

2022

Entry Nr. 306 Nicolás Lucumí

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Recommended Citation

Entry Nr. 306 Nicolás Lucumí, Huskie Commons, Northern Illinois University, Fogleman, Aaron Spencer and Hanserd, Robert, *500 African Voices*, 2022.
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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: **306**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Nicolás Lucumí**
Date account recorded: 1840
Date account first published: 1996
Date of entry creation: 20 September 2021

Source: English translation of statement printed on p. 118-119 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. 118:

“Statement of Nicolas Lucumi, aided by an interpreter.

. . . The night before the incident took place, the slave Fermin climbed up into the loft that served as living quarters. As he was slow about it, the mayoral flogged him and in the process lashed a pustule that he [the deponent] had on his buttocks. Fermin became very angry, and said that he was going to kill the mayoral. The next morning, when Fermin left for work, instead of setting out for the sawyer’s, where he was supposed to have worked, he armed himself with his machete and mixed in with those hands going out to work in the fields. Upon coming to the outer edge of the banana grove,

p. 119:

he stayed behind in the gully, waiting for the mayoral to go by. He struck him from behind with his machete, stunned him, knocking him right off his horse, seriously injuring him. . . . He alone

was the perpetrator, the others being some distance off. As soon as they saw him flee, they followed him. The deponent could do nothing less, because, just like those around him, he loved and respected Fermin a great deal because he was a leader back in their native land. Asked if he knew that killing a white person, and especially the mayoral, was a crime, he responded that he knew it because it was the first thing that his countrymen told him when he arrived on the farm ...”

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