

fDocument #1763-08-29-01 – Antoine Enters Blacksmith Apprenticeship

K4BL Abstract:

On August 1, 1763, a man named Antoine, enslaved to the Capuchins, commenced a blacksmith apprenticeship. Less than a month later, Reverend Dagobert, Capuchin priest in New Orleans, notarized the agreement he made with the blacksmith Jean Roy to train Antoine for three years. This document summarizes the terms of their agreement.

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Names: Black - Antoine (Dagobert)

Names: White - Jean Roÿ; Reverend Father Dagobert; *Reverend Père* Dagobert; Duverger; De Leggue; Ducros; Joseph Bicat; François Gauvin, son (*fils*);

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[Marginalia:]	[Marginal note:]

<p>1763</p> <p>29 aout</p> <p>Le R.[everend] p.[ère] Dabogert</p> <p>acte D'apprentissage</p> <p>Dun negre chez</p> <p>Jean Roÿ</p> <p>(8447).</p> <p>[Signé:] Duverger</p> <p>[Signé:] DeLeggue</p> <p>[Signé:] Ducros</p> <p>(70636).</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p>Aujourdhuÿ vingt et neuvieme aout mil sept cent soixante et trois, avant midÿ par devers nous avocat au parlement et notaire Roÿal de La province de La Loüisianne fut present Le R.[everend] p.[ère] Dagobert Curé primitif de La paroisse S^t. Louis de cette ville de La N.^{[ouv]elle} orleans Superieur des Missions Entretenues icy En cette province, Lequel Reconnoit avoir mis en apprentissage de ce premier de Ce mois pour trois années avec Le Sieur Jean Roÿ M^e [maître] forgeron Demeurant en cette ville un Negre nommé Antoine[;] pour par</p>	<p>1763</p> <p>August 29</p> <p>The Reverend Father Dagobert</p> <p>Act of Apprenticeship</p> <p>for a <i>nègre</i> at the place of</p> <p>Jean Roy.</p> <p>(8447).</p> <p>[Signed:] Duverger</p> <p>[Signed:] De Leggue</p> <p>[Signed:] Ducros</p> <p>(70636.)</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>Today, the twenty-ninth of August one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, in the morning, before us, lawyer in parliament and royal notary of the province of Louisiana, was present the Reverend Father Dagobert, <i>curé primitif</i>ⁱ of the parish of Saint Louis in this city of New Orleans, Superior of Missions maintained here in this province, who acknowledges having placed in an apprenticeship from the first of this month for three years</p>
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<p>Le dit Jean Roÿ Cÿ present et acceptant, retenir Le dit negre et Le prendre pour son apprentif auquel pendant Le dit tem[p]s il promet Luÿ enseigner et apprendre son metier de forgeron et tout Ce dont il se mêle et Entrainer en iceluÿ Le nourrir, Loger, Coucher, et Le traiter doucement et humainement Comme il convient et appartient de le faire. Le dit negre antoine present a promis d[']apprendre Le dit metier du mieux quil Luÿ sera possible servir son maitre en iceluÿ et en tout ce quil Luÿ commandera de Licite et honnette, faire son profit, eviter son Damage et L'en avertir sil vient a sa Connaissance sans Sabsanter, ni aller servir ailleurs pendant les dites trois années, auquel cas d[']absence Le dit R. P. Dagobert promet de Le chercher et Le faire chercher, et le ramener ou faire ramener a son dit maitre, pour parachever le temps qui pourra Lors rester a Expirer du present apprentissage pour Lequel est Convenü La somme de trois cent livres Dont Celle de Cent cinquante Livres, devant actuellement etre payées au dit S^r. Jean Roÿ et Les cent Cinquante Livres Restantes devant Luÿ etre payes a La fin des dites trois années Du dit apprentissage</p>	<p>with the <i>Sieur</i> Jean Roy, master blacksmith residing in this city,ⁱⁱ a <i>nègre</i> named Antoine; for the said Jean Roÿ, here present and accepting, to retain the said <i>nègre</i> and take him as his apprentice, to whom during the said time he promises to teach and instruct his trade, blacksmithing, and all that it involves and to train him in it, feed him, provide him housing and a bed, and treat him gently and humanely as it is proper and fitting to do. The said <i>nègre</i> Antoine, present, has promised to learn the said trade to the best of his ability to serve his master in this trade and in all that he may lawfully and honestly command, make his profit, avoid causing him damage and inform him [Jean Roy] if any [damage] comes to his [Antoine's] knowledge; without being absent, nor going to serve elsewhere during the said three years, in which case of [Antoine's] absence the said Reverend Father Dagobert promises to look for him and to have him looked for, and to bring him or have him brought to his said master to complete the time that may then remain to expire from the present apprenticeship for which the agreed sum of three hundred <i>livres</i>, of which one hundred and fifty <i>livres</i> must be paid now to the said <i>Sieur</i> Jean Roy and the</p>
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<p>[feuille 1 verso] [digital 3] (70637).</p> <p>Laquelle somme de Cent Cinquante Livres premier terme Le dit Jean Roÿ Reconnoit et Confesse avoir Receû du R. p. Dagobert dont Le tient quitte, et Les Cent Cinquante Livres Restantes, Le dit R. p. Dagobert s[']oblige de Les payer, au bout des Dites trois années au dit Jean Roÿ où au porteur des presentes, a peine de tous depens Domages et interets. Car ainsi sont Convenüs, promettant &obligeant & Renonceont & fait et passé en Etudes a La Nouvelle orleans Le susdit jour mois et an, presence des Sieurs Joseph Bicat et pierre Gauvin temoins y Demeurants et ont signé avec nous notaire soussigné.</p> <p>[Signé:] jean Roÿ [Signé:] f.[rère] dagobert cap.[ucin] Sup.^{[erieu]r} [Signé:] Gauvain fils [Signé:] j.^{[osep]h} Bicat [Signé:] Garic, Notaire</p>	<p>remaining one hundred and fifty <i>livres</i> must be paid to him at the end of the said three years of the said apprenticeship, [page # 2] [dig. 3] (70637).</p> <p>which sum of one hundred and fifty <i>livres</i> first term the said Jean Roy acknowledges and confesses to have received from the Reverend Father Dagobert, of whom he holds in good faith, and the remaining one hundred and fifty <i>livres</i>, the said reverend father Dagobert obliges himself to pay, at the end of the said three years to the said Jean Roy or to the bearer of those present, under penalty of all expenses, damages, and interests. Thus, those agreed, promising and obliging and renouncing and made and passed in office at New Orleans the aforementioned day, month and year, in the presence of <i>Sieurs</i> Joseph Bicat and Pierre Gauvin, witnesses residing there, and having signed with our notary, the undersigned.</p> <p>[Signed:] Jean Roy [Signed:] Brother Dagobert Capuchin Superior [Signed:] [Pierre] Gauvain [Jr.], son [Signed:] Joseph Bicat [Signed:] [Jean Baptiste] Garic, Notary</p>
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i. The *curé primitif* served as the original priest of the parish of Louisiana under the French regime. According to the second edition of the dictionary of the *Académie Française* published in 1718, the *curé primitif* has perpetual vicar in the parish even when he is no longer serving a congregation. *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*, 2ème édition, 1718.

ii. According to the 1727 census of New Orleans, blacksmith Jean Roy lived on *Rue du Quay*, now Decatur Street, in today's French Quarter. Charles R. Maduett, Jr., *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1972), 82.