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Document Created by	Renee Lefebvre; Kartikay Chadha (Supervised)
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Freedom Narratives

Testimonies of West Africans from the Era of Slavery

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Freedom Narratives focuses on the enforced migration of enslaved Africans in the Atlantic world during the era of the slave trade from the 16th to the 19th century. The biographical accounts included here include the testimonies and stories of individuals born in West Africa whose voices have long been silenced. This digital repository of autobiographical testimonies and biographical data establishes where people came from, why they were enslaved, whether or not they freed themselves, and what happened to them. [Learn More](#)

Featured Profiles

Isambakōn

Isambakōn, male, who is identified as Joda Ejanat, was born in 1804 in Baidanda, Upper Guinea Coast region. He was enslaved through kidnapping in 1826 and taken to Gádeboi. Subsequently liberated in 1839. Account recorded in 1850 by the linguist Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle at the Liberated African village Kissi. Last known location was Kissi.

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Maria Luisa Picard

Maria Luisa Picard, female, who is identified as Yoruba, was born in 1822 in Lagos, Bight of Benin Region. She was enslaved around the years 1825 and 1833, and taken to Havana. Enslaved for 14 years, she was subsequently freed in 1847, getting married in the following years. Account recorded in 1854. Last known location was London with the wish to return to Lagos.

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Ogalay

Ogalay, female, who is identified as Igbo, was born in the Bight of Butra region. She was born when she was a child. Subsequently liberated in 1827 and known to have scarification and slave branding marks. Account recorded in 1827 by the clerk in the Liberated African Department at Freetown. Last known location was the Liberated African village of Gloucester.

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By Category (Gender, Occupation, Etc.)

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About

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Freedom Narratives focuses on the enforced migration of "Atlantic Africans," that is enslaved Africans in the Atlantic world during the era of the slave trade, through an examination of biographical accounts of individuals born in West Africa who were enslaved from the 16th to the 19th century. The focus is on testimony, the voices of individual Africans. The Project uses an online digital repository of autobiographical testimonies and biographical data of Atlantic Africans to analyze patterns in the slave trade of West Africa, specifically in terms of where individuals came from, why they were enslaved, and what happened to them. *Freedom Narratives* focuses on people born in Africa and hence in most cases had been born free rather than on those who were born into slavery in the Americas or elsewhere. The individuals in this repository include those who travelled within West Africa as well as those who experienced the "Middle Passage," i.e., the Atlantic crossing, which is often seen as a defining moment in the slavery experience. Sometimes these accounts are referred to as "slave narratives" but in our estimation, such testimonies more accurately reflect "freedom narratives" because in most cases, individuals were born free and subsequently regained their freedom, and the site includes individuals who were never enslaved. *Freedom Narratives* enables an examination of biographical testimonies as the fundamental units of analysis, whether the primary texts arise from first person memory or survive via amanuensis. Whenever possible, original testimonies are supplemented with biographical details culled from legal, ecclesiastical, and other types of records.

CONTACT

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Project Direction

Director – Paul E. Lovejoy [↗](#)



Paul E. Lovejoy is Distinguished Research Professor, Department of History, York University is a leading proponent of revisionist interpretations of the history of the African diaspora, he is the founding Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas, York University. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Worcester and an M.Phil. in Comparative History from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Her research focuses on Liberated African children and African childhood. She received the Martin Lynn Scholarship from the Royal Historical Society, a grant from the Economic History Society, and a grant from the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program. She has been involved in the Sierra Leone Public Archives project of the British Library Endangered Archives Programme and is principal Investigator of the *Historical African Childhoods*.

Associate Director – Érika Melek Delgado [↗](#)



Érika Melek Delgado is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas, York University. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Worcester and an M.Phil. in Comparative History from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Her research focuses on Liberated African children and African childhood. She received the Martin Lynn Scholarship from the Royal Historical Society, a grant from the Economic History Society, and a grant from the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program. She has been involved in the Sierra Leone Public Archives project of the British Library Endangered Archives Programme and is principal Investigator of the *Historical African Childhoods*.

Technical Coordinator – Kartikay Chadha [↗](#)



Kartikay Chadha is a Bioinformatics and Human Statistical Geneticist. He holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Toronto. Kartikay is an expert in computer programming, database development and management, and big data quantitative and qualitative analyses. He currently holds appointments at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, OCAD University and York University. Kartikay is the primary developer of The Language of Marks Collaborative Web-portal and is currently assisting Prof Paul Lovejoy's research group in developing database and front-end visualization tools.

Administrative Coordinator – Leidy Alpizar [↗](#)



Leidy Alpizar is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History and Teaching Assistant at York University, Toronto. She is Editorial Assistant for the journal, *African Economic History*, University of Wisconsin Press, and former Lecturer and Researcher at Universidad de Costa Rica, Centro de Investigación en Identidad y Cultura Latinoamericana (CICCLA) and the Cátedra de Estudios de África y el Caribe (CEAC). She earned an M.A. in History at Universidad de Costa Rica, and her thesis "Shattering the Myth: Social Insertion of Jamaican Immigrants in San Jose region in the 20th century" is being published by the University of Costa Rica Press.

Contributors

Sean Kelley [↗](#)



Sean M. Kelley is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Essex. He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin and specializes in the history of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. He is the author of *Los Brazos de Dios: A Plantation Society in the Texas Borderlands, 1821-1865* (2010) and *The Voyage of the Slave Ship Hare: A Journey into Captivity from Sierra Leone to South Carolina* (2016). He is a founding member of the *Freedom Narratives* Project.

Suzanne Schwarz [↗](#)



Suzanne Schwarz is Professor of History at the University of Worcester. Her research examines the development of the Sierra Leone colony and the ways in which abolitionists attempted to undermine the slave trade and reform African economy and society through policies of "Commerce, Civilization and Christianity." She is Principal Investigator of the British Library Endangered Archives Project in the Sierra Leone Public Archives, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull, and was an external consultant for the development of the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool. She is Vice President of the Haklayt Society.

Jane Landers [↗](#)



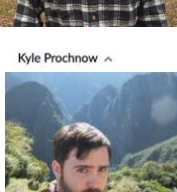
Jane Landers, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History, Vanderbilt University, and Director of Slave Societies Digital Archive (www.slavesocieties.org) is an historian of Colonial Latin America and the Atlantic World specializing in the history of Africans and their descendants. She has been the United States representative to the UNESCO Slave Route Project and past-president of the Conference on Latin American History, the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction and the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association.

Richard Anderson [↗](#)



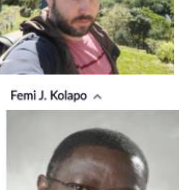
Richard Anderson received his Ph.D. from Yale University and subsequently held an SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship at York University. He is currently a Commonwealth Rutherford Fellow in the School of History, Politics and International Relations at the University of Leicester. His current research is funded by a Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowship on "Running into Empire: Abolition and the Fugitive Slave Question in British Colonial Africa, c.1787-1896," which explores how British colonial officials responded to Africans who fled slavery and sought refuge in the British colonies of Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos in the nineteenth century.

Kyle Prochnow [↗](#)



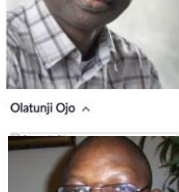
Kyle Prochnow earned an M.A. in history at Boston College in 2015 and is a Ph.D. candidate in African diaspora history at York University. His doctoral dissertation examines the origins, forced migrations, and personal experiences of enslaved Africans conscripted to serve in Britain's West India Regiments.

Femi J. Kolapo [↗](#)



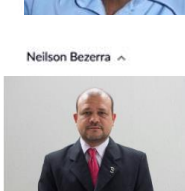
Femi J. Kolapo is Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Guelph, co-editor with Kwabena O. Akurang-Parry, *African Agency and European Colonialism: Latitudes of Negotiations and Containment* (2007), and co-editor with China J. Korieh, *The Aftermath of Slavery: Transitions and Transformations in Southeastern Nigeria* (2007).

Olatunji Ojo [↗](#)



Olatunji Ojo is Associate Professor, Department of History, Brock University, and author of over 40 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters on gender, slavery, and economic history of precolonial and colonial southern Nigeria (Yoruba and Igbo history). He is also the co-editor of *Slavery in Africa and the Caribbean* (2012) with Nadine Hunt and Ransoming, *Captivity, and Piracy in Africa and the Mediterranean* (2016) with Jennifer Lotkrantz. He received his B.A and M.A in History from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria) and his Ph.D in African History from York University.

Nelson Bezerra [↗](#)



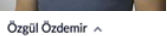
Dr. Nielson Rosa Bezerra is Professor in Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ); Director of Research of Museu Vivo do São Bento; Director of History Department in Faculdade de Belford Roxo - FABEL. He is a Former Banting Fellow at The Harriet Tubman Institute at York University (YU). He is a leader for young investigators on African Diaspora in Baixada Fluminense and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also, he is author of eight books and several articles in Academic Journals.

Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec [↗](#)



Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec est professeur à l'Université de Sherbrooke, spécialiste de l'histoire des États-Unis, d'Haiti et des Amériques noires. Il travaille actuellement sur le développement de la plateforme marronnage.info, sur l'historiographie des résistances à l'esclavage en France et sur un nouveau projet de recherche CRSH sur l'histoire méconnue des résistances à l'esclavage à la Nouvelle-Orléans (1811-1836). Ce projet porte en particulier sur les formes culturelles de résistance à l'esclavage, par la danse et la musique notamment. Il s'intéresse aussi à l'histoire d'une pâtisserie, la tête-de-nègre. Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique: sources et trajectoires de vie, *Freedom Narratives*.

Özgül Özdemir [↗](#)



Bruno [↗](#)

Research Team

Ian Hood [↗](#)



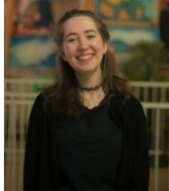
Ian Hood is completing a bachelor's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management at York University and has worked at the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston, Ontario. His research on Indigenous Human Rights was presented at the York University Undergraduate Research Fair and was awarded the Dean's Award for Research Excellence (DARE) for his work on Boko Haram, which was presented at the Canadian Risk and Hazard Network Conference in Vancouver in 2018.

Kelsey Baird [↗](#)



Kelsey Patricia Baird is a major in sociology studying health inequality at California State University and holds a Killam Fulbright exchange at York University. She received the Sally Casanova Fellowship for 2018-2019.

Luisa Cruz [↗](#)



Luisa Cruz, from Brasília, Brazil, is a student in Film Production at York University interested in documentary filmmaking, visual anthropology and digital humanities and is a research assistant at the Tubman Institute.

Thomas Garriss [↗](#)

Thomas Garriss is a graduate student in history at the Université de Sherbrooke (Québec). He earned his undergraduate degree in jazz performance, and then decided he wanted to gain a broader perspective of the role of arts in the shaping of Western societies. With a strong focus on music and literature, he has worked primarily on the countercultural movements of the 1960s in the United States. Throughout his studies, he has had the opportunity to work as a research assistant, organize workshops and conferences, and contribute to innovative digital-history research projects.

Thiago Souto Maior [↗](#)

Thiago Souto Maior is a Brazilian undergraduate student who is majoring in History at UFPE (Recife, Brazil). His studies are focused on Modern History, Slavery, Colonial and Imperial Brazilian History. Thiago also worked as a research assistant to *Itaguassu Project*.

Suad Hassan Ahmed [↗](#)

Coming soon!

Angela Ouma [↗](#)

Coming soon!

Co-op Student Assistants

Rita Tran [↗](#)



Coming soon!

Julie Lee [↗](#)

Ayla Faizon [↗](#)

Digital Assistant

Fernanda Sierra [↗](#)



Fernanda Sierra is a major in Culture and Expression with an Environmental Studies minor, has been a research assistant on projects in digital knowledge mobilization and cultural and artistic practices for social and environmental justice. She has served as president of the Culture and Expression Student Association.

Research Support

Henry B. Lovejoy [↗](#)

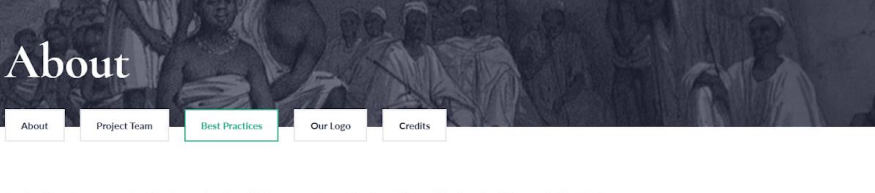
Kwabena Akurang-Parry [↗](#)

Hagger Said [↗](#)

Francine Shields [↗](#)

Silke Strickrodt [↗](#)

Marcia Smith [↗](#)



About

- About Project Team **Best Practices** Our Logo Credits

Freedom Narratives respects Best Practices as developed in the course of generating the website and database. In addition to the identification of the specific contributions of the Research Team, these Best Practices include a description of the Methodology employed in data management, the Controlled Vocabulary that has been devised to enable the management of clean data for ingestion into the Project, including Definitions of terms and vocabulary, and the suggested format for Citation of the database, website and their constituent parts. Best Practices are described in Paul E. Lovejoy, Erika Melek Delgado and Kartikay Chadha, "Freedom Narratives of West Africans from the Era of Slavery", which is summarized in the following sections.

Methodology

Read here >

The Freedom Narratives website is an open source relational database comprised of original documentation in PDF format with metadata organized into data fields. The database facilitates access to all documentation through this public website. The intention is to enable the analysis of the important historical tragedy and crime against humanity that affected the history of West Africa and was responsible for the demographic, cultural and social transformation of the Americas and elsewhere. The focus on biographical profiles of people in West Africa during the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade is an innovative approach to social history. The Project is based on an online digital repository of autobiographical testimonies and biographical data of Atlantic Africans that allow the analysis of patterns in the slave trade, specifically in terms of where individuals came from, why they were enslaved, and what happened to them. Because Freedom Narratives focuses on those born in Africa, in most cases people had been born free and therefore are to be distinguished from those who were born into slavery in the Americas or elsewhere. The important distinction between those born free from those born into conditions of slavery is highlighted by reference to their testimonies as "freedom narratives" rather than as "slave narratives," the term that is commonly used to categorize the personal accounts that have been recorded in the Americas. In the case of the surviving accounts of those born in West Africa, at least, not only were most individuals born free but were subsequently able to regain their freedom. The experience of slavery was therefore only an aspect, even if an important aspect, of their personal experiences. By contrast, those born into slavery in the Americas and elsewhere were socialized into slave societies from birth, and even if individuals were able to acquire their freedom, their exposure to slavery was different. The accounts that are being labelled "freedom narratives" often recount the hope, sometimes realized, of being reunited with kin or members of natal societies that was more difficult and often impossible in the trans-Atlantic and trans-Saharan diasporas. Individuals who were not enslaved are also included because of the importance of identifying various kinds of relationships, not only those based on kinship and social interactions but also relationships of dependency and subjugation. Freedom Narratives enables an examination of biographical testimonies as the fundamental units of analysis in historical reconstruction, whether the primary texts arise from first person memory or survive via amanuensis. Whenever possible, original testimonies are supplemented with biographical details culled from legal, ecclesiastical, and other types of records. Through its website, the Freedom Narratives project assembles, collates and displays biographical information on individuals who were primarily born in West Africa or returned to West Africa during the centuries of the slave trade as a means of understanding the episodes and trauma of the experience of slavery, whether the enslaved crossed the Atlantic to the Americas, remained in West Africa or were taken across the Sahara.

Freedom Narratives uses the Decoding Origins Web Portal (<http://decodingorigins.org>), which consists of a backend collaborative database built using Structured Query Language (MySQL) and a user friendly interactive platform employing novel algorithms to collect, analyze and cross reference data. The database is designed to handle multiple types of documents from a variety of sources that often constitute different categories. This web portal employs user-sensitive inclusive design and iterative learning methodologies to improve the data curation process not only for Freedom Narratives but adaptable for other projects and compatible with the Enslaved hub. Because the Decoding Origins web portal provides a project-customized, collaborative environment to collect, organize, meta-tag, visualize and cross-reference data and connect with external collections, the portal can also connect with public websites to enable real time publications of biographies and documents. The Decoding Origins Web Portal allows historians to work in a team-based web-environment that reinforces the rigorous analog best-practices developed by the Freedom Narratives research team. Instead of alteration between documents, the Decoding Origins Web Portal allows researchers to link PDF documentation and corresponding type work with Controlled Vocabularies, simultaneously displayed on one screen. The Source tab of the Decoding Origins Web Portal records the name of the digital files that are being processed. The basic structure of data management is based on four interrelated methods of identification, first establishing the "Person" as a unique individual, then examining the various known "Events" in that person's life, and the "Places" where such events occurred, the "Sources" on which the data are based. These four dimensions of management are organized digitally as an open source relational database.

The "Person ID" entry is a unique identifier for each case file entered in the Freedom Narratives database. Researchers are assigned a specific range of identifiers, which are called "FN Numbers." These identifiers follow the same format: FN, followed by six digits (e.g., FN000001, FN001200...), which allow differentiating one individual from another who might have the same name. Only a project director can create a new person file on the Decoding Origins Web Portal and then a "FN number" is automatically assigned to each case file for a new person. Assigned cases are listed under "My Task" section of the web portal for purposes of work flow.

The "Name" entry records the name of the individual as it is reported in the primary source document. Whenever possible, the African name of the individual is used. If this is not possible, the most common name is used, including every part of the name as it is written in the source: given/first name, surname/last name (e.g., André do Amaral). If the primary sources do not mention the individual's name, the name is listed as Unknown. Sometimes an individual is referred to by more than one name, such "Alternative Names" can be name variations, nicknames, aliases, married/maiden names, assumed names, variant spellings of African and Christian names, alternative spellings with abbreviations or initials, and a number of other things. A semicolon (;) is used to differentiate multiple entries in various fields of the Web Portal or a multiple select HTML form type field is provided.

The identification of individuals usually includes reference to an ethnonym or language, which for purposes of data entry and analysis is distinguished according to the terms that are recorded in the primary documentation and through association with modern terminology as appropriate. The primary sources usually record the "ethnonyms" of an individual as ethnicity, tribe or nation. The assumption that is made for Freedom Narratives is that such references are most likely to the language(s) an individual speaks. An "Ethnonym / Language in Original" entry is recorded exactly as in the primary documents (e.g., Poullar, Fula, etc.). These terms are then sifted through the Controlled Vocabulary, which is an ever-growing list containing terminology derived from Sources and includes variations of ethnonyms in primary sources, modern scholarship and common usage. Ethnonyms are linked to likely region of origin (e.g., Fulbe; Poullar; Puaaland; [Upper Guinea Coast or Senegambía], that is the broad area from where an individual originally came. If the primary document does not specify where the individual was born, the "Ethnonym / Language" Controlled Vocabulary can help approximate the location. As an example, if FN000000 is identified as Alaba, the "Region of Origin" is the Bight of Benin region. Region of origin is determined with reference to the regionalization outlined in Henry B. Lovejoy, Paul E. Lovejoy, Walter Hawthorne, Edward A. Alpers, Mariana Candido, Matthew S. Hopper, "Redefining African Regions for Linking Open-Source Data," *History in Africa* 46 (2019): 5-36.

The region of destination records the last location where an individual is noted in the sources, and ultimately, the location where he/she died, if known. For purposes of Freedom Narratives, regions of destination include the following designations: Caribbean, North America, western Europe, Hispanic mainland, Brazil. As an example: the "Region of Destination" for an individual found in the Marronnage documents would often be "Caribbean." If it is later discovered that a person travelled to, or died in, North America, this new information would replace "Caribbean."

The biological sex of individuals as listed in the source document(s), often based on observations, is included as female, male, or unknown. All information about the physical appearance of an individual in primary documents are grouped according to characteristics under specific terms (e.g., wound; branding; height). Individual family relationships are considered part of an individual's identity, and hence parents, children, spouses, and other close family are identified. It is recognized that individuals virtually always understood more than one language, including languages of intercession or interviews as well as those associated with ethnonyms, and in some cases literacy is indicated, such as when the primary documents state that the individual could write, or if it is possible to conclude that he/she could (e.g., if a document was written by this individual in a certain language).

A basic summary of what is known about an individual is posted on the website for easy reference. The template for summaries includes basic information, including the name of the individual, his/her sex, identification of ethnonym/language, an estimate of the year or range of years in which the person was born, where the individual was born specifically as to place and geographic region. When, where and how an individual was enslaved is noted along with when and where the individual was taken and what happened later, such as emancipation, sale, escape, marriage and any unique details. Finally, the summary includes the year in which the information was recorded, who obtained the information, where this was done, and the final location of the individual if known.

If information is also to be found in a contributing project, such as Slave Voyages, Liberated Africans, Harvard Biographies or Le Marronnage dans le monde atlantique, the ID number that identifies the document/information in that project's database is noted, which for the Slave Voyages database means the "Voyage ID" number; for Le Marronnage database the ID number for each slave advertisement (at the end of each document's URL) and for Liberated Africans, the registration number in the original documentation. Similarly, every person contributing to the project receives proper recognition for his/her work, which includes those who provided the data and those who entered the data in the database. The events of a person's life are recorded in a similar fashion, following Best Practices and relying on Controlled Vocabularies that have been developed for the project. An "Event Type" is a category or class that captures an event's overarching impact or purpose, as noted in the primary sources. Some will be obvious since there is an "Information Recorded" event when the document is produced. Others require more reflection; for example, if a runaway African recorded in a Les Affiches Américaines newspaper is referred to by a French name, it can be assumed that there was a "Naming Ceremony" event, including baptism, at some point in the individual's personal history which had to have taken place before the "Information Recorded" event, and even before the "Resistance" event (when the person ran away from the master). Information is entered chronologically based on the Controlled Vocabulary for "Event Types."

