

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

**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.<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup>

<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”]

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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

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[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2] (23589.)	[page #1] [digital 2] (23589.)

Je soussigné s<sup>t</sup>. Pierre de s<sup>t</sup> Jullien Reconnoit avoir  
 ce jourdhuy donné pleine et entiere Liberté a  
 marie  
 charlotte et Louïse negrites filles de Calaix d<sup>[ij](e)</sup>  
 Gaigne<sup>iii</sup>  
 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  
  
 [f. 1 verso] [dig. 3]

I, the undersigned St. Pierre, c[alled] St. Julien,  
 recognize having  
 granted today whole and entire Liberty to Marie  
 Charlotte and Louise *Negrites*, daughters of Calaix  
 c[alled] Gaigne,  
 my *negresse*, 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 *esclaves*, 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  
 establishment

(23590.)	[p. #2] [dig. 3]
<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<sup>t</sup> pierre chevalier De S<sup>t</sup> julien [Signé:] henry temoin [Signé:] aufrere temoin</p> <p>Liberté non Valide donnée par feu M<sup>r</sup>. de S<sup>t</sup>. Juillien a Marie [page déchiré] mulatresse a cause que le dit S<sup>r</sup>. de S<sup>t</sup>. Jullien devois trois fois plus q<sup>l</sup> n'avoit de bien, et que cette Liberté a ete donnée Sans le Consentement de Mess<sup>rs</sup>. les Gouverneur et intendant</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>.