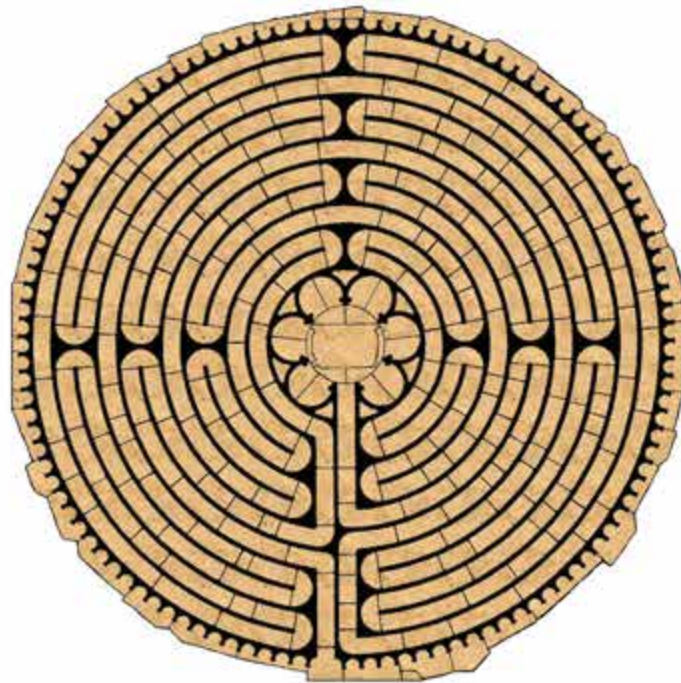


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In 2021, Dr. Peña Núñez published a 426-page book through the University of Rosario, Colombia, titled *26 Años de esclavitud: Juan Miranda y otros negros españoles en la Nueva York colonial*. It focuses on the tribulations of Juan Miranda from Cartagena de Indias, who ended up as a slave for a merchant family in New York. The issue was that the supposed owners of Miranda did not have any legal documentation justifying his enslavement in New York. His case, among many others, caught the attention of William Kempe, general prosecutor of the State of New York, who eventually pleaded his case. The book is based on the documents kept in the New York Hispanic Society of America, and the New York State Archives, Albany, among other repositories (p. 5-7).

The writing style and approach to the legal documents provide a micro-historical framework to reconstruct the history of Hispanic slaves and how race as a construct played a role in the destiny of the so-called *Spanish Negroes* in early colonial New York (p. 10, 13-14). The result is that *26 Años de Esclavitud* is not only an academic read, but also a page-turner that at moments reminded me of the stylistic prose in *The Return of Martin Guerre* by Natali Zemon Davis, a classic of the micro-historical approach, for its intelligibility, enjoyability, and insightfulness.

26 Años de Esclavitud is structured with six chapters following the biographical axes of Juan Miranda's life (pp. 17-312) and twelve appendices containing transcriptions and translations of documents (pp. 313-427). In the conclusion, Peña Núñez remind us that there are many other cases that need to be studied to know better this part of the history of racial slavery of Spaniards under British rule. The case of Miranda—along with others such as Manuel de Cumaná, Hiralio Antonio, and the son of Miranda, John Moranda—serves to illustrate the way privateer activities, military confrontation, slavery and legal practices were intertwined in hemispheric realities that forced Spanish half-castes, Indians and blacks into slavery in the colonial provinces under British rule, not only on the mainland, but also in Jamaica and Bermuda during the 18th century (pp. 294-96).

In fact, the author has come up with new and enriching approaches to this topic. In 2022, she published the article “Ser negro, hispano y católico en el Nueva York colonial,” in which she describes the situation of the Hispanic slaves in The Great Slave Plot of 1741 during a notoriously cold period. Also in 2022, her work “Briton Hammon's Misfortunes and Return (1747-1760): Introduction and Translation” was accepted for publication by the *Boletín de Historia y Antigüedades* in Colombia. In 1760, Briton published his report about

80 Beatriz Carolina Peña Núñez. *26 Años de esclavitud: Juan Miranda y otros negros españoles en la Nueva York colonial*. Bogotá: Universidad del Rosario, 2021. 427pp. ISBN: 978-958-784-798-7

his shipwreck and enslavement under the title of *A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon, a Negro Man*, and Dr. Peña creates a vivid picture for the reader, this time of a man from the north who was enslaved in the Spanish colonies.

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