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## S L A V E S

Wrecked in the Portuguese Ship, called  
 THE DONNA PAULA.

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Return to an Address of The Honourable The House of Commons,  
 dated the 13th of April 1824;—*for*

Copy of any INFORMATION which may have been received by Government,  
 concerning a *Portuguese* Ship, called THE DONNA PAULA; which was  
 wrecked on a Shoal in the neighbourhood of *Tortola*, and the Negroes on  
 board of which were afterwards removed to *Bahia* or *Porto Rico*; together  
 with an Explanation of the circumstances attending the transaction; and of  
 the Purposes for which they were so removed.

Colonial Department, }  
 the 10th June 1824. }

*R. J. Wilmot Horton.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
 14 June 1824.

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Government House,  
St. Christopher, January 12, 1824.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch, No. 28, covering the copy of an address to His Majesty from the Honourable House of Commons, relative to the Portuguese ship "Donna Paula;" and I beg to refer your Lordship to the enclosed documents from the President of Tortola, who appears to have furnished all the information that can be collected on the subject.

I have, &c.

To the Right honourable  
The Earl Bathurst, K. G.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Chas W. Maxwell.*

Inclosure, N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Tortola, December 13, 1823.

SIR,

IN obedience to the directions contained in your Excellency's letter of the 2d instant, I have made all the inquiries in my power to obtain information relative to the ship "Donna Paula," which was stranded with a cargo of negroes on the Anegada Shoal, in September 1819.

The only information I can obtain which can be vouched for as authentic, is contained in the accompanying papers, which contain the deposition of Viana the master, as to the voyage to Africa, the owner of the vessel and cargo, her intended destination, and the number of negroes on board at the time the vessel struck.

Much inquiry has been made after the fifteen which the captain stated in his deposition to have been missing, but to no purpose. I think, however, it has been clearly ascertained that not one of them remained in this government. It was reported that a Danish sloop carried *six* of them to St. Croix, but of this circumstance no satisfactory proof can be obtained.

It appeared to me at the time that these negroes ought not to have been permitted to have been exported from a British colony as *Slaves*. I therefore urged the propriety of submitting the case to the serious consideration of the King's counsel, which was done, and a written reply received from that gentleman; in consequence of this opinion, the negroes were cleared out for Bahia; it is, however, a well known fact, they were carried to Porto Rico, where there is every reason to believe they were sold and used as Slaves.

Mr. George Patnelli, who acted as agent for Viana the captain, chartered the vessels to carry them from this island, and accompanied them; Mr. Patnelli is here; so also are the masters of the two other vessels, which carried part of the slaves and the crew to Porto Rico.

I think it necessary to state to your Excellency, that neither myself, as Judge of the Vice Admiralty and Instance Court in this island, nor the officers of the Customs, nor so far as I can learn, any individual in this island, had seen or heard of the case (very similar to the one referred to) which had occurred at the Cape of Good Hope. Had either the King's counsel, the officers of the Customs, or myself, been favoured with the report of that case, the negroes saved from the Donna Paula would not have been exported from this island as Slaves.

I have, &c. (signed) *Geo. R. Porter.*

To His Excellency Governor Maxwell,  
&c. &c. &c.

A true Copy,  
(signed)

*Chas W. Maxwell.*

## PORTUGUESE SHIP DONNA PAULA.

3

Inclosure, N° 2.

Inwards: } In the schooner Lord Wellington, of Tortola built, property all  
 Port of Tortola. } British, about tons, with men  
 men, besides G. Patnelli, a British  
 man master, for this present voyage, from the Anegada; with 226  
 Africans, viz.

126 males.

57 women.

43 girls.

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 226 - - - - Also 14 Slaves.

Also one chief mate, eighteen white and coloured seamen, and two free negroes; also the captain and his son, all belonging to the crew of the *Donna Paula*, wrecked on the Anegada shoals.

I do swear, that this entry now tendered and subscribed by me, is a just report of the name of the above-mentioned ship, its burthen, built, property, number and country of mariners, the present master and voyage; and that it further contains a true account of the loading of the said ship, with the particular marks, numbers, quantity, quality and consignment of all the goods and merchandizes in the said ship, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that bulk hath not been broke, nor any goods delivered out of the said ship since her loading in

So help me God.

Sworn before us,

the 14th day of September 1819.

*Geo. Patnelli.*

Outwards: } In the schooner Lord Wellington, of Tortola F. Prize built, property  
 Port of Tortola. } all British, about 53 tons, with nine men, of which  
 men and Geo. Patnelli, besides a British man master, for this present  
 voyage to Bahia, on the coast of Brazil, with 180 Africans, viz. part of  
 the cargo of the Portuguese ship *Donna Paula*, Isadora Antonia Viana,  
 master, wrecked on the Anegada shoals.

50 men.  
 40 boys.  
 55 women.  
 35 girls.

I do swear, that the entry above written, now tendered and subscribed by me, is a just report of the name of my ship, its burthen, built, property, number and country of mariners, the present master and voyage; and that it further contains a true account of my lading, with the particular marks, number, quantity, quality and property of all the goods and merchandizes in my said ship, to the best of my knowledge and belief; and that I will not suffer to be relanded, or unshipped in order to be relanded, in any part of Great Britain, any certificate goods which I have on board, nor take in any more goods for this present voyage, without duly entering and adding the same to this report.

