

Document #1767-02-12-01 – At Long Last, Charlotte is Free

K4BL Abstract: Last will and testament of enslaver Antoine Meullion includes the manumission of Charlotte and her two children, Louis and Helene. Charlotte and Louis were promised their freedom 21 years earlier when Meullion declared before the Registry of the Superior Council that Charlotte and Louis would be free upon his death or if he left Louisiana for France.

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Names: Black - (Meullion), Charlotte; Louis; Helene

Names: White - Meullion, *Sieur*; Meullion, Antoine; Dubuisson, Françoise; Buisson, Françoise du; St. Amant, Antoine; St. Amant, *Sieur* Dominique; Amant, Nanette; Meullion, Louis Augustin; Meullion, Ennemond; Meullion, *Sieur* Ennemond; Daspie *dit* St. Amant, Pierre; Daspie *dit* St. Amant, *Sieur* Dominique; Arnoult, *Sieur*; Gaillard, *Sieur*; Gaillard, Barthélémy; Arnoult, Jean; Garic, *notaire*; Gaudrat, *Sieur*; Gaudreau, Francis; Duvergés; Ducroy; Saint-Amant

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Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital 1]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]</p> <p>2. f.^{[é]vrie}er 1767. Testament du S.^r Meuillon EE.</p> <p>[Signé:] Duvergés [Signé:] Ducroy</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N° 2032.</p> <p>Aujourdhuÿ Douzieme fevrier mil Sept Cent Soixante et sept Neuf heures du soir a La Requisition au S.^r antoine Meuillon ancien chirurgien habitant aux Cannez brulléez de present en sa Maizon située en cette ville nous Notaire Roÿal De La province de La Louisiane Resident a La N^{[ou]ve}lle orleans sommes transporté en La.d.^{[it]e} Maizon avec Les temoins Bas nommés et sousignés ouEtant ete etant Enlevé dans une chambre</p>	<p>[page #1] [digital 1]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]</p> <p>February 2 1767. Will of <i>Sieur</i> Meuillon EE.</p> <p>[Signed:] Duvergés [Signed:] Ducroy</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No. 2032</p> <p>Today [the] twelfth [of] February seventeen hundred sixty seven, [at] nine o'clock in the evening at the requisition of <i>Sieur</i> Antoine Meuillon, former surgeon living in Cannes Brulées, at present in his house situated in this city, we—[with the] royal notary of the Province of Louisiana, based in New Orleans— were transported to the aforementioned house with the witnesses named below</p>

a Coté de La salle donant sur Le derriere avons trouvé
 Le dit Sieur Meuillon dans Son Lit MaLade de Corps
 mais sain despirit memoire et Entendement ainsi quil a apparü a Nous Notaire et aux dits temoins
 Lequel nous auroit Dit que scachant quil n’y a Rien de plus Certain que La mort, et Craignant Lheure dit elle, il desireroit disposer par ordonance
 de Derniere volonté de ses affaires, et en Consequence
 nous auroit Requis, de Recevoir son testament quil nous a dicté nommé ainsi quil suit
 Premierement comme christien Catholique apostolique
 et Romain a Recommandé Son ame a Dieu Le priant par Les Merites de La passion de Notre Seigneur
 Jesus Christ La places au rang des Bienheureux Aussitot quelle sera separée de Son Corps implorant
 pour cet effet Lintercession. de La S.^{[ain]te} Vierge de tous
 Les Saints et son patron pour que par Leur Intercession
 cette Grace Luÿ soit accordér. _____

Item Veut et entend estre inhumé dans Le Cimetière
 de cette paroisse ou dans Celuÿ de Cette vu il decedera_

and undersigned, where being taken [away] into a room
 next to the room overlooking the back, found
 the said *Sieur* Meuillon in his bed sick of body but sound in mind, memory, and reason—
 as he appeared to us, notary and said witnesses—who had told us that, knowing that there is nothing more certain than death, and fearing the hour [death] calls, he would desire to dispose of his belongings by order
 of his last will [and testament], and consequently
 required of us to receive his testament that was dictated to us, as named, as follows:
 First [and foremost] as a Christian—[a] Catholic, Apostolic and Roman—[he] has given over his soul to God, praying Him, by the merits of the passion of Our Lord
 Jesus Christ, that [his soul] be placed among the ranks of the Most Holy,
 as soon as [his soul] is separated from his body, imploring
 for the purpose [of] this, intervention by the Holy Virgin, of all
 the Saints, and his Patron [Saint], so that through Their [Divine] Will
 such Grace be accorded to him.

Also, [he] wills and intends to be buried in the cemetery
 of this parish, or in that of [the one in] which he will die,

avoir mi n'y De pompe qu'on faire si pourra son
raportant a La Direction De son Executeur
testament
aura Cÿ après nommés

[f. 1 verso] [dig.2]

Item veut et Entend ses dettes estre payées et tous
reparú Si aucuns se trouvent.

Item Donne et Legue aLa maizon de charité de
Cette ville LaSomme de Cinq Cent Livres en Reel
une fois payée Ce que sera fait par son Legataire
universel____

Item donne et Legue a Leglise de S.^t charles aux
allemands pareille Somme de Cinq Cent Livres
une
fois payée pour faire prier a dieu pour Le Repos
de
Lame de francoise du buisson sa defunte femme

Item donne Et Legue a La fille ainée du S.^r S.^t
amant
nommée nanette La somme de Mille Livres aussi
en
Réel une fois payée.

to have no pomp be made, which we can do if
possible, his
adding to the directive of his executor of [last]
testament
will have, [who is] after named.

[p. #2] [dig.2]

Also, [he] wills and intends his debts to be paid
and all [of those he is indebted to]
redressed if any are found.

Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to the house of
charity of
this city the sum of five hundred *livres* in real
[money]
paid once, which will be done by his residuary
legatee.

Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to the Church of St.
Charles of
Des Allemands an equal sum of five hundred
livres,
paid once,
to pray to God for the rest of
the soul of Françoise Dubuisson, his late wife.

Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to the eldest
daughter of *Sieur* St. Amant,
named Nanette, the sum of one thousand *livres*
also in
real [money], paid once.

<p>Item Donne et Legue a Antoine fils du S.^r dominique S.^t. amant pareille Somme de Mille Livres en Réel une fois payées</p>	<p>Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to Antoine, son of <i>Sieur</i> Dominique St. Amant, an equal sum of one thousand <i>livres</i> in real [money], paid once.</p>
<p>Item Donne et Legue a ses freres et soeurs ou Leurs heirs et aÿant Cause et pretendant droit dans sa succession tout Ce qui peut Luÿ Revient tout du Cote paternel que du Coté maternal en tels biens que Ce puisse estre Meubles ou immeubles suivant Les üs ou Coutumes des Lieux ou ils se trouveront situéz, voulant quils soient quant a Ce sentiment ses Legataires particulliers sans quaucun deux puisse rien demander ni pretendre dans sa succession outre Ce qui dessus ni dans ses autres Biens meubles ou immeubles de quelques nature quils puissent estre et en quelquautre Lieu Quils puissent estre situéz..</p>	<p>Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to his brothers and sisters, or their heirs, and having cause and claiming [their] right in his [line of] succession, all that which can appertain to him from both the paternal and maternal side in such goods, be they movable or immovable, following the usage or customary law of the place where they will find themselves situated, wanting that they shall be—according to this intention—his titular legatees, without any of the two [sides of] them able to ask nor to claim anything in his succession beyond that which is [stated] above, nor of any other property, movable or immovable, of whatever nature they may be, and in whichever place that they may be situated.</p>
<p>Item afait et Institués fait et instítue pour son Legataire universel Louis augustin Meuillon Son fils; et En Cas de Mort du d^[i]t Louis augustin Meuillon</p>	<p>Also, [he] has made and instituted for his residuary legatee, Louis Augustin Meuillon, his son, and in the case of [the] death of the said Louis Augustin Meuillon,</p>

