

British and Spanish Court of Mixed Commission

Before Edward Gregory Esquire, and Edward Fitzgerald Esquire His Britannic Majesty's Commissioners.

Present. James Woods Esq. J. P. J. P. Sierra Leone 15th May 1821

Interrogatory

I was born in England, St. Jago de Cuba is my present place of residence, I have lived there three years. I am a Married Man, My Wife lives at St. Jago de Cuba. I have no family -

Interrogatory

I am Mate of the Schooner Anna Maria. I was appointed Mate by Matthew Smith the Supercargo of the Schooner / Alias Matthias Sanchez / Smith as far as I know lives at St. Jago de Cuba, Smith is I believe an American by birth, but naturalized as a Spaniard, I joined the Schooner at St. Jago de Cuba on the 24th November 1820. as Second Mate and Gunner and was appointed Chief Mate in the River Bonny on the Coast of Africa - in place of Frederick Gaymer, who from some disturbances with the Supercargo was displaced and put. On shore -

I have known the Schooner for above eighteen months. I first saw her at St. Jago de Cuba, she was built in Portsmouth.

Signed George Gardiner

True Copy
Woods.
J. P. J. P.

James Woods Esq. J. P. J. P.

Edward Gregory Esq.

Edward Fitzgerald Esq.

James Woods Esq. J. P. J. P.

Edward Gregory Esq.

Edward Fitzgerald Esq.

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In the City of London

No 4

Spain

of the 4th June 1821

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3. Interrogatory The name of the Master is don Juan de la Roche, to the best of my belief he is a Spaniard, I have only known him from or about the 24th November 1820 He lives generally in S. Jago he is a Married Man, his Wife lives at S. Jago

4. Interrogatory The Supercargo Smith or Mr. Wright who is a part Owner, appointed la Roche to the Command of the Schooner, Smith is a part Owner - The Supercargo Smith delivered the possession of the Schooner to la Roche -

5. Interrogatory I was on board when the Schooner Anna Maria was seized, she was seized for having Slaves on board, she sailed under Spanish Colours, we had an American Ensign an English Ensign, a Spanish Ensign and a Patriot Ensign, also a private signal a White Flag with a blue cross - We had these Colours on board in the event of our falling in with Privateers, to deceive them and prevent their taking us -

6. Interrogatory The Schooner has been called the Anna Maria for the last eighteen Months, was so called was so called when she was brought in here by His Britannic Majesty's Ship Minnydow - Signed George Gardiner

being then rescued from a Privateer She had then no Slaves on board and was released - at a former time she was called the Brites, but I did not know her then, She measures Two Hundred and Seventy Tons - We had thirty five Men on board including the Master and Officers, some of the Crew are Spaniards, some English, some French, some Americans and some Portuguese, I do not know the number of English, I believe they are all on board the Taster or Thistle -

Interrogatory I had no interest in the Schooner or Cargo nor had any person on board except the Supercargo, and perhaps the Master -

Interrogatory The Voyage commenced at S. Jago and was to have ended there, S. Jago was the last clearing port, We sailed thence for Bonny, did not touch at any place on the way, We stopped at Bonny for the purpose of getting Slaves - The Natives came on board the Schooner for the purpose of trading and both the Natives Canoes and the Schooners boats brought the Slaves on board

Signed George Gardiner

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9 Interrogatory

We first saw the Capturing Vessels about Ten Miles North of the River Bonny, this was about six or seven hours before the Schooner was taken, about seven o'clock in the evening the Schooner was taken it was just dusk when the Canoe came alongside with the Captains the Schooner was then at anchor, when we first saw the Capturing Vessels we were beating out of the River, We came to an anchor in about an hour after.

