

Document #1729-10-21-03 – Petit Accused of Poisoning Crusquet

K4BL Abstract: Enslaver Bonnaud reports to the Registry of the Superior Council that a man he enslaved named Crusquet died from poisoning. Bonnaud accused Petit, another man he enslaved, of poisoning Crusquet and asks the Superior Council to prosecute Petit.

<https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/1640>

LHC Card:

Year 1729

October 21

944 [in pencil]

LHC Abstract: Bonnaud reports the death of his negro Crusquet from poisoning and asks for the trial of another negro Petit, suspected of the crime.

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Names: Black - Crusquet; Petit

Names: White - Arnaud Bonnaud; Surgeon Mirandé

Names: Native - n/a

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Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2] Bonnaud Declare que la Nuit du 19 Du Courant, Il mourut Un de ses <i>Negres</i> Nommé Crusquet a son	[page # 1] [digital 2] Bonnaud declared that on the night of the 19th of the current month, one of his <i>negres</i> named Crusquet died at his

<p>habitation[;] de quoy ayant été adverty Il sy transporta avec le S^r. Mirandé Chirurgien quy fit L[']ouverture du Corps dud.[it] <i>Negre</i> et trouva plusieurs Marques quy luy firent Connoitre que led.[it] <i>Negre</i> avoit été Empoisonné[;]ⁱⁱ et Comme led.[it] Bonnaud soubçonne [soupçonne] Le Nommé petit aussy un de ses <i>Negres</i> pour Estre L'auteur de Cet Empoisonnem^{[en]t}. suivant la [même] declaration Meme que Luy en a fait plusieurs fois led^[it]. Crusquet avant Mourir, Il a fait arrester Ce jour luy et mettre en prison led[it]. petit pour estre poursuivy Criminellement En Justice pour Ce fait A la requeste de Monsieur Le procureur general du Roy, a la N^{[ouvel]le}. orleans Ce 21^e. 8^{bre}. 1729</p>	<p>plantationⁱ; Having been alerted of this, he went there with <i>Sieur</i> Mirandé, surgeon, who opened the body of the aforesaid <i>negre</i> and found several signs which made it clear to him that the said <i>negre</i> had been poisoned; and as the said Bonnaud suspects the named Petit, also one of his <i>negres</i>, of being the author of this poisoning; according to the very statement made to him several times by the aforementioned Crusquet before dying, He had the aforementioned Petit arrested and detainedⁱⁱⁱ to be criminally prosecuted before the law for this act at the request of <i>Monsieur</i> the Prosecutor General of the king, at New Orleans, this October 21, 1729.</p>
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i. Roughly three years after Petit's death, a census taker visited the plantation of Arnaud Bonnaud. At that time in 1732, Bonnaud lived on a plantation just upriver from New Orleans where at least eighteen Africans or people of African descent were enslaved on the land. Charles R. Maduell, *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972), 116.

ii. Throughout the Atlantic world, enslaved and free Africans used poison and the threat of it to protect themselves and their kin. Thirty years after Bonnaud accused Petit of using poison to kill Crusquet, enslavers in the French colony of Saint Domingue captured and executed François Makandal, a maroon leader, who they accused of poisoning over six thousand people. Laurent DuBois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2004), 51-59.

iii. The prison was located next to the church in today's Jackson Square, at the intersection of today's Chartres St. and Orleans St. For more on the construction, location, and procedure inside of the prison complex, see especially "'Said, Without Being Asked': An Introduction" in Sophie White, *Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana* (Williamsburg, VA and Chapel Hill: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2019), 1-26.