

Knetsch introduces leaders on all sides effectively, and his illustrations are wonderfully numerous and varied, a blend of period maps, portraits, photos, and sketches. The book ends rather abruptly, without an analytic conclusion, but those seeking a short introduction to the Anglo conquest of Florida will find *Florida's Seminole Wars* readable, balanced, and accurate, a good place to start exploring "this thankless . . . unholy war" (as an anonymous army officer called it in 1839).

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Anna Madgigne Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner. By Daniel L. Schafer (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003. xiv, 178 pp. List of maps & photographs, preface, acknowledgements, introduction, postscript, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

Acknowledging that the nature of his subject required "reasonable and informed conjecture" (xii), Daniel Schafer, professor of history at the University of North Florida, has nonetheless written a first-rate history. That the story of Anna Kingsley—in turn an African princess, slave, wife of a white slaveowner, plantation owner, and wealthy Florida matriarch—took nearly thirty years to research and write makes the results that much more impressive. In fact, Schafer's research journey from the Kingsley plantation to places as disparate as Nova Scotia, Great Britain, the Dominican Republic, and in Senegal, West Africa speaks to a tale with a wide variety of themes. Primarily, this is an excellent biography in a profession where biographies rarely get the acknowledgement they deserve. But Schafer thoroughly integrates Kingsley's story into the context of events during her lifetime. This means the book is also chronicle of the transatlantic slave trade and its impact in both Africa and the New World, a history of slavery in Florida, a story of free blacks and a free black community, and one part of the story of southern race relations prior to the Civil War.

Chapter one recounts the African side of the slave trade, going back to Senegal where raiders captured the teenage girl then known as Anta Majigeen Ndiaye. Schafer compensates for a lack of Kingsley-related primary materials by using secondary literature on the African slave trade to flesh out a part of her story that would

otherwise go untold. The next chapter takes up the narrative in Havana, where ship's captain, slave trader, and Florida planter Zephaniah Kingsley purchased young Anta in late 1806. Kingsley then married her, probably in Cuba, and now-Anna Kingsley became a mother and managed the Kingsley plantation along the St. John's River in Spanish East Florida.

Chapter three follows Kingsley through her life at Laurel Grove plantation, analyzing the dynamics of a black slave married to a white ship captain who was away more often than not. While emancipation in 1811 eased the legal tension to some degree, the Patriot War, discussed in chapter four, saw the destruction of Laurel Grove and the threat of re-enslavement at the hands of rebels. Chapter five tracks the Kingsleys during and after the Patriot War, which forced a relocation to Fort George Island on the Atlantic coast where the Kingsleys lived for nearly a quarter century, witnessing the transition from Spanish to American rule. A property owner in her own right, Anna Kingsley supervised a large labor force of free and enslaved blacks, and Schafer paints her as central to the operations and management of the Kingsley plantations. However, the more permissive Spanish racial mores vanished with the Crown, forcing the Kingsleys' relocation to Haiti in order to protect the freedom of Anna and her children.

Chapter six details their short stay in Haiti, which lasted from 1838 until Zephaniah's death in 1843. A challenge to the will by one of Zephaniah's sisters forced Anna's return to Florida, where she successfully defended her claims. Despite the legal requirement that she have a white guardian, Anna Kingsley managed the plantations and helped expand the family fortune. The 1840s and 1850s, discussed in chapter seven, were a time in which Anna Kingsley reigned as the center of a thriving free black community that Schafer juxtaposes with an increasingly racist U.S. South. Chapters eight and nine follow Kingsley through the Civil War until her death, probably in 1870. The war demolished her fortune, but Anna Kingsley died as free as the day she was born.

Schafer claimed early in the work that his goal was to "write a lively and imaginative yet scholarly account" that would have a broad appeal (xii). In this he has succeeded admirably. Historians will find a compelling work that students will enjoy reading. However, general readers will also find a book that does not require a great deal of background knowledge, reads well, and is deeply instructive. Finally, this book is a wonderful primer on the

craft of history, from the engaging writing style to the synthesis of primary and secondary sources, oral histories, and Kingsley family legend. As such it should find a wide audience.

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Family Records of the African American Pioneers of Tampa and Hillsborough County. By Canter Brown Jr. and Barbara Gray Brown. (Tampa, Fla.: University of Tampa Press, 2003. xx, 362 pp. Foreword, introduction, acknowledgments, abbreviations, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, about the authors. \$24.95 hardcover.)

The past decade or so has witnessed a long-awaited flowering of academic interest in Florida's African American experience and its significance, and a number of top-quality historians, anthropologists, and other scholars proudly claim a significant role in that development. Canter Brown merits a place in the front rank of this company. His publications stretching back to the early 1990s have pursued a broad variety of inquiries that, directly or indirectly, have opened windows of perception and understanding, the keys to which many informed persons believed forever lost. In the process, Brown's professional skills and creative persistence have revealed research sources that amount almost to treasures, troves that he generously has shared with others interested in the field.

For his latest contribution, *Family Records of the African American Pioneers of Tampa and Hillsborough County*, Brown has partnered with his wife, Barbara Gray Brown, who lends her own considerable research skills and insight to the effort. The collaboration has produced a volume that must be considered remarkable. While it does not purport to provide a high degree of scholarly analysis or historiographical explication, it does aim to humanize the experience of everyday black Floridians of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The authors manage this, and manage it well, in an unprecedented manner. They delve into the origins and evolutions of individual families, most of whose progenitors arrived at or near Tampa while it remained a frontier outpost. This might not seem such an accomplishment if only a handful of families passed under the Browns' microscope. It does when 107