The social position or status of the individual during each event is determined based on the Controlled Vocabulary (e.g., Free, Enslaved, Liberated, Fugitive). The age of the individual at the time of particular event(s) is recorded as founded in the primary document or otherwise imputed or associated with a range of years. Age categories, including child, adult, elder, are determined at the time of a specific event according to the Controlled Vocabulary. The start date and end date for an "Event" (year-month-day) is recorded according to documentation or imputed when the date is not cited in the original source but has been determined by calculation. An example of calculating an imputed date would be finding out the year when the "birth" event took place by subtracting the known or approximate age of an individual from the year the information was recorded or the event occurred. The circa period is clearly noted when the date is an approximation (a range of years). Religious affiliation at the time of the event is noted, including reference to a specific brotherhood, church, ritual society or other association if it can be determined.

The event description is a summary that captures a single event to clarify the purpose of the event or if something particular happened during an event. For example, a "resistance" event could mean the individual ran away from the master, started a rebellion, or refused to work and hence requires clarification. A "birth" event, by itself, is usually clear enough. However, if the primary document states that there were complications during the "birth" event, then details are noted. An event identifier provides a unique reference for each event to resolve connections among more than one person to the same event, making it possible to search a specific event and everyone who is known to have participated on it. Events are connected to specific sources on the portal, as is all other data. The occupation of the person is noted for each event based on the Controlled Vocabulary. If other individuals, not including relatives, are involved in the event, reference is made to them based on the Controlled Vocabulary. For example, for an enslaved African the ship captain in the "Departure" and "Arrival" events can be determined through the Slave Voyages database, ex. Captain | Street, City, District, Country, Region) is noted. The place where an event occurred, if known, if no precise location is given, a specific area (Street, City, District, Country, Region) is noted. The place where an event occurred is referred to according to the place type, ranging from streets to regions, with the exact coordinates of the location. Variant spellings of the names of places in primary sources and modern equivalents are noted.

Details on the sources used in reconstructing the known history of individual are standardized so that users can access the exact passages relevant to each individual and the full document, including the complete name and details of the original documentation, if the original source does not have a title, the ID number of the document is entered, the source it was taken from, and the date it was published or otherwise identified. The origin of the digital source is recorded, along with the name of a person or organization that made a significant intellectual contribution to the resource. Also included are the name of the institution that possesses the original collection, the exact date when the original document was created or published, the language in which the original document was written, date at which the digital resource was created, and the type of the resource, such as text, iconography, picture, and the resource's format in which the digital resource is made available (PDF, JPEG). Also entered is information about rights held in and over the resource and a consistent reference to all institutions or administrative unit(s) that contributed to the creation, management, description, and/or dissemination of the digital resource. A general term is used that describes what the original resource is or the format that it takes, such as slave advertisement, newspaper article, book. The number of pages in the document or source is recorded.

Controlled Vocabulary

Read here >

Best Practices relies on a methodology that uses Controlled Vocabularies, the fundamental building blocks by which is meant the terms that are used to describe and present data that are carefully defined and applied in the organization of data. Since words and symbols have different meanings in spoken and written language than in a programming language, with particular attention to clear definitions and use vocabularies that are exact and consistent, which are developed as "Controlled Vocabularies." Otherwise data are not "clean" and cannot be processed by computer algorithms. Controlled Vocabularies are used to enable the development of a database that allows analysis of patterns and facilitates interpretation. In some cases, such as in identifying gender, the Controlled Vocabulary is simple (male, female, unknown). In other cases, the Controlled Vocabulary is relatively straightforward, such as the Controlled Vocabulary for Physical Descriptors (scarification, tattooed, missing limbs, slave branding, yellowish complexion, dark complexion, Puro marks, partially blind, totally blind, smallpox marks, marks of illness). Other Controlled Vocabulary relating to ethnonym, occupation and other details are more complicated and expand as new identifications are found. The database identifies individuals through a unique identification number FN000000 that allows a potential database of a million people. For purposes of reference, a single name is taken as a primary name, which can be the name as reported in a source, a name that is the result of conversion to Christianity, or a nickname that was used for that person. All alternative names are recorded, so that the database can be searched for any variation. If a name is changed, such as through conversion to Christianity, the change is recorded as an event. Freedom Narratives does not privilege the use of surnames, which is an approach adopted by some databases and the Enslaved hub. We consider the emphasis on surnames to be Eurocentric and reflect a Judeo-Christian tradition and not traditions that derive from the societies of the enslaved themselves. As noted in our distinction between "Judeo narratives" and "freedom narratives" makes clear, there were two categories of enslaved individuals, first those who were born in Africa and second those who were born in the Americas. Controlled Vocabularies that use a category of identification that is referred to as "surname," which is most often a Christian nomenclature, and occasionally Jewish, are irrelevant to the vast majority of cases involving enslaved individuals. The identification of surnames may be of use in some cases, admittedly, as in the fact that the enslaved who were able to gain their freedom in the Americas could take the surname of their master/mistress, and in cases of fugitive slaves such reference to individuals through the use of the owner's name was a means of identification. Baptist in Portuguese and Spanish colonial settings often involved the adoption of surnames, with some variation from practice among the free population. Spanish practice among the free population used the surnames of both the father and mother, with the father's surname usually coming first. Portuguese nomenclature could refer to other social relationships, not just the preferred surname of the master.

The enslaved who were born in Africa seldom if ever had surnames, at least not before conversion to Christianity. The use of surnames ignores the Muslim component of the enslaved population, wherein Muslims did not use surnames, and it conflates naming practices into an indistinguishable pattern. The insistence on surnames also mistakenly confuses African naming traditions and can incorrectly refer to someone like the individual whose birth name was Otaudah Equiano by the supposed surname, Equiano, when Equiano was not a surname. For Freedom Narratives, the concept of surname is not used. Instead, individuals are identified by a unique identification number (FN000000) and the most common name used in the sources. Variations of names, nicknames, Christian names, variations in spellings are all included under alternate names separated by a semi colon. If the only name that is known is a Christian name, then first and last names are included together, when known, separated by an underscore.

For those who were born into slavery in the Americas or elsewhere other than West Africa, a brief reflection is warranted, even though this is not generally issue for the Freedom Narratives database, unless someone was born outside of West Africa and returned to West Africa and hence comes to the attention of researchers. Individuals in the Americas were given slave names that usually lacked a surname or other designation except in relation to their master/mistress. Such identification is important, and of course, and have to be noted, just as Christian names taken at baptism have to.

Names can provide clues to identify when they can be correlated with other factors, such as religion in the case of Muslim names, with days of the week, as in the case of Akan day names, and specific cultures when the meanings of names in a language can be discerned, as in the case of Otaudah Equiano. Attempts to equate names with specific ethnic groups are less certain, despite the attempt to do so with reference to individuals taken off slave ships by the British Navy in the nineteenth century. With respect to Freedom Narratives, this approach has very limited veracity. Names taken alone can be misleading because of possible similarities in the pronunciation of names that are not otherwise known to be identical in different societies and the uneven filtering of phonetic rendering of names by third parties who do not know the languages and cultural practices of those being attributed with specific origins. The difficulty of relying on names to establish identity is particularly pronounced when a correlation with ethnicity is claimed.

One difficulty of what is known when ethnicity is assumed or assigned relates to the meaning of ethnicity, which is itself contentious. We argue that references to ethnicity, tribe, etc. usually refer to language. Moreover, even when language is inferred from the reference, it is usually made in a manner that suggests that the individual knew only one language when in fact in most cases we know individuals spoke at least two and often several languages. We lump ethnonyms and language together because it is not usually possible to understand what a source is referring to when ethnicity is claimed. The second problem is that the meaning of ethnicity in the diaspora in the Americas is not equivalent to ethnic designations in Africa. In the Americas, various terms are usually described as "rhotic" or "dyaotia", whether in Portuguese, Spanish, French or English, which are vague constructs that do not correspond with designations referred to as ethnicity in Africa. Second, "ethnic" terms in the Americas, such as Lucumi in Cuba, Mandingo/Mandinga, Angola, Congo are broad categories that do not correspond to terms in Africa, despite fuzzy links. The possibility exists that individuals were interviewed or responded in Yoruba whether or not they actually also spoke another language and Yoruba was not their mother tongue. When the term is hypernated with some other designation, such as Hausa, all that can be assumed is that the person so identified spoke at least two languages, Yoruba and Hausa.

Definitions - Regions

Read here >

As a requirement to linking data of open-source digital projects, it has become necessary to delimit the entire continent of precolonial Africa during the era of the slave trade into broad regions and sub-regions that can allow the grouping of data effectively and meaningfully. The various sub-regions that have been identified apply a template that adheres to Best Practices for the whole African continent which has been published in History in Africa for purposes of promoting scholarly reflection. Freedom Narratives focuses on West Africa, but other regions of Africa are relevant in specific cases. From the perspective of West Africa, the sub-regional designations are identified by a term that can be confused with a modern country or a European colony, and no sub-region has a boundary that is identical to a modern or colonial boundary but to a great extent corresponds to geography and climate. Second, sub-regions have been determined according to historical patterns that characterized the period of the slave trade from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century and reflect political change during these four centuries.

The nine sub-regions that are most relevant to the Freedom Narratives project include the Sahara, the Senegambia basin that extends from the coast where the Senegal and Gambia Rivers enter the Atlantic inland to the source of these rivers in the Futa Jalon highlands; the upper Guinea Coast from Casamance to Cape Mount, bound inland by the Futa Jalon highlands and the interior of what is now the modern country of Sierra Leone and the headwaters of the Niger River; the Forests of West Africa that includes the territory in what would be called the Kru coast but stretching from Cape Mount to Grand Bassam and bound in the north by what is referred to as the western savannah, the sub-region that includes the savannah and sahel inland from the Senegambia basin to the middle Niger River basin southwestward from Timbuktu. The Voltaic sub-region incorporates the area east of Grand Bassam to the mouth of the Volta River and inland to the sources of the two branches of the Volta River. Continuing eastward, the Bight of Benin region includes the area from the Volta River to the eastern Niger River delta and northward to the confluence of the Niger and Benue Rivers and the area east of the Atakora Mountains. The Right of Biafra riverland includes the region to the east of the lower Niger.

