



**Nadine Hunt and Alia Paroo, Editors**

**Harriet Tubman Institute Newsletter  
Number 17**

**December 2007**

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## Letter from Director

It is exciting to launch an institute in honour of Harriet Tubman, who personified the ideals of freedom and justice and overcame physical handicap and gender to instruct people in dignity and respect. The vision of the Tubman Institute was expressed on the occasion of its formal inauguration on March 25, 2007, the bicentenary of the British abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. The significance of this date has drawn awareness to issues of reparations and reconciliation for the evils of the past, its legacy of racism and discrimination, and the lingering infection of slavery today.



The challenge of the Tubman Institute is to harness the resources and needs of the York University community to struggle to disseminate knowledge and access to students, professionals, and the general public, in forms that allow knowledge to be mobilized for purposes of achieving innovations in the sphere of social interaction. Through collaboration that is international and multidisciplinary, and involves academic activists in West Africa, the Maghreb, Angola, Brazil, Central America, the Caribbean, North America and Europe and as reflected in the agendas of our numerous conferences, workshops and seminars, we have formed a network of collaborating scholars invested with the quest to achieve levels of social innovation that can only be maximized through partnership.

There is a cadre of graduate students and former graduate students who are now our junior colleagues that demonstrates our commitment to research and training, and the regeneration of the professoriate. As reflected in our extensive publications, we work together and yet allow both individual and interactive analysis and engagement. However, we have all benefited from the access to new knowledge that would be unattainable without the sharing involved in collaboration and the commitment to accessibility.

The challenge of the Tubman Institute is to establish its presence in the field of global diaspora studies, building on the success of the Harriet Tubman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora as a digital facility and laboratory and the diverse and extensive expertise in Africa and African Diaspora studies at York University and its sister institutions in the Greater Toronto Area. The connection between the Toronto nexus and the diaspora demonstrates the potential for leadership in confronting the issues of racism and slavery.

Paul E. Lovejoy  
Toronto, Canada  
September 27, 2007

# **Archival Report**

## **Northern Nigeria: Precolonial Documents Preservation Scheme**

**Mohammed Bashir Salau and Jennifer Lofkrantz  
University of Mississippi and York University**

In the summer of 2007, Mohammed Bashir Salau of the University of Mississippi and Jennifer Lofkrantz of York University, initiated the pilot phase of a collaborative project entitled “Northern Nigeria: Precolonial Documents Preservation Scheme.” While the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP), through the British Library, provided funding for this project, the Tubman Institute also donated equipment including computers and a scanner. Salau is the recipient of the EAP grant and supervised the execution of the pilot project in several parts of Northern Nigeria, while Lofkrantz’ role in the project is as a researcher and technical expert.

In initiating the pilot project in question, we spent most of our time in Kano, especially at the Kano State History and Cultural Bureau (KSHCB). At this Bureau, we had a series of meetings with the Director and other senior staff where we explained, among other issues, the purpose of the project. We also had a tour of the KSHCB. Our tour guides, consisting of KSHCB staff members, showed us many interesting sites including the KSHCB archival holdings housed at the Kano State Library, the museum located at Gidan Dan Hausa and a newly built archive situated next to the museum. Although the newly built archive looks impressive the KSHCB does not have the funds to either furnish the building nor to transfer its archival holdings from the Kano State Library. Currently documents located at the Kano State Library are stored in metal boxes or in loosely paper-wrapped piles on the floor in a section of the second floor. Overall, the KSHCB staff at the Library, as their colleagues elsewhere in Kano, was welcoming and very positive about the pilot project. We digitized many of the KSHCB archival documents related to nineteenth century Kano housed at the Library. As we look forward to their continued collaboration in an envisioned broader project, the Tubman Institute is developing a website for the KSHCB and is planning to train a KSHCB staff member to be the webmaster for this site.

In Kano we introduced the pilot project, under the auspices of KSHCB officials, to local politicians. Independently, however, we also visited some private archives such as the Dantata family collection. We quickly realized that the documents shown to us mainly dealt with the colonial era. Although Hassan Sanusi Dantata claims that he has a larger collection in his private library that relates to the precolonial era, both he and Jamilah Dantata were very concerned about the control of their documents, copies of their documents being made, and especially about their possible seizure by the state or national governments.

At Arewa House we had our initial meeting with the archivist, Malam Musa, who showed us some of the Arabic, Ajami, Hausa and English documents related to Kano. However, the materials related to precolonial Kano were minimal. Nonetheless, we digitized what was available. Like the KSHCB, the Director and senior staff of Arewa House appeared eager to participate in this project. Before we concluded our work at this archive, a laptop, which was donated by the Tubman Institute, was presented to the Director of Arewa House.

We also met with the Assistant Director, A. O. Umar, and with archivists of the Nigerian National Archives, Kaduna. The National Archives in Kaduna has the largest collection of materials on precolonial Northern Nigeria to date, many of which are endangered. At one time, this had been a well maintained, technologically advanced archive, however, due to the lack of funding, the buildings are falling apart, they are unable to catalogue newly received documents and incapable of preserving or maintaining catalogued documents. The National Archives, Kaduna is extremely interested in receiving assistance in preserving their documents. To commence the process of saving this collection, research assistants were hired to take relevant inventory; an assignment which is ongoing.

We also met with Professor Ibrahim Jumare, Dean of Arts and Islamic Studies at Usman Dan Fodiyo University in Sokoto. After giving us a tour of the Sokoto State Cultural and History Bureau, it is clear that there are many Arabic and Ajami documents related to nineteenth century Kano that need to be preserved. By the end of our meeting, Professor Jumare had pledged his support for this pilot project.

We were successful in meeting the objective of this pilot project; mainly to lay the foundation for a broader project of document preservation. Everyone we met was helpful, friendly, and very positive about our work. We are looking forward to commencing the larger project.



Second floor of Kano State Library



Sample of endangered material from the KSHCB

## Conference Reports

**Inaugural Symposium: “Slavery, Memory, Citizenship”  
Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations  
of African Peoples<sup>1</sup>  
York University, Canada  
23-24 March 2007**

**Nadine Hunt and Alia Paroo  
York University**

On this Sunday afternoon, with the last vestiges of winter being melted away by the warm spring weather, I am honoured that you decided to spend some time with me. We have all taken the time to come together and reflect. That means a lot to me and I thank you. This Sunday, March 25, 2007, will remain etched in my memory forever. You have generously and warmly welcomed me among your prestigious ranks on the same day we are marking the Bicentenary of the *Abolition of the Slave Trade Act* in the British Empire... And this is why I am so proud to be here today to congratulate you on launching the Harriet Tubman Institute. In so doing, you are helping us appreciate the breadth of the African diasporic experience not only in the Americas, but also in the Middle East and Asia. You are telling us of the great struggle slaves and former slaves underwent to reclaim their dignity as human beings. You are reminding us of the importance of remaining vigilant even today, as slavery, slavery-like practices and human trafficking persist around the world. As I have said before, spaces of dialogue, learning and exchange are crucial to keeping Canadians and the rest of the world aware of the undeniable importance of freedom and the dangers that continue to lie in its path.

- Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean<sup>2</sup>

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Madam Jean inaugurated the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples at York University. On this day, the Osgoode Law School also granted Madam Jean an honorary doctor of law degree. Leading up to the important day, the Inaugural Symposium: “Slavery, Memory, Citizenship” was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at

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<sup>1</sup> The Symposium was sponsored by Africa World Press, Founders College, Vice President Research and Innovation, Faculty of Arts, Department of History, Yap Films Ltd, the History Channel, Beecher House Society, Buxton Historic Site and Museum, and CREOS.

