

southern United States" (p. 110). In the final analysis, such comparisons between the South and the "other Souths" are useful in that they either deny or confirm, as Kolchin does, the notion of southern distinctiveness, or they serve to complicate or clarify our understandings on issue of race, identity, and nationhood.

The problems inherent in the use of the term "un-South" notwithstanding, *A Sphinx on the American Land* effectively encourages scholars and enthusiasts to advance the study of the Old South. In doing so, Kolchin has created a resource whose value lies in the challenges it suggests and the imaginations it fires rather than the trail it blazes.

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Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Owner. By Daniel L. Schafer. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003. Pp. xiv, 177. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95. ISBN 0-8130-226-3822.)

Without question slavery and the related issue of race left indelible marks on the soul of America; this legacy continues to reverberate today. However, the greatest burden of this heritage fell on the shoulders of the millions of Africans and African Americans unlucky enough to be enslaved; their experience remained a personal and lifelong struggle to cope with a slave system that opened the door to freedom for just a few. Yet, no matter how unbearable slavery proved to be, Daniel L. Schafer's study, *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida slave, Plantation Slaveowner*, reminds us that slaves wrestled as much freedom as the owners and white society would permit, and in so doing, found ingenious ways to create as full a life as they could. In part, the story of Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley reflects the experiences shared by many slaves and free blacks. But, in so many important ways, few slaves or freed persons could claim to have experienced the unique opportunities and limitations that remained the lot of Anna. Having lived the life of a slave, free black woman, wife, mother, and slaveowner, Anna's story has much to tell us about her personal life, the experiences of African Americans, and this nation's colorful history with the institution of slavery, freedom and race.

That Anna led an unusual life in slavery and freedom comes out strongly throughout the narrative. Her uncommon life, as portrayed by Schafer, reminds the reader of the variations of the slave experience, the possibilities of forging racial bonds, and the debilitating effects of the racial divide in American society. Possibly born a princess in the Senegambia area of West Africa, Anna was captured and enslaved a mere two years before the United States government outlawed the Atlantic slave trade.

Anna's early life in slavery—her capture and enslavement in Africa, the dangerous journey through the Middle Passage, and her arrival and sale in the Americas—mirrored the experiences of millions of Africans sold into slavery in the Americas. However, the similarity ends there. Anna's life in slavery and freedom proved to be extraordinary, a rich and varied experience that few slaves or free persons could make claim to. It is this unusual life that Daniel L. Schafer chronicles in his book.

In great detail, Schafer traces the background of Anna's life in Africa; the probable scenario of her capture; her enslavement and sale in Africa; her survival of the Middle Passage; and her arrival and sale in the Americas in 1806. When Zephaniah Kingsley, a slaveowner from Florida, purchased the thirteen-year-old slave in Cuba, he set in motion the inauguration of Anna's unusual life in slavery and freedom. Barely a year from her purchase, Anna gave birth to the first of her four children with Kingsley. While it was common for slave women to bear children fathered by the master (or other white men), the relationship between Anna and Zephaniah Kingsley transcended this widespread practice. In an age when white men considered sexual liaisons with slave women as their given birthright, Kingsley departed from what was considered the norm by marrying Anna. This interracial marriage was made possible because it took place in Spanish Cuba, but the residence of the Kingsley family on an island in the frontier society of Spanish-held Florida proved equally vital. The isolation of their plantation, the goodwill and friendship of neighboring white families, and the favorable Spanish laws served to protect the Kingsley's interracial marriage. However, when Florida fell under American control, the protections afforded interracial couples under the Spanish and the relatively mild system of slavery in Florida quickly eroded.

Schafer's narrative traces how Anna's enslavement and freedom rose and fell in concert with the changing political, social, and economic landscape in Florida and in the nation. The instability caused by the War of 1812, the American takeover of Florida and the attendant restrictive slave codes, the destruction wrought by the Civil War, and the promises and failures of the Reconstruction era all took a heavy toll on Anna and her family. She responded, as many slaves and free blacks did, by relying on her indomitable spirit. Repeatedly she rose to overcome these crises. Illustrating this inner strength of Anna was the decision by the Kingsley's to seek sanctuary in Haiti in light of the harsh realities of slavery and race in American-controlled Florida. Anna and her family uprooted to and successfully resettled in Haiti. With courage she returned not only to live in antebellum Florida in the late 1840s, but also successfully challenged her white in-laws for the right to retain her late husband's property. Her determination remained strong as she and other black families forged a vibrant free black community in Duval County, Florida, during the 1840s and after.

Still, Anna's story was not all about courage; it reflected both her failures and insensitivity to the plight of other slaves. As Schafer informs us, the Anna who so intensely disliked her own enslavement or the restric-

tions placed on her liberties, became a slaveowner herself! The existence of black slaveowners, though rare, was not unknown. When Anna joined the ranks of slaveownership, she held and employed African-American slaves on her plantation until the Civil War made slavery a moot issue. How she treated her slaves is missing from the narrative; a comparison between Anna's treatment of her slaves and those of neighboring white families would have made interesting reading.

A well-researched and written book, readers interested in African-American history, the history of women, the history of Florida, and the United States will find this book captivating.

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The Conquest of Labor: Daniel Pratt and Southern Industrialization. By Curtis J. Evans. Southern Biography Series. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2001. Pp. xiii, 337. Illustrations, maps, appendix, bibliography, index. \$49.95. ISBN 0-8071-2695-0.)

This welcome biography of Daniel Pratt (1799-1873), the Connecticut-born builder and mechanic turned successful Alabama entrepreneur and industrialist, argues that planter hegemony did not prevent economic diversification in the antebellum South. Curtis J. Evans not only challenges those historians who have contended that industrialists and industrialization were relegated to a subordinate role in southern politics and economics, but also wants to convey Pratt as a leader and a man of ideas—about the value of manufacturing and economic development, the importance of a work ethic and a moral society, and the significance of political party for internal improvements and economic growth in the antebellum South.

Narrowly focused on Daniel Pratt and his business enterprises, especially Prattville, his gin factory and textile mill community, which resembled a New England manufacturing village, the narrative describes how this northern-born mechanic evolved into one of Alabama's most successful industrialists before the Civil War. Pratt traveled to Georgia in 1819, part of a New England exodus trekking across the country in search of opportunity. The rise of the cotton economy, and its attendant need for mechanics to repair gins and craftsmen to provide services for the swelling planter elite, was a powerful magnet to young northern men thwarted by too much competition and too little skilled work in their home states.

Pratt began his southern career as a builder in Milledgeville. But once planters had staked out the last of the prime lands in nearby coun-