River and south of the Benue River and extending to Cameroon as far as Gabon. Finally, the central savannah sub-region includes the region east of the Niger River below Timbuktu as far as the Lake Chad basin and southward to the Niger-Benue confluence. The fuzziness of some of the boundaries between these sub-regions is an important historical factor. Moreover, movement between and among sub-regions varied and is established in the database through several means, including identification of more specific places, the trade routes that crisscrossed West Africa, and other factors.



Source: Henry B. Lovejoy, Paul E. Lovejoy, Walter Hawthorne, Edward A. Alpers, Mariana Candido, Matthew S. Hopper, "Redefining African Regions for Linking Open-Source Data," *History in Africa* 46 (2019): 5-36.

Development of the Project

Read here >

The project evolved out of several interrelated research agendas that began to collect biographical data from West Africa. The initial inspiration was the collection of essays published by Philip D. Curtin in Africa Remembered: Narratives of West Africans from the Era of Slave Trade (1967).¹ Lovejoy's Ph.D. thesis (1973) was based in part on biographical information on merchants engaged in the long-distance kola nut trade,² and many of these merchants were of slave descent, although a focus on biography as a source for historical reconstruction in West Africa only attracted Lovejoy's attention in the mid 1990s.³ Subsequently, several biography projects were undertaken, including studies of Mahmood Al-Qadi Baqaqqa, Gustavus Vassa (Kloutah Equiano), Muhammad Kaba Saghaynuhu, Venture Smith, Catherine Mulgrave Zimmerman, and more recently Nicholas Said and Ali Eliami.⁴ In course of this growing interest, Lovejoy began to collect biographical accounts, and with the assistance of Silke Strickrodt, Françoise Shields, and Femi Kolawo, an extensive amount of material was assembled, although in the era before digitization and databases, the information was arranged in a haphazard fashion.⁵

The development of Freedom Narratives, therefore, has been a major step forward in the organization of materials for open access and analysis. The database and website include materials that relate to four overlapping categories of sources: 1) scattered materials on individuals from a great variety of sources which are being ingested into the website; 2) Liberated African documentation, especially from the Sierra Leone Public Archives, which has also been shared with the Liberated Africans project, and which includes Registers of Liberated Africans and much other documentation that is mined for incorporation; 3) fugitive slave advertisements, which are housed on a separate website but which are mined for ingestion into www.freedomnarratives.org; and 4) baptismal, marriage and other materials from the Slave Societies Digital Archive. Two of these categories of sources are connected with Enslaved: Peoples of the Historic Slave Trade (www.enslaved.org), which is a linked open data platform for the study and exploration of the historical slave trade centered at the Matrix Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Michigan State University. The material on fugitive slaves will likely be added to this digital hub in the next phase of the Enslaved Project. Hence Freedom Narratives is not only a collaborative project that relies on internal feedback and criticism but is linked to other websites or will be through the Enslaved platform. All materials and metadata in Freedom Narratives are examined by the two directors, and when necessary different opinions and interpretations are discussed more widely to reach consensus.

The Freedom Narratives website initially used Kora, the backend system developed by the Matrix Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Michigan State University. The data were curated using a combination of software including Google Drive, Microsoft Excel, Google Documents and Adobe PDF Pro Reader. Subsequently, Kartikay Chadha developed the Decoding Origins Web Portal (<http://decodingorigins.org>), which consists of a backend collaborative database built using Structured Query Language (MySQL) and a user friendly interactive platform employing novel algorithms to collect, analyze and cross reference data.

¹Philip D. Curtin, University of Michigan Press, 1967. An early effort to collect biographies of West Africans was Alan D. Austin, African Masters in Amsterdam: In search of a Secret History (New York: Garland, 2004).

²Philip D. Curtin, *Empire of the Slave Trade* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989).

³James O. Frey, "Biography as a Source: A Geographic Archive of Enslaved Africans," in Robin Law (ed.), *Source Material for Studying the Slave Trade and the African Diaspora* (Chicago: Center for Comparative Studies, University of Chicago Press, 1997), 129-140. and "Background to Freedom: The Origin of Muslim Slaves in Bahia," *Slavery and Abolition*, 17:2 (1996), 171-80.

⁴For biographies of Mahmood Al-Qadi Baqaqqa, see Guggenheim Foundation, *Portrait of Mahmood Al-Qadi Baqaqqa* (New York: Knopf, 2002). For Venture Smith, see "Venture Smith and the Business of Slavery," *Journal of Negro History*, 47 (1962), 157-67. "The Arabic Manuscript of Muhammad Kaba Saghaynuhu," in James B. Stewart, ed., *Silke Strickrodt and the Business of Slavery and Freedom* (Lanham: University of Maryland Press, 2007), 163-65. See Virginia R. Dominguez, "The African Background of Venture Smith," in James B. Stewart, ed., *Silke Strickrodt and the Business of Slavery and Freedom* (Lanham: University of Maryland Press, 2007), 20-25. See Virginia R. Dominguez, "The African Background of Venture Smith," *Journal of Negro History*, 47 (1962), 157-67. "The African Background of Nicholas Said," *Journal of Negro History*, 47 (1962), 157-67.

⁵See Lovejoy, "The European Slave Trade on the Western Coast, 1680 to 1700," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 49 (1988), 253-76. *History in Africa*, 16 (1989), 1-19. "The African Diaspora: A Source of Historical Research," *Journal of Negro History*, 47 (1962), 157-67.

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Our Logo

"Redemption Song"

The Freedom Narratives visual-identity is based on 'Redemption Song' by Jamaican artist, Laura Facey, a contemporary sculptor. The figure stands in Emancipation Park in Kingston, Jamaica since it was unveiled on the eve of Emancipation Day, July 31, 2003. The bronze sculpture consists of two nude figures, male and female, who stand in a pool of water, which is part of the monument's fountain base, and who gaze up to the sky. Facey was inspired by Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" and the lyrics "none but ourselves can free our minds."

Facey outlined her intent in the programme brochure for the unveiling: "My piece is not about ropes, chains or torture; I have gone beyond that. I wanted to create a sculpture that communicates transcendence, reverence, strength and unity through our pro-creators—man and woman—all of which comes when the mind is free."³ The logo was designed by Leonardo Morales. His challenge was to transform Facey's message into a web-graphic format.



Redemption Song, 2003, bronze figures, cast iron dome, 10 & 11 ft. h. Monument at Emancipation Park, Kingston, Jamaica, WI. Redemption Song, 2003, bronze figures, cast iron dome, 10 & 11 ft. h. Monument at Emancipation Park, Kingston, Jamaica, WI.

<http://www.laurafacey.com/content/redemption-song-1>

Laura Facey – sculptor



As a sculptor, Laura Facey has worked in bronze, stone and unconventional materials such as Styrofoam, but she is best known for her work in woodcarving. She was one of the first artists in Jamaica to produce assemblage and installation art, often incorporating found objects with carved elements. She was featured in the National Gallery of Jamaica's *Six Options: Gallery Spaces Transformed* in 1985, which was the first exhibition of installation art in Jamaica.² The human body and the land, sea and natural bounty of Jamaica have provided Facey with a range of metaphors to address themes of personal and collective trauma and of spiritual transformation, transcendence and healing.

<http://www.laurafacey.com/>

Facey's work on the 2003 Emancipation monument marked the start of a sustained thematic interest in the legacy of plantation slavery, as an experience of collective trauma and a defining moment in Jamaican history. Her installation, *Their Spirits Gone Before Them* (2006), consists of a traditional Jamaican cottonwood dugout canoe resting on a "sea" of sugar cane and in which is mounted 1,357 resin figures (miniatures of the male and female figures of the *Redemption Song* monument). The work alludes to the Middle Passage as a key moment of trauma and transformation that birthed modern Caribbean society and culture. *Their Spirits Gone Before Them* was endorsed by UNESCO's Slave Route Project and has been featured in several exhibitions, such as Facey's 2014 solo exhibition at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.³

¹ National Housing Trust (July 31, 2003). Programme Brochure of Unveiling of Redemption Song.

² Pouppeys, Veerle (1985). "Six Options: Gallery Spaces Transformed". Arts Jamaica. 4: 1&2: 2-8.

³ "The Slave Route". UNESCO. Retrieved April 21, 2018; "Their Spirits". International Slavery Museum. 2014. Retrieved April 21, 2018.

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Credits

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Matrix Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, Michigan State University

Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and Its Diasporas, York University

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

CERLAC - Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, York University

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Explore

By Category

Gender	Status	Place
Age Category	Event Type	Region of Origin
Ethnoym Language	Occupation	Region of Destination
Physical Characteristics	Religion	Modern Country

Featured Profiles

Isambakön

Isambakön, male, who is identified as Isola Ejamat, was born in 1904 in Bâréndu, Upper Guinea Coast region. He was enslaved through kidnapping in 1826 and taken to Gideou. Subsequently liberated in 1839. Account recorded in 1850 by the linguist Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle at the Liberated African Village Kossi. Last known location was Kossi.

[Learn More](#)

Maria Luisa Picard

Maria Luisa Picard, female, who is identified as Yoruba, was born in 1822 in Lagos, Bight of Benin Region. She was enslaved around the years 1825 and 1833, and taken to Havana. Enslaved for 14 years, she was subsequently freed in 1847, getting married in the following years. Account recorded in 1854. Last known location was London with the wish to return to Lagos.

[Learn More](#)

Ogalay

Ogalay, female, who is identified as Igbo, was born in the Bight of Biafra region. She was enslaved when she was a child. Subsequently liberated in 1827 and known to have scarification and slave branding marks. Account recorded in 1827 by the clerk in the Liberated African Department at Freetown. Last known location was the Liberated African Village of Gloucester.

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Gender

Biological sex of the named individual as listed in the source document(s), often based on observations. Controlled vocabulary: Female, Male, and Unknown.

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Search

Start a Search across 2,000 testimonies here



Filter Your Results

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Download: Current View | All Results

Configure Table Columns

NAME	GENDER	REGION OF ORIGIN	ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
André do Amaral	Male	null	null
Bádšábu	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	Manjaku sp
André do Amaral	Male	null	null
Bádšábu	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	Manjaku sp
Basque	Male	Bight of Benin	Igbo
Benjamin	Male	Gold Coast	Fulbe
Boovee	Female	Bight of Benin	null
Bossecu	Male	Bight of Benin	Yoruba
Búkar	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	Biafada
Dada	Female	Bight of Benin	Yoruba
Isambákõn	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	Joola Ejanat
J.B.	Male	null	null
John Brown	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	null
Kayawon	Male	Upper Guinea Coast	Joola Fogny

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<p>André do Amaral</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Bádšábu</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Upper Guinea Coast</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Manjaku sp</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Basque</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Bight of Benin</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Igbo</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Benjamin</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Gold Coast</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Fulbe</p> <p>View Narrative</p>
<p>Boovee</p> <p>Gender: Female</p> <p>Region of Origin: Bight of Benin</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Bossecu</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Bight of Benin</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Yoruba</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Búkar</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Upper Guinea Coast</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Biafada</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Dada</p> <p>Gender: Female</p> <p>Region of Origin: Bight of Benin</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Yoruba</p> <p>View Narrative</p>
<p>Isambákõn</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Upper Guinea Coast</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Joola Ejanat</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>J.B.</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>John Brown</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Upper Guinea Coast, Rio Pongo</p> <p>View Narrative</p>	<p>Kayawon</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Region of Origin: Upper Guinea Coast</p> <p>Ethnonym Language: Joola Fogny</p> <p>View Narrative</p>

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Filter Your Results

Gender ^

- Female
- Male
- Unknown

Status ^

- Free
- Fugitive
- Liberated
- Slave

Place ^

- City
- Country
- Plantation
- Port

Age Category ^

- Child
- Adult
- Infant
- Old Person

Event Type ^

- Adoption
- Apprenticeship
- Birth
- Death
- Departure
- Disembarkation
- Education
- Emancipation
- Embarkation
- Employment
- Enslavement
- Information Recorded
- Liberation
- Marriage
- Moved
- Ordained
- Resistance
- Sale
- Sold
- Testimony Recorded
- Travel
- Vessel Arrival
- Give Birth

Region of Origin ^

- Bight of Benin
- Upper Guinea Coast

Ethnonym Language ^

- Yoruba
- Fulbe
- Igbo
- Joola Ejamat
- Joola Fogny
- Manjaku sp
- Manjaku Bok
- Biafada
- Jaad

Occupation ^

- Apprentice
- Cigar-maker
- Coffee Plantation Manager
- Cook
- Deacon
- House-servant
- Maroon Leader
- Nurse
- Priest
- Servant
- Slave
- Teacher

Region of Destination ^

- Upper Guinea Coast
- Caribbean
- West Indies
- Europe
- Bight of Benin
- Costal Brazil

Physical Characteristics ^

- Scarification
- Slave Branding
- Red Complexion
- Branding
- Wound
- No marks
- Dark Complexion

Religion ^

- Ijegi
- Christian

Modern Country ^

- Benin
- Brazil
- Cuba
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- United Kingdom

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Status

The social position of the individual at different moments of life, based on controlled vocabulary (Free, Enslaved, Liberated, Fugitive).

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Place

Category of location, based on controlled vocabulary.

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Age Category

Age designation of individual at moment of specific event.

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Event Type

Category or class that captures an event's overarching impact or purpose, based on controlled vocabulary.

[Adoption](#)
[Apprenticeship](#)
[Birth](#)
[Death](#)
[Departure](#)
[Disembarkation](#)
[Education](#)
[Emancipation](#)
[Embarkation](#)
[Employment](#)
[Enslavement](#)
[Information Recorded](#)
[Liberation](#)
[Marriage](#)
[Moved](#)
[Ordained](#)
[Resistance](#)
[Sale](#)
[Sold](#)
[Testimony Recorded](#)
[Travel](#)
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[Give Birth](#)
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Region of Origin

Region from where the person came, preferably where born, as in the controlled vocabulary (Senegambia, Upper Guinea Coast, Cabo Verde Islands, Forests of West Africa, Gold Coast, Bight of Benin, Bight of Biafra, Western Savanna, and Central Savanna).

[Bight of Benin](#)[Upper Guinea Coast](#)[Bight of Biafra](#)[Gold Coast](#)[Rio Pongo](#)[CONTACT](#)

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Ethnonym Language

Terms that describe ethnicity, tribe or nation, or can be inferred from documents, which are here assumed to refer to the language(s) an individual speaks, as listed in controlled vocabulary.

Yoruba

Fulbe

Igbo

Joola Ejamat

Joola Fogny

Manjaku sp

Manjaku Bok

Blafada

Jaad

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Occupation

Skills or trade of the named individual at each event.

Apprentice

Cigar-maker

Coffee Plantation Manager

Cook

Deacon

House-servant

Maroon Leader

Nurse

Priest

Servant

Slave

Teacher

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Region of Destination

The last location referred to in the sources, terminating with death.

[Upper Guinea Coast](#)[Caribbean](#)[West Indies](#)[Europe](#)[Bight of Benin](#)[Costal Brazil](#)[CONTACT](#)

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Physical Characteristics

Physical information of the named individual, based on controlled vocabulary.

Scarification

Slave Branding

Red Complexion

Branding

Wound

No marks

Dark Complexion

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Religion

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- *Endured... Peoples of the Historic Slave Trade* is a linked open data platform for the study and exploration of the historic slave trade that allows searches across multiple datasets of original documentation.
- *Liberated Africans* documents over 250,000 people who were taken off slave ships in the international effort to abolish the trans-Atlantic and Indian Ocean slave trades in the nineteenth century and listed in registers compiled in international courts.
- *Legacies of British Slave-Ownership* provides details on those who claimed ownership of enslaved Africans and their descendants in British colonies at the time of emancipation in 1834, derived from documentation pertaining to compensation for slave owners.
- *The Slave Societies Digital Archive* contains over 500,000 pages of documentation on free and enslaved Africans, along with indigenous Amerindians, Europeans and Asians in Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Spanish Florida and elsewhere as recorded primarily in ecclesiastical records.
- *Equiano's World* is a project on Gustavus Vassa, more commonly known as Olaudah Equiano, and the movement to abolish the slave trade in Britain and its colonies at the end of the eighteenth century.
- *Slavery Images* is a visual record of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slave life in the Americas, including portraits and illustrations of individuals, contemporary maps of Africa, the Atlantic and the Americas, emancipation and post-slavery life.
- *Language of Marks* focuses on body markings, including scarification, tattoos and other modifications of the physical body in Africa and the African diaspora, drawing initially on materials in the "Registers of Liberated Africans" submitted to international courts involved in the suppression of the slave trade.
- *Le Marronnage dans le Monde Atlantique*: Le « marronnage » est une forme de résistance pratiquée avec régularité par les hommes et les femmes asservis dans les sociétés esclavagistes du monde atlantique à l'époque moderne. Centré dans un premier temps sur Saint-Domingue, le projet porte désormais aussi sur la Guyane française, la Guadeloupe, la Jamaïque, la Caroline du Sud, la Louisiane et le Bas-Canada.
- *Documenting Africans in Trans Atlantic Slavery (DATAS)* develops an innovative method to explore African ethnonyms from the era of trans-Atlantic slavery, circa 1500-1867. Ethnonyms index African identities, places and historical events to reconstruct African culture that is linked to a history of slavery, colonialism and racism. ([Summary](#))

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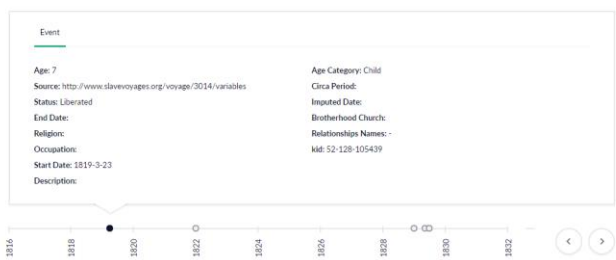
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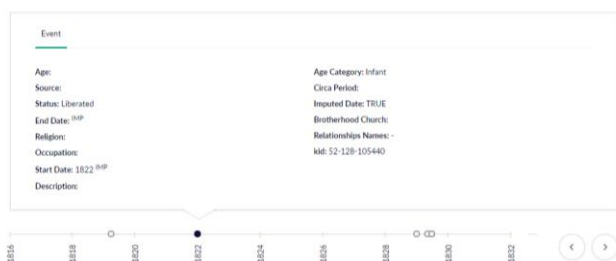
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Jump to Sources

Person Timeline



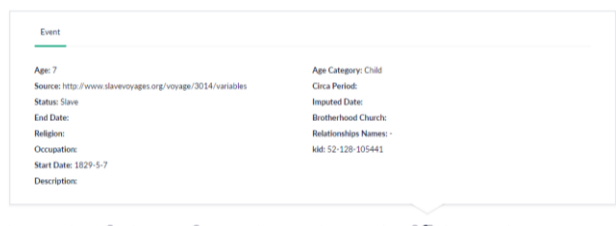
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Person Timeline



Person Timeline



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SOURCE
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ALTERNATE NAMES
Sally

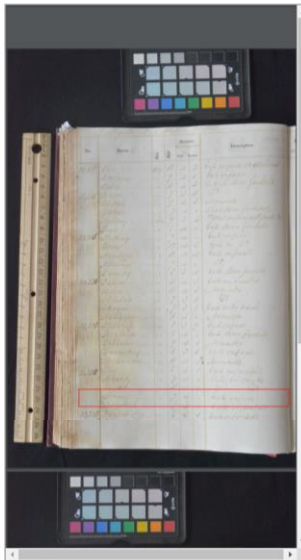
REGION OF ORIGIN
Dight of Benin

REGION OF DESTINATION
Upper Guinea Coast

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Scarification

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Liberated African Register 30709-37429 1829-1830

Date: 1829
Page: 2
Author: Department of Liberated Africans
Format: pdf
Language: English
Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/13
Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives
Description: Boovoe liberated in Sierra Leone. Listed in a Register including 6720 Africans liberated, between 1829 and 1830.
Object Type: Register
Date Digital: 2012
Resource Type: Text
Rights Management: Access for research purposes only
Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute; University of Worcester
Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



Liberated African Register 30709-37429 1829-1830

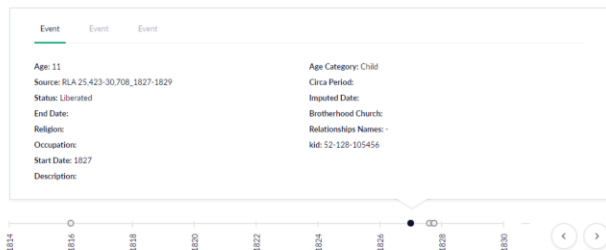
Olojoe

FN000614

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Female

SOURCE

RLA 25.423-30.708_1827-1829; CO 267 111_Census 1831

ALTERNATE NAMES

Sybillie

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

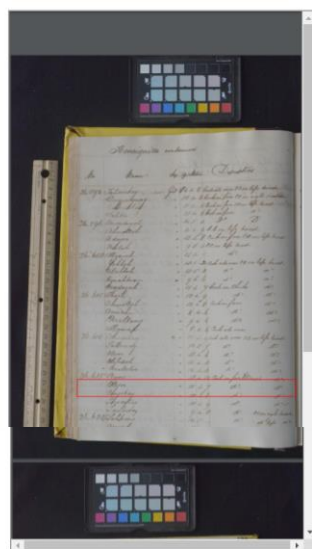
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Slave Branding

KID

5

Sources



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

Date: 1827
Page: 2
Author: Department of Liberated Africans
Format: pdf
Language: English
Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/12
Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives
Description: Olojoe liberated in Sierra Leone in 1827. Listed in a Register including 5285 Africans liberated, between 1827 and 1829.
Object Type: Register
Date Digital: 2012
Resource Type: Text
Rights Management: Access for research purposes only
Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute; University of Worcester
Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Thumbnail image of the source document with the following text below it:

Liberated African Register
25423-30708 1827-1829

Ogalay

FN000604

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

Ogalay, female, who is identified as Igbo, was born in the Bight of Biafra region. She was enslaved when she was a child. Subsequently liberated in 1827 and known to have scarification and slave branding marks. Account recorded in 1827 by the clerk in the Liberated African Department at Freetown. Last known location was the Liberated African village of Gloucester.

