

Document #1779-07-29-01 – Maria Antonia is Freed by Her Grandmother

K4BL Abstract: A woman named Angelica, *negra* enslaved by Antonio Ramis, goes before the *cabildo* at New Orleans to initiate *coartación* proceedings for the valuation of her granddaughter, a four-year old named Maria Antonia, in order to purchase her freedom. The two men appointed by the court to appraise the child, Antonio "Villefranche" Boudousquié and Santiago "Jacques" Tarascon, find her to be worth 175 *pesos* and 200 *pesos*, respectively.

<https://www.lacolonialdocs.org/document/14488>

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LHC Abstract: Angelica, a negress, petitions for the freedom of her grand-child, slave of Santiago Porta, which she claims.

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Names: White - Ramis, Antonio; Tarascon, Santiago; Tarascon, Jacques; Tarascon, Santiago Jacques; Bertonnière, Pedro; Boudousquié, Antoine; Boudousquie, Villefranche; Boudousquie, Antoine Villefranche; Piernas, Pedro Joseph; Piernas, Pierre Joseph; Porte, Santiago; Porta, Santiago; Almonester de Roxas, Andrés; Almonaster y Rojas, Andrés
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Transcription (Spanish, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[folio 2 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>+</p> <p><u>Año de 1793</u></p> <p>Dilig.^s principiada por Angelica negra sbre pretender la livertad de Maria Antonia Su Nieta esclava De Santiago Porta ___</p> <p><u>N.º 26</u></p> <p>#559 [moderno, en lápiz azul]</p> <p>D N___ 46</p> <p>— 14</p> <p><u>SNº 18</u></p> <p>[f. 2 verso] [dig.3]</p> <p>[en blanco]</p> <p>[f. 3r] [dig.4]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Angelica negra quartada p.^r Antonio Ramis en las dirigencias que he promovido sobre darle la libertad a mi nieta nombrada Maria Anto</p>	<p>[page #1] [digital 2]</p> <p>+</p> <p><u>Year 1793</u></p> <p>Proceedings initiated by Angelica, <i>negra</i>, about claiming the freedom of Maria Antonia, her granddaughter, <i>esclava</i> of Santiago Porta.</p> <p><u>Number 26</u></p> <p>#559 [modern, in blue pencil]</p> <p>D N___ [number crossed out]</p> <p>[number notation crossed out]</p> <p>[number notation crossed out]</p> <p>[p. #2] [dig.3]</p> <p>[blank]</p> <p>[p. #3] [dig.4]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Angelica <i>negra coartada</i>ⁱ [belonging to] Antonio Ramis in the proceedings that have begun regarding granting freedom to my granddaughter, named Maria Antonia,</p>

nia Esclava de D.ⁿ Santiago Porta
y lo demas digo que se sirvio ũnd
demanda que dentro de tercero dia
el ante dhō nombrase un tercero
por Su parte y Como Consta dela
dilig^a del presente Es.^{no} el Suso
dhō tiene su morada en su habita.^{on}
en atencion de que Se ha de servir
ũnd mandar librar boleta de com
parendo, al Suso dhō con insercion
de la dhā providen.^a cometeda Su
estim^{on} a qualquier pers.^a habil

~

[f. 3v] [dig.5]

portante

Amd Suplico Se Sirva proveer y
mandar como devo pedido por
ser deJusticia y en lo nesesa
rio &^a.

Como lo pido____

[Firmado:] Piernas

Proveido el señor ^{Do} Pedro Piernas the
mente coron.¹ en el Batallon fixo de esta
Plaza y Alcalde ordinario De primer
soto De esta ciudad que lo firmó a trein
ta de Julio D emil set.^s setenta y nueve.

esclava of Don Santiago Porta,
and I also say that he was served
and ordered that within three days
the aforesaid shall appoint a third party
on his behalf, and as stated in the
proceedings by the present notary, the
aforesaid has his domicile on his plantation,
[and] in consideration of which is served
and ordered by subpoena
issued to the aforesaid with the inclusion
of the judicial resolution committing as
his estimator any capable person.

~

[p. #4] [dig.5]

Thusly,

before Your Lordship, I beg you provide and
order with God as I have requested for
what is just and in which way is necessary,
etc.

As I demand,

[Signed:] Piernas

Thus ordered: [By] Lord *Don* Pedro Piernas,
Lieutenant Colonel of the Fixed Regimentⁱⁱ of this
post, and *alcalde ordinario*, the first mayor
of this city, which he signs on the thirtieth
of July of one-thousand seven-hundred and
seventy-nine.

