

Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution

The Haitian Revolution was perhaps the most successful slave rebellion in modern history; it created the first and only free and independent Black nation in the Americas. This book tells the story of how enslaved Africans forcibly brought to colonial Haiti through the trans-Atlantic slave trade used their cultural and religious heritages, social networks, and labor and militaristic skills to survive horrific conditions. They built webs of networks between African and ‘creole’ runaways, slaves, and a small number of free people of color through rituals and marronnage — key aspects to building the racial solidarity that helped make the revolution successful. Analyzing underexplored archival sources and advertisements for fugitives from slavery, Crystal Eddins finds indications of collective consciousness and solidarity, unearthing patterns of resistance. Considering the importance of the Haitian Revolution and the growing scholarly interest in exploring it, Eddins fills an important gap in the existing literature. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

CRYSTAL NICOLE EDDINS is Assistant Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research has been supported by the Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellowship, the John Carter Brown Library, and the National Science Foundation.

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General Editor: Michael A. Gomez, New York University

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Collective Action in the African Diaspora

CRYSTAL NICOLE EDDINS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-009-25615-5 — Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution
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 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009256155

DOI: 10.1017/9781009256148

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Reissued as Open Access, 2022

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009256148

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Eddins, Crystal Nicole, 1984- author.

TITLE: Rituals, runaways, and the Haitian Revolution : collective action in the African diaspora / Crystal Nicole Eddins.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. |

Series: Cambridge studies on the African diaspora | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021027125 (print) | LCCN 2021027126 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108843720 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781009256155 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009256148 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Slave insurrections—Haiti—History. | Blacks—Race identity—Haiti. | Maroons—Haiti—Ethnic identity. | Rites and ceremonies—Haiti. | Blacks—Haiti—Social life and customs. | Group identity—Haiti. | Social movements—Haiti—History. | Haiti—History—Revolution, 1791-1804—Causes. | BISAC:

HISTORY / Latin America / General

CLASSIFICATION: LCC F1923 .E23 2022 (print) | LCC F1923 (ebook) | DDC 305.896/07294-dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027125>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027126>

ISBN 978-1-009-25615-5 Paperback

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-25615-5 — Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution
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*I give thanks and praise to God
Love and appreciation to my family and ancestors
Onè and respè to the people of Haiti*

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978-1-009-25615-5 — Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution
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Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation goes to Studies on the African Diaspora series editor Michael A. Gomez, Cecelia Cancellaro, Cambridge University Press staff, James Warren, Denise Bannerman, Frantz Zéphirin, and the anonymous reviewers for their support, assistance, guidance, and labor in bringing this book to fruition.

Thank you to my University of North Carolina at Charlotte colleagues for their support: Julia Jordan-Zachery, Akin Ogundiran, Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, Oscar de la Torre, Debra Smith, Veronica Robinson, Oweeta Shands, Rosie Wickham, Danielle Boaz, Tanure Ojaide, Honoré Missihoun, Erika Edwards, Gregory Mixon, Sonya Ramsey, Jürgen Buchenau, Christopher Cameron, Christine Haynes, Kendra Jason, Janaka Bowman-Lewis, Elisabeth Paquette, Andrea Pitts, Eddy Souffrant, Felix Jean-Louis, Huma Ibrahim, and Reese Manceaux.

My year at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice as the Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow provided a great community to think through and discuss the ideas for the book, revisit materials at the John Carter Brown Library, and host a manuscript workshop where Michael Gomez, Rory McVeigh, and Center Director Anthony Bogues provided critical feedback. I am happy to also have had the support of Professor Bogues, Shana Weinberg, Maiyah Gamble-Rivers, Catherine Van Amburgh, Nic John Ramos, Zach Sell, Felicia Bevel, Felicia Denaud, and Ricarda Hammer.

Many faculty, staff, and colleagues were an important part of my undergraduate and graduate journey at Michigan State University: Aaron McCright, Glenn Chambers, Steve Gold, Brendan Mullan, Carl Taylor, Yomaira Figueroa, David Wheat, Rita Edozie, Soma Chaudhuri,

Safoi Babana-Hampton, Clifford Broman, Stephanie Nawyn, Ray Jussaume, John McClendon, Roseanne Bills, Tammy Spangler, Patience Adibe, Marilyn Duke, John Duda, Nwando Achebe, Michael Largey, Sohba Ramanand, Debbie Jesswein, David Wiley, Logan Williams, Roger Bresnahan, Tony Nunez, Julius Jackson, Beronda Montgomery, Steven Thomas, Pero Dagbovie, Kyana Young, Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, John Lee, Thomas Padilla, Devin Higgins, Alissa Lyon, Agnes Widder, Nicole Jess, Dean Rehberger, Jualynne Dodson, Sonya Johnson, Samina Hamidi, Will Escalante, Christian Ramirez, Blair Zaid, Shanti Zaid, Alexandra Gelbard, Matthew Pettway, Harry Odamtten, Julene Wilson, Renee Canady, Ola Nwabara, Jasmine Cooper, Janelle Edwards, Kelly Birch, Jamil Scott, Jeff Oliver, John Girdwood, Maria Martin, Fayana Richards, Ashley Sanderlin, Khalfani Herman, Paula Miller, and Summer Allen.

Over the years, a number of scholars and colleagues, archive buddies, and travel friends and hosts offered their support, advice, and nuggets of insights and wisdom that encouraged me, stimulated or challenged my thinking, and helped push my work forward: John K. Thornton, Carolyn Fick, Alex Dupuy, Mimi Sheller, Jane Landers, J. Cameron Monroe, Keisha Blain, Ashley Currier, Vanessa Holden, Jessica M. Johnson, Julia Gaffield, Chelsea Steiber, Rob Taber, Zophia Edwards, Matthew J. Smith, Cheryl Hicks, David Geggus, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Rudolph Ware, Jason Daniels, Rachel Yales, Ademide Adeluyi, Amy M. Johnson, Nicole Truesdell, Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper, Kishauna Soljour, Daniel Auguste, Patrick Sylvain, Joel Theodