

Document # 1781-04-05-01 – Did Carlota Set Fire to Her Enslaver’s House?

K4BL Abstract:

On April 5, 1781, Guillermo Guignan discovered that enslaver Meuillon’s chicken coop was on fire, and put out the fire with the assistance of some local *regidores*. A series of testimony from white *vecinos*, free *mulatos*, and free and enslaved *negros* attempted to determine responsibility for the fire. While some testimony simply attempted to clear one’s own name or lack of knowledge of the event, others attempted to name Magnon, an adult *negro esclavo* of the Senegal nation, as the arsonist. Magnon, who allegedly set fire to another enslaver’s house in the past and fled to the mountains, likely fled once more to escape jailing and questioning regarding the event. This document is part of a series of documents related to the fire, or potentially multiple fires, which were set at the homes of enslavers in April of 1781. In the case of the fire set to Meuillon’s property, testimony also alleges the involvement of 13-year-old Carlota, *negra esclava*, who was declared guilty in setting fire to the courtyard of her own enslaver’s home.

<https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/14575>

Related doc: <https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/14576>

WPA card:

[...] indicates additions made in pencil

[439]

File #3515

April 5, 1781

Proceedings to discover the criminals and accomplices who started the fire in Mr. Meuillon’s house on the 5th of April this year.

Synopsis in the Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Vol. 16, No. 2, P. 345, April 1933.

(M. MOC)

Metadata:

Record ID - 271

Document ID - d02701

Filing Date - 1781-04-05

Full Index # - 1781-04-05-01

Doc Type - Judicial Acts, Criminal Cases / Acts, Investigation, Arson

Origin - New Orleans

Language - Spanish

Location - Louisiana Historical Center

Source - Spanish Judiciary

LHQ - Vol. 16, #2, Page 339, April, 1933

Names: Black - Maria Francisca; Arrieta; Arrieta (Andry); Magnon; Magnon (Boldue); Carlota; Carlota (Brantan); Theresa; Theresa (Dubreuil); Francisca; Francisca (Meullion); Mariana; Francisco Brantan

Names: White - Jean Carriere; Francisco Maria de Reggio; Joseph Ducros; Lois Boisdore; Jean Arnoult; Jean Arnoul; Charloi Beauvais; Guillermo Guignan; Meullion; Antonio Pinau, M. Delisle (De l'Isle)

Names: Native - n/a

Keywords - conspiracy, arson, girlhood

Initial Greeter - Kaillee Coleman

Doc Selector - Kaillee Coleman

Bias Set Reviewer - Leila Blackbird, Jessica Marie Johnson

Doc Transcribers - Ashley Reynaga, Alex Sanchez, Guadalupe Garcia

Doc Translators - Adrián McMahon, Alex Sanchez, Kaillee Coleman

Editor(s) - Kaillee Coleman, Guadalupe Garcia, Jessica Marie Johnson, Ashley Reynaga

Transcription (Spanish, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[folio 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>Ano 1781 Dilig[^]~ [Diligencias] practicada sobre Descubrim[^]to de los reo o complises en el incendio que principio el las casa de M.[^]r Meullion de cinco de Ab.[^]l de este año [symbol] No. 3515 [handwritten, modern, in blue pencil] #639 [handwritten, modern, in pencil] Apr - 5 - 1781</p> <p>[folio 1 verso] [digital 3]</p> <p>[blank]</p> <p>[folio 2 recto] [digital 4]</p> <p>En La Ciudad de la Nueva Orleans a cinco de Avril mil siete ciento ochenta y un años: el S[^]r D.[^]n Guido Dufossat Alcalde ordinario del segundo voto de esta Ciudad, y su juridicion por Su Magestad: Digo q.[^]e acaba de dar noticia por varios vecinos q.[^]e en este instante q.[^]e seran las doze y media del</p>	<p>[folio 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>Year 1781 Proceedings reported about the discovery of the accused or accomplices in the fire that began in the house of Monsieur Meullion [on] the fifth of April of this year [symbol] No. 3515 [handwritten, in modern blue pencil] #639 [handwritten, modern, in pencil] Apr - 5 - 1781</p> <p>[folio 1 verso] [digital 3]</p> <p>[blank]</p> <p>[folio 1 recto] [digital 4]</p> <p>In the City of New Orleans on the fifth of April, 1781: <i>Don Guido Duffossat, Alcalde ordinario del segundo</i>¹, and by jurisdiction of His Majesty: I state that I have just received notice by various citizens that at at 12:30 in the afternoon,</p>

¹ The term *alcade ordinario* refers to judges who tried *non-fuero* [non-military] cases and who sat in an elected judicial post on the New Orleans Cabildo council. Only ‘able and informed’ men were considered eligible for this post. In order to serve as an *alcade ordinario*, the judge was required to have a residence in the city and to live there during their tenure of office. The New Orleans Cabildo had two such *alcaldes* ordinarios, who were designated as *alcade ordinario de primer voto* and *alcade ordinario de segundo voto*, respectively. They were voting members of the council. Their judicial responsibilities, however, made it impossible for them to serve as *comisario anual* or *comisario mensual*. In the absence of the governor and his lieutenant, the *alcade ordinario de primer voto* presided over the Cabildo sessions. The *alcaldes ordinarios* were not salaried, and they collected set fees from the cases they heard in their respective courts. For more see Gilbert C. Din and John E. Harkins, *The New Orleans Cabildo: Colonial Louisiana’s First City Government, 1769-1803*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press (1996).