<p>[Firmado:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubrica, Almonester]</p>	<p>[Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubric, Almonester]</p>
<p>En Lo ora lo hice saver á Angelica negra Doy fee___</p>	<p>On the same day, I made this known to Angelica, <i>negra</i>. I certify,</p>
<p>[Firmado:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubrica, Almonester]</p>	<p>[Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubric, Almonester]</p>
<p>[f. 4r] [dig.6]</p>	<p>[p. #5] [dig.6]</p>
<p>Librosela voleta que empreza } yentregue ala parte Doy fee }</p>	<p>The Deed of Freedom is thus issued and delivered to the party. I certify,</p>
<p>[Rubrica, Almonester]</p>	<p>[Rubric, Almonester]</p>
<p>[f. 4v] [dig.7]</p> <p>[en blanco]</p>	<p>[p. #6] [dig.7]</p> <p>[blank]</p>
<p>[f. 5r] [dig.8]</p>	<p>[p. #7] [dig.8]</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Por decreto proveiyo en este dia por Dⁿ Pedro piernas then.~ del ba tallon fixo de esta plasa esta man dado lo siguiente_____</p>	<p>By the decree provided on this day by <i>Don</i> Pedro Piernas, Lieutenant [Colonel] of the Fixed Regiment of this post, the following is ordered.</p>
<p>Auto hace por nombrado el tercero que esta parte oferece acepte y Jure en la</p>	<p>Judgment: Having been named third [party] that for his part offers, accepts, and swears [an oath] in</p>

forma de estilo y haga Sele Saver
a D.ⁿ Santiago porte nombre otra
dentro de tres dias por la Suya a con
apreocerim^{to} de procederse con el
nombrado = Piernas _____
Cuya providencia esta mandado se
le notifique a D.ⁿ Santiago porte
por qualquier persona habil nueva
orleans y Julio treinta de mil
sett^s setenta y nueve años _____

[Firmado:] Almonester
[Rubrica, Almonester]

[f. 5v] [dig.9]

Estando en la habitacion de D.ⁿ
Santiago porte distante de esta Ciud.^d
de una legua y de el otro lado del
rio le notifique el cotenido en la boleta
antecedente y para que Conesta lo
pongo p.^r dilig^a Con advertencia q
gastado quatro r.^s par dos traveisas
de ir y bober N^{va} orleans y
agusto dos de mil s^{ett}. Setenta y
nuebe años _____

[Firmado:] Pedro Bertoniere

N.ⁿ En la ciudad De La Nueva orleans á
cinco de Agosto de mil Sett.^s Setenta y

the [ordinary] form [and] style, and let it be known
to *Don* Santiago Porta to name another
within three days for his own [party] with
eagerness to proceed with the
named [representative to give oath]. Piernas,
[on] whose providence [it] is ordered
to notify *Don* Santiago Porta,
[and to do so] by any person able. [At] New
Orleans [on] July 30 of one-
thousand seven-hundred and seventy-nine.

[Signed:] Almonester
[Rubric, Almonester]

[p. #8] [dig.9]

Being at the plantation of *Don*
Santiago Porta, [which is] far from this city
by a league, and on the other side of the
[Mississippi] river, I notified him of the contents
on the ruling,
aforementioned, and because of this
I issue an Action of Warning;
they are wasting four *reales* on two traversing
women [who will] go and return to New Orleans
[on] August second of one-thousand seven
hundred seventy-nine.

[Signed:] Pedro Bertonière

Notarized: In the City of New Orleans on
the fifth of August of one-thousand seven-hundred

nueve años Yo el ešño hice saver el Dec.^{to}
anteced.^{te} ad.ⁿ Santiago Borta en su
pers.^a quien Dijo que nom__
brada por tercero por Su parte
a d.ⁿ Antonio Boudurquie para~
~

[f. 6r] [dig.10]

el aprecio de la mulatica que se expresa
esto dio por su repuesta y lo firmo de
que doy fee__

[Firmado:] Jacques Porte

[Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]

[Marginalia:]

N.ⁿ acep.ⁿ
Y juran^{to} }

[Cuerpo:]

En la Ciudad de la Nueva Orleans dho
dia mes y año Yo el essno~ hice saver el
nombram.^{to} anteced.^{to} a D.ⁿ Ant.^o Boudurquier
q.ⁿ Dijo que lo aceptava y acepto y Juro
por Dios nro Señor y una Señal De
cruz De proceder bien y fielmente
y lo firmo de que Doy fee__

and seventy-
nine I, the notary, have made known the decree
preceding, to *Don* Santiago Porta in
person, who said he was appointed
by a third party on his behalf,
Don Antonio Boudousquié, for

[p. #9] [dig.10]

the appraisal of the *mulatica*,ⁱⁱⁱ [and] as expressed
he gave his answer, and he signs that
which I certify.