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 180

So help me God.

Sworn before us, the 13th day of September,  
*F. Ingram, Collr.*

*Geo. Patnelli.*

Outwards: } In the sloop Elizabeth, of Tortola, British plantation built, property  
 Port of Tortola. } all British, about twelve tons, with four men, of which  
 men, and Affection Isham, besides a British man, master for this present  
 voyage to in Bahia, with eight  
 slaves, two free negroes, four free white and coloured seamen; also one  
 man being the captain, and a boy being his son, all belonging to the  
 Portuguese ship *Donna Paula*, wrecked on the Anegada shoals.

8  
 2  
 4  
 2

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 16

I do swear, that the entry above written, now tendered and subscribed by me, is a just report of the name of my ship, its burthen, built, property, number and country of mariners, the present master and voyage; and that it further contains a true account of my lading, with the particular marks, numbers, quantity, quality and property of all the goods and merchandizes in my said ship, to the best of my

## 4 SLAVES: INFORMATION RESPECTING THE

knowledge and belief; and that I will not suffer to be relanded, or unshipped in order to be relanded, in any part of Great Britain, any certificate goods which I have on board, nor take in any more goods for this present voyage, without duly entering and adding the same to this report.

So help me God.

his  
Affection × *Isham*.  
mark.

Sworn before us, the 16th day of Sept.

*F. Ingram, Collr.*

Outwards: } In the sloop Hannah of Tortola, British plantation built, property  
Port of Tortola. } all British, about 13 tons, with four men, of which men  
and A. Rawleigh, besides a British man, master for this present voyage  
to Bahia, on the coast of Brazil, with 46 negroes, viz. part of the  
cargo of the Portuguese ship Donna Paula, Isadora Antonia Viana,  
master, wrecked on the Anegada shoals.

35 boys and men.  
2 women.  
8 girls.

45

Also six slaves, part of the crew of the Donna Paula; also one chief mate, and 14 white and coloured seamen, part of the said crew.

I do swear, that the entry above written, now tendered and subscribed by me, is a just report of the name of my ship, its burthen, built, property, number and country of mariners, the present master and voyage; and that it further contains a true account of my lading, with the particular marks, numbers, quantity, quality and property of all the goods and merchandizes in my said ship, to the best of my knowledge and belief; and that I will not suffer to be relanded, or unshipped in order to be relanded, in any part of Great Britain, any certificate goods which I have on board, nor take in any more goods for this present voyage, without duly entering and adding the same to this report.

So help me God.

his  
*Abraham × Rawleigh*.  
mark.

Sworn before us, the 16th day of Sept. 1819.

*F. Ingram, Collr.*

Inclosure, N° 3.

Virgin Islands, }  
Tortola. } The Galera, or ship Donna Paula, Isidoro Antonio Viana, master.

The examination of said master, at the instance of Francis Ingram, Esq. collector of His Majesty's Customs for Tortola; taken in the Portuguese language by Abraham Mendes Belisario, Esq. commissioned sworn interpreter.

Deponent saith; That he was born in Viana in Portugal; that he sailed as master of the said ship, from Bahia, on the 11th December last, bound to Molembo in Africa, to return to Para and Bahia with a cargo of slaves; that on his return voyage, within 150 leagues distance from Para, after having experienced eleven days calm, and the currents setting to the northward, he was obliged to bear up for Porto Rico; that on the 3d instant, at midnight, the ship struck on the Anegada shoals, upon which were landed 251 slaves, and that 235 only were delivered over to said collector; that one died in the passage from Anegada, and 15 are still unaccounted for, supposed to be at Anegada.

Deponent further saith; That Francisco Jose Lisboa, merchant of Bahia, is the sole owner of said vessel and cargo; that the officers and crew (including himself,) are 38 in number, 24 of whom are white and Portuguese subjects, the remainder 14 are negro slaves employed to attend the new negroes and work the vessel.

That he delivered up to said collector fifteen papers, being all he saved from the wreck, excepting two letters which he now delivered over to me, the said interpreter;

## PORTUGUESE SHIP DONNA PAULA.

5

preter; that the said ship he believes is English built, and was purchased at Bahia by the present owner from an English captain, who formerly commanded her in the trade between England and Bahia, about three years ago.

*Isadoro Antonio Viana.*

*A. M. Belisario,*  
Commissioned sworn Interpreter.

Sworn before me, with the aid of the above-mentioned interpreter, 7th Sep. 1819.  
*F. Ingram, Collr.*

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Inclosure, N° 4.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE given the case of the Africans landed from the ship Donna Paula, all the consideration a question of such importance deserved; and I am of opinion that there are no grounds for instituting proceedings against them in the Vice Admiralty Instance Court.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *W<sup>m</sup> Gordon, King's Counsel.*

*F. Ingram, Esq.*  
Collector of His Majesty's Customs, Tortola.

Received here the 8th of September 1819.

*F. Ingram Collr.*

SLAVES.

Information respecting the *Portuguese* Ship,  
called,  
THE DONNA PAULA;  
&c.

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
14 June 1824.

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