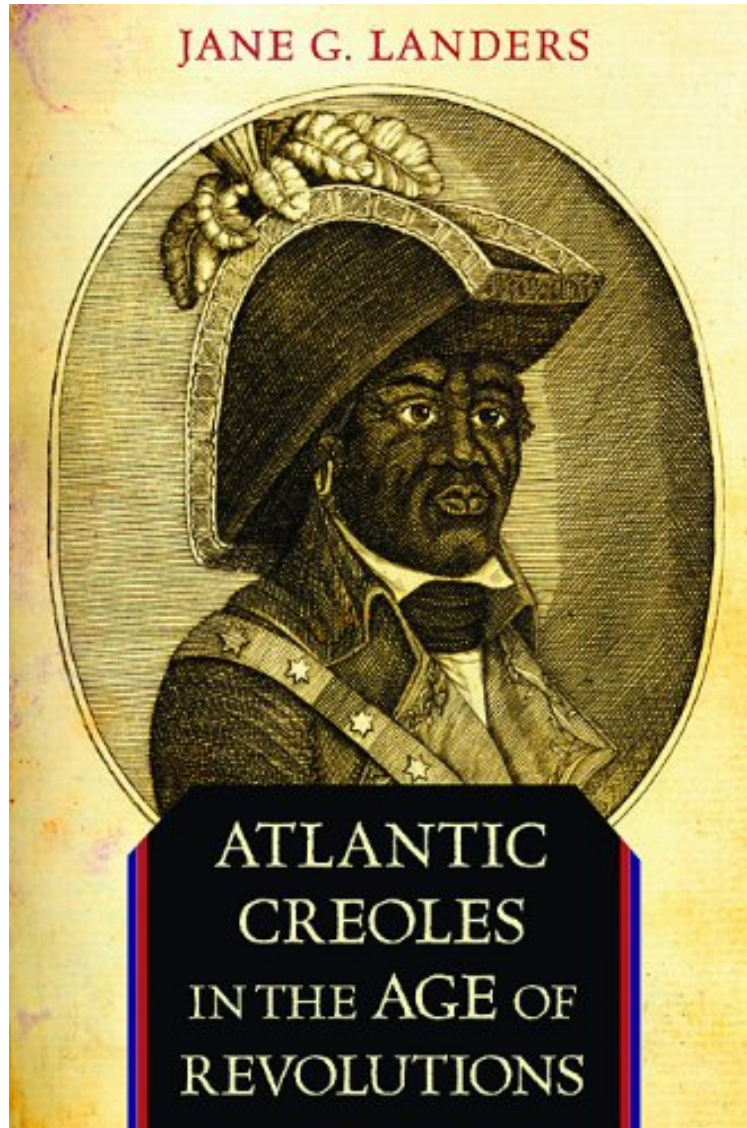


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Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions

Jane G. Landers

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Jane G. Landers : Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Brian Curdy A reference. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. comment By Marcus A. Burtner Landers gives readers a way to understand the diversity of experiences people experienced living in the newly connected Atlantic World.

Sailing the tide of a tumultuous era of Atlantic revolutions, a remarkable group of African-born and African-

descended individuals transformed themselves from slaves into active agents of their lives and times. Big Prince Whitten, the black Seminole Abraham, and General Georges Biassou were Atlantic creoles, Africans who found their way to freedom by actively engaging in the most important political events of their day. These men and women of diverse ethnic backgrounds, who were fluent in multiple languages and familiar with African, American, and European cultures, migrated across the new worlds imperial boundaries in search of freedom and a safe haven. Yet, until now, their extraordinary lives and exploits have been hidden from posterity. Through prodigious archival research, Jane Landers radically alters our vision of the breadth and extent of the Age of Revolution, and our understanding of its actors. Whereas Africans in the Atlantic world are traditionally seen as destined for the slave market and plantation labor, Landers reconstructs the lives of unique individuals who managed to move purposefully through French, Spanish, and English colonies, and through Indian territory, in the unstable century between 1750 and 1850. Mobile and adaptive, they shifted allegiances and identities depending on which political leader or program offered the greatest possibility for freedom. Whether fighting for the King of Kongo, England, France, or Spain, or for the Muskogee and Seminole chiefs, their thirst for freedom helped to shape the course of the Atlantic revolutions and to enrich the history of revolutionary lives in all times.

From thousands of gossamer, broken threads of narrative, Jane Landers has rewoven the whole tapestry of life along the Atlantic seaboard for Native Americans, imported slaves, Creoles and free blacks. Excellently researched, and eminently readable, it is an illuminating, groundbreaking work. (Madison Smartt Bell, author of *Toussaint Louverture: A Biography*) Landers follows the extraordinary odysseys of black royalists, counter-revolutionaries, and maroons, whose daring movements through a treacherous political landscape traced a hidden history of freedom in the shadow of slavery. (Vincent Brown, author of *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery*) This fascinating study shows how individuals responded to bondage and attempted to find a niche in the slave societies of the Americas, a process that Landers calls becoming Atlantic Creole. (Paul E. Lovejoy, Director, The Harriet Tubman Institute) Landers delineates in fascinating detail the crucial leadership African Creoles exercised in revolutionary movements throughout the circum-Caribbean region. (Karen Ordahl Kupperman, Silver Professor of History, New York University) Landers has assembled admirable accounts of some extraordinarily agile Africans and African-Americans, in and out of slavery, in and around the Caribbean at the end of the eighteenth century. (Joseph Miller, T. Cary Johnson, Jr., Professor in the Department of History at the University of Virginia) Above all else, Atlantic creoles sought freedom. Landers has done an excellent job in excavating their lives and highlighting their significance in the Age of Revolutions. (Gad Heuman *Times Literary Supplement* 2010-04-30) About the Author Jane G. Landers is Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History at Vanderbilt University.