

## 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.

<https://www.lacolonialdocs.org/document/14488>

### **LHC Card:**

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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: Black - (Ramis), Angelica; (Porta), Maria Antonia; (Porte), Maria Antonia

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

Names: Native - n/a

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Transcription (Spanish, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[folio 2 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><u>Año de 1793</u></p> <p>Dilig.<sup>^</sup>s principiada por Angelica negra sbre pretender la livertad de Maria Antonia Su Nieta esclava De Santiago Porta____</p> <p><u>N.<sup>^</sup>o 26</u></p> <p>#559 [moderno, en lápiz azul]</p> <p>D N____ <del>46</del></p> <p>———— <del>14</del></p> <p><u><del>SN<sup>^</sup>o 18</del></u></p> <p>[f. 2 verso] [dig.3]</p> <p>[EN BLANCO]</p> <p>[f. 3r] [dig.4]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>[page # 1] [digital 2]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p>Year 1793</p> <p>Proceedings initiated by Angelica, <i>negra</i>, about claiming the freedom of Maria Antonia, her granddaughter, slave of Santiago Porta</p> <p>Number 26</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 style="text-align: right;">3</p>

<p>Angelica negra quartada p.^r Antonio Ramis en las dirigencias que he promovido sobre darle la libertad a mi nieta nombrada Maria Antonia Esclava de D.^n Santiago Porta y lodemas digo que se sirvio ûnd demanda que dentro de tercerodia el ante dhõ nombrase un tercero por Su parte y Como Consta dela dilig^a del presente Es.^no el Su So dhõ tiene su morada en su habita.^on en atencion de que Seha de servir ûnd mandar librar boleta de comparendo, al Suso dhõ con insercion deladhã providen.^a como teda Su entend^on a qualquier pers.^a habil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>[f. 3v] [dig.5]</p> <p>portante</p> <p>Amd Suplico Se Sirva proveer y mandar como deuo pedido por ser deJusticia y enlo nesesa rio &amp;a.</p> <p>Como lo pido____</p>	<p>Angelica <i>negra coartada</i><sup>1</sup> [belonging to] Antonio Ramis in the proceedings that I have begun about granting freedom to my granddaughter named Maria Antonia, slave of <i>Don</i> Santiago Porta, and [as of] the rest, I testify that it was served and ordered that, within the third day [of] the aforesaid, [would be] appointed a third [party that], for his part, as stated, of the proceedings of the present notary, the aforementioned [man] has [had] his <i>morada</i> in his bedchambers in the attention that she must serve him in order to get a Bill of Appraisal to the aforementioned providence, as understood to be by any capable person.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>[p. # 4] [dig.5]</p> <p>Thusly,</p> <p>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,</p>
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<sup>1</sup> In Spanish Louisiana, the practice of *coartación*—or manumission by self-purchase—proceeded after an enslaved person was valuated 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, NC: Duke University Press, 1997).

<p>[Firmado:] Piernas</p> <p>Proveido el señor ^Do Pedro Piernas the mente coron.^l en el Batallon fixo deesta Plaza y Alcalde ordinario Deprimer soto Deesta ciudad que lo firmó a trein ta deJulio Demil set.^Ssetenta y nueve.</p> <p>[Firmado:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>EnLo 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>[Signed:] Piernas</p> <p>Thus ordered: [by] Lord <i>Don</i> Pedro Piernas, Lieutenant Colonel of the fixed battalion of this plaza, <i>alcalde ordinario</i>, [and] the first mayor of this city, which I sign on 30 of July of one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine.</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>
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Por decreto proveido en este dia  
por D<sup>n</sup> Pedro Piernas then. ~ del ba  
tallon fixo de estaplasa esta man  
dado lo siguiente \_\_\_\_\_

Auto hace por nombrado el tercero que  
esta parte ofrece acepte y Jure en la  
forma de estilo y haga Sele Saver  
a D<sup>n</sup> Santiago porte nombre otra  
dentro de tres dias por la Suya a con  
aprecerim ^to de procederse con el  
nombrado = Piernas \_\_\_\_\_

Cuya providencia esta mandado se  
le notifique a D<sup>n</sup> Santiago porte  
por qualquier persona habil nueva  
Orleans y Julio treinta de mil  
sette<sup>s</sup> setenta y nueve años \_\_\_\_\_

[Firmado:] Almonester

[Rubrica, Almonester]

[f. 5v] [dig. 9]

Estando en la habitacion de D<sup>n</sup>  
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<sup>a</sup> Con advertencia q  
gastado quatro r. ^s par doS traveisas

By the decree provided on this day  
by *Don* Pedro Piernas, Lieutenant of the  
fixed battalion of this plaza,  
the following is ordered.

Judgment: Having been named third [party] that  
for his part offers, accepts, and swears [oath] in the  
[ordinary] form [and] style, and let it be known  
to *Don* 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 *Don* Santiago Porta  
[to do so] by any person able. [At] New  
Orleans [on] July 30 of one  
thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine.

[Signed:] Almonester

[Rubric, Almonester]

[p. # 8] [dig. 9]

Being in the lodgings of *Don*  
Santiago Porta, [which is] far from this city  
by a league and on the other side of the  
river, I notified him of the contents on the Bill  
aforementioned, and because of this  
I issue an Action of Warning that  
they are wasting four *reales* for two traversing

<p>de es y bober N<sup>va</sup> orleans y agusto doS de mil sētt. setentay nuebe añoS____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Pedro Bertoniere</p> <p>N.<sup>n</sup> En laciudad DeLa Nuevaorleans á cinco deAgosto de mil Sett.<sup>s</sup> Setenta y nueve años Yo el eššno hice saver el Dec.<sup>to</sup> anteced.<sup>te</sup> ad.<sup>n</sup> Santiago Borta en su pers.<sup>a</sup> quien Dijo que nom____ brada por tercero por Su parte ad.<sup>n</sup> Antonio Boudurquie para ~</p> <p>[f. 6r] [dig.10]</p> <p>6</p> <p>el aprecio de la mulatica que se expresa esto dio porsu repuesta y lofirmo de que doy fee____</p> <p>[Firmado:] Jacques Porte [Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[Marginalia:] N.<sup>n</sup> acep.<sup>n</sup> } Y juram<sup>to</sup> }</p> <p>[Cuerpo:]</p> <p>En la Ciudad de la Nueva Orleans dho</p>	<p>women [who will] return to New Orleans on August second of one thousand seven hundred seventy-nine.</p> <p>[Signed:] Pedro Bertonnière</p> <p>Notarized in the City of New Orleans on 5 of August of one thousand seven hundred and seventy- nine I, the notary, have made the decree known to <i>Don</i> Santiago Porta in person who said he was appointed by a third party for his part to <i>Don</i> Antonio Boudousquié for ~</p> <p>[p. # 9] [dig.10]</p> <p>6</p> <p>the appraisal of the <i>mulatrica</i> that states he gave for his answer, and I sign it and I certify.</p> <p>[Signed:] Jacques Porta [Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[Marginal note:] Notarized, accepted, } and sworn }</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>in the city of New Orleans on the aforementioned</p>
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dia mes y año Yo el essno^~ hice saver el  
nombram.^to anteced.^to a D.^n Ant.o  
Boudurquier q.^n Dijo quelo aceptava y acepto y  
Juro  
por Dios ntro Señor yuna Señal De  
cruz Deproceder bieny fielmente  
y lo fimo de que Doy fee\_\_

[Firmado:] Boudousquié

[Firmado:] Almonester [Rubrica, Almonester]

[f. 6v] [dig.11]

EnlaCiudad Dela Nueva Orleans,  
dho dia mesy año Santiago Tararca  
tercero nombrado por la negra Ange  
lica y D.^n Antonio Boudusquier  
enlamisma Calidad para la esti-  
macion y áprecio Deuna mulati  
ca nombrada Maria Antonia De  
edad De quatro años huiendola  
visto enpresencia Demi el es^~sno, y  
enferenciado largo rato Sobre Su  
valor Dijeron el dho Tasarcon quela  
estimaua en ciento Settenta ycinco  
p.^S y el referido Boudusquie en  
Doscientos p.^S cuia estima.^~ Dijo hauer  
hecho bieny fielm.^te seg.^n si inte lig.^a ylo  
firmaron Dequé Doy fee\_\_

day, month, and year, I, the notary, made the  
previous appointment known to *Don* Antonio  
Boudousquié who said that he accepted it, and I  
accept and swear by our Lord God and a sign of  
the Cross to proceed well and faithfully,  
and I sign that I certify,

[Signed:] Boudousquié

[Signed:] Almonester [Rubric, Almonester]

[p. # 10] [dig.11]

In the city of New Orleans,  
on the aforementioned day, month, and year  
Santiago Tarascon,  
third [party] named by the *negra*, Angelica,  
and *Don* Antonio Boudousquié,  
in the same *calidad*, for the estimation and  
appreciation of one *mulatrica*  
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  
*pesos*, and the referenced Boudousquié  
[estimated her worth] as 200 *pesos*. They said  
to have done their duty with fidelity and to the best  
of their knowledge. And I  
sign that which I certify,

<p>[Firmado:] Tarascon [Firmado:] Boudousquié Antemi [Firmado:] Andres Almonester De Roxas s.^no p.^co [Rubrica, Almonester]</p> <p>[f. 7r] [dig.12]</p> <p>[EN BLANCO]</p> <p>[f. 7v] [dig.13]</p> <p>[EN BLANCO]</p>	<p>[Signed:] Tarascon [Signed:] Boudousquié Before me [Signed:] Andrés Almonester de Roxas, Notary Public [Rubric, Almonester]</p> <p>[p. # 11] [dig.12]</p> <p>[BLANK]</p> <p>[p. # 12] [dig.13]</p> <p>[BLANK]</p>
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