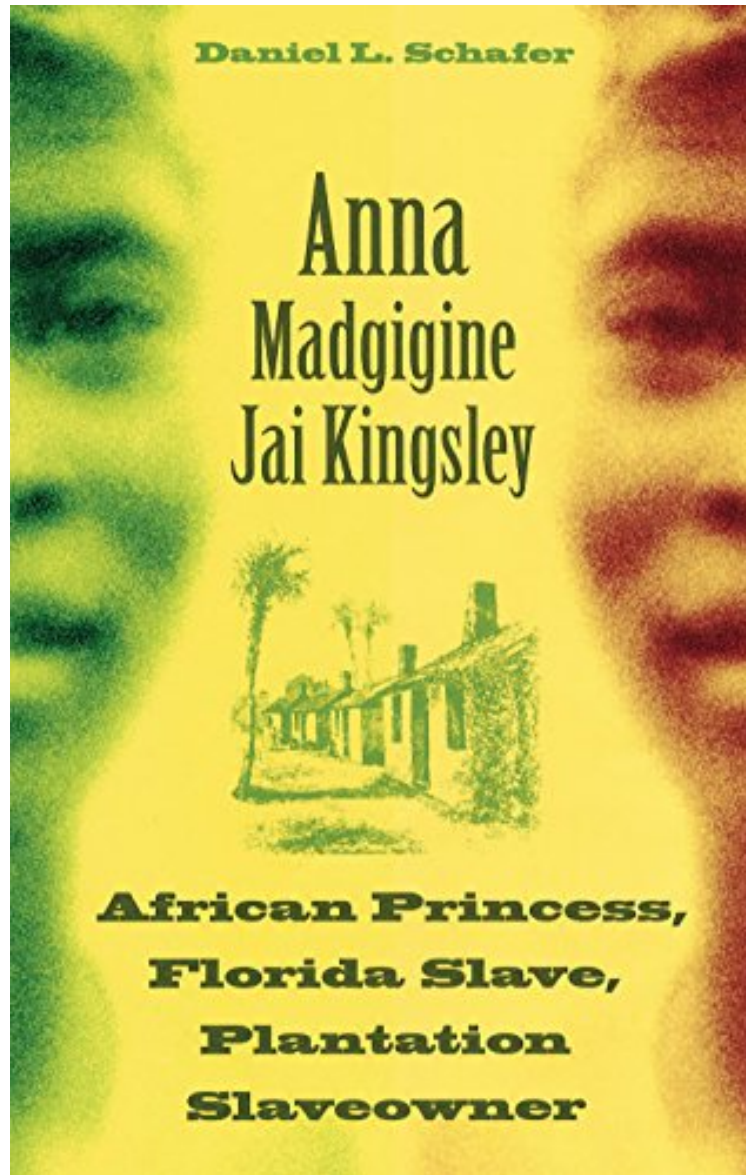


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Daniel L. Schafer

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Daniel L. Schafer : Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anna Madgigine Jai
Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Area NativeBy J. BlueI purchased this book years ago, however I recently purchased again in kindle format for myself and my niece. The book gives an extensive history of Florida's Kingsley Plantation; located on the tip of Fort George Island, between Jacksonville, FL and Amelia Island. A Plantation where the Plantation Owner was an Anglo male (no surprise) with an African wife (surprise!!) Being from the area, this is a well known fact; however to read about this rich history is astounding and enlightening. This book should be required reading for students in the area. I am still amazed that many young people are not aware of this historical jewel, that still exists (in part) with its main house, tabby slave quarters., and pristine waters. Select this book, and you will not be disappointed. I also invite you to take a trip to this magical place. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Anna KingsleyBy Josh JacobsonDr. Schafer brings the time period of Anna's life, and the Northeast Florida region to life through the story of Anna Kingsley in his book. Most of this book reads like a novel and his narrative style will keep the pages turning. With the riveting story, you are also given a very well researched story about the events that play out not only for Anna, but for the region and the African descendants who lived there. Though there are some blank spots left in Anna's history due to lack of documents, and the occasional stretching of what few primary documents are available, Dr. Schafer brings what feels like a full picture to the reader. The only real issues that kept this book from getting five stars in my opinion, were the fact that some primary sources did have to be stretched in order to back up points being made. There are a few instances where it feels that some of these primary sources could be construed in other ways than just how they are presented here. This however can sometimes be necessary and the occurrences are very rare. The other issue was the pacing of the book can leave many readers struggling to finish the book. There comes a point near the end of the book where Dr. Schafer abandons his narrative style to lay out the genealogies of many of the area's residents. This chapter is sandwiched between two narrative chapters and probably could have been presented in an appendix. Overall this book was very fascinating and Dr. Schafer's research leaves the reader with a very strong sense of being able to trust in his interpretation of the past. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A History of US and FloridaBy Nelia TalleyI went to Jacksonville, Florida recently and visited the Kingsley Plantation in order to see for myself the place where this former African woman, Anna Madgigine Jal Kingsley lived. The book really came alive for me after seeing the Kingsley Plantation, and how she lived. The remnants of the slave cabins and the big house and the pier and barn are still standing. It is amazing to see how she lived while under Spanish rule and how differently things went once she came under the racist rule of the United States. Not only is this a story about her but it is a history of the United States and Florida.

"Provides an unexpectedly thorough account that traces the life of a woman from a Wolof village in Senegal, across the Atlantic via the middle passage, to a Florida community of African slaves and white slave owners."--Southern Historian "An absorbing account of Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, an African woman who was enslaved, forcibly transported to Florida, held in bondage, freed, and married to her white master; she bore several of his children and then rose to prominence as a slaveholder. . . . Brings a wider understanding to the lives of enslaved and free women in the nineteenth century South."--Journal of American History "Contributes to a growing literature on the possibilities for slave women's emancipation, especially in Spanish territory, and for propertied women's social and economic power in the Old South."--Journal of Southern History "Reminds the reader of the variations of the slave experience, the possibilities of forging racial bonds, and the debilitating effects of the racial divide in American society."--Georgia Historical Quarterly "Fosters understanding of the differences and similarities in the institution of slavery, in the distinction between free and enslaved, and in attitudes of racial prejudice between Spanish Florida and the United States."--North Carolina Historical Review

From BooklistSchafer expands on previously written material about the fascinating legend of an African princess, brought to Florida as a slave, who later became a plantation and slave owner. Basing his work on extensive documentation, including interviews with African griots, Schafer traces the history of Anna Madgigine Jai from her homeland of Senegal, where she was captured at about 13 years of age in 1806 and sold to Zephaniah Kingsley, a maritime merchant, slave trader, and later an abolitionist. Kingsley eventually married Anna, made her manager of his plantation, and fathered four children with her. Anna was an independent, enterprising woman, who managed the plantation for 25 years until expanding U.S. territory threatened race relations, the family's cohesion, and inheritance rights. The family fled to Haiti, but after her husband's death Anna returned to the U.S. to answer legal challenges to his will, which left sizable portions of his estate to her and their children. This is a fascinating look at an extraordinary woman and the complexities of slavery beyond the common image of slavery in the South. Vanessa BushCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "...an understanding of the complexities of slavery...Shafer's impressive study offers an excellent and very well-researched starting point." -- American Historical , October 2004This fascinating history of one remarkable woman provides an eye-opening exploration of larger issues. -- AfroAmericanHeritage.com, Jan. 15, 2006About the AuthorDaniel L. Schafer is professor emeritus of history at the University of North Florida, Jacksonville.