The *Ummah* Slowly Bled: A Select Bibliography of Enslaved African Muslims in the Americas and the Caribbean

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Introduction

Despite an Islamic presence in the Western hemisphere for over half a millennium, the history of this portion of the Muslim Diaspora is gravely under-researched. There is evidence that Muslims had reached and interacted with Native Peoples long before Columbus made the ‘New World’ known to Europe. Nevertheless, it was Columbus’ voyage and the resultant European onslaught that forever changed the history of Native Peoples, Africans, and consequently African Muslims.

For 400 years, millions of Africans were forced into chattel slavery in the Americas and the Caribbean. The precise estimates of enslaved Africans of the Islamic faith vary greatly, but the notion that a significant percentage was Muslim is unquestioned. Unfortunately, precious few resources related to these African Muslims have been unearthed or fully examined. Over the past three decades more research has been written on the subject and it is becoming an acknowledged phenomenon in the histories of many countries including the United States. From Muslim-led rebellions in Brazil to Islamic scholars and gentry toiling in bondage in Georgia and Maryland, the history of how the West African arm of the Muslim ummah slowly bled is finally coming to light.

The following select bibliography provides an introduction to the research tracing the plight of enslaved African Muslims in the Americas and the Caribbean. The included works are books, book chapters, and journal articles published through 2001, as well as a small number of significant unpublished dissertations. The majority of citations represent scholarly research on the topic in English, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian, and German, but also included are several published primary resources in many languages including Arabic. Incorporated sources were limited to those that focus on the topic or contain discrete chapters or sections on enslaved Muslims. Nineteenth and twentieth century newspaper and magazine accounts of enslaved Muslims have been omitted. After a general literature category, the works are arranged geographically and further broken down by country and subtopics within the country when applicable.

General Works about Enslaved Muslims in the Americas and the Caribbean


United States

General Works


20. Ronald A. T. Judy, (Dis)forming the American Canon: African–Arabic Slave


Biographical Material and Narratives

Abd ar-Rahman Ibrahima


37. Job Ben Solomon and Abd al-Rahman: The Stories of Two Men in Slavery,


Bilali (Ben Ali) Muhammad


Job Ben Solomon (Ayuba Suleiman Diallo)

43. Thomas Bluett, Some Memoirs of the Life of Job, the Son of Solomon, the High Priest of Boonda in Africa; Who Was a Slave about Two Years in Maryland; and Afterwards Being Brought to England, Was Set Free, and Sent to His Native Land in the Year 1734, London: R. Ford, 1734. Available online through the Documenting the American South collection at: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/bluett/bluett.html>.
48. Francis Moore, Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa Containing a Description of the Several Nations for the Space of Six Hundred Miles up the River Gambia; Their Trade, Habits, Customs, Language, Manners, Religion and Government; the Power, Disposition and Characters of Some Negro Princes; with a Particular Account of Job Ben Solomon, London: E. Cave, 1738.

Lamine Kebe

Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua


For other works concerning Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua, see entries 118–120.

Mohammed Ali Ben Said (Nicholas Said)


Salih Bilali


Umar ibn Said


Others


Latin America

General Works


Brazil

General Works


87. R. Ricard, ‘L’Islam Noir à Bahia D’Après les Travaux de l’Ecole Ethnologique
Muslim Insurrections in Brazil


94. Pedro Calmon, Malês, a Insurreição das Senzales (Males, the Rebellion of the Senzales), Rio de Janeiro: Pro Luce, 1933.


Biographical Material and Narratives

Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua


For other works concerning Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua, see entries 51–54.

Other Latin American Countries

General Works


Caribbean

General Works


Haiti

General Works


Biographical Material and Narratives


See also works concerning Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua who spent time in Haiti, entries 51–54 and 118–120.
The Ummah Slowly Bled

Jamaica

General Works


Biographical Material and Narratives

Abu Bakr al-Siddiq


Others


Trinidad and Tobago

General Works

Biographical Material and Narratives

Mohammedu Sisei


Others
