D sur le plan de l'autre part*, September 29, 1749, Archives Nationales d'outre-mer 04DFC99C.