

On February 9, 1822, Elizabeth S. GUMBS sent a petition to the Governor of Saint-Barthelemy, Johan NORDERLING.

I think this Elizabeth S. GUMBS is the free mestive woman nicknamed “Betsy” born in Anguilla in 1786 who married the Swede Gustaf SAHLSTEDT, a customs officer in Gustavia, in 1829 and with whom she had seven children before 1822.

"In consideration, not only of the well-known circumstances surrounding the purchase of the mulatto boy George, which I now own according to the attached proof of purchase, but also that this young boy having already twice visited the motherland where the idea of slavery must have marked his mind with the horror in which he is seen by a people who know the benefits of freedom and also considering the services rendered by the young man in question, and the good esteem in which the Plaintiff holds it, your Plaintiff believes that everything accords with justice and her own sense of emancipating Said George from any form of bondage, except where her free will lead him to present it, so Plaintiff

humbly prays of her assistance His Excellency and the Honorable Court for this request, and that therefore a letter of manumission can be established at the expense of your plaintiff, bound in duty, your humble plaintiff, forever. "

I do not know the context of this letter, but it seems that there is one strong enough, that it is not only known to the authorities but also to justify this request for manumission.

It remains surprising that a young mulatto has already made the trip to Sweden twice. Had he accompanied Elizabeth and her family to Sweden?

Elizabeth seems well aware of **the horrors of slavery**, at least she understands that outside of the West Indies it is unacceptable.

However, Elizabeth will continue to own many of them, on her land in Colombier and Anse Gascon or her homes in Gustavia.