Dia se ha en cuentrado un poco de fuego prendido en el galinero de M^r Meullion, en cuya virtud mando su mrd q.^e para averiguar el hecho y Descubrirse los complices, y reos se proceda a tomar las declaraciones de las personas q.^e puedan tener conocimiento sobre el asunto, poniendo se presos los delinquentes, embargando les sus Bienes, y poder este q.^e [que] Su mrd [Merced] proveio [proveyo] asi Lo mando y firmo de q.^e [que] el Es.^{no} [Escribano] Doy fe ____ [signed] Dufossat

Ante mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
E.s.^{no} P.^{co}

[handwritten, modern, in blue pencil] # 639

Eincontinente mando su mrd comparecer ante si D.ⁿ Juan Carriere vecino de esta Ciudad de quien ante mi el pres.^{te} Es.^{no} recibio el juram.^{to} conforme a dro quien lo hizo por Dios con una Señal

[folio 2 verso] [digital 5]

de Cruz, lo cuyo cargo prometio Decir verdad y examinado segun el tenor del auto de Cabeza, se le pregunto lo siguiente ____

Preguntado si tiene conocimiento q.^e cerca de los doze y media se havia encendido fuego a la casa de M.^r Meullion, o, en algunos edificios de su patio Digo q.^e haviendo sido llamado por D.ⁿ Guillermo Guignan, le dio parte q.^e viendo el fuego en el patio de M.^r Meullion, le rugava de ir con el para apagar lo, y q.^e en efecto viendo lo, fue fuego con el, y haviendo sabido encima del gallinero de dho M.^r Meullion, ha hechado en dho fuego mas de treinta cubos de agua, y por vino con mucho trabajo a apagar lo, y q.^e haciendo presentadose

a small fire was found in the chicken coop of *Monsieur* Meullion, in whose virtue I ask Your Grace to find the fact[s] and discover the accomplices and the accused, then proceed to take the statements of persons who may have knowledge of the matter, imprisoning the offenders, [and] confiscating their properties, and for this reason that His Grace provided, he ordered and signed, of which I the notary do attest the [signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

[handwritten, modern, in blue pencil] # 639

Immediately His Grace ordered to appear before him *Don* Juan Carriere, property owner of this city whom before me, the present Notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, who made before God a sign

[folio 2 verso] [digital 5]

of the cross, who promised to tell the truth and examined according to the order of the principal decree, he was asked the following ____

Asked if he has knowledge that close to twelve-thirty pm a fire had been lit at the house of *Monsieur* Meullion, or, in some buildings of his backyard, he said that he was called by *Don* Guillermo Guignan who, giving notice of seeing the fire in the backyard of *Monsieur* Meullion, begged him to go with him to put it out, and that in effect seeing it was on fire, [and] understanding that it was on the chicken house of the said *Monsieur* Meullion, dropped more than thirty pails of water, and with much effort worked to put it out, and that having appeared

Los S. ^res [Señores] Caballeros Regidores D.^n Fran^co Maria de Reggio, D.^n Joseph Ducros, y D.^n Juan Arnoul mandaron descomponer Dho Galinero para evitar q.^e Dho fuego se comuniquen en otras partes, lo q.^e se hizo Luego, y responde ____

Preguntado si ha visto alguna persona sospecho rodear cerca de dha casa, o dentro de su patio, y si save circunstancias tocantes al hecho Dijo q.^e no y q.^e lo q.^e tiene declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.^to hecho, y firmo con su mrd de q.^e yo el Es.^no Doy Fe
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es.^no P^co

[folio 3 recto] [digital 6]

En incontinente Su mrd hizo comparecer ante Si D.^n Guillermo Guignan vecino de esta ciudad de quien ante mi el pres.^te Es.^no Recivio el juramento, conforme a Dro quien Lo hizo con uno señal de crux, lo cuyo cargo prometio a Dios decir verdad, y examinado segun el tenor de la cita anteced.^te y auto de Cabeza por la preguntas siguientes ____

Preguntado si tiene conocimiento del fuego q.^e se encendio el la casa de M.^r Meuillon, o, en los edificios de su patio a q.^e hora dijo q.^e como a las doze y medio del dia haciendo visto llama del fuego q.^e era muy considerable en un galinero q.^e era dentro del patio de dho M.^r Meuillon, llamo a M.^r Carriere, y los S.^res Cavalleros D.^n Fran.^co Maria de Reggio, D.^n Juan Arnoul al efecto de ir con el en Dha casa para q.^e contribuyesen a la extinction de dho fuego, y q.^e efectivam.^te haviendo se transportado luego M^r

the Señores Caballeros Don Francisco Maria de Reggio, Don Joseph Ducros, and Don Juan Arnoul ordered said chicken house [be] broken down to avoid said fire spreading in other parts
[Asked] what happened then, he responds ____

Asked if he had seen any suspicious person near said house, or inside the backyard, and if he knew of circumstances regarding the event, he said no, and that what he has declared is the truth under his sworn oath, and I sign with Your Grace that I, the Notary, do attest,
[signed] Duffosat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

[folio 3 recto] [digital 6]

Immediately His Grace ordered to appear before him *Don* Guillermo Guignan, property owner of this city from whom before me, the present Notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, who made a symbol of the cross, whose charge promised to God to say the truth and examined according to the order of principal decree, [he was asked] the following questions ____

Asked if he has knowledge of the fire that was lit in the house of *Monsieur* Meuillon, or in the buildings of his backyard at that time, he states that at around twelve-thirty in the afternoon he saw a large flame of fire in a chicken coop that was inside the backyard of *Monsieur* Meuillon. He names *Monsieur* Carriere [and] *Don* Francisco Maria de Reggio and *Don* Juan Arnoul as going with him to the said house in order to contribute to the extinguishing of said fire, and that having brought *Monsieur* Carriere with the