<sup>2</sup> “Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean Speech on the Occasion of Receiving an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from York University and Inaugurating the Harriet Tubman Institute” is available at: <http://www.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=e&DocID=5015>

Founders College, York University. On the first day, Paul E. Lovejoy, Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute and Mauro Buccheri, Master of Founders College welcomed participants.

Kate Clifford Larson of the Department of History, Simmons College, delivered the Symposium's keynote address entitled "The Story of Harriet Tubman". According to Larson, "Harriet Tubman is one of the most famous women in North American history. Unlike many once famous historical figures now long forgotten, Tubman has become even more renowned with the passage of time, earning iconic status as an international symbol for past, present, and future struggles for freedom, equality, justice and self determination. Until recently very little has actually been known about Tubman's life, making her place in the annals of great historical figures all the more remarkable. Recent research has now shed new light on her extraordinary story, revealing a real flesh and blood woman far more compelling, powerful, and accessible than the legendary leader of the Underground Railroad."

On Friday evening, a reception and Book Celebration sponsored by Africa World Press was led by José C. Curto. Books written by faculty and international advisory members of the Institute were on display and for sale by the York University bookstore. Following the book reception, there was an advanced screening of two films. The first film, *A Slave's Story* (BBC), documents the life of Venture Smith from his days of enslavement in West Africa in the 1730s to his death in Connecticut as a freeman in 1805, using DNA technology, archaeological excavation and historical research to trace his origins and chronicle the search of his descendants for their family identity. The second film, *Bloodlines: The Battle of Queenston Heights* (Yap Films Inc. for the History Channel) attempts to determine whether Sir Isaac Brock uttered words attributed to him after he was mortally wounded. The second part examined Samuel Thomas and his role in a black regiment. We were pleased to screen the film that featured Thomas's descendent, Janie Cooper, who was present. Linda Heywood and Karolyn Smardz Frost also appeared in the film.

Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann, Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights of Wilfrid Laurier University delivered the closing address entitled "Reparations to Africa: A Human Rights Approach." According to Howard-Hassmann, "a controversial topic at the 2001 United Nations' World Conference against 'Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,' held in Durban, South Africa, was the claim made by some African states for reparations for the trans-Atlantic slave trade. By focusing on the philosophical, legal and historical aspects of the claim, it is apparent that it is heavily based on a counterfactual approach; that is, what 'would have happened' if there had been no slave trade."

### **Paper and presentation titles:**

#### **23 March 2007**

##### **From Haitian Revolution to British Abolition**

Gad Heuman, "The Spectre of the Haitian Revolution in Jamaica"

Nadine Hunt, "European Sources and Abolition of the British Slave Trade: Voices of Enslaved Africans and Free Blacks"

Chouki El Hamel, "British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society Activities in Morocco in the 19th Century"

Myriam Cottias

### **The Impact of British Abolition - 200th anniversary”**

Elisée Soumonni “The Impact of British Abolition on the Slave Trade Port of Ouidah”

Juanita De Barros “The End of Slavery and Health Care in the British Caribbean”

Mariana P. Candido

### **The Underground Railroad - Canada and the Legacy of Slavery**

Karolyn Smardz Frost

Chandler B. Saint

Rosemary Sadlier

Afua Cooper

### **24 March 2007**

#### **Comparative Systems of Bondage**

Behnaz Mirzai, “The African Diaspora in Iran”

Mariza Soares, “Comparing Masters and Slaves in Rio de Janeiro, eighteenth century”

Radhika Mongia, “Contract and Consent: The Post-Abolition Discourse on Freedom”

Toyin Falola

#### **Reparations and Reconciliation**

Olatunji Ojo, “Slavery, Reparation and Reconciliation”

Asheda Dwyer, “Re-visioning Reparations”

datejie green, “Slavery, Reconciliation and Reparations in Southern Sudan”

Carlos Liberato, “Racial Inequality and Affirmative Action in Brazil”

#### **Memory and Citizenship**

Ana Lucia Araujo, “Political uses of memory of slavery in Republic of Benin”

Mohammed B. Salau, “Assimilation of Slaves in the Fanisau region of Sokoto Caliphate”

Carolyn Brown

**“Slavery: Unfinished Business International Conference”**  
**Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation**  
**University of Hull**  
**16-19 May 2007**

**Stacey Sommerdyk**  
**University of Hull**

Hosted by Hull City Hall and the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, the “Slavery: Unfinished Business” conference was part of a series of commemorative events marking the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the British end of the slave trade. Keynote speakers included Cherie Booth QC, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, David Lammy MP, and Kevin Bales, President of Free the Slaves. Scholars present represented Universities and Museums in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. The Harriet Tubman Institute was

represented by Paul E. Lovejoy, who presented a paper entitled “The African Background of Venture Smith” and Tubman associate Renée Soulodre-La France who presented a paper entitled “Cofradias of Colour.” In addition to the academic seminars, this Conference included a public lecture by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in which he urged listeners to consider issues of modern day slavery and to engage in political actions as well as economic actions, such as supporting the fair trade industry. He also addressed the issue of reparations suggesting that reparations should come in the form of debt forgiveness as well as educational and health care initiatives. The conference concluded with the Wilberforce 2007: Celebration Concert. This performance featured a special commission about one slave’s role in the abolition and an African musical performance. Overall, it was a well-balanced conference in terms of interdisciplinary and geographical representation and in its focus on past as well as present slavery issues.

In September 2008, the Wilberforce Institute and the Harriet Tubman Institute will co-host another international and interdisciplinary conference entitled “Empire, Slave Trade and Slavery: Rebuilding Civil Society in Sierra Leone - Past and Present” in Hull, UK. This conference will mark the bicentenary of the establishment of Sierra Leone as a British Crown colony in 1808.

**“Rethinking Rights in Africa: The Struggle for Meaning  
and the Meaning of Struggle”**  
**Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference**  
**University of Toronto**  
**17-19 May 2007**

**Alia Paroo**  
**York University**

The aim of this year’s annual Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) Conference was to encourage participants to rethink the meaning of rights by encouraging Africanists to “think about rights in ways more consonant with local struggles over power and its meaning”.<sup>3</sup> Rights discourse has been a central part of much of the existing literature; however, CAAS presented a forum for scholars to discuss the definition of the term and its meaning in a wide array of contexts.

A total of 33 scheduled panels, divided thematically and geographically, covered a wide range of issues exploring the broader theme of rights by focusing on issues such as migration; identity; culture, economics and politics; language, representations and expressions; gender; youth; race and religion; sexualities and HIV/AIDS; medicine; slavery, pawning and servitude; conflict and resolution; development and disability rights.

With over 114 registered panelists affiliated with a wide range of organizations and disciplines, scholars from across North America, Europe, Ghana, South Africa, Burundi and Cameroon participated in the Conference. In turn, the discussions took on a broad range of perspectives,

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<sup>3</sup> CAAS Call for Papers < <http://caas.concordia.ca/htm/call-e07.htm>>.

highlighting a number of considerations that need to be taken into account when dealing with sensitive and complex issues such as rights and development in Africa. This was perhaps most apparent during the four keynote addresses that concluded each day of the Conference. Speakers included Rhoda Howard-Hassmann (Wilfred Laurier University), Janice Boddy (University of Toronto), Bogumil Jewsiewicki (Université Laval) and Paul Zeleza (University of Illinois at Chicago). These scholars explored a number of complex issues including reparations, gender issues, artistic representations and human rights in Africa. Many of these addresses posed more questions than they provided answers, offering the audience a foundation upon which they can explore these issues in more depth by focusing on their own areas of interest and specializations. In fact, at the conclusion of the Conference, many of the participants lingered around the campus to discuss many of the issues raised over the four days. In spite of the long road ahead in overcoming or reducing many of the obstacles in Africa's development, there was an overall message of hope in achieving political, economic, social, educational, cultural and basic human rights for Africans around the world. It was the sincerity of the participants and this lining of hope that truly made this year's Conference an overwhelming success.



