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Daniel L. Schafer. Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner

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Ironically, tourists who come to the Blacks (and most other southern mountains) for vistas and clean mountain air experience neither, since both the plants and animals at the peaks (as well as visitors who stay long enough) are bathed in a "toxic chemical soup" (p. 245). Just this morning my local paper's headline announced that "The Smokies are Dying," more evidence to support Silver's grim conclusion that "a state park created to accommodate the automobile might well die from it" (p. 252).

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DANIEL L. SCHAFFER. *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. 2003. Pp. xiv, 177. \$24.95.

Generally speaking and until recently, historians have thought little of or studied slavery much beyond the greater Chesapeake region. Jane L. Landers, Canter Brown, Jr., and Randolph B. Campbell, to name a few of the exceptions, have begun to broaden significantly our understanding of the peculiar institution beyond Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas. With a work product that stretches back to the 1980s, Daniel L. Schaffer clearly deserves a place among that pioneering company.

Schafer's latest contribution focuses on the life and times of Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley who, as the book's title suggests, apparently combined the roles of African princess, Florida slave, and wealthy plantation owner. Schaffer has produced a remarkable study that should be read by scholars and general readers alike. While the work does not purport to be exhaustive, it does give a fascinating and thorough overview of the trials and tribulations faced by one exceptional black Floridian during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In so doing, the author explores Kingsley's origins from her youth and capture in Senegal, Africa, to her awful "Middle Passage" journey to Havana and subsequent sale to East Florida slave trader and planter Zephaniah Kingsley. Her later years in Florida and Haiti likewise command attention.

The narrative humanizes Anna Kingsley, putting a voice and face to slavery in Florida during Spanish and American rule. That said, her story is far from typical. After purchase at Havana, the thirteen-year-old slave girl became her wealthy master's wife, and, within five years, she and her three mulatto children had received manumission from her husband. Subsequently, Anna established a homestead, taking ownership of twelve bondservants and five acres of land. When Anglo-Americans attempted to overthrow the Spanish government during the Patriot War of 1812–1815, she experienced conflict and challenge. This eventually resulted in a twenty-five years' residency at Fort George Island, an Atlantic coastal enclave located near the mouth of the St. Johns River. During this

period Anna's children married well, some to prominent white men.

The Fort George Island interlude ended in the late 1830s. From 1838 to 1842 the black Kingsleys felt compelled to depart northeast Florida for Haiti due to intensifying pressures resulting from the United States takeover of Florida in 1821. Less than a decade after their relocation, however, Zephaniah died and Anna and other family members returned to contest inheritance rights against his white relations. Anna prevailed, opting to remain in the state at another area plantation. Tranquil life there endured only until the Civil War's outbreak, when she and family members left the region for safety with the Union Army. Kingsley again returned after the peace, living another five years and passing along her possessions to her descendants.

In telling the story of a black woman coping with life in at least three different Florida societies dominated by slavery, this book opens a world of inquiry for Schaffer and future scholars. To cite some examples: how were Anna's ideas and perspectives distinguishable from those of her contemporaries, including the many black women who served as wives or mistresses to white men as well as slave women without those connections? Further, how did Anna reconcile her own treatment of slaves? Did they become members of an extended family or did they exist for her simply as commodities? If so, why? Did her attitudes change over time and why? Further, what can be said of Kingsley's life in the larger context of North American slavery?

For those seeking an understanding of the complexities of slavery beyond the greater Chesapeake region, Schaffer's impressive study offers an excellent and very well-researched starting point.

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JOHN M. SACHER. *A Perfect War of Politics: Parties, Politicians, and Democracy in Louisiana, 1824–1861*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 2003. Pp. xvi, 331. \$39.95.

Politics in antebellum Louisiana has been a murky field for historians. Scholars have addressed various facets of the topic, but John M. Sacher is the first to present a thorough examination of state politics during the entire period. His work begins in the early days of political activity in Louisiana when national heritage played a greater role than party. State politics focused on contests that pitted Americans, descendants of French and Spanish colonists, and the so-called foreign French, French-speaking immigrants, against one another. On numerous occasions, politicians and voters crossed party lines to support candidates who shared their cultural heritage. Added to the mix in the years after statehood were the political fortunes of General Andrew Jackson, the man who saved Louisiana from the British during the War of 1812, and the