Carriere con los Dhos S[^]res y al instante Dho Carriere subio encima el gallinero encendido, y con el agua q.[^]e le dio el declarante, se apago dho fuego con mucho trabajo, y para evitar su progreso, los expresados S.[^]res Cavalleros regidores mandaron deshacer dho galinero, lo q.[^]e se executo Luego y responde ____

Preguntado si vio en el patio de dha casa, o al rededor de ella pasear alguna persona sospechosa, y se tiene sospecha contra algunas, y si save algunas otras

[folio 3 verso] [digital 7]

circunstancias tocantes al hecho, y si piensa q.[^]e Dho fuego provenia de Dentro, o de fuera de dho Galinero, dijo q.[^]e al parecer provenia de afuera, pero q.[^]e no vio nadie de sospechoso rodear, y q.[^]e no sospecha nadie de haver puesto dho fuego y q.[^]e no save mas q.[^]e lo q.[^]e ha declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.[^]to hecho, q.[^]e es de edad de quarenta años, y firmo con su mrd de q.[^]e yo el Es.[^]no Doy fe ____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo mazange [rubric]
Es.[^]no P[^]co

Eincontinente mando su mrd comparecer ante li D.[^]n Luis Boisdore vecino de esta Ciudad de quien ante mi el pres.[^]te Es.[^]no recivio el juram.[^]to conforme a Dro quien lo hizo a Dios con uno Senal de Cruz bajo del qual prometio a Dios Decir verdad, y examinado segun el auto de Cabeza, Dijo a las preguntas que sa le hizieron lo siguiente ____

Preguntado, si tiene Conocimiento del fuego q.[^]e se prendio en el Galinero de M.[^]r Meuillon, y Si sospecha alguna persona de haver cometido dho delito, o si tiene algun indicio q.[^]e pueda conducir al

aforementioned gentlemen, the said Carriere right away climbed on the burning chicken house and, with the water that the witness brought, extinguished said fire with much effort, and to avoid its progress, the said [gentlemen] were told to destroy said chicken coop, which they did, and he responds ____

Asked if he saw in the backyard of said home, or around it, any suspicious person pass by, if he has suspicion against someone, [or] if he knows any other

[folio 3 verso] [digital 7]

circumstances regarding the incident, and if he thinks that said fire originated inside, or outside of said chicken house, he said that it appeared to originate outside, but that he did not see anyone suspicious around, and that he does not suspect anyone of having set said fire, and that he does not know more than that which he has declared the truth under sworn oath, that he is forty years old and I sign, with Your Grace, that I, the notary, do attest,
[signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

Immediately His Grace ordered to appear before him *Don* Luis Boisdore, property owner of this city who before me, the present Notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, who made the oath to God with a symbol of the cross, under which he promised to tell the truth according to the principal decree. He responded to the following questions asked of him ____

Asked if he has knowledge of the fire that burned in the chicken coop of *Monsieur* Meuillon, and if he suspected anyone of having committed said crime, or if he has any indication that may lead to

conocimiento del hecho dijo q.ºe no save otra cosa, si no q.ºe hoy pasando en frente de dha casa, vio una *negra* de M.ºr Meuillon llevar efectos q.ºe sacava de dho

[folio 4 recto] [digital 8]

patio, y con ellos se iva a la levée; y q.ºe no save mas, q.ºe lo q.ºe ha declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.ºto hecho q.ºe de edad de quarenta y cinco años y firmo con su mrd de q.ºe yo el Es.ºno Doy fe

[signed] Dufossat

Ante mi

[signed] Leonardo mazange [rubric]

Es.ºno P.ºco

Eincontinente su mrd hizo comparecer ante si la *negra* fran.ºca perteniciente a M.ºr Meuillon aus.ºte de su casa, de quien ante mi el pres.ºte Es.ºno recibio el juram.ºto conforme a Dro, quien lo hizo con uno Señal de Crux, bajo del qual prometio a Dios decir verdad sobre lo q.ºe se le preguntara, cita anteced.ºte ____

Preguntada quien la visito hoy, y la noche pasada Dijo q.ºe nadia la visito en uno, y otro tiempo, y respon.ºde ____

Preguntada q.ºe efectos llevaba hoy a la levée, dijo q.ºe llevaba los efectos de la *mulata libre* Fran.ºca q.ºe consistian en unas ropas y q.ºe la piragua donde se pusieron, pertenecia a Antonio Pinau q.ºe iva en el puesto de los Natches, y respond.ºe ____

Preguntada donde iva la *mulata*; y q.ºe motivo tenia para irse dijo q.ºe en la habitación de M.ºr Meuillon para hazer curarse de una enfermedad

knowledge of the incident; he said that he does not know anything, [but that] he did pass in front of said house today, [and that] he saw a *negra* of *Monsieur* Meuillon carry items that she took from said

[folio 4 recto] [digital 8]

backyard, and [that she] went with them to the levee; and that he does not know more, that what he has declared is the truth under the truth under oath, that he is forty-five years old, and I sign, with Your Grace, that I, the notary, do attest

[signed] Dufossat

Before me,

[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]

Public Notary

Immediately His Grace ordered to appear before him the *negra* Francisca belonging to Mr. Meuillon, [who had been] absent from his home, from whom before me, the present Notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, she made a sign of the cross, under which she promised to God to tell the truth about what they asked her, [about] the previous testimony