For more information on this year's CAAS Conference or to learn more about CAAS, please refer to: <http://caas.concordia.ca>.

Photo: Feisal Farah (top left), Ismael M. Montana, Nadine Hunt, Rafaela Jobbitt

Mariana P. Candido (bottom left), Alia Paroo, José C. Curto and Yacine Daddi-Addoun

**“Freedom: Retrospective and Prospective”  
The Mona Academic Conference  
University of the West Indies, Mona  
31 August – 2 September 2007**

**Nadine Hunt  
York University**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mona Academic Conference hosted by the University of the West Indies, Mona campus devoted its theme “Freedom: Retrospective and Prospective” to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade to the Americas. Despite the timing of Hurricane Dean and the postponed national election, the Conference was held 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 in Kingston, Jamaica. The Conference's aims were successfully met, bringing



together a diverse group of scholars and public figures to critically examine the meaning of freedom in past and present Jamaican society. Conference papers covered a variety of topics, such as: memorializing the slave trade and slavery, reparations, capitalism and slavery, indigenous knowledge systems, the limits and possibilities of state sovereignty, globalisation and trade liberalisation – possibilities and constraints, education, freedom and development, gender, migration and Diaspora, human rights and individual freedoms. The

Conference was organized into five panels and four guest speaker sessions; and Ruth J. Simmons of Brown University gave the keynote address.

For more information on the Conference, please visit:  
<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/conferences/2007/monaconf/>

## 1 September 2007

### Guest Speaker I

Presenter: Maureen Warner-Lewis, “Song as Evocation of Communal History”

### Sustaining the Memory

Nadine Hunt, “A weh dem a go? The slave trade of Jamaica”

Anne C. Bailey, “Oral Histories of the Atlantic Slave Trade”

Paul E. Lovejoy, “Memorializing Slavery and the Slave Trade Through Personal Accounts”

Silvia Kouwenberg, “Africans in Early English Jamaica”

### Freedom Road

Heather Cateau, “Freedom Road – The Empowerment of the Enslaved Population by the Eighteenth Century”

Sebastien Sacre, “Maryse Conde’s *Moi, Tituba socière*...and the rupture of slavery: from spiritual adaptation to Universal magic”

Jenny Jemmott, “Marginality or Activism: The Black Male and the Family in Nineteenth-Century Jamaica”

### Rethinking Freedom

Nick Shepherd, “All that is buried is not dead: Public histories and apartheid Cape Town”

Anthony Bogues, “The Two Freedoms of the Haitian Revolutions: Rethinking Freedom in the Modern World”

## 2 September 2007

### Legacy

Sandra Gift, “The Legacies of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans and Human Development Challenges: The Role of Education”

Juline Francis-Gordon, “200 Years since the Abolition of the Slave Trade”

Deborah Thomas, “Specters of Violence: History, Ethnography, and the Idea of Freedom”

### **Guest Speaker II**

Geri Augusto, “Knowledge Free & Unfree: Epistemic Tensions in Indigenous, Slave and European Knowledge of Medicinal Plants in the Early Cape Colony”

### **Guest Speaker III**

Verene Shepherd, “From Text to Public Space: The JNHT’s Freedom Monument Project and the Archaeology of Black Memory”

### **Unfinished Business: Testimonials**

Mary Noel Menezes, Yasus Afari and Carol Narcisse

### **Guest Speaker IV**

Hilary McD Beckles, “Reparations: Taking Forward the Caribbean’s Case”

**“Interrogations of Freedom: Memories, Meanings, Migrations”**  
**Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference**  
**University of the West Indies, Cave Hill**  
**9 – 12 October 2007**

**Henry Lovejoy**  
**University of California, Los Angeles**



The 4<sup>th</sup> biennial Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference was held in Bridgetown, Barbados between 9-12 October 2007. This Conference commemorated the Bicentennial of the British and American abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. The theme, was “Interrogations of Freedom: Memories, Meanings, Migrations,” bringing together a diverse group of scholars to discuss the most current research related to the dispersal of people of African descent throughout the world. It was hosted by the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill and New York University (NYU) and coordinated by Michael A. Gomez of NYU.

This successful four-day event was research driven and featured panels organized across disciplinary, geographic, theoretical, and cultural boundaries. In total there were 71 panels that ran concurrently covering many disciplines: history, anthropology, sociology, literature, women and gender studies, education, geology, political science, sociology, language, art, music, film, theater, dance, archeology, biology, and photography. Scholars represented academic institutions in the Caribbean, North and South America, Europe, and Africa.

The first plenary session was a panel composed of Colin Palmer (Princeton University), Selwyn Carrington (Howard University), William Darity, Jr. (Duke University), and Seymour Drescher (University of Pittsburgh). They formed a panel, which revisited the legacy of the Eric Williams thesis. As Drescher argues, Williams did not acknowledge that morality had to be combined with the forces of politics and economic theory to bring about the end of the slave trade. Thereafter, discussions related to race and ethnicity, which harmonized well with the Conference's theme of memories, meaning and migration.

On the second day, the plenary session included Mary Chamberlain (Oxford Brookes), Curwen Best (UWI, Cave Hill), Philip Nanton (University of Birmingham), and J. Dillon Brown (Washington University, St. Louis). This panel celebrated and honored George Lamming, the Barbadian author, who wrote about decolonization and reconstruction in the Caribbean. Although many view his novels as "soapboxes" from which Lamming preached Marxist ideologies, he succeeded in tying together collective history through the characters in his novels and poetry.

The keynote address was held at the UWI, Cave Hill and was given by the Principal of Cave Hill, Hilary McD Beckles. He stressed the importance of the continuation of research into all aspects of the African Diaspora. Beckles reminds us that the general emancipation of slaves built many unique societies based upon identities growing among different conceptions of national consciousness. He recognized the importance of this Conference in illustrating that international and multi-disciplinary research has furthered our understanding of the African Diaspora. He then acknowledged that much research has to be done in this field.

For more information related to ASWAD please consult [www.aswadiaspora.org](http://www.aswadiaspora.org).

**The IV International Seminar on African Forced Labour  
Porto, Portugal  
15-17 November 2007**

**Stacey Sommerdyk and Rafaela Jobbitt  
University of Hull and York University**



The IV International Seminar on African Forced Labour was hosted by the Centro de Estudos Africanos, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto (CEAUP) from 15-17 November 2007. Although the primary language of discourse was Portuguese, papers were also presented in French and English. Focusing on forced labour in Africa, panellists discussed topics ranging from the Red Sea to Angola to Cape Verde. All papers presented at this Conference will be published in January 2008 – Publication of *Africana Studia*, n°

10 by CEAUP. It will include recent York graduate Stacey Sommerdyk's paper entitled "Rivalry on the Loango Coast: a re-examination of the Dutch in the Atlantic Slave Trade," which explored recent statistics from the Atlantic Slave Trade Database which suggested the Dutch had a much more profitable trade on the Loango Coast than the Portuguese and suggested possible reasons for these trading patterns; and, current PhD student Rafaela Jobbitt's paper entitled "Forced Labour, Public Hygiene and the Degredados of Sao Tome in the Late Nineteenth Century," which explored the writings of Manuel Ferreira Ribeiro on the topic of enforced labour linking concerns of public health with the segregation of these labourers. At the general debate, people raised important questions concerning the use of the terms slavery and forced labour and the links between the two, the continuation of forced labour practices despite legislation, and the resistance against these practices. Satisfactory answers to these questions have yet to be written and debated upon at the next conference in Bahia, Brazil in November 2008. Other upcoming events by CEAUP include a seminar on Islam in Africa in June 2008 to be held in Algarve and a seminar on Water in Africa in October 2008 to be held in Porto. For further information about this conference, the CEAUP, or its publications, please go to <http://www.africanos.eu>.



