

Date: 1522, January 6.

Theme: The Christmas 1521 Black slaves' rebellion of La Española, first mentioned in the colonial ordinances on Blacks of January 6th (Epiphany), 1522.

Source: PARES, Portal de Archivos Españoles--Archivo de Indias, Patronato, 295, Número 104

with authority from our *residencia* judges that have been in this Hispaniola island, certain ordinances were made for the remedy and punishment of the Blacks and slaves that rebelled and commit [*sic*] crimes in this said city and within its limits, which later had been approved, expanded, and added to by our Viceroy and Governor, so that they were complied with in the other cities and villages and places of that Island. And reportedly because of not having enough coercions or penalties as well as because no order had been issued as it was convenient so they were thoroughly implemented, in spite of what was thus decided and ordered, it has occurred that the Blacks and slaves that there are in this said island, without any fear and with devilish thoughts, have had the temerity and daring to commit many crimes and excesses, which had grown so much amongst them that, despising Christians and with little fear of God and of our justice, that this just passed holiday of the Nativity of Our Redeemer a certain number of them agreed as a group to rebel and rebelled, with the intention and purpose of killing all the Christians they could and freeing themselves, and taking over the land, for which they took the arms they could find and made others out of sharpened rods and, during one night of the said holiday, began to kill and wound the Christians they found in the province of the Nigua river bank, within the district of this city, and in other parts and roads of this said Island where they killed and wounded many Christians, stealing a lot of gold from the pedestrians they met, and assaulting by night the farms and taking the jewels and garments they found in them, so much so that, if it had not been for our said Viceroy and Governor, with great diligence and gathering of people on foot and on horses, after learning of the said uprising of the said Blacks, going in person to chase and apprehend and kill and bring them to justice,