Asked who visited her that day, and the past night, she said that no one visited her at that, or any other time, and she responds ____

Asked what belongings she carried to the levee, she said that she brought the belongings of the *mulata libre* Francisca, which consisted of some clothing and the canoe where she put them, [which] belongs to Antonio Pinau, who went to the post in Natchez, and responds ____

Asked where the *mulata* went, and what motive she had to leave, she said that [she had been] in the house of *Monsieur* Meuillon to recover from an illness

q.ªe tenia y Responde ____

[folio 4 verso] [digital 9]

Preguntada quien tenia costumbre de visitar dha *mulata*, Dijo q.ªe la visitaba ordinariam.ªte Mªr Antonio Pino y responde ____

Preguntada desde quando tenia Dha *mulata* deseo de irse, y si se iba con Dho Antonio Pino, dijo q.ªe no save, y responde ____

Preguntada si en los terrenos inmediatos a el de su Amo, vio alguna persona rodear, o en frente de su Casa, dijo q.ªe no, y responde ____

Preguntada si hoy, o, los dias pasados la dha *mulata* quejarse de alguna persona *blanca*, o *negra* dijo q.ªe no, y q.ªe aunqªe se le hicieron varias preguntas tocantes al hecho dijo no saver mas, q.ªe no puede presumir donde viene dho fuego, por no haberse entonces en su Chimenea, como lo vio su mrd [merced] el S.ªr

Alcade en dho tiempo, y q.ªe lo q.ªe ha declarado es la verdad bajo de su jura.ªto hecho q.ªe es de edad de cincuenta años, y no firmo por no saver, lo hizo su mrd de q.ªe yo el Es.ªno Doy fe
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es.ªno Pªco

Eincontinente Su mrd hizo comparecer ante Si la mula *mulata* libre nombrada Maria Fran.ªca de quien ante mi el pres.te Es.ªno recibio el juramenªto conforme a Dro quien

[folio 5 recto] [digital 10]

that she had, and she responds ____

[folio 4 verso] [digital 9]

Asked who had the habit of visiting said *mulata*, she said that she normally visited *Monsieur* Antonio Pino and she responds ____

Asked how long said *mulata* desired to leave, and if she went with said Antonio Pino, she said that she doesn't know, and responds ____

Asked if in the nearby lands of her enslaver, she saw any person around, or in front of his house, she said no, and responds ____

Asked if today, or, in the past days said *mulata* complained about any *blanco* person, or [any] *negra*, she said no, and although they asked her various questions regarding the incident she said she does not know more, that she cannot presume from where said fire came, [that she cannot account] for it not having been from his chimney as His Grace the *Señor alcalde* saw at said time, and that what she has declared is the truth under oath, that she is of fifty years of age, and [she] did not sign because she does not know how, I signed, Your Grace, of which I the present notary do testify,
[signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

Immediately His Grace made appear before him the *mulata libre* named Maria Francisca, from whom, before me, the present notary, she received the oath in accordance with the law,

[folio 5 recto] [digital 10]

lo hizo con uno Senal de Crux, bajo del qual prometio a Dios decir verdad, y examinada segun la cita anteced.^te
Dijo a las preguntas q.^e se le hicieron lo Siguiente ____

Preguntada donde tiene su morada en esta Ciudad, y desde q.^to tiempo vino a ella, dijo q.^e el la casa de M^r Meullion, y desde doze Dias, y responde ____

Preguntada si tiene licencia de M^r Meullion para quedar en dha casa, y si tenia mucha Ropa en ella Dijo q.^e M^r Meullion le havia concedido Dha licencia, y q.^e sus efectos consistian en ropas, y todo lo q.^e conviene para su utilidad, y a mas su cama, y responde ____

Preguntada si quito de Dha casa Alguna Casa, y desde q.^e tiempo
Dijo q.^e esta mañana quito su ropa en parte para embarcar en una piragua q.^e pertenecia a M^r Antonio Pino, y q.^e le havia prometido el pasage por la habitación de M^r Meullion, y responde ____

Preguntada quien la visitaba Dha casa de M.^r Meillon, y quien tenia costumbres de frequentar la negra Fran.^ca esclava de Susodho Dijo q.^e el Dho Antonio la visitava las noches, pero q.^e no vio nadie visitar dha negra y responde ____

Preguntada ~~quien la visito~~ Donde para ahora este M^r Antoine, y donde iva dijo q.^e es cargando su piragua y q.^e va a las Natchéz, y responde ____

Preguntada donde estava, q.^do prendio el fuego, dijo q.^e

she made a Sign of the Cross, under which she promised
to God to tell the truth, and [be] examined according to the aforementioned interrogation,
She responded to the following questions ____

Asked where she resides in this city and how long she has been here, she said at the house of *Monsieur* Meullion, and for twelve days, and responds

Asked if she has permission from *Monsieur* Meullion to stay in said house, and if she had many belongings there, she said that *Monsieur* Meullion had granted her said permission, and that her belongings consisted of clothes, and everything useful for her needs, as well as her bed, and she responds ____

Asked if she removed anything from said house, and since when,
she said on that morning she removed part of her clothing [and went] to board a canoe belonging to *Monsieur* Antonio Pino, and that he promised her passage to the residence of *Monsieur* Meullion, and she responds ____

Asked who visited said house of *Monsieur* Meullion, and who was in the habit of visiting the *negra* Francisca, *esclava* of the aforementioned, she said that the said Antonio visited at night, but that she did not see anyone visit the said *negra*, and responds