Olavo Bilac (left), Patricia Gomes, Stacey Sommerdyk and Leopold Dossou

**“Finding the African Voice: Narratives of Slavery and  
Enslavement Workshop”  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
Bellagio Study and Conference Center, Bellagio (Como), Italy  
24-28 September 2007**

**Ismael M. Montana  
Northern Illinois University**

From 24-28 September 2007, Ismael Montana presented a paper entitled “Action Speaks Louder Than Words: Runaway Slaves and Abolitionist Consciousness in the Context of Ahmad Bey’s Anti-Slavery Program in Tunisia, 1841-1846” at the “Finding the African Voice: Narratives of Slavery and Enslavement Workshop.” Held at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center in Italy, this Workshop was organized by Martin A. Klein, Professor Emeritus, (Department of History, University of Toronto), Alice Bellagamba (University of Milano-Bicocca), Carolyn Brown

(Rutgers University) and Sandra Greene (Cornell University). Funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the workshop brought together over 20 scholars from Africa, Europe, Canada and the United States in a friendly atmosphere, surrounded by Lake Como, to address the lack of adequate local research capacity to explore more African sources for the history of slavery and the slave trade in Africa.

The workshop intended to respond to concerns over the fact that existing histories of the slave trade depend overwhelmingly on European sources. Over a five-day period, participants discussed the need to recover potential sources of the enslaved African voice such as slave narratives, descriptions of rituals, songs, folk tales and proverbs. Under-utilized documentary sources such as missionary archives, court cases, and even administrative correspondence that have been hitherto ignored were also examined. The Workshop also explored the possibility of setting up a permanent online web-based resource to preserve the local material generated in electronic form, serving as a focal point for dissemination and future collaborative projects.

It was agreed that the outcome of this workshop should result in a publication of a critical collection of African sources on African slavery and the slave trade. A book like this, especially on the different methodologies used during the workshop to recover source material in Africa would not only make a notable contribution to fill the lacunae in the history of slavery and the slave trade in Africa, but it will also enable researchers, teachers and students to access primary sources that are crucial to understanding African history.

## Research reports

### **Niger Research Report January - April 2007**

**Jennifer Lofkrantz  
York University**



Archives d'Agadez

From the beginning of January 2007 to mid-April 2007 I conducted archival research in Niamey at the Archives Nationales du Niger (ANN), at the Department of Arabic and Ajami Manuscripts of the Institut de Recherches en Sciences Humaines (IRSH) Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, and at the Archives d'Agadez. As well, I attended a conference, "Recontre internationale Fontes Historiae Africanae" on Arabic and Ajami manuscripts held at IRSH.

For most of my time in Niger I worked at the ANN. The ANN is a small but very well organized and professional archive. For the most part, documents are in good condition. The collection dates mostly from 1900 with only a few documents from before that date. I concentrated mostly on the political reports of the 1E1 through 1E8 series. As well, I was able to work with Boubou Hama's journals and some dossiers from the B series. I also spent some time at the Department of Arabic and Ajami manuscripts at IRSH although my access to documents was variable.

I spent about two weeks at the Archives d'Agadez. This archive dates from 1916, after the original archive had been destroyed during the Tuareg Rebellion of 1916-1917. The Archives d'Agadez is not well organized. There is only one person who works there and he is in charge of the building, administration, cataloguing, preservation, and the organization of the archive. The vast majority of documents remain uncatalogued and unorganized on the floor of the main document room. While in Agadez I also met with linguists at the Tamashek alphabetization project at CEDI-PADENF.

The one small problem that I had was getting a research permit. This is a much more involved process than in Mali. I strongly suggest that researchers apply for their research permits before going to Niger.

## United Kingdom Research Report<sup>4</sup> May – August 2007

**Nadine Hunt**  
**York University**



In May and June, I began research in Edinburgh, Scotland. I primarily worked in the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the National Library of Scotland.<sup>5</sup> Their collections are rich in documents of the eighteenth-century Caribbean, especially on British colonies such as Jamaica. These collections include private correspondence, plantation records, and wills and last testaments. I also examined Custom and Excise related documents. For example, Glasgow had an important economic relationship with the British

Caribbean in the slavery era. I made several trips to Glasgow, carrying out research at the University of Glasgow and the Glasgow City Archives.<sup>6</sup> The University holds several collections of rare manuscripts. For example, I examined the Hunterian collection, which contains a number of traveller accounts that shed light on life in the Americas. The City Archives holds documents of former Glasgow merchants, whose trade networks extended to the Caribbean. Hence, I examined Glasgow Custom and Excise books, but also looked at journals and estate records of some absentee-planters. I advise that before carrying out research in Scotland, it is best to identify private and public documents in advance. Some records are private, but held by public institutions such as the NAS.<sup>7</sup> Subsequently, I trekked north to Aberdeen, which had established trade networks with some Caribbean colonies. In Aberdeen, I primarily worked at the University of Aberdeen, but also visited the Aberdeen Central Library and the Aberdeen City Archives.<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>4</sup> I acknowledge the financial support of the Social Sciences Humanities and Research Council of Canada (Doctoral Fellowship Program), the Atlantic History Seminar (Harvard University), the David Nicholls Memorial Trust (Oxford), and the Faculty of Graduate Studies (York University). I wish to thank the wonderful staff at the above-mentioned archives for assisting me, retrieving documents and answering many endless questions. I also thank the many people who helped me on my journey, including: Kristine Alexander, Bernard Bailyn, Julie Bowring, Trevor Burnard, Christina Burnett, Colin Clarke, Ken Cozzens, Patricia Denault, Tom Devine, Kent Fedorowich, Kieran German, Gordon Gill, Jordan Goodman, Nara Muniz Improta, Michele Johnson, Robin Law, Paul Lovejoy, Philip Misevich, Kenneth Morgan, Gillian Nicholls, P. D. Richardson, James Robertson, Norman Samuels, David Trotman, Sasha Turner and Hannah Weiss.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nas.gov.uk/>; <http://www.nls.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://special.lib.gla.ac.uk/>;

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Libraries/Collections/ArchivesandSpecialCollections/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.nas.gov.uk/nras/default.asp>



In July, I returned to England, and travelled to Bristol. I visited the Bristol Record Office, the University of Bristol, and the Bristol Central Library.<sup>9</sup> The BRO is rich in merchant records. The Office is neatly organized, and searches can be performed online, in advance. The Library holds relevant historical records, and compliments the rich holdings of the Office and the University. The University's archive

contains a number of donated materials, especially records from the British Records Association. In particular, the John Pinney Collection is an excellent source to consult, if studying trade in the Caribbean. In addition, Pinney's former residential home, the Georgian House is located in Bristol.



After Bristol, I travelled to Oxford University. Here, I worked at the Old and New Bodelian, Regent's Park, Rhodes House, and the Plant Sciences Library.<sup>10</sup> At Regent's Park, I primarily worked in the David Nicholls Library.<sup>11</sup> The Collection comprises some 4,000 volumes, of which about a quarter deal specifically with Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean islands. Moreover, the Collection has a pan-Caribbean focus and contains a number of out-of-print books, which were published in the Caribbean. I also worked at the Rhodes House Library, where I found relevant material on Africa and the Caribbean in the eighteenth century.

I spent the month of August in London, where I worked at the British Library (BL), the British Postal Museum & Library, the London Guildhall, the National Archives, and the National Maritime Museum (Caird Library). At the BL, I continued to read rare manuscripts, examining government and private correspondence. The Postal Library holds an interesting historical collection of the British Empire's postal service. The bulk of the collection is on microfilm, so be prepared, staff might not allow researchers to view original material. At the Maritime Museum, I viewed loose shipping documents and shipping logs. The Museum has an excellent map collection, and materials should be contrasted to the BL's holdings. At the Archives, I continued digitising documents from the Colonial Office series, wills and last testaments, and obtaining additional historical material on Jamaica, the circum-Caribbean and Scotland.



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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/>;

[http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Libraries/NS/lib\\_Library\\_Home.asp](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Libraries/NS/lib_Library_Home.asp);

[http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/LocalHistory/RM/loc\\_ArchivesHomePage.asp](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/LocalHistory/RM/loc_ArchivesHomePage.asp)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure-and-culture/records-and-](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure-and-culture/records-and-archives/?jsessionid=A6F9C2134DC1723AD33B9975FF158737)

[archives/?jsessionid=A6F9C2134DC1723AD33B9975FF158737;](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure-and-culture/records-and-archives/?jsessionid=A6F9C2134DC1723AD33B9975FF158737)

[http://www.bris.ac.uk/is/library/collections/specialcollections/;](http://www.bris.ac.uk/is/library/collections/specialcollections/)

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Libraries/central-library-family-history-and-local-studies.en>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dnmt.org.uk/dnmt/index.php?p=default&rn=library>

## Call for Papers

### **“Empire, Slave Trade and Slavery: Rebuilding Civil Society in Sierra Leone. Past and Present”**

An International Interdisciplinary Conference to be held at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull.  
26-28 September 2008

This conference will mark the bicentenary of the establishment of Sierra Leone as a British Crown colony in 1808.

#### Sponsors:

Liverpool Hope University

Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples (York University)

Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (University of Hull)

In 1808, two hundred years ago, Sierra Leone became a British Crown colony. The bicentennial presents the opportunity to re-examine the history of Sierra Leone. The conference will bring together academics from different disciplines, museum professionals, archivists, policy makers concerned with contemporary issues, and individuals interested in human rights and the reconstruction of modern day Sierra Leone.

British influence in Sierra Leone is long standing and took a variety of forms in the transition from slavery to civil society from the eighteenth century to the present day. This part of West Africa was not only a slave supply region on the upper Guinea Coast but also the location for a number of abolitionist experiments in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Leading British abolitionists, including Granville Sharp and William Wilberforce, regarded Sierra Leone as a ‘Province of Freedom’ that would transform Africa. It was hoped that the utopian vision of a settlement governed by former slaves would demonstrate African capacity for cultural, moral and economic improvement. To that end, the aims of the Sierra Leone Company, incorporated in 1791, were the destruction of the slave trade and the regeneration of Africa. The development of Freetown in a slave trading region was a bold and ambitious experiment in the implementation of morality and abolitionist economics. Although the Company aimed to develop ‘legitimate’ forms of trade as alternatives to the transatlantic slave trade, it failed to achieve its aims, and in 1808 the settlement was formally transferred to the British Crown.

Sierra Leone experienced a number of phases of resettlement by people of African descent. In 1792 over 1,100 former slaves from Nova Scotia resettled in Freetown with the intention of making their ‘children free and happy’, and some 550 Maroons from Jamaica arrived in Sierra Leone in 1800. After 1807, anti-slavery squadrons disembarked tens of thousands of ‘recaptives’ from various parts of West Africa at Freetown. These immigrant groups constituted a ‘great mixture of Africans ... [who] had to rebuild identities and communities in an alien land controlled by Europeans’, as David Northrup has recognized. Through their missionary and

commercial endeavours, the ‘recaptives’ also influenced economic, social, and religious development in other areas of West Africa.

This conference offers scope to examine the legacies of slavery, abolition, and colonial rule in Sierra Leone. The conference will explore British interaction with indigenous groups, the influence of European administrators on economic and cultural policy, and the activities of immigrants in establishing a unique cultural, religious and social identity. Moreover, the legacy of this past will be explored in the context of the long history of colonial rule in Sierra Leone and the subsequent difficulties of establishing a civil society in the post-colonial era.

The Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation is a particularly appropriate venue for the conference because Freetown, Sierra Leone, and the City of Hull have been twin cities since 1980. The visit of former P.M. Tony Blair to Sierra Leone in May 2007 highlighted the ongoing links between Britain and Sierra Leone and the difficulties of reconstructing civil society in the aftermath of brutal civil war. With the return to peace in 2002, Britain agreed to provide development aid to rebuild Sierra Leone, which had become one of the world’s poorest countries. Hence, the conference will focus on the reconstruction of civil society, both in the context of slavery and abolition and in the context of civil war and its aftermath. In recognition of the historic reasons that Hull and Freetown have been twin cities, the conference will provide a forum to discuss past and present issues of social justice and civil development.

Please submit proposals for papers, including title and abstract, to Jane Ellison, by 1 December 2007.

All participants will be required to pay a registration fee and to arrange their own accommodation and travel. Information on local hotel accommodation can be arranged through the Hull Conference Bureau; details to be supplied upon registration.

An edited collection of papers presented at the conference will be published.

Direct all correspondence to Jane Ellison <j.ellison@hull.ac.uk>

### **Call for expressions of interest**

An international conference is to be held on all aspects of child slavery at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), University of Hull, UK in association with AntiSlavery International, Gilder Lehrman Center, Yale University and Free the Slaves on November 27-28 2008

Following our highly successful conferences on Modern Slavery (November 2006), and Unfinished Business (May 2007), WISE is now organising a conference, in conjunction with partner organisations, to examine all aspects of child slavery worldwide, including bonded labour, trafficking, domestic servitude and child labour more generally. This is a first call for expressions of interest in attending and in giving workshop papers. Also visit WISE's website

Child slavery is now becoming a focus of considerable international concern. Despite the creation during the late 20th century of a series of Conventions and Protocols, banning the use of children in trafficking and forced labour and despite more wide-ranging international legislation defining the Rights of the Child, the extent and variety of forms of child slavery appears to be growing worldwide. The ILO - which marks the 10th anniversary of its Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention in 2009 - estimates that there may be 218 million children trapped in child labour worldwide of whom 126 million children were engaged in hazardous work. Many are in situations of modern slavery, working in clothing and shoe sweatshops, as child soldiers, in agriculture, brickmaking, fishing, domestic service, or as child sex workers.

This conference will examine all these forms of child slavery and will be focused in particular on the need for further political and policy action, as well as the further development of services to support and rehabilitate children who are freed from slavery. Speakers from international organisations, policy contexts and campaigning and NGO backgrounds across the world will set the scene for discussions and there will be a series of workshops at which a range of presentations will be made. Those attending will be given a copy of the Special issue of the journal *Children and Society* on child slavery, due to be published in the Spring of 2008.

The costs for the two day conference will be in the region of £130 for larger and statutory organisations, and £90 for smaller and community and voluntary organisations/NGOs. Those attending will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements but the cost of the conference will include papers, refreshments, lunch on each day and a conference dinner on the first evening. If you are interested in attending, giving a paper, or making a presentation, please contact Jane Ellison at <j.ellison@hull.ac.uk> as soon as possible. Those interested in giving a paper or making a presentation in a workshop should indicate when writing to us (in no more than fifty words) what the focus of their presentation will be. We will be sending out further details early in 2008 with a call for firm bookings. This event is likely to be well-attended and you are urged to make your interest known as soon as possible as it is likely that we will have to limit the numbers attending.