GENDER
Female

SOURCE
RLA 25.423-30.708_1827-1829; LA Department Statement of Disposal_1821-1833

FEATURED
TRUE

REGION OF ORIGIN
Bight of Biafra

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
Igbo

REGION OF DESTINATION
Upper Guinea Coast

KID
5

Sources



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

Date: 1827

Page: 2

Author: Department of Liberated Africans

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/12

Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives

Description: Ogalay liberated in Sierra Leone in 1827. Listed in a Register including 5285 Africans liberated, between 1827 and 1829.

Object Type: Register

Date Digitized: 2012

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Access for research purposes only

Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute; University of Worcester

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Thumbnail image of the source document.

Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

CONTACT

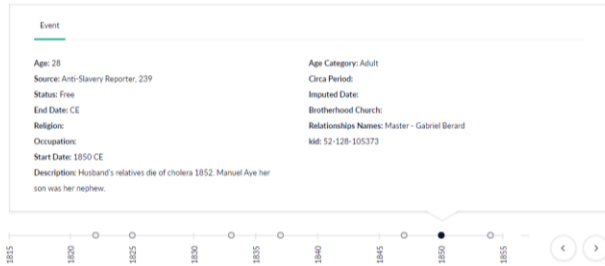


Maria Luisa Picard

FN000192

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)
[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

Maria Luisa Picard, female, who is identified as Yoruba, was born in 1822 in Lagos, Bight of Benin Region. She was enslaved around the years 1825 and 1833, and taken to Havana. Enslaved for 14 years, she was subsequently freed in 1847, getting married in the following years. Account recorded in 1854. Last known location was London with the wish to return to Lagos.

GENDER

Female

SOURCE

The Anti-Slavery Report

FEATURED

TRUE

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

RELATIONSHIPS NAMES

Child - Manuel Aye

REGION OF DESTINATION

Europe

KID

5

Sources



Anti-Slavery Reporter Under the Saction of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

Date: 1834

Page: 239

Author: British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: Library of the University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-champaign, 326-05 AN

Publisher: Google Books

Contributor: Mr. Joseph Clark

Description: Account of Maria Luisa Picard, native of Lagos, was brought to Havana in a Spanish vessel.

Object Type: Journal

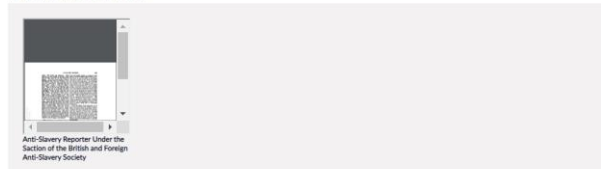
Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Public Domain

Contributing Institution: University of Illinois, Google

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT



YORK
UNIVERSITY

THE
MELLON
FOUNDATION

MATRIX

THE HARRIET
TUBMAN INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH ON AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA

Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

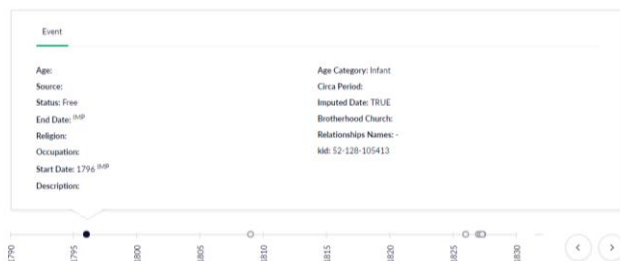
Dada

FN000601

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Female

SOURCE

RLA 25.423-30.708_1827-1829; LA Department Statement of Disposal_1821-1833

RELATIONSHIPS

Child -

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

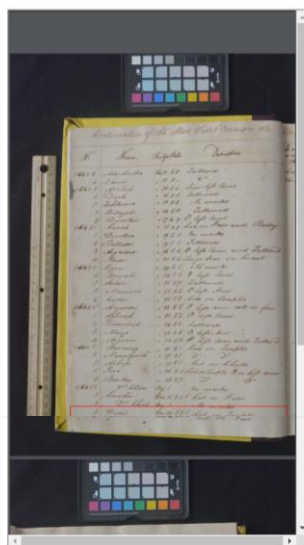
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Scarification

KID

5

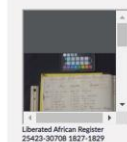
Sources



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

Date: 1827
 Page: 2
 Author: Department of Liberated Africans
 Format: pdf
 Language: English
 Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/12
 Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives
 Description: Dada liberated in Sierra Leone with her two sons in 1827. Listed in a Register including 5285 Africans liberated, between 1827 and 1829.
 Object Type: Register
 Date Digital: 2012
 Resource Type: Text
 Rights Management: Access for research purposes only
 Contributing Institutions: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute, University of Worcester
 kid: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT  



André do Amaral

FN000447

[Jump to Person Metadata ▾](#)
[Jump to Sources ▾](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Província do Pará - Newspaper

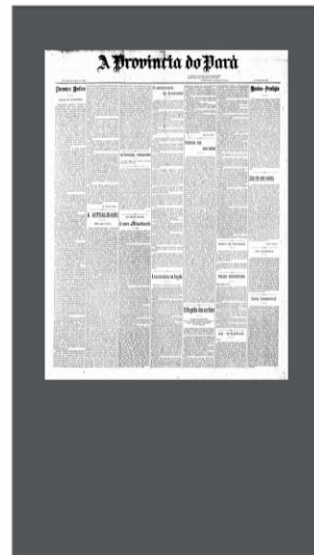
REGION OF DESTINATION

Costal Brazil

KID

5

Sources



Província do Para

Date: 1910

Page: 1

Format: pdf

Language: Portuguese

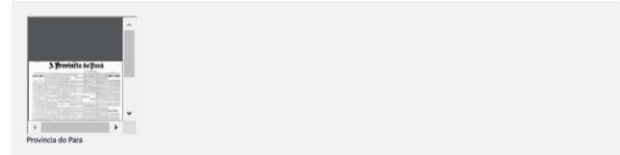
Description: Account of André do Amaral, 128 years old, formerly enslaved living in Brazil, as recorded in a newspaper from Belém, Pará, Brazil.

Object Type: Newspaper

Resource Type: Text

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT



YORK
UNIVERSITY

THE
MELLON
FOUNDATION

MATRIX

THE HARRIET
TUBMAN INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH, AID & INSPIRATION



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Canada

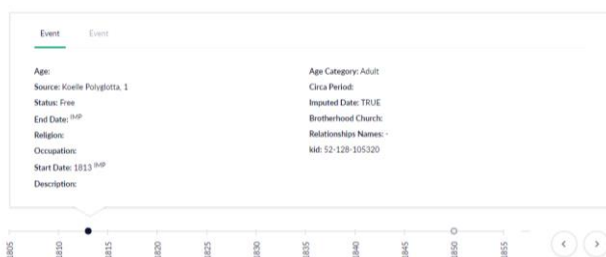
Bádšābu

FN000003

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
Koelle

ALTERNATE NAMES
Manuel Maxfield

REGION OF ORIGIN
Upper Guinea Coast

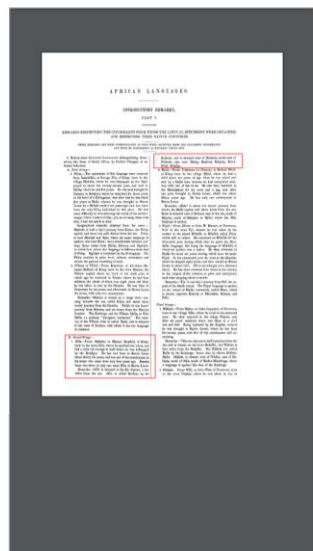
ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
Manjaku sp

REGION OF DESTINATION
Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL
Bola

KID
5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854

Page: 1

Author: Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37/826117; Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle. Polyglotta Africana: or a Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.

Contributor: Karl Richard Lepsius

Description: Account from a man named Bádšābu, whose language/ethnonym was Manjaku to based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 156 African languages.

Object Type: Book

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International

Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

CONTACT  



Basque

FN001204

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)
[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Igbo

REGION OF DESTINATION

Caribbean

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Branding

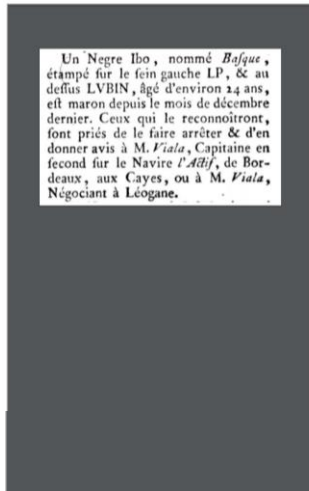
ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL

Ibo

KID

5

Sources



Slave Ad 2382 Affiches Americaines 1769-03-08

Date: 1749

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publisher: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1848 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of a fugitive slave. Contains his last whereabouts, a physical description, and the name and of his master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement


Date Digital: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke; York University; SSHRC

kid: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



Slave Ad 2382 Affiches Américaines 1769-03-08

CONTACT



YORK
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THE
MELLON
FOUNDATION

MATRIX

THE HARRIET
TUBMAN INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Canada

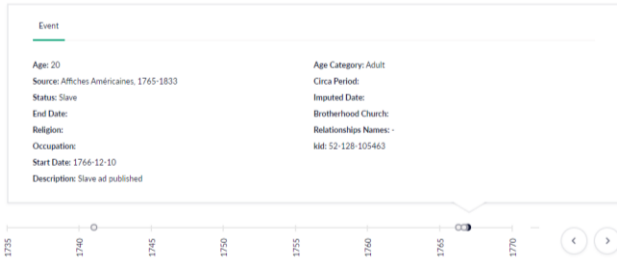
Benjamin

FN001200

Jump to Person Metadata

Jump to Sources

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN
Gold Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
Fulbe