Asked ~~who visited her~~, where this *Monsieur* Antonio is now, and where he was going, she said that he was loading his canoe and that he was going to Natchez, and she responds ____

Asked where she was when the fire started, she said that

[folio 5 verso] [digital 11]

No estava en casa, q.ª havia ido en la de Mªr De l'Isle para efectuar algunas comisiones q.ª tenia por algunos vecinos de la Punta Cortado y responde ____

Preguntada quien tiene su morada en Dha casa con la *negra* Fran.ªca de Meuillon, dijo q.ª una *negra libre* nombrada mariana tiene su marada en ella con licencia de dho Mªr Meuillon, y responde ____

Preguntada si sospecha donde puede proceder Dho fuego dijo q.ª no, y q.ª no save mas, y q.ª lo q.ª tiene declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.ªto hecho q.ª es de edad de quarenta y cinco años, y no firmo por no saver lo hizo su mrd de q.ª yo el Es.ªno Doy Fe

Emendado: quien la visita: no vale= LM
[signed] Dufossat

Ante mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es.ªno Pªco

Eincontinente su mrd hizo comparecer ante si la *negra libre* nombrada Mariana de quien recivio ante mi el pres.ªte Esªno el juran.ªto conforme a Dro quien lo hizo con uno Señal De Crux Bajo del qual prometio a Dios decir verdad, y examinada segun el tenor de la cita anteced.ªte y del auto de Cabeza, dijo a las preguntas q.ª

[folio 6 recto] [digital 12]

se le hicieron lo siguiente ____

Preguntada desde q.ª tiempo tiene su morada en la casa de Mªr Meuillon, y con q.ª licencia

[folio 5 verso] [digital 11]

she was not at home, that she had gone to house of *Monsieur* De l'Isle to carry out some errands she had for some neighbors from Point Coupée, and she responds ____

Asked who has their residency in said house with the *negra* Francisca Meuillon, she said that a free *negra* named Mariana resides there with permission from said *Monsieur* Meuillon, and she responds ____

Asked if she suspects where the fire might have originated, she said no, and that she does not know more, and that what she has declared is the truth under the oath she made, that she is forty-five years old, and she did not sign because she does not know how. His Grace signed it, of which I, the notary, do attest.

Amended: who visits her: no vale =LM
[signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public notary

Immediately His Grace made appear before him the *negra libre* named Mariana from whom, before me, the present notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, who made a sign of the cross under which she promised to God to tell the truth and [be] examined according to the previous interrogation and the principal decree, responded to the questions that

[folio 6 recto] [digital 12]

followed ____

Asked for how long she has been staying in the home of *Monsieur* Meuillon, and with what permission,

Dijo q.ªe hay mucho tiempo, y q.ªe con licencia del referido, y responde ____

Preguntada si desde algunos dias, mudo sus ropas, y otros efectos de dha casa, dijo q.ªe no, y q.ªe todo lo q.ªe le pertenece queda ahora misma en dha casa y responde ____

Preguntada si en el tiempo q.ªe el fuego prendio estava dentro de dha casa, dijo q.ªe estava en su quarto, haziendo su comida, y responde ____

Preguntada si vio en dha casa, o en su patio algun hombre *blanco*, o *negro*, q.ªe no vio en aquel dia si no las personas q.ªe vinieron a apagar el fuego y responde ____

Preguntada, si presume quien puede haver cometido el Delito de encendario, Dijo q.ªe haciendo visto nadie, ni tampoco haver oido hablar sobre el asunto, no puede tener sospecha ninguna, y aun q.ªe se le hicieron varias preguntas tocantes al hecho, dijo no saver mas, y q.ªe lo tiene declarado es la verdad bajo de su juramen.ªto q.ªe es de edad de sesenta años, y no firmo por no saver [signed] Dufossat

Ante mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Esªno Pªco

[folio 6 verso] [digital 13]

Eincontinente su mrd hizo su mrd hizo comparecer ante si el nombrado Antonio Pino vecino de esta Ciudad de quien ante mi presªte Esªno se recivio el juramen.ªto con forme a Dro, quien lo hizo con uno Señal de Crux, bajo del qual prometio decir verdad, y examinado segun

she stated that she [had] stayed for much time, and with the permission of the aforementioned, and she responds

Asked if after some days, [had] she moved her belongings and other effects from said house, she said no, and that all that belongs to her currently resides in said house and she responds ____

Asked if in the time that the fire burned she was inside the house, she said she was in her room, making her food, and she responds ____

Asked if she saw in said house, or in the backyard, any *blanco* man, or *negro*, that she did not see [any] on that day, but the people who arrived to put out the fire, and responds ____

Asked if she suspects who may have committed the crime of arson, she said that having seen nothing, nor having heard talk about the topic, she cannot have any suspicion, and even though they asked her various questions regarding the incident, she said she does not know more, and that what she has declared is the truth under oath, that she is sixty years old, and does not sign because she does not know how [signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public notary

[folio 6 verso] [digital 13]

Immediately His Grace made appear Before him the named Antonio Pino, [a] citizen of this city from whom, before me, the present Notary, received the oath in accordance with the law, who made a sign of the cross, under which he promised to tell the truth, and be examined

el tenor del auto de Cabeza, y de las citas anteced. ^tes ____

Preguntado si hay mucho tiempo q. ^e conoce la *mulata libre* nombrada Maria Fran. ^ca dijo q. ^e hay diez años, y responde ____

Preguntado hazia transferir sus ropas en su piragua, dijo q. ^e los llevo por orden de dha *mulata* para entregar las á M^r Charloi Beauvois vecino de la Punta Cortada y responde ____