All events will take place in the WISE building in the centre of Hull. The total attendance will be limited to 80 and the three parallel workshop sessions will (unless demand is particularly high) hear one paper or presentation only in each workshop. There will thus be space for at least 12 presentations but possibly more. Each presentation will last 45 minutes with time for questions and discussion.

## **Call for Submissions**

### **Equity Issues in the Research Process: A Guide for Graduate Students**

**Deadline: December 1, 2007**

We are seeking submissions for a by-students-for-students guide considering how gender, ethnicity, race or other identities impact research. The goal is to provide students with information, resources and advice about their research. Submissions can include [but are not limited to] issues such as:

- dress and decorum in the archives
- relationships with research participants and communities
- negotiating gender relations at the archive
- researching taboo and controversial subjects
- sexuality and sexual orientation and the research process
- overprotective archivists and gatekeepers

Your submission can be anonymous. It may take the form of a short article [c.500 to 750 words], how-to list, or a personal reflection on your research.

The publication will be made available online through the Harriet Tubman Institute's website: [www.yorku.ca/tubman](http://www.yorku.ca/tubman).

Please send submissions and questions to one of the editors: Jenny Ellison <[jellison@yorku.ca](mailto:jellison@yorku.ca)>, Nadine Hunt <[nhunt@yorku.ca](mailto:nhunt@yorku.ca)>, and Alia Paroo <[aparoo@yorku.ca](mailto:aparoo@yorku.ca)>.

### **“Children in African History”**

The Journal of Family History will be publishing the special issue “Children in African History.” Audra Diptee and Martin Klein will serve as guest editors for this issue.

The editors are interested in a range of themes including education, crime, health, slavery, adoption, pawning and child-rearing. This list is by no means exclusive and other relevant themes are welcome. We are particularly interested in articles focusing on the colonial period. Submissions must be original and previously unpublished. Interested individuals should send an abstract (400 words) and CV as an email attachment to <[audra\\_diptee@carleton.ca](mailto:audra_diptee@carleton.ca)> by January 15th, 2008 for consideration.

## Publications

### FILM

*Afro-Iranian Lives*. Dir. **Behnaz Asl Mirzai**. (2007)

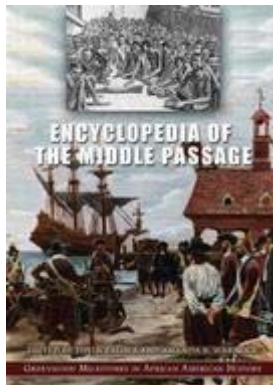


AFRO-IRANIAN LIVES explores the history of the African slave trade and African Diaspora in Iran from the nineteenth century to the present. Attention is drawn to the fact that Afro-Iranians were widely scattered throughout southern regions along the Persian Gulf, at the same time they preserved and blended their African heritage with local religious and traditional elements. This led to the reconstruction of a new identity of African communities in Iran.

“Afro-Iranian Lives: Part I” was screened at the Zanzibar International Film Festival – 2007, and won Special Mention at the Festival. “Afro-Iranian Lives: Part II” was recently screened at the “Confronting Slavery Conference” held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### BOOKS

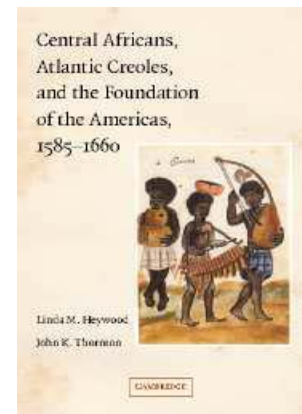
**Toyin Falola** and **Amanda Warnock**, eds. *The Middle Passage: An Encyclopedia* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2007)



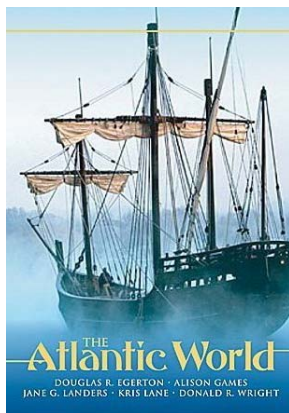
For the first time, the Middle Passage, the experience of slaves on the trans-Atlantic ships, receives a full reference treatment in an encyclopedia. This A-to-Z reference consists of 226 signed entries arranged alphabetically, exhaustively covering the Middle Passage from a variety of perspectives for student research and browsing. Each essay entry concludes with suggestions for further reading. The encyclopedia includes an introductory overview of the trans-Atlantic slave trade as well as illustrations, bibliography, and chronology. As a handy ready-reference, the Encyclopedia of the Middle Passage is the first of its kind. As schools continue to incorporate slavery in their curriculums, the volume will prove to be an essential reference for high school reports and research in History and Social Studies, as well as for college students and general readers. Its subject is of continuing interest, as evidenced by the extraordinary popularity of the film *Amistad* and the recent HBO special, *The Middle Passage*. Sample entries: Abolitionism, Asante, Barracoons, Black Sailors, Cargoes, Christianity, Credit and Finance, "Door of No Return," Eric Williams Thesis, Gold Coast, Import Records, Islam and Muslims, Museums, Oral History, Rape and Sexual Abuse, "Seasoning," Suicide, Triangular Trade, William Wilberforce and Women.

**Linda Heywood and John Thornton.** *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles and the Foundation of the Americas* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

This book establishes Central Africa as the origin of most Africans brought to the English and Dutch American colonies in North America, the Caribbean, and South America in their formative period before 1660. It reveals that Central Africans were frequently possessors of an Atlantic Creole culture that included adaptation of Christianity and elements of European language, especially names and material culture. It places the movement of slaves and creation of the colonies within an Atlantic historical framework, showing interactions among Africa, Europe, and all of the Americas. It explores the development of attitudes toward race, slavery, and freedom as they developed in the colonies of England and the Netherlands, and it revises earlier discussions on these issues. The book suggests ways in which this generation of Africans helped lay the foundations for subsequent development of African-American culture in all the colonies of these countries.

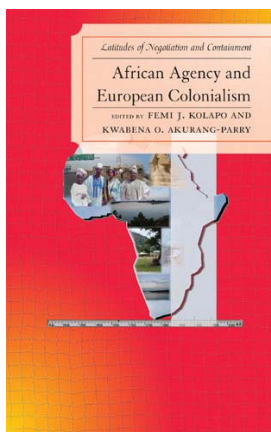


**Douglas R. Egerton, Alison Games, Jane G. Landers, Kris Lane, and Donald R. Wright,** eds. *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888* (Wheeling: Harlan Davidson, 2007)



This textbook surveys more than four centuries of the history of the Atlantic world. The emphasis is on how societies were transformed by the convergence of cultures that followed Christopher Columbus's 1492 voyage. Three of the book's five co-authors have devoted much of their academic careers to the study of Africa and people of African descent, while the other two are specialists in colonial American history. Each of 14 chapters concludes with some suggestions for further reading.

