

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.

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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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<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>3</p> <p>Angelica negra quartada p.^r Anto nio 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] [number notation crossed out] [number notation crossed out]</p> <p>[p. #2] [dig.3]</p> <p>[blank]</p> <p>[p. #3] [dig.4]</p> <p>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>

<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 ~</p> <p>[f. 3v] [dig.5]</p> <p>portante Amd Suplico Se Sirva proveer y mandar como devo pedido por ser deJusticia y en lo nesesa rio &^a.</p> <p>Como lo pido____ [Firmado:] Piernas</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>esclava of Don Santiago Porta,</i> 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> <p>[p. #4] [dig.5]</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As I demand, [Signed:] Piernas</p> <p>Thus ordered: [By] Lord <i>Don</i> Pedro Piernas, Lieutenant Colonel of the Fixed Regimentⁱⁱ of this post, and <i>alcalde ordinario</i>, the first mayor of this city, which he signs on the thirtieth of July of one-thousand seven-hundred and seventy-nine.</p>
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<p>[Firmado:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>En Lo ora lo hice saver á Angelica negra Doy fee____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[f. 4r] [dig.6]</p> <p>Librosela voleta que empreza } yentregue ala parte Doy fee }</p> <p>[Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[f. 4v] [dig.7]</p> <p>[en blanco]</p> <p>[f. 5r] [dig.8]</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>Auto hace por nombrado el tercero que esta parte ofrece acepte y Jure en la</p>	<p>[Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>On the same day, I made this known to Angelica, <i>negra</i>. I certify,</p> <p>[Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[p. #5] [dig.6]</p> <p>The Deed of Freedom is thus issued and delivered to the party. I certify,</p> <p>[Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[p. #6] [dig.7]</p> <p>[blank]</p> <p>[p. #7] [dig.8]</p> <p>5</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>Judgment: Having been named third [party] that for his part offers, accepts, and swears [an oath] in</p>
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<p>forma de estilo y haga Sele Saver a D.ⁿ Santiago porte nombre otra dentro de tres dias por la Suya a con apreçerim^{to} de procederse con el nombrado = Piernas_____</p> <p>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_____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[f. 5v] [dig.9]</p> <p>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 agosto dos de mil sêtt. Setenta y nueve años_____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Pedro Bertoniere</p> <p>N.ⁿ En la ciudad De La Nueva orleans á cinco de Agosto de mil Sett.^s Setenta y</p>	<p>the [ordinary] form [and] style, and let it be known to <i>Don</i> 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 <i>Don</i> Santiago Porta, [and to do so] by any person able. [At] New Orleans [on] July 30 of one-thousand seven-hundred and seventy-nine.</p> <p>[Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[p. #8] [dig.9]</p> <p>Being at the plantation of <i>Don</i> 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 <i>reales</i> on two traversing women [who will] go and return to New Orleans [on] August second of one-thousand seven hundred seventy-nine.</p> <p>[Signed:] Pedro Bertonnaière</p> <p>Notarized: In the City of New Orleans on the fifth of August of one-thousand seven-hundred</p>
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<p>nueve años Yo el ešño hice saver el Dec.^{to} anteded.^{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~ ~</p> <p>[f. 6r] [dig.10]</p>	<p>and seventy- nine I, the notary, have made known the decree preceding, to <i>Don</i> Santiago Porta in person, who said he was appointed by a third party on his behalf, <i>Don</i> Antonio Boudousquié, for</p> <p>[p. #9] [dig.10]</p>
<p>el aprecio de la mulatica que se expresa esto dio por su repuesta y lo firmo de que doy fee____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Jacques Porte [Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]</p> <p>N.ⁿ acep.ⁿ Y juran^{to} }</p> <p>[Cuerpo:]</p> <p>En la Ciudad de la Nueva Orleans dho dia mes y año Yo el essno~ hice saver el nombram.^{to} anted.^{to} a D.ⁿ Ant.^o Boudurquier q.ⁿ Dijo que lo aceptava y acepto y Juro por Dios ntro Señor y una Señal De cruz De proceder bien y fielmente y lo firmo de que Doy fee____</p>	<p>the appraisal of the <i>mulatica</i>,ⁱⁱⁱ [and] as expressed he gave his answer, and he signs that which I certify.</p> <p>[Signed:] Jacques Porta [Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]</p> <p>Notarized, accepted, and decreed }</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>In the City of New Orleans on the aforementioned day, month, and year, I, the notary, made the previous appointment known to <i>Don</i> Antonio Boudousquié, who said that he accepted it, and having accepted and sworn [his oath] before our Lord God and [with] a sign</p>

<p>[Firmado:] Boudousquié [Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[f. 6v] [dig.11]</p> <p>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 Tasarcon 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 ____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Tarascon [Firmado:] Boudousquié</p> <p>Antemi [Firmado:] Andres Almonester De Roxas</p>	<p>of the Cross, shall proceed well and faithfully, and he signs that which I certify,</p> <p>[Signed:] Boudousquié [Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[p. #10] [dig.11]</p> <p>In the City of New Orleans, on the aforementioned day, month, and year, Santiago Tarascon, third party named by the <i>negra</i>, Angelica, and <i>Don</i> Antonio Boudousquié, in the same <i>calidad</i>, for the estimation and appreciation of one <i>mulatica</i> 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 <i>pesos</i>, and the referenced Boudousquié [estimated her worth] as 200 <i>pesos</i>. They said to have done their duty with fidelity and to the best of their knowledge and sign that which I certify,</p> <p>[Signed:] Tarascon [Signed:] Boudousquié</p> <p>Before me [Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas,</p>
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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 [\[insert xxx link here\]](#).

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.