

FRANCISCO POZUELO

NOTARIAL RECORDS (1533)

There have been many rebel Indians who have carried out many killings and robberies. Five years ago, then-governor Gonzalo de Guzmán raised two squadrons against them, one paid for by [Governor] Rojas, and they were subdued. But one year later other groups of maroons [escaped slaves or Indians living in areas outside of Spanish control] rebelled, and Rojas mobilized three companies of Spaniards, blacks, and Indians, and was thus able to avoid a great deal of damage. For over ten years the Indian chief Guamá has been in rebellion in the province of Cagua, and Governor Gonzalo de Guzmán did not dare raise troops against him, nor did the Visiting Judge Vadillo, and after Rojas became governor, he organized a detachment of Spaniards and Indians and calmed things down; after some time passed, and Guamá's settlement had grown, a company of Spaniards, Indians, and blacks killed him and destroyed most of his people. Based on testimony of those who captured Guamá, Rojas feared that [Indian rebel] Enriquillo, from Hispaniola, had come here, and two months ago he went to Baracoa with a military force that he himself paid for, and now he has just sent another, to find out whether the rumor is true.

[Seven Indian prisoners were brought before the judge in chains and questioned. The court scribe recorded their testimonies.]

The aforementioned captain and his comrades testified that they had captured these Indians in the backlands where they were runaways and that they had been in Guamá's settlement for a long time, and so, because they had been runaways for a long time, they ask Your Honor to, using their testimony and their confessions, or any other criteria you deem appropriate, declare those who so deserve to be slaves, and the others, who are less guilty, to be servants [*naborías*].

Señor Manuel de Rojas separately called the Indian Perico and an interpreter, and asked him the following. He asked the interpreter to ask the aforementioned Indian his name; he said Perico and that he is the servant of García de Barreda.

Another was called for by Manuel de Rojas and asked how many years he had been a runaway; he responded through the interpreter that he has been a runaway in the settlement of the aforementioned Guamá for six years.

The interpreter was told to ask this Indian whether he had been a runaway and rebel from the Spanish [*xpianos*] in the mountains and the backlands for the entire six years until now when he and the other runaways were captured by Captain Obregón and his comrades; he responded through the interpreter that for those entire six years until today he had been a runaway in the settlement and in company of said Guamá and in the backlands until now when the Spanish [*xpianos*] captured him.

Taken from "Spanish Officials and Indigenous Resistance," in *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, eds. Aviva Chomsky, Barry Carr, and Pamela Maria Smorkaloff (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), 15–19.