<p>comme etant absent il nomme et substitué Le Sieur</p> <p>[f .2r] [dig.3]</p> <p>Enemond Meuillon son frere ou ses heirs issüs et proueréz de son Corps ses enfans, Et aux enfant de sa soeur____ alegante, qui dans Le Cas de Morts de son dit fils oü de son dit frere partageront autour sa succession par Egaller portion cest a dire tous Les Biens quil pourroit Luÿ Regle dans Cette Colonie après son decés auquel Cas et advenant que son dit frere ses enfans ou Celle de sa dite soeur vinsent a amender Lad^{it}^e. succession, ils seront tenu de paÿer et donner a Leglise de S.^t pierre de Moiran En dauphine La Somme de Mille Livres pour Server a faire prier Dieu pour Le Repos de L'ame de Defunts Son pere et sa Mere, et pour La Sien[n]e..</p> <p>Item Donne et Legue au Sieur Ennemond Meuillon</p>	<p>being that he is absent, he names as substitutes the <i>Sieur</i></p> <p>[p. #3] [dig.3]</p> <p>Ennemond Meuillion, his brother—or [in his absence] his heirs descended [from] and proven [to be] of his body (his children) and an alleged child of his sister, who in the case of [the] death of his aforementioned son, or [that] of his said brother, will in turn share of his estate, by equal portion—meaning all the property which could be inherited accordingly from him in this colony after his death, in which case, and in the event that his said brother, his children, or that of his said sister come to amend the said [line of] succession, they will be obligated to pay and donate to the Church of Saint-Pierre-de-Moirans in Dauphiné [Province of France] the sum of one thousand <i>livres</i> to serve as prayer to God for the rest of the souls of his late father and mother, and for his own [soul].</p> <p>Also, [he] gives and bequeaths to <i>Sieur</i> Ennemond Meuillion,</p>
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<p>son neveu actuellement dans Ce pay La somme de Mille Livres en Reel, qui Luÿ sera payée tous Les ans Jusqu'a Ceque son fils arrive, ou que sa succession sou amendée En recompense des bons soins et peines quil voudra bien se Donner et prendre de son habitation, Et pour Executer sa presente ordonnance de Derniere volonté, a nommé et nomme, Institué et Institue pour son Executeur testamentaire Le Sieur pierre Daspie dit S^t. amant, ou en Cas de mort et a son deffaut Le Sieur dominique daspie d^{litt} S^t. amant son frere ; Les prian[t]s de vouloir bien s'en charger et Luÿ donner cette derniere Marque du Leur Bonne volonté et affection quils Luÿ ont toujours tesmoignée ; En faveur de L'un desquels a Deffaut de Lautre, il remet et se dessaisit de tenus ses biens Jusques a Ce quils soient Reclamés par ses héritiers</p> <p>[f. 2v] [dig.4]</p> <p>Cÿ dessüs nommés et que Leurs Ministers aura prés fús; En Recompance du quel Service il Donne</p>	<p>his nephew currently in this country, the sum of one thousand <i>livres</i> in real [money], that will be paid to him annually until his son arrives, or until his [line of] succession is amended, in recompense for the good care and trouble that he will lend himself to and take for his estate. And to execute this present order of last will [and testament], [he] has named and appointed, instituted and established as his testamentary executor of the will <i>Sieur</i> Pierre Daspie <i>dit</i> St. Amant, or in case of [the executor's] death and, as his default, <i>Sieur</i> Dominique Daspie <i>dit</i> St. Amant, his brother; Praying them to kindly take charge of it [the will] and give to him this last mark of their good will and affection, ast they have always showed him; By right of each, in the absence of the other, he shall remit and relinquish possession of his property until it is claimed by his heirs.</p> <p>[p. #4] [dig.4]</p> <p>Named below and which [are] his administrators have, in recompense for which service he gives</p>
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et Legue a Celuy qui se trouvera chargé de
Lexecution
de son present testament La somme de quatre Cent
Livres Reels par chaque année, et Durant Sa
Gestion seulement pour Lindemniser des peines
et soins quil voudras bien prendre pour La
presente
Execution.

Item veut et Entend que Le Sieur Ennemond
Meuillon
son neveu gere son habitation au meilleur
avantage
de ses Legataires, jusqua ce qu'ils Viennent eux
même sen emparer ou envoÿent des pouvoirs
Cependant prÛ Le S^r. S^r. amant ou Lun deux
de L[']jayder de Leurs Conseils et de Leurs avis
Recommandant
a son dit Neveu de Les Escrituers et Les Suiore

Item nous a dit et Declaré que tous Ce que dessus
testamentaire davoir soin de charlotte Negresse
Libre
et ses Deux enfan[t]s Louis Mulatre et helene sa
soeur
aussi Libre et Ce a Cause des bons et agreeablez
services quil en a Recu de tout temps:
Veut aussi et Entend que Le present testament
Soit Executé en sa forme et teneur Comme etant
sa derniere volonté, Revoquant a cet effet
tous autres testamen[t]s ou Codicelles quil auroit
cy devant fait voulant que Ce present
subsiste seul Comme etant Lordonnance

and leaves to the person who will find himself
charged with the execution
of his present [will and] testament the sum of four
hundred
livres real [money] for each year, and during [the
period of] its [the will's] management, in order to
compensate him for the troubles and cares that he
will kindly take for the present
execution.

