



African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual Struggles

By Allan D. Austin

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A condensation and updating of his *African Muslims in Antebellum America: A Sourcebook* (1984), noted scholar of antebellum black writing and history Dr. Allan D. Austin explores, via portraits, documents, maps, and texts, the lives of 50 sub-Saharan non-peasant Muslim Africans caught in the slave trade between 1730 and 1860. Also includes five maps.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A condensation and updating of the author's *African Muslims in Antebellum America: A Sourcebook*, this book features the stories of nearly 80 Africans brought to America as slaves between 1730 and 1860. What was unusual about these slaves is that they were Muslims and that they left some sort of documentary record of their presence. Many came from elite classes--one was a military officer, several were schoolteachers, and another was studying to become a religious leader. Using the fragments of evidence still available, Allan D. Austin tells a compelling story that illuminates aspects of American history that are too little known.

From Library Journal

In this updated condensation of his *African Muslims in Antebellum America: A Sourcebook* (1984), Austin sketches the experiences of some 75 Muslims seized in sub-Saharan Africa and enslaved in North America between 1730 and 1860. Expanding his commentary and condensing his excerpts from autobiographical or biographical narratives, Austin develops the character of individual Muslims more than in his sourcebook. He illuminates their lives and thoughts in ways that reveal the embarrassing limits imposed by race and religion on general historical understanding of first-generation Africans in America. A complement to Richard Brent Turner's *Islam in the African-American Experience* (LJ 6/1/97), this work is essential for collections on early America, African Americans, and U.S. history or religion or Islam in the United States. ?Thomas J. Davis, Arizona State Univ., Tempe
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Review

"Austin uses historical documents, including photos, to tell adventurous, distressing and sometimes funny stories of enslaved African Muslims between 1730 and 1860. All left some record of their presence in America.."

-Navid Iqbal, "The Star-Ledger, Newark, New Jersey

... "highly recommended...."

- "The Journal of American History

... "attractively produced...."

-Journal of Southern History, Feb 1999 Vol.65, No. 1

"Austin offers meticulously researched profiles of Muslim Africans who lived during the antebellum era ."

- "Amsterdam News

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