[Signed:] Jacques Porta

[Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]

[Marginal note:]

Notarized, accepted,
and decreed }

[Body:]

In the City of New Orleans on the aforementioned
day, month, and year, I, the notary, made the
previous appointment known to *Don* Antonio
Boudousquié,
who said that he accepted it, and having accepted
and sworn [his oath]
before our Lord God and [with] a sign

[Firmado:] Boudousquié
[Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]

[f. 6v] [dig.11]

En la Ciudad De la Nueva Orleans,
dho día mes y año Santiago Tararca
tercero nombrado por la negra Ange
lica y D.ⁿ Antonio Boudusquier
en la misma Calidad para la esti
macion y áprecio De una mulati
ca nombrada Maria Antonia De
edad De quatro años haviendola
visto en presencia De mi el es^{sno}, y
enferenciado largo rato Sobre Su
valor Dijeron el dho Tascarcon que la
estimava en ciento Settenta y cinco
p.^s y el referido Boudusquie en
Doscientos p.^s cuia estima.~ Dijo haver
hecho bien y fielm.^{te} seg.ⁿ si inte lig.^a y lo
firmaron De qué Doy fee ____

[Firmado:] Tarascon
[Firmado:] Boudousquié

Antemi
[Firmado:] Andres Almonester De Roxas

of the Cross, shall proceed well and faithfully,
and he signs that which I certify,

[Signed:] Boudousquié
[Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]

[p. #10] [dig.11]

In the City of New Orleans,
on the aforementioned day, month, and year,
Santiago Tarascon,
third party named by the *negra*, Angelica,
and *Don* Antonio Boudousquié,
in the same *calidad*, for the estimation and
appreciation of one *mulatica*
named Maria Antonia,
four years old, having seen
her in my, the notary's, presence and
[having] talked for a long time
about this with the said Tarascon, who said that he
estimated her worth to be of 175
pesos, and the referenced Boudousquié
[estimated her worth] as 200 *pesos*. They said
to have done their duty with fidelity and to the best
of their knowledge and
sign that which I certify,

[Signed:] Tarascon
[Signed:] Boudousquié

Before me
[Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas,

s. ^{no} p. ^{co} [Rubrica, Almonester]	Notary Public [Rubric, Almonester]
[f. 7r] [dig.12]	[p. #11] [dig.12]
[en blanco]	[blank]
[f. 7v] [dig.13]	[p. #12] [dig.13]
[en blanco]	[blank]

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. In Spanish Louisiana, the practice of *coartación*—or manumission by self-purchase—proceeded after an enslaved person was evaluated by court appointed experts, a price was set, and a purchase agreement was made. This contractual agreement rendered the enslaved person *coartado/a* until the purchase price was reached and the final payment made. A *negra coartada* like Angelica was not yet free and could still be sold, transferred, or mortgaged, but only on conditional terms. See Alejandro de la Fuente and Ariela J. Gross, *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020) and Kimberly S. Hanger, *Bounded Lives, Bounded Places: Free Black Society in Colonial New Orleans, 1769-1803* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1997).

ii. The *Batallon de Infanteria Fixo de la Luisiana* was formed by Governor Alejandro O'Reilly in 1769 in the wake of the Creole Revolt to suppress uprisings and enforce Spanish dominion in the territory. This militia was initially composed primarily of soldiers from Havana and included local residents of Louisiana by voluntary enlistment, conscription, and criminal sentence. See Gilbert C. Din, "For Defense of Country and the Glory of Arms': Army Officers in Spanish Louisiana, 1766-1803," *Louisiana History* 43:1 (Winter 2002): 5-40.

iii. "*Mulatica*" in the Spanish colonial system is the diminutive of "*mulata*" and was used to refer to girls or young women. The term was most commonly used in Cuba and the Spanish Caribbean, and less so throughout the Spanish mainland. It did not necessarily denote legal status.