

Document #1735-10-09-01 – The Contested Freedom of Sisters Marie Louise and Charlotte

K4BL Abstract:

In October of 1735, sisters Marie Charlotte and Louise gained their freedom from their enslaver Charles St. Pierre de St. Julien. Identified as the daughters of *negresse* Calaix *dit* Gagné, their mother remained enslaved to St. Pierre de St. Julien. Almost a year later, in September 1736, St. Pierre de St. Julien died.ⁱ The Attorney for Vacant Estates, Raymond Amyault D’Ausseville, claimed that St. Pierre de St. Julien owed money to the Company of the Indies. On the second page of this record, D’Ausseville voided the manumission of Marie Charlotte, forcing her back into slavery to pay the debt of her former enslaver. Over the next ten years, Marie Charlotte waged a legal battle to secure her manumission and the wages she lost while enslaved.ⁱⁱ

<https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/2444>

LHC Card: #23589-90. Year 1735. October 9. [in pencil] 1519

LHC Abstract: Manumission of Marie Charlotte and her small daughter Louise by their master, St. Pierre de St. Julien. [note: “her small daughter” is crossed off via pencil, and written in pencil underneath is “daughter of Palian? dte Gagné”]

Metadata:

Record ID - 114

Document ID - d0114

Filing Date - 1735-10-09

Full Index # - 1735-10-09-01

Doc Type - Notarial Acts, Emancipation (of Slave)

Origin - New Orleans, Louisiana

Language - French

Location - Louisiana Historical Center

Source - French Superior Council

LHQ - Vol. 8 #1, 0/1925, pg. 143

Names: Black - Marie Charlotte (St. Pierre de St. Julien); Louise (St. Pierre de St. Julien); Calaix *dit* Gagné (St. Pierre de St. Julien)

Names: White - Antoine Aufrere; Nicolas Henry; Charles St. Pierre Chevalier de St. Julien;

Names: Native - n/a

Keywords - childhood, emancipation, girlhood, witness, womanhood

Initial Meeting - Maya Hogarth

Doc Selector - Daija Yisrael

Bias Set Reviewer - Leila Blackbird, Olivia Barnard

Doc Transcribers - Olivia Barnard, Daija Yisrael

Doc Translators - Pelia Werth, Holly Nelson, Malaurie Pilatte, Kayleigh Voss, Olivia Barnard

Editor(s) - Jean Hébrard

Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]	[page #1] [digital 2]

<p>(23589.)</p> <p>Je soussigné s^t. Pierre de s^t Jullien Reconnoit avoir ce jourdhuy donné pleine et entiere Liberté a marie charlotte et Louïse negrites filles de Calaix d^{[i]t[c]} Gaigneⁱⁱⁱ ma negresse tant pour les bons et agreables services que nous Rendus lesd[its] enfan[t]s que pour autres Raisons particullieres de Conscience et Consent que lesd[its] Charlotte et Louise jouissent des a present des mesmes privileges que peuvent avoir toutes personnes Libres bien entendu quils observeront Le Respect quils doivent toujours avoir pour les Blancs et pour mieux assurer Lesd[its] Libertés desd[its] enfants Joblige et hypoteque tous mes autres biens meubles et Immeubles presents et advenir sans excepter aucuns de mes autres Esclaves tant pour ceque Je puis devoir a la Compagnie des Indes qu’a d’autres particulliers voulant et Entendant que personne ne puisse a lavenir Leur disputer Leur Liberté ny rien Leur demander p[our] [tear in page] quelle Raison que ce puisse estre, Commaussy quils puissent sestablir ou bon leur semblera des quils seront en age de former un Etablissement</p>	<p>(23589.)</p> <p>I, the undersigned St. Pierre, c[alled] St. Julien, recognize having granted today whole and entire Liberty to Marie Charlotte and Louise <i>Negrites</i>, daughters of Calaix c[alled] Gaigne, my <i>negresse</i>, as much [in return] for the good and agreeable services that the aforesaid children rendered us as for particular reasons of conscience and consent, that the aforesaid Charlotte and Louise enjoy from the present time [forward] the same privileges that all free people may have, provided that they will observe the respect that they must always have for white people and in order to better assure the said liberties of the said children, I oblige and mortgage all my other goods, moveable and immoveable, present and future without excepting any of my other <i>esclaves</i>, both for that which I may owe to the Company of the Indies and to other individuals, wanting and intending that no one may in the future dispute their freedom nor ask anything of them for any reason whatsoever, as well as that they may establish themselves wherever they see fit when they are old enough to form an</p>
--	---

<p>[f. 1 verso] [dig. 3]</p> <p>(23590.)</p> <p>Le present Consentement fait double en presence des temoins soussigné a la Nouvelle orleans Ce neufiesme octobre Mil sept cent trente Cinq [Signé:] charle De S^t pierre chevalier De S^t julien [Signé:] henry temoin [Signé:] aufrere temoin</p> <p>Liberté non Valide donnée par feu M^r. de S^t. Juillien a Marie [page déchiré] mulatresse a cause que le dit S^r. de S^t. Jullien devois trois fois plus q^l n'avoit de bien, et que cette Liberté a ete donnée Sans le Consentement de Mess^{rs}. les Gouverneur et intendant</p>	<p>establishment</p> <p>[p. #2] [dig. 3]</p> <p>(23590.)</p> <p>The present consent made double in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, at New Orleans, this ninth of October, one thousand seven hundred and thirty five. [Signed:] Charle[s] de St. Pierre Knight/<i>Chevalier</i> of St. Julien [Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry, witness [Signed:] [Antoine] Aufrere, witness</p> <p>Freedom not valid, given by the late <i>Mr.</i> de St. Julien to Marie [page torn] <i>mulatresse</i> because the aforementioned <i>Sr.</i> de St. Julien owed three times more than he had in property, and that this freedom was granted without the consent of <i>Messieurs</i> the Governor and the Intendant.</p>
--	---

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. Almost a year after registering the manumission of Marie Charlotte and Louise with the clerk of the Superior Council, enslaver St. Pierre de St. Julien died. See “Succession of Sr. St. Julien,” September 7, 1736 <https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/2716>.

ii. For Marion’s petition for back wages, see [d0351](#).

iii. After their enslaver’s death, administrators recorded an inventory of his estate that included mother Calaix “avec quatre enfants dont un *negrillon* de dix ans environ une *negrite* de six a sept ans une autre *negrite*

d'environ deux ans et demi et un autre a la mamelle de trois a quatre mois" (Calaix with four children, including a *negrillon* aged about ten years old, a *negrite* aged six to seven years old, another *negrite* about two and a half years old, and another at the breast aged three to four months"). See September 9, 1736 manuscript page 6069 <https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/2719>.