**Femi J. Kolapo and Kwabena O. Akurang-Parry,** eds. *African Agency and European Colonialism: Latitudes of Negotiations and Containment* (University Press of America, 2007)

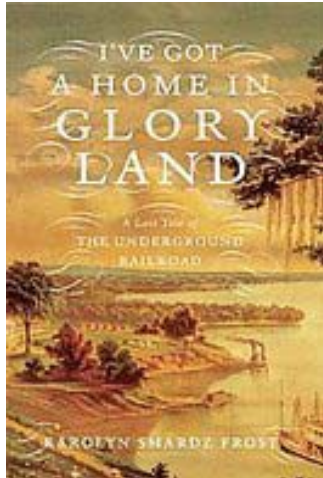


This work provides insights into important moments in the European colonization project in Africa, and into structural intersections between the active agents of colonialism and the different layers of Africa's socio-political structures. It reveals the indispensability of the African peoples, their pre-colonial establishments, and knowledge of the colonial encounter. The book also clarifies the significant impact that African people's choices, chances, mistakes, and internal politics had in structuring their colonial experience and European dominance. Colonized Africans and colonizing Europeans had to negotiate the nature of their relationship: the grid, nexus, and hierarchy of colonial power and

authority were constantly under construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction. *African Agency and European Colonialism* expounds upon these beclouded features of Africa's engagement of colonialism. It is appropriate for students, scholars, political analysts, sociologists, and other professionals interested in the social and political history of Africa.

**Karolyn Smardz-Frost.** *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: The True Story of Two Runaway Slaves Whose Flight to Freedom Changed History* (Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2007.)

**\*Awarded Governor General of Canada Award for Non-Fiction**



*I've Got a Home in Glory Land* tells the fascinating story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, runaway slaves whose daring flight to freedom quite literally made history. Brought to light through a chance discovery by archaeologists working in a Toronto schoolyard, the Blackburn story has come to symbolize the courage, ingenuity, and, above all, the love of liberty shown by the more than 35,000 African Americans who left the United States for Canada before the Civil War.

Unique as a modern fugitive slave tale, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* is a true-life adventure story. The book carries us through the daily rounds of urban slaves Thornton and Lucie Blackburn in the bustling warehouse district of downtown Louisville. On the day before Independence Day, 1831, they chose to risk all they held dear to break free of bondage. Dressed in a black silk gown, Lucie accompanied her much younger husband, Thornton, as they flagged down the steamboat *Versailles*. Their fine clothes and confident demeanour convinced Captain Quarrier that they were free people and he carried them to Cincinnati where they caught a stagecoach to Detroit, Michigan.

Back in Louisville, the Blackburns' owners sued the proprietors of the *Versailles*. The case continued over fifteen years, and went all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. For the Blackburns, the safety of Michigan Territory proved illusory: Thornton and Lucie were living happily as part of Detroit's small African-American community when they were discovered, arrested, tried, and convicted as fugitive slaves. Sentenced to be returned to a lifetime of slavery, a crowd of more than two hundred men and women rescued them and spirited them off to Canada. The violence of their escape is memorialized ever afterwards as the "Blackburn Riots of 1833," the first race riots in the City of Detroit.

The Blackburns' arrival in Canada was heralded by demands for their extradition, but Canada's lieutenant-governor held firm. He freed the Blackburns in a landmark case that set the precedent for all fugitive slave disputes between the U.S. and Canada until the time of the Civil War. Thornton and Lucie settled in Toronto. Five years later, Thornton risked everything again and secretly followed the Underground Railroad routes back to Kentucky to rescue his elderly mother.

Thornton and Lucie Blackburn became staunch friends of the fugitive slave community in Ontario and lifelong opponents of racial oppression. They made tireless efforts to help hundreds of other fugitives upon their arrival in antebellum Ontario.

By the time the Blackburns died just before the turn of the century, they had become a well-to-do and respected couple. Yet within a few short years their story was forgotten; they had no children and neither Thornton nor Lucie ever learned to read or write. But in 1985, an archaeological excavation brought to light the clues to their remarkable story, and led to the Blackburns' commemoration by both the State of Kentucky and the Government of Canada, which designated them "Persons of National Historic Significance".

## ARTICLES

**Kwabena Akurang-Parry.** "African Agency and Cultural Initiatives in the British Imperial Military and Labor Recruitment Drives in the Gold Coast (Modern Ghana) During the First World War," *African Identities*, 4, 2 (2006): 213-234

**Kwabena Akurang-Parry.** "Disrespect and Contempt for our Natural Rulers: The African Intelligentsia and the Effects of British Indirect Rule on Indigenous Rulers in the Gold Coast ca.1912-1920," *Journal of Regional and Local Studies*, 2, 2, 1 (2006): 43-65

**Kwabena Akurang-Parry.** "Making a Difference in Colonial Interventionism in Gold Mining in Wassa Fiase, Gold Coast (Ghana): The Social & Political Activism of Two Women, 1874-1893," in Jaclyn J. Gier and Laurie Mercier, Editors, *Mining Women: Gender in the Development of a Global Industry, 1670-2005* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), 40-57

**Kwabena O. Akurang-Parry.** "'Untold Difficulties: The Indigenous Press and the Economic Effects of the First World War on Africans in the Gold Coast, 1914-1918," *African Economic History* 34 (2006): 45-68

**Kwabena Akurang-Parry.** "Seeding and Harvesting Higher Education in Ghana: Historical and Contemporary Problems," in Michael O. Afolayan, Editors, *The Dilemmas of Higher Education in Post-Colonial African Nations* (Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press 2006)

**Juanita De Barros.** "Dispensers, Obeah and Quackery: Medical Rivalries in Post-Slavery British Guiana," *Social History of Medicine* 20, 2 (2007): 243-261

**Gwyn Campbell, Suzanne Miers and Joseph Miller.** "Children in European Systems of Slavery: Introduction," *Slavery & Abolition* 27, 2 (2006): 163-82

**Gwyn Campbell.** "Children and Slavery in the New World: A Review," *Slavery & Abolition* 27, 2 (2006): 261-86

**Audra A. Diptee.** "African Children in the British slave Trade During the Late Eighteenth Century," *Slavery and Abolition* 27, 2 (2006): 183-196

**Omar A. Eno.** “The Journey Back to the Ancestral Home: Conceptualizing the Return of the Somali Wazigwa Diaspora to Tanzania,” in Abdi M. Kusow and Stephanie R. Bjork, Editors, *From Mogadishu to Dixon: The Somali Diaspora in a Global Context* (New Jersey: Red Sea Press Inc, 2007)

**Omar A. Eno.** “Somalia’s Recovery and Reformation: Transcending the Rhetoric of Clan Politics,” in Abdullahi Osman & Issaka K. Souare, Editors, *Somalia at the Crossroads: Challenges and Perspectives on Reconstituting a Failed State* (London: Adonis & Abbey Publishers Ltd., 2007)

**Nadine Hunt.** “Bozal,” “Re-Exports” and “*Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database*” in *The Middle Passage: An Encyclopedia*

**Nadine Hunt.** “Olaudah Equiano,” “Elijah Lovejoy” and “Harriet Tubman” in Peter P. Hinks, Jack McKivigan, and Owen Williams (eds.), *An Encyclopedia of Antislavery, Abolition, and Emancipation*. 2 Volumes. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2006

**Jane Landers, Andrew McMichael, Paul E. Lovejoy and Mariza Soares.** “Slavery in Ecclesiastical Archives: Preserving the Records,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 86, 2 (2006): 337-46

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “Civilian Casualties in the Context of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade,” in John Laband, ed., *Daily Lives of Civilians in Wartime Africa* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006), 17-50

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “Identity and the Mirage of Ethnicity: Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua’s Journey in the Americas,” in Jay B. Havisser and Kevin C. MacDonald, eds., *African Re-Genesis: Confronting Social Issues in the Diaspora* (London: Cavendish Publishing, 2006), 90-105

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “Mercadores e carregadores das Caravanas do Sudão Central, século XIX,” *Tempo* (Rio de Janeiro), 10, 20 (2006): 61-82

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “Construction of Identity: Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa?” *Historically Speaking* 7, 3 (2006): 8-9

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “Autobiography and Memory: Gustavus Vassa and the Abolition of the Slave Trade,” *Slavery and Abolition* 27, 3 (2006): 317-47