REGION OF DESTINATION
Caribbean

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Scarification, Branding, Dark Complexion, Wound

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL
Poullar

KID
5

Sources



Slave Ad 17 Affiches Americaines 1766-12-10

Date: 1766

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publisher: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1840 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of a fugitive slave. Contains his last whereabouts, a physical description, and the name and of his master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement

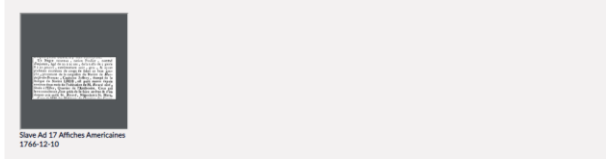
Date Digital: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke; York University; SSHRC

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT  



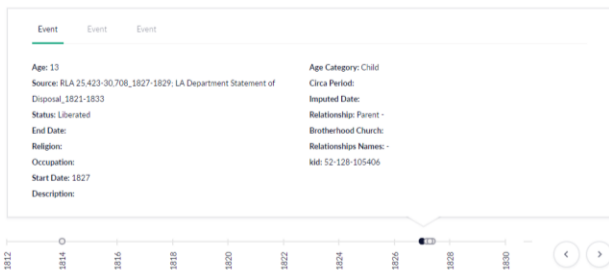
Bossey

FN000600

Jump to Person Metadata ▾

Jump to Sources ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

RLA 25-423-30,708,1827-1829; LA Department Statement of Disposal,1821-1833

RELATIONSHIPS

Parent -

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

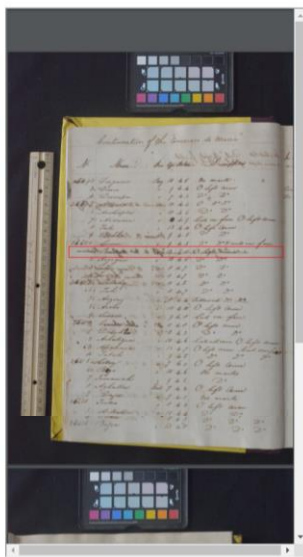
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Branding

KID

5

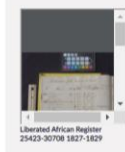
Sources



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

Date: 1827
 Page: 2
 Author: Department of Liberated Africans
 Format: pdf
 Language: English
 Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/12
 Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives
 Description: Bossey liberated in Sierra Leone with his mother and brother in 1827. Listed in a Register including 5285 Africans liberated, between 1827 and 1829.
 Object Type: Register
 Date Digital: 2012
 Resource Type: Text
 Rights Management: Access for research purposes only
 Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute, University of Worcester
 Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

CONTACT  



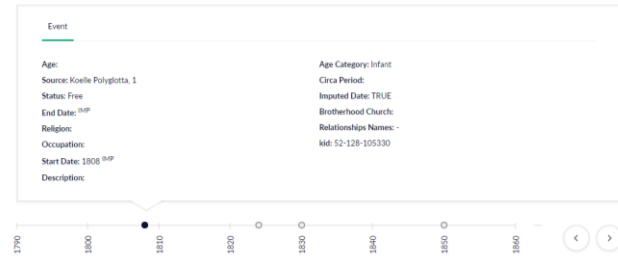
Búkar

FN000006

Jump to Person Metadata ▾

Jump to Sources ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Koelle

ALTERNATE NAMES

John Campbell

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Blafada

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

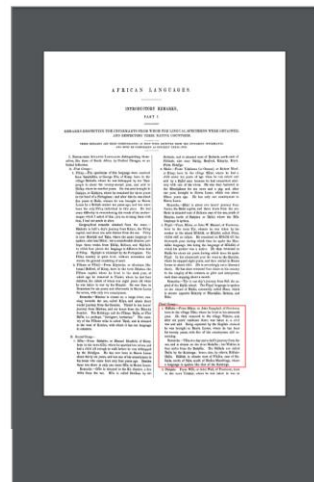
ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL

Blafada

KID

5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854

Page: 1

Author: Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37/826.117. Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle. Polyglotta Africana, or a Comparative Cocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.

Contributor: Karl Richard Leosius

Description: Account from a man named Búkar, whose language/ethnonym was Blafada based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 156 African languages.

Object Type: Book

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata is available under Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International

Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Polyglotta Africana: Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

CONTACT  



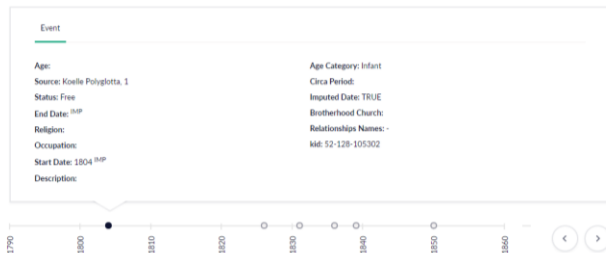
Isambákōn

FN000001

[Jump to Person Metadata](#) ▾

[Jump to Sources](#) ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

Isambákon, male, who is identified as Joola Ejamat, was born in 1804 in Bâténdu, Upper Guinea Coast region. He was enslaved through kidnapping in 1824 and taken to Gádjós. Subsequently liberated in 1839. Account recorded in 1850 by the linguist Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle from the Liberated African village Kissi. Last known location was Kissi.

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
Koelle

FEATURED
TRUE

ALTERNATE NAMES
George File

REGION OF ORIGIN
Upper Guinea Coast

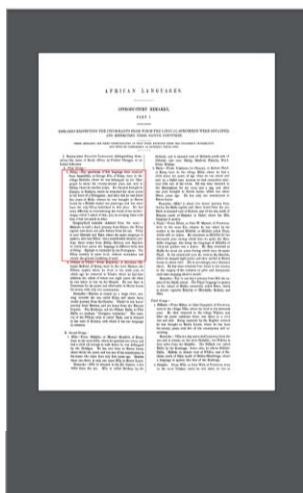
ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
Joola Ejamat

REGION OF DESTINATION
Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL
Fúlip

KID
5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854
 Page: 1
 Author: Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle
 Format: pdf
 Language: English
 Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37/826.17. Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle. Polyglotta Africana, or a Comparative Cocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.
 Contributor: Karl Richard Lepsius
 Description: Account from a man named Isambákon, whose language/ethnonym was Joola Ejamat based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 156 African languages.
 Object Type: Book
 Resource Type: Text
 Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International
 Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia
 Id: 5

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Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

CONTACT  



J.B.
FN000100

Jump to Person Metadata ▾

Jump to Sources ▾

Person Timeline

Event	Event
<p>Age:</p> <p>Source: The Friend of Africa, vol. 1</p> <p>Status: Slave</p> <p>End Date: ^{RPD}</p> <p>Religion:</p> <p>Occupation: Maroon Leader</p> <p>Start Date: 1834 ^{RPD}</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Age Category:</p> <p>Circa Period:</p> <p>Imputed Date: TRUE</p> <p>Brotherhood Church:</p> <p>Relationships Names: -</p> <p>Id: 52-128-105346</p>

Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

The Friend of Africa, Vol.1

REGION OF DESTINATION

West Indies

KID

5

Sources



The Friend of Africa

Date: 1842

Page: 84-85

Author: The Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade, and for the Civilization of Africa

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: Rhodes House Library, University of Oxford, England

Publisher: Google Books

Contributor: V.D.M., John W. Parker

Description: Account of J.B., a native of Africa and former West Indian slave, in a letter from a clerical correspondent (J.V.B.) to Friend of Africa.

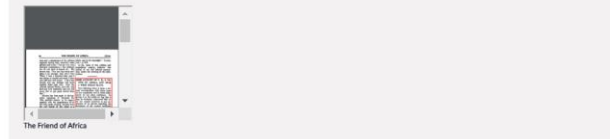
Object Type: Journal

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT  

John Brown

FN000611

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

RLA.37.430-43.537_1830-1833; CO 267 111_Census 1831

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast, Rio Pongo

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

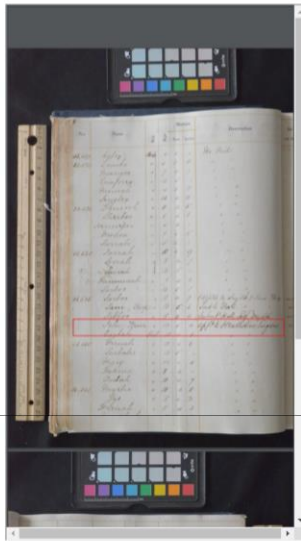
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

No marks

KID

5

Sources



Liberated African Register 37430-43537 1829-1832

Date: 1830

Page: 2

Author: Department of Liberated Africans

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/14

Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives

Description: John Brown liberated in Sierra Leone in 1830. Listed in a Register including 6107 Africans liberated, between 1829 and 1832.

Object Type: Register

Date Digital: 2012

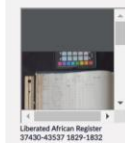
Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Access for research purposes only

Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute; University of Worcester

kid: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT  

Kayawon

FN000002

[Jump to Person Metadata](#) ▾

[Jump to Sources](#) ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Koelle

ALTERNATE NAMES

Abraham Belford, Bahema

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Joola Fogy

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL

Filham

KID

5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854

Page: 1

Author: Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37/826.117, Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle, Polyglotta Africana; or a Comparative Cocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.

Contributor: Karl Richard Lepsius

Description: Account from a man named Kayawon, whose language/ethnonym was Joola Fogy based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 156 African languages.

Object Type: Book

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International

Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

CONTACT  

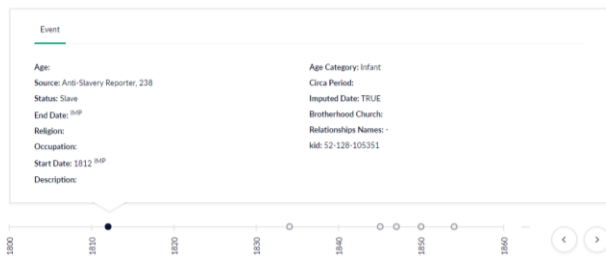
Manuel Vidau

FN000189

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

Manuel Vidal, male, who is identified as Yoruba, was born in 1812 in Lagos, Bight of Benin Region. He was enslaved through war in 1834 and taken to Havana. Enslaved for 14 years, subsequently freed in 1847 and getting married in the following years. Account recorded in 1854. Last known location was London with the wish to return to Lagos.

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

The Anti-Slavery Report

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

RELATIONSHIPS NAMES

Child - Manuel Aye

REGION OF DESTINATION

Europe

KID

5

Sources

Anti-Slavery Reporter Under the Saction of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

Date: 1834

Page: 238,239

Author: British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: Library of the University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-champaign: 326-05 AN

Publisher: Google Books

Contributor: Mr. Joseph Clark

Description: Account of Manuel Vidau, taken prisoner in Lagos and shipped to Havana in 1824. Bought his freedom by making and selling cigars.