Preguntado si la *negra* Fran. ^ca de M^r Meuillon no remitió algunos efectos en su piragua de la parte de dha *mulata*, dijo q. ^e no lo sabe por haver sido ausente de dha piragua todo este dia, y resp. ^de ____

Preguntado si dha *mulata* devia irse con el en algun puesto, o, habitacion, dijo q. ^e devia ir con el a la habitacion de Meuillon pero q. ^e siendo demaziado cargado, havia el declarante mudado de pensamiento, y responde ____

Preguntado si havia convenido de dar la

[folio 7 recto] [digital 14]

pasaje en su piragua para conducirla a la habitacion de M^r Meuillon dijo q. ^e lo hablo cerca de las nueve del dia, y q. ^e le havia prometido dho pasaje, pero q. ^e por ser demaziado cargado, mudo de pensamiento, y responde ____

Preguntado si vio alguna persona pasear en frente de la dha casa y patio Durante este dia, dijo q. ^e no, y responde ____

Preguntado lo q. ^e presume del fuego q. ^e sucedio hoy en la casa de M^r Meuillon, y si sospecha

according to the primary decree and the previous procedures ____

Asked if he has known for some time the *mulata libre* named Maria Francisca, he said for ten years, and he responds ____

Asked around when he transferred the clothes in his canoe, he said that he took them by the order of said *mulata* to deliver them to *Monsieur* Charleroi Beauvois, [a] citizen of Point Coupée and responds ____

Asked if the *negra* Francisca of *Monsieur* Meuillon did not send some belongings in his canoe on behalf of said *mulata*, he said that he does not know, as he was absent from said canoe all day, and he responds ____

Asked if said *mulata* was meant to go with him to said post, or [a] residence, he said that she should have gone with him to the residence of *Monsieur* Meuillon but that [the canoe] being too laden, the witness had changed his mind, and he responds ____

He was asked if he had agreed to give her

[folio 7 recto] [digital 14]

passage in his canoe to bring her to the residence of *Monsieur* Meuillon, he said that he spoke to her around nine am that day, and that he had promised said passage, but that by being too laden, [had] changed his mind, and he responds ____

Asked if he saw any person walk in front of said house [or] in the backyard during the day, he said no, and he responds ____

Asked what he suspects about the fire that occurred today in the house of *Monsieur* Meuillon, and if he

alguna persona, dijo q.ªe no, y q.ªe no conoce mucha gente en la Ciudad por ser viajante y responde ____

Preguntado si save algunas circunstancias relativas al hecho, dijo no saver, y q.ªe lo q.ªe tiene declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.ªto hecho, q.ªe es de edad de quarenta y cinco años Y no firmo por no saver lo hizo su mrd de q.ªe yo el Es.ªno Doy Fe ____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[Signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es.ªno Pªco

Eincontinente Su mrd hizo comparecer ante si el *negro libre* Fran.ªco Brantan de quien ante mi el pres.ªte Es.ªno recibio el

[folio 7 verso] [digital 15]

el juran.ªto conforme a Dro quien lo hizo con uno Señal de Crux bajo del qual prometio a Dios decir verdad, y examinando segun el tenor del auto de Cabeza, y sumaria ____

Preguntado si tiene algun conocimiento del fuego q.ªe prendio en el galinero de Mªr Meuillon su vecino inmediato, dijo no tener otro conocimiento, sino de haver auxiliado a Mªr Carriere para apagar lo, y q.ªe no save otra circunstancia y responde ____

Y aunq.ªe se le hizieron varias preguntas tocantes al hecho, dijo no saver nada y q.ªe lo q.ªe tiene declarado es la verdad bajo de su juram.ªto q.ªe es de edad de cincuenta años, y no firmo por no saver lo hizo su mrd de q.ªe yo

suspects any person, he said no, and that he does not know many people in this city because he is a traveler and he responds ____

Asked if he knows any circumstances related to the event, he said he does not know anything, and that what he has declared is the truth under oath, that he is forty-five years old, and he did not sign because he does not know how, I signed, Your Grace, which I the notary do certify ____
[signed] Dufossat

Before me,
[Signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public notary

Immediately His Grace made appear before him the *negro libre* Francisco Brantan from whom, before me, the present Notary, received the

[folio 7 verso] [digital 15]

the oath in accordance with the law, who made a sign of the cross under which he promised to God to tell the truth, and [be] examined according to the tenor of the principal decree, and in summary ____

Asked if he has any knowledge of the fire that burned in the chicken house of *Monsieur* Meuillon his immediate neighbor, he said that he has no knowledge, except for having helped *Monsieur* Carriere to put it out, and that he does not know other circumstances and he responds ____

And although they asked various questions pertaining to the event, he said he does not know anything and that what he has declared is the truth under oath, that he is fifty years old, and does not sign for he does not know how, I signed, Your Grace,

El Es. ^no Doy Fe ____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[Signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es. ^no P. ^co

Incontinently su mrd hizo comparecer ante si
a una *negrita* nombrada Carlota Esclava de
Fran. ^co Brantan de quien su mrd [merced] por ante
Mi el Essno [Escribano] le recibio juram. ^to que lo hizo
por Dios y la Cruz segun dro lo cuio cargo

[folio 8 recto] [digital 16]

prometio decir verdad y sele hicieron
las preguntas siguientes ____

Preguntada si tiene conocim. ^to del fuego
que se puso y prendio en las casas de
M. ^r Meuillon Dijo que si; y que el dho
fuego se puso como al medio dia por el *negro*
Magnan que estava en el terreno de
Fran. ^co Emd [Estimado] Vecino de las Alemanes
y que vio que dho *negro* echo un pedaso
de fuego ensima se Gallinero de
M ^r Meuillon y que poco despues
se encendio y responde ____