Also, [he] wills and intends that *Sieur* Ennemond
Meuillon,
his nephew, manages his estate to the greatest
advantage
of his heirs, until they themselves come to take
possession of it or transfer powers.
Nevertheless, pray the *Sieur* St. Amant or one of
them
will help him with their counsel and their opinion
recommending
to his nephew the Scriptures and [to] follow them.

Also, [he] said and declared to us that all of the
above bequest, to take care of Charlotte, free
négresse,
and her two children, Louis, *mulatre*, and his sister
Helene,
also free, and [that] this [is] because of the good
and pleasant services he has always received:
[He] also wills and intends that the present
testament
be executed in its form and content as his last will,
revoking to this effect all other testaments or

de Sa derniere volonte La quelle il nous a dicté et Nommé Luÿ même et a Luÿ Lü et Relü en presance de Messieurs arnout et Gaillardÿ Negociants Demeurant en Cette dite Ville, fait dicté et nommé En Lad.^{[tit]es} Maison et chambre, Le Susdit Jour

[f. 3r] [dig.5]

mois et an presance des dits Sieurs arnout et Gaillardÿ Negociants et ont Signéz avec Le testateur et Nous Notaire Soussigné

[Signé:] b. Gailllardy

[Signé:] A. MeuLLion

[Signé:] J. arnou

[Signé:] Garic Notaire

Aujourdhuÿ quatorze fevrier mil Sept Cent soixante et Septs quatre heures de Relevée est Comparu par devant Nous Notaire Roÿal de La province de La Louisiane S^r. pierre daspie dit S^t. amant Lequel aÿant pry communication Du testament y autres partes et prq Etant Vü nommé et Institué Executeur testamentaire pour temoigner Laffection et amitié quil avôu pour Le S^r.

addendums that he may have previously made, wishing that this present [testament] alone may function as the provisions of his last will, which he dictated and named to us himself and [which he] himself read and re-read in the presence of *Monsieurs* Arnoult and Gaillardÿ, merchants residing in this said city. Made, dictated, and named in the said house and bedroom, the aforesaid day

[p. #4] [dig.5]

month, and year, in the presence of the said *Sieurs* Arnoult and Gaillardÿ, merchants, and signed with the testator and our notary, undersigned.

[Signed] B[arthélémy] Gailllardy

[Signed:] A[ntoine] Meuillion

[Signed:] J[ean] Arnoult

[Signed:] [Jean-Baptiste] Garic, Notary

Today [the] 14th [of] February seventeen hundred sixty seven at four o'clock in the afternoon appeared before us, [and the] Royal Notary of the Province of Louisiana, *Sieur* Pierre Daspie dit St. Amant who having taken communication of the will to other parts, and for being seen appointed and instituted executor of the will to testify

<p>Meuillein son beaupere ; a biens voulu par ces presentes acceptes Lad^{it}^e. charge, comme de fait il Laccepte et promet faire son devoir enicelui, de quoy nous a Requis acte que nous Luÿ avons octroyé fait et declaré en Etudes a La N^{ouve}^{lle}. orleans Le Susdit Jour mois et an presance des Sieurs Gardrat et francis Gaudreau tesmoins Requis y demeurants et ont signé avec Le Comparant et Nous Notaire</p> <p>[Signé:] saintamant [Signé:] Garic, N^o^[tai]^[e]</p>	<p>the affection and goodwill that he avows for the <i>Sieur</i> Meullion, his stepfather; has wished to make known [publicly that he will] accept the said charge, [and] as such [that] he accepts it and promises to do his duty in it, of all that has required [us to] act, which we grant him, made and declared in the ministerial office at New Orleans, the aforementioned day, month and year in the presence of <i>Sieurs</i> Gaudrat and Francis Gaudreau, required witnesses residing there and signed with the person appearing in court and our notary.</p> <p>[Signed:] [Pierre Daspie <i>dit</i>] St. Amant [Signed:] [Jean-Baptiste] Garic, Notary</p>
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