**Paul E. Lovejoy.** “The Children of Slavery: The Trans-Atlantic Phase,” *Slavery and Abolition* 27, 2 (2006): 197-218

**Mohammed B. Salau,** “Ribats and the Development of Plantations in the Sokoto Caliphate: A Case Study of Fanisau,” *African Economic History* 34 (2006): 23-43

**Mohammed B. Salau.** “Illegal Slave Trade,” “Nbena” and “Mohammah Gardo Baquaqua’ in *The Middle Passage: An Encyclopedia*

**David V. Trotman.** "Performing the History: Contesting Historical Narratives in Trinidad and Tobago," *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 32, 63 (2007): 73-109

**David V. Trotman,** "Public History, Landmarks and Decolonization in Trinidad," *Journal of Caribbean History* 40, 1 (2006): 39-63

**David V. Trotman.** "Reflections on the Children of Shango: An Essay on a History of Orisa Worship in Trinidad," *Slavery and Abolition* 28, 2 (2007): 211-234

## **Announcements**

**Kwabena Akurang-Parry** was awarded the Shippensburg University's Student Senate Diversity and Cultural Affairs Committee Award in 2006. In 2007, Akurang-Parry also received the Shippensburg University's Teaching Innovations and Pedagogy Sponsor (TIPS) Program Certificate of Merit.

**Amin Alhassan** has accepted a position to serve on the Tubman Institute's Steering Committee.

**Ana Lucia Araujo** has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship from Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC). She will pursue this Fellowship at York University beginning March 2008. Araujo successfully defended her dissertation "Mémoires de l'esclavage et de la traite des esclaves dans l'Atlantique Sud : enjeux de la patrimonialisation au Brésil et au Bénin" ("Memories of slavery and the slave trade in the South Atlantic: issues of the patrimonialization in Brazil and Benin") on 17 October 2007.

**Juanita De Barros** was elected by the Canadian Association of Latin and American and Caribbean Studies membership to serve as Vice-President of the Association from 2006-2008. In 2008, she will become President of the Association.

**Denise Challenger** was awarded an Erskine A. Peters Dissertation Fellowship. As an Erskine A. Peters Dissertation Year Fellow, she will complete her dissertation from August 2007 to May 2008 at the University of Notre Dame. In addition, Challenger will have a research and conference budget.

**Emma Christopher**, a historian at the University of Sydney, Maree Delofski, a documentary filmmaker and the head of Media at Macquarie University, and Paul Lovejoy, Director, Harriet Tubman Institute, have been awarded a prestigious 3-year Australian Research Council Grant to study the twin colonies of Freetown, Sierra Leone and Sydney, Australia. Lovejoy, the international Partner Investigator on the grant, brings the knowledge and resources of the Tubman Institute to the project which will result in both a TV documentary, under the direction of Delofski, and a book written by Christopher, looking at the two colonies and their very different fates. The project also includes funding to digitise documentation of the Sierra Leone archives as part of the Tubman Institute's digitisation initiative. The preservation of the archives of Sierra Leone is a project of the Tubman Institute.

**José C. Curto** was elected Vice-President of the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) / Association Canadienne des Études Africaines (ACÉA) at the Annual Conference in May 2007. He will be President of this Association during 2008-2009 and Past-President the year after that.

**Yacine Daddi-Addoun** and the Harriet Tubman Institute have been awarded an Endangered Archives Programme-British Library grant. In 2008, Daddi-Addoun will direct the pilot project “Ibadi Private Libraries in the Mzab Heptapolis, Algeria.” He is also serving on the Steering Committee of the Tubman Institute.

**Andrea Davis** was nominated to contend for Ontario’s Best Lecturer (2007) organized by Television Ontario.

**Omar A. Eno** (Director) and Dan Van Lehman (Deputy Director) of the National Somali Bantu Project at Portland State University were awarded a grant by the US Department of Health and Human Services in October 2007 to fund an upcoming conference in Virginia. Eno was also awarded a grant by the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University in July 2007 to fund a research project carried out in Yemen entitled, “The Forgotten Somali Bantu Refugees in Yemen.”

**Ratiba Hadj-Moussa** has accepted a position to serve on the Tubman Institute’s Steering Committee.

**Toyin Falola** was conferred an honorary doctorate during spring commencement (2007) at Monmouth University in New Jersey. Falola also received the AMISTAD Award from Central Connecticut State University.

**Nadine Hunt** was awarded a short-term grant for research in Atlantic history from the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World at Harvard University in 2007. Hunt also received a research bursary from the David Nicholls Memorial Trust (Oxford, UK) to conduct research at Oxford University. Hunt and the Tubman Institute have been awarded an Endangered Archives Programme-British Library grant. In 2008, she will direct the pilot project “Inventory of Archival Holdings in Jamaica.” She is also serving on the Steering Committee of the Tubman Institute.

**Michele Johnson** has accepted a position to serve on the Tubman Institute’s Steering Committee.

**Mohammed Kassim** has been awarded the Paul Hair Award for the best publication of primary source materials for his co-edited book *Servants of the Sharia: The Civil Register of the Qadis’ Court of Brava 1893-1900* (Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2006) at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (2007) in New York. For information on this book see publications in Newsletter no. 15, April 2006.

**Carlos Liberato** was awarded an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Jennifer Lofkrantz** has accepted a Visiting Instructor position in African History at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina for the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Henry Lovejoy** was awarded both the UCLA Graduate Division Research Mentorship and the GD Summer Research Mentorship in 2007. His mentor is Robin Derby.

**Paul E. Lovejoy** was conferred an honorary doctorate during summer commencement (2007) at Stirling University in Scotland.

**Joseph Mensah** has received a highly prized grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2007) to study Ghana's national health insurance system. Mensah is lending his expertise to the Global Development Network's fifth Global Research Project "Promoting Innovative Programs from the Developing World: Towards Realizing the Health MDGs in Africa and Asia". The grant will help him conduct one of 21 collaborative studies evaluating health programs in developing and transitional economies.

**Ismael Musah Montana** who has been Visiting Assistant Professor, Trent University, has accepted a tenure stream position in the Department of History, Northern Illinois University, to begin for the 2007-2008 academic year. Montana successfully defended his dissertation, "The Trans-Saharan Slave Trade, Abolition of Slavery and Transformations in the North African Regency of Tunis, 1759-1846" on 26 January 2007.



Montana (left), Lovejoy and Thor Burnham

**Modupe Olaogun** has accepted a position to serve on the Tubman Institute's Steering Committee.

**Alia Paroo** was awarded a writing assistantship from the Department of History, York University for the 2007-2008 academic year, to finish writing her dissertation entitled "The Ismaili migration and settlement in Tanganyika, 1919-1960"

**Elizabeth Polak** was awarded a writing assistantship from the Department of History, York University for the 2007-2008 academic year, to finish writing her dissertation entitled "The Role of Religious Women in the Development of Mexican Economy: The Case of the Convent of Santa Catalina de Siena, Oaxaca, 1650-1862"

**Dawn Ralph** has been hired as the Coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Institute.

**Danielle Robinson** has accepted a position to serve on the Steering Committee of the Tubman Institute.

**Donald Simpson** has accepted a position to serve on the Steering Committee of the Tubman Institute.

**Karolyn Smardz Frost** has recently been awarded the Governor General of Canada Award for Non-Fiction for her book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (see page 25-26). Smardz Frost is currently serving on the Steering Committee of the Tubman Institute and is teaching at York as well as being Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society.

**Stacey Sommerdyk** has commenced her doctoral studies at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation and the Department of History, Hull University. Her thesis is tentatively entitled, "Trade and the Merchant Community of the Loango Coast in the Eighteenth Century"