10 Interrogatory

The Schooner has six eighteen Pound Gunades, eighteen Muskets for Ship's use about eleven or twelve Cutlasses and Eleven Pistols and also two Musketoons, there was about ten Quarter Barrels of Gun Powder, and about sixty round shot, she was so armed for protection against Patriot Privateers. No resistance was made at the time of the Capture so far as I know. I heard Mr. Lyon the Officer of the Privateer say a Pistol had been fired from the Cabin but I did not hear it, I was busy however fixing the anchor

Signed George Gardiner

and when I heard the noise I thought the Negroes had risen - I heard Mr. Lyon say, that some person sung out to fire the Blunderbuss - but the Blunderbuss was not fired I know it was not fired because it remained loaded I saw a Marine some days after endeavouring to draw the charge from it I would have heard the report if it had been fired - I speak of the Blunderbuss that was on the side of the Schooner the Canoe came, there was one on the other side, but I do not know whether it was loaded or not, We had no instructions to resist or escape from Captain I do not know of any instructions to destroy Papers or to conceal or refuse to deliver them up -

Interrogatory

At the time the Vessel was seized, Mr. Wright was part owner with the Supercargo - also Mr. Shelton and one other whom I know personally but whose name I do not recollect and part

Signed George Gardiner

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I believe Mr. Wright is of English descent bred in America I do not know where he was born - Mr. Shelton is an American and was formerly American Consul at St. Jago, both Wright and Shelton reside at St. Jago but I do not think they have any families.

12. Interrogatory I do not know whether any Bill of Sale has been made of the Schooner

13. Interrogatory The persons I have already mentioned are the legal owners and if the Vessel and Slaves should be released, they would belong to them and to the other part owners whom I do not know.

14. Interrogatory - The Outward Cargo of the Schooner was liquor and cloth, arms and ammunition 60 Muskets Powder and Cuttaps the cargo was all shipped at St. Jago - The present cargo consists of Slaves and provisions for them, We took four Hundred and Thirty Seven Slaves on board as I think but I cannot be sure from the time of beginning the Trade until the Capture.

There was about Three Hundred Men and Boys and about One Hundred and thirty seven Women and Girls, all of which were taken from the Shore at Bonny, none died before the Capture with exception of one that jumped overboard and was drowned, I do not know any cause for this one's jumping overboard, after the Capture three Women jumped overboard and were eat by the Sharks - I do not know anything about the deaths since the Capture, Mr. Hudson the Surge Master kept the account of them - the Schooner did not go into any other Harbour or port from her departure from Bonny until her arrival at Sierra Leone -

15. Interrogatory All that I know of the Ship's Papers is that when I with the other of the Crew signed Articles, We were assured that the Schooner would sail under regular Spanish Papers and no other.

16. Interrogatory No Papers were burned destroyed concealed &c before the Vessel was taken.
Signed Green Gooden

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18th Interrogatory I do not know of any Papers belonging to the Vessel in any other place as expressed in this interrogatory

19th Interrogatory I do not know of any Char-terparty -

20th Interrogatory I do not know of any under- - rance I believe the Vessel is not insured -

21st Interrogatory Bulk was not broken until the arrival of the Vessel at Bonny, with the exceptions of provisions and Water for the crew
(Signed) George Gardner.

true copy
full words
H. Reg.

British and Spanish Court
of Mixed Commission -
Before Edward Gregory
Esquire His Britannic Majesty's
Commissionary Judge and
Richard Fitzgerald Esquire
H. B. Majesty's Commissioner
of Arbitration -
Present James Woods Esq. A. C. J.
Savannah 10 May 1821

Spanish Schooner Anna Maria
Examination on oath of
Archibald James a Seaman
Onboard the said Vessel -

Standing Interrogatories

Interrogatory I was born at Caracas, I am a Creole of that place

Interrogatory I was present at the time the Spanish Schooner Anna Maria was seized she was seized for Staving on the Coast she sailed under Spanish Colours, she had also an English Ensign and an American Ensign, she had one private flag Red, Blue and White, I do not know for what reason
Archibald ^{his} James
Woods

British and Spanish Court
of Mixed Commission
Savannah 10 May 1821
Present James Woods Esq. A. C. J.
Richard Fitzgerald Esquire
H. B. Majesty's Commissioner
of Arbitration -
George Gardner
Esquire
No 4
Spain,
of the 3rd June 1821

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11th Interrogatory
14th Interrogatory

The names are Mr. Wright and Mr. Smith, the others I do not know. The present cargo consists of slaves, I think about four hundred and thirty seven slaves, were taken on board from the time of commencing the traffic, to the capture of the schooner, they were all taken on board in the River Bonny, - before the capture of the schooner two slaves jumped overboard, one was drowned, and the other was taken up with his leg bitten off by a shark, whom they sent on shore. - one slave died on board. - After the capture several slaves died but I do not know the number. -

Examination done
Signed / Francisco ^{his} Maria
Mars

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