Object Type: Journal

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Public Domain

Contributing Institution: University of Illinois, Google

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Anti-Slavery Reporter Under the Saction of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

CONTACT

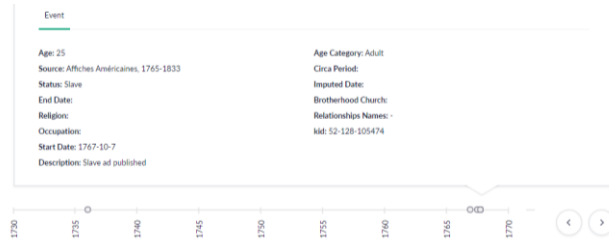


Neptune

FN001202

[Jump to Person Metadata](#) ▾[Jump to Sources](#) ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast

REGION OF DESTINATION

Caribbean

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Dark Complexion

KID

5

Sources



Slave Ad 2043 Affiches Americaines 1767-10-07

Date: 1767

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publiee: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1848 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of two fugitive slaves. Contains their last whereabouts, a physical description of each one, and the name and of their master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement

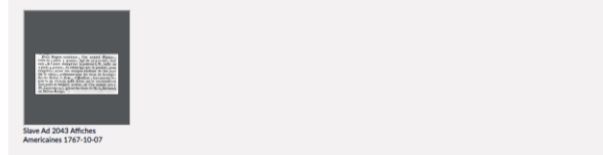
Date Digital: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke, York University, SSHRC

Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

CONTACT  

YORK UNIVERSITY

The MELLON FOUNDATION

MATRIX

THE HARRIET TUBMAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON AFRICA AND THE TRANSATLANTIC

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Canada

Udšūman

FN000004

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Koelle

ALTERNATE NAMES

Robert Nicol, Osman

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Manjaku Bok

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL

Sárar

KID

5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854

Page: 1

Author: Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37/826.117, Sigismund Wilhelm Koelle, Polyglotta Africana, or a Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.

Contributor: Karl Richard Leppis

Description: Account from a man named Udšūman, whose language/ethnonym was Manjaku Bok based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 156 African languages.

Object Type: Book

Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International

Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia

kid: 5

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Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

CONTACT  



Wali

FN000007

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Jump to Sources ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Koelle

ALTERNATE NAMES

John Wali

REGION OF ORIGIN

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Jaad

REGION OF DESTINATION

Upper Guinea Coast

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL

Pádsáde

KID

5

Sources



Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

Date: 1854

Page: 1-2

Author: Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle

Format: pdf

Language: English

Location: British Library General Reference Collection 37.826.17; Sigmund Wilhelm Koelle. Polyglotta Africana; or a Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages.

Contributor: Karl Richard Lepsius

Description: Account from a man named Wali, whose language/ethnonym was Jaad based on Koelle's interviews in a study of 154 African languages.

Object Type: Book


Resource Type: Text

Rights Management: Metadata available under Creative Commons Attribution - Non-Commercial 4.0 International

Contributing Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia

Id: 5

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Polyglotta Africana; Comparative Vocabulary of Nearly Three Hundred Words and Phrases in More than One Hundred Distinct African Languages

William Allen

FN000426

[Jump to Person Metadata](#)

[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Preface to Modern Nigeria: The Sierra Leonians in Yoruba, 1830-1890

REGION OF ORIGIN

Bight of Benin

ETHNONYM LANGUAGE

Yoruba

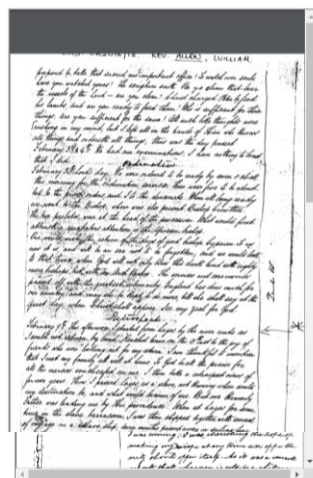
REGION OF DESTINATION

Bight of Benin

KID

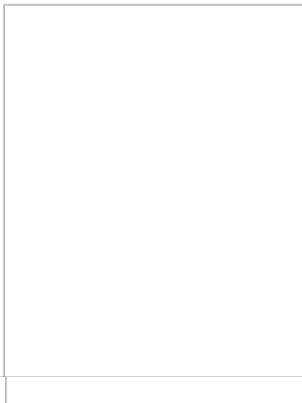
5

Sources



Letters from Reverend William Allen

Author: William Allen
Format: pdf
Language: English
Location: The Cadbury Research Library, CMS, CA 2018-18
Description: Letters from William Allen about his enslavement and trade.
Object Type: Letter
Resource Type: Text
Contributing Institution: University of Birmingham
Id: 5



Preface to Modern Nigeria: The Sierra Leonians in Yoruba, 1830-1890

Date: 1905
Page: 283
Author: Kopytoff, Jean Hersloviets
Format: pdf
Language: English
Description: Account of William Allen, Egba born in Yoruba country. He was captured by an European slave trader but further liberated in Sierra Leone, became a schoolmaster in Freetown and died in Abeokuta.
Object Type: Book
Resource Type: Text
Id: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY

Two source cards are displayed side-by-side:

- Letters from Reverend William Allen**: Includes a thumbnail of the handwritten letter.
- Preface to Modern Nigeria: The Sierra Leonians in Yoruba, 1830-1890**: Includes a thumbnail of a blank page.

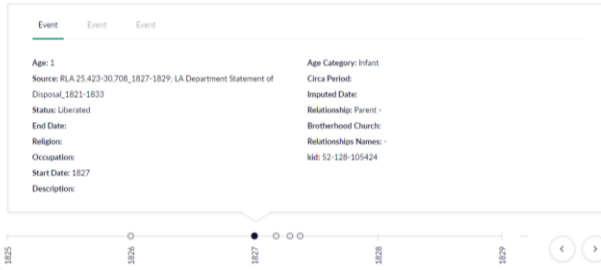
unknown

FN000602

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[Jump to Sources](#)

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
RLA 25,423-30,708_1827-1829: LA Department Statement of Disposal_1821-1833

RELATIONSHIPS
Parent -

REGION OF ORIGIN
Bight of Benin

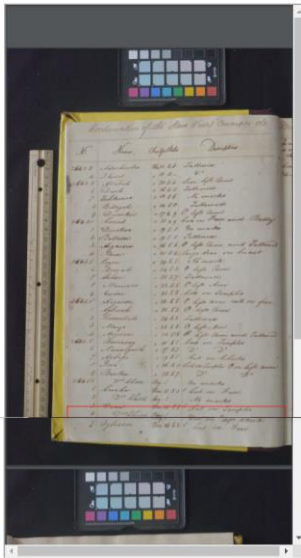
ETHNONYM LANGUAGE
Yoruba

REGION OF DESTINATION
Upper Guinea Coast

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
No marks

KID
5

Sources



Liberated African Register 25423-30708 1827-1829

Date: 1827
Page: 2
Author: Department of Liberated Africans
Format: pdf
Language: English
Location: British Library, Endangered Archives, EAP443/1/17/12
Publisher: British Library Endangered Archives
Description: The unknown named boy liberated in Sierra Leone with his mother and brother in 1827. Listed in a Register including 5285 Africans liberated, between 1827 and 1829.
Object Type: Register
Date Digital: 2012
Resource Type: Text
Rights Management: Access for research purposes only
Contributing Institution: Sierra Leone Public Archives; British Library; Harriet Tubman Institute; University of Worcester
kid: 5

SELECT SOURCE TO DISPLAY



CONTACT  

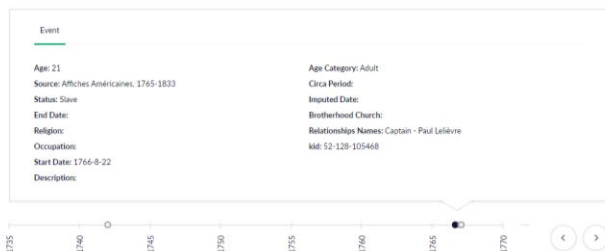
Unknown

FN001201

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Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN
Gold Coast

REGION OF DESTINATION
Caribbean

KID
5

Sources



Slave Ad 1892 Affiches Americaines 1767-01-21

Date: 1767

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publisher: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1848 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of a fugitive slave. Contains his last whereabouts, a physical description, and the name and of his master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement


Date Digitized: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke, York University, SSHRC

id: 5

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Slave Ad 1892 Affiches Americaines 1767-01-21

CONTACT [f](#) [@](#)



Unknown

FN001203

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Jump to Sources ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER
Male

SOURCE
Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN
Upper Guinea Coast

REGION OF DESTINATION
Caribbean

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Scarification, Red Complexion, Branding

KID
5

Sources



Slave Ad 2043 Affiches Americaines 1767-10-07

Date: 1767

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publisher: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1848 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of two fugitive slaves. Contains their last whereabouts, a physical description of each one, and the name and of their master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement

Date Digitl: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke; York University; SSHRC

Id: 5

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Slave Ad 2043 Affiches Américaines 1767-10-07

CONTACT  



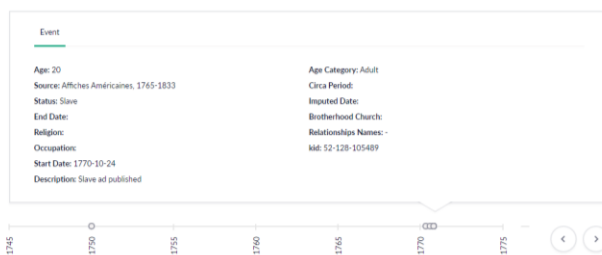
Unknown

FN001205

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[Jump to Sources](#) ▾

Person Timeline



Person Metadata

GENDER

Male

SOURCE

Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

REGION OF ORIGIN

Gold Coast

REGION OF DESTINATION

Caribbean

KID

5

Sources



Slave Ad 2846 Affiches Americaines 1770-10-24

Date: 1770

Page: 1

Author: Affiches Américaines

Format: pdf

Language: French

Location: Affiches Américaines, 1765-1833

Publisher: Le marronnage dans le monde atlantique, 1760-1848 : sources et trajectoires de vie

Description: Journal posting calling for the capture of two fugitive slaves. Contains their last whereabouts, a physical description of each one, and the name and of their master.

Object Type: Slave Advertisement


Date Digitized: 2015

Resource Type: Text

Contributing Institution: Université de Sherbrooke; York University; SSHRC

Id: 5

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Slave Ad 2846 Affiches Américaines 1770-10-24

CONTACT  

