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Entry Nr. 260 Bartolomé Portuondo Congo

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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: **260**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Bartolomé Portuondo Congo**
Date account recorded: 1838
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Source: English translation of statement printed on p. 169 in VOICES OF THE ENSLAVED IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY CUBA: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY, edited by Gloria García Rodríguez. Translated by Nancy L. Westrate. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. Copyright © 2011 by the University of North Carolina Press. Used by permission of the publisher. www.uncpress.org.

Comments: None

Text of Account:

English translation –

p. 169:

“Statement of Bartolome Portuondo Congo, fifty years old, slave belonging to Don Vicente Portuondo on his ingenio Jicotea.

. . . he fled the hacienda Jicotea alone, heading out into the scrubland there, where he came upon several other slaves belonging to his master who had run away earlier, named Luis, Federico, Desiderio, Jose Caridad, Carlos, Sebastian, Eduardo, and Celestino. All together, they embarked upon their march deep into the scrubland. . . they made for Demajagual, because there were wild yams there that they could live on, and built their shantytown settlement there. As soon as they ran out of yams, they pushed farther on, settling down wherever they found more of them. They remained in the backlands of Demajagual for about a year, until the day that the black men Ignacio, Esteban, and Vicente showed up. They invited them to go with them to the fugitive shantytown of El Cedro, where they told him that there was plenty to eat. . . He ran away because his master did not give him anything to eat but ground corn, the mayoral made them work a lot, and he cruelly punished him . . .”

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