Preguntada si save aque nacion es el
dho *negro* a quien pertenece, y si duerme
en el quarto de la declarante: Dijo
que el dho *negro* es de nacion Senegal
que no save el nombre asu amo pero
que este tiene su *morada* en la casa
de S. ^r Salomon Maline en una
sala baja de ella q. ^e nunca ha
Dormido en el quarto a la Declar. ^te

which I the Notary do certify ____
[signed] Dufossat

Before me
[Signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public notary

Immediately His Grace made appear before him
a *negrita* named Carlota, *esclava* of
Francisco Brantan, of whom His Grace before me,
the Notary, received the oath by God and the cross in
accordance with the charge

[folio 8 recto] [digital 16]

promised to tell the truth and was asked
the following questions ____

Asked if she has any knowledge of the fire
that was set and burned in the houses of
Monsieur Meuillon, she said yes, and that said
fire was set around midday by the *negro*
Magnan who was on the land of
Francisco, esteemed property owner of the German
Coast
and that she saw said *negro* drop fire to the top of the
chicken house of
Monsieur Meuillon and shortly after it
caught fire and responds ____

Asked if she knows what nation the
said *negro* belongs to, and if he resides
in the [rooms] of the witness: she said that
the said *negro* was born in Senegal
that she does not know the name of his enslaver but
that he resides in the house
of *Señor* Salomon Maline in a
room of which she has never
slept in

[folio 8 verso] [digital 17]

y q.º solo lo conoce por haver venido junto a esta Prov.ª y en la misma embarcac.ºn

Preguntada si tiene conocimiento que el dho *negro* u otro hubieren atentado en otra ocacion de poner fuego en alg.ª otra parte Dijo que si que hay algunos Dias que el dho *negro* le dijo en presencia de Anrieta *negra esclava* de su Mad.ªme Andry que el con su amo havian atentado poner fuego e incendiar la casa de M.ªr Caillo pero que al tiempo que lo ponian con un tiron fueron descubiertos por la Patrulla y q.º hizieron fuga al monte y que al dia siguiente temprano volvieron a la Ciudad y responde ____

Y aunq.º se le hicieron otras preguntas y repreguntas al caso tocantes a todas Dijo que lo que llevaba declarado es la verdad en cargo de su juramento Dho que es de edad de

[folio 9 recto] [digital 18]

trese años no firmó por que Dijo no saver lo hizo su mrd de que Doy Fe ____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es.ºno P.ºco

Incontinently su mrd hizo comparecer ante si a la *negra* nombrada Arrieta *esclava* de M.ªme Andry seg.ºn su mrd [Su Merced] por ante mi el Essno [Escribano] le recibió juram.ºto que lo hizo

[folio 8 verso] [digital 17]

and that she only knows him for having arrived together to this province in the same ship

Asked if she has knowledge of the said *negro* who might have attempted on another occasion to set fire in some other part, she said that there were some days that the said *negro* said in the presence of Arrieta, *negra esclava* of Madame Andry, that with his *amo* he had attempted to set fire and burn the house of Monsieur Caillo but at the time they set it off they were discovered by the patrol and they fled to the mountain and on the following day they returned early to the city and responds ____

And although they asked other questions and cross questions on the case regarding all, She said that what she declared is the truth in charge under oath of the law [and] that she is

[folio 9 recto] [digital 18]

thirteen years of age, and [that] she does not sign for she does not know how, I signed, Your Grace, which I do attest
[signed] Dufossat

Before me
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public notary

Immediately His Grace ordered to appear before him the *negra* named Arrieta, *esclava* of Madame Andry, [who] per His Grace before me, the notary, received the oath

por Dios y la cruz segun dho su cuio cargo prometio decir verdad y se le hicieron las preguntas siguientes ____

Preguntada si entava presente quando el *negro* Magnan Dijo a la *negra* Carlota *esclava* de Fran.^co Brantan que el con su amo havian atentado el poner fuego e incendiar la casa de M. Caille pero que al tiempo que lo ponian con un tiron fueron Descubiertos por la Patrulla e hisiera fuega

[folio 9 verso] [digital 19]

al monte havia la mañana siguiente que bolvieron a esta ciudad Dijo que es cierto que dho *negro* dijo a la Carlota *negra esclava* de Fran.^co Branta lo mismo que el le pregunto y responde ____

Preguntado si rento no dio parte a su amo Dijo que no por q.^e el dho *negro* le rogó de no rebelarlo a nadie y responde

Preguntado De q.^e nacion es dho *negro* y si conoce a su amo; Dijo que dho *negro* es de nacion Senegal *esclavo* de un Yngles que no save su nombre que hay tiempo q.^e bajo a esta Cuidad; y lo habinto hablar con la dha Carlota, y q.^e ella le ha dicho a la declarante que el dho *negro* intentava poner el fuego en alguna parte pero que no fijo donde y responde ____

Preguntada si save con que persona tenia maior comunicac.^n dho *negro* Dijo Que cree q.^e este vive en el quarto dela

by God and the cross [and] following said oath promised to tell the truth and they asked her the following questions ____

Asked if she was present when the *negro* Magnon said to the *negra* Carlota, *esclava* of Francisco Branton, that he with her enslaver had attempted to set fire and to burn the house of M. Caille but at the time they set it off they were discovered by the patrol and fled

[folio 9 verso] [digital 19]

to the mountain, the following [day] they returned to this city, she said that it is true that said *negro* said to Carlota, *negra esclava* of Francisco Branton, the same that he asked her and responds ____

Asked if she returned to inform her enslaver, said that no because said *negro* plead that she not reveal him to anyone and responds

Asked of what nation said *negro* comes and if she knows his enslaver, she said that said *negro* is of the Senegal nation, *esclavo* of an Englishman [whose] name she does not know, that he has been in this city for some time; and that he had the habit of talking with said Carlota, and that she has said to the witness that the said *negro* intended to set fire to some part but that he had not fixed where and responds ____

Asked if she knows with what person had more communication with said *negro*, she said that she believes that he lives in the room of the

[folio 10 recto] [digital 20]

Negra therisa perteneciente a M.^{me} Dubrevil
por haverlo visto muchas vecez
en compañía de esta y q.^e nunca lo ha
Visto con otra pers.^a y responde

Se le hicieron otras preguntas al caso tocantes
atodas Dijo lo mismo y que lo q.^e
lleva Declarado es la verdad en cargo de
su Juram.^{to} the que en verdad de quinze
Años no firmo por q.^e dijo no saver lee
Todo lo qual Doy fee sumrcd [Su Merced]
De q.^e tambien Doy Fe _____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es^{no} P^{co}

Incontinenty fue mrd hizo comparecer
ante si a la *negra* Theresa en la casa
De M.^{me} Dubreuil de quien su mrd [Su Merced] por
Ante mi el essno [Escribano] le recivio juramento
que lo hizo [jur Dios] y la crus segun
dro lo cuio cargo prometio Decir verdad
y examinada jure tenor de la
cita q.^e le frase la *negra* Cinnieta
esclava de M.^{me} Andry y demas
q.^e le tendra por conbeniente Dijo

[folio 10 verso] [digital 21]

Dijo q.^e solo lo conose por haverlo visto
Una ves hablar con Carlota esclava
De Fran.^{co} Brantar y con la *Negra*
Arrieta en la puertas de la casa
del dho Brantan y responde ____

Preguntada q.^e Dia Dijo que la maña

[folio 10 recto] [digital 20]

negra Therisa belonging to *Monsieur* Dubreuil,
for she has seen him many times
in the company of her, and that she has never
Seen him with another person, and she responds

She was asked other questions regarding the case
She said the same thing [to all of them] and that what
she has declared is the truth under oath [and] that she is
fifteen years old, she did not sign because she said that
she does not know how to read, all of which I certify,
Your Grace, Of which I also certify
[signed] Dufossat

Before Me
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

Immediately, His Grace made appear
before him the *negra* Theresa at the house
of *Madame* Dubreuil from whom Your Grace, before
me, the notary, took an oath
which she made under God and the cross according to
the law, under which she promised to tell the truth
and be examined, she swore to what was
said by the *negra* Arrieta,
esclava of *Madame* Andry and regarding
anything else she finds relevant

[folio 10 verso] [digital 21]

she said that she only knows of him for having seen
him once speaking with Carlota, *esclava*
of Francisco Branton and with the *negra*
Arrieta at the doors of said Brantan's
house, and responds ____

Asked on what day, she said the morning

ma del en q. ^e acaerio el fuego ^[prim. ^a] en las
caras de M. ^r Meuillon, y tambien
lo vio hablar con las ante dhas antes
de Ayer poco antes de descubierto
El segundo fuego en la misma casa de M. ^r Meuillon y
responde ____

Preguntada preguntada como se llama
dho *negro* Dijo llamarse Magnin
de Nacia Senegal y que es esclavo
de M. ^r Bolodue y responde ____

Peguntada si dho *negro* o alg^a otra
pers. ^a le ha ablado sobre dho fuego
O [entencia] de ponerlo Dijo q. ^e a nadie
ha oído hablar sobre tal asunto
Y responde ____

Y aun q. ^e se le hicieron
Otras preguntas y repregunta

[folio 11 recto] [digital 22]

alcaso tocante Dijo no tener otra
Cosa q. ^e lo q. ^e lleva Declarado es la verdad
En cargo de su juramen. ^to dho q. ^e es verdad
De treinta años no firmo por que
Dijo no saver lo hizo su mrd de que
Doy Fee ____
[signed] Dufossat

Ante Mi
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Es. ^no P^co

[folio 11 verso] [digital 23]

[blank]

[folio 12 recto] [digital 24]

when the first fire occurred in the
houses of *Monsieur* Meuillon, and she also
saw him speaking with the aforementioned before
yesterday, shortly before the discovery
of the second fire in the same houses
of *Monsieur* Meuillon and she responds ____

Asked what the said *negro* is called, she said he is
called Magnin, that he is
of Senegalese origin and that he is an *esclavo*
of *Monsieur* Bolodue, and she responds ____

Asked if said *negro* or any other
person has spoken to her about said fire
or the intention to set it, she said that nobody had
heard talk about such matter
and responds ____

and although they asked her
other questions and follow-up questions

[folio 11 recto] [digital 22]

regarding the case, she said she has
nothing else to declare, that what she already declared
is the truth under her said sworn oath,
that she is thirty years old, she does not sign because
she does not know how, I signed, Your Grace, which
I do certify
[signed] Dufossat

Before Me,
[signed] Leonardo Mazange [rubric]
Public Notary

[folio 11 verso] [digital 23]

[blank]

[folio 12 recto] [digital 24]

[blank]	[blank]
[folio 12 verso] [digital 25] [blank]	[folio 12 verso] [digital 25] [blank]