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## Entry Nr. 025 Marguerite

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

*Catalog number:* **25**  
*Name(s) of African providing account:* **Marguerite**  
*Date account recorded:* 1764  
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*Source:* Quotations of account printed in original French with English translation and facsimile of French manuscript from p. 1-3 and 191 in VOICES OF THE ENSLAVED: LOVE, LABOR, AND LONGING IN FRENCH LOUISIANA by Sophie White. Copyright © 2019 by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Used by permission of the University of North Carolina Press. [www.uncpress.org](http://www.uncpress.org).

*Sophie White comments:* (p. 1)

“In 1764, Marguerite, a twenty-five-year-old enslaved African, was charged with running away from her master and brought before the Superior Council of Louisiana in New Orleans. She was first made to swear an oath to tell the truth before a crucifix and to identify herself to the court; then her interrogation began.”

*White’s comments mixed with quotations in English translation and original French from Marguerite:*

p. 1:

“Though she was the defendant in a criminal case, Marguerite placed the blame for her actions on her owners, complaining that she had become a fugitive three weeks earlier because “her master and mistress always beat her, that when she fell sick her mistress came to see her after four days and said

‘Mademoiselle is playing at being ill, is she?’ and right then beat her with a stick, made her work and clear the courtyard, and threatened that if she did not work she would call the slaves to take her to the public square to give her a hundred lashes of the whip”

*(Son Maitre et Sa Maitresse La battaient toujours qu'elle Estoit Malade et que Sa maitresse Etant venu voir au bout de quatre jours Elle luy dit Mademoiselle se fait la malade, que dans l'instant Elle Luy donna des coups de baton et l'envoya travaillé et défriché dans la Cour. et qu'elle La menacée que Si Elle n'aloit pas travailler quelle alloit appeller des negres pour la Conduire sur la place pour luy faire donner cent Coups de fouët).*

“Marguerite concluded her narrative by adding to her list of grievances that, ‘every night, they locked her up like in a convent’  
*(tous les Soirs ils la faisoient Renfermé comme dans un Couvant).*”

p. 2:

“Although court procedure required her [Marguerite] to identify herself and, as an enslaved woman, to provide the name of her owner, she also volunteered that she was “of the Congo nation,” stating that “she was named Margueritte belonging to M. Dufossat former Captain, aged twenty-five years old, of the Congo nation  
*(a dit s'appeller Margueritte appartenant à M. dufossat ancien Capne âgée de vingt cinq ans de nation Congo).*”

p. 191

“Marguerite—who in 1764 accused her master and mistress of locking her up like in the convent—stated that on “the three Sundays that she was a runaway, she had been at Mr. Vilars’s in the cabin of the Congo *nègre* Janot”  
*(pendant les trois dimanche quelle a Été maron Elle a été chez led. Vilars dans la Cabanne du nommé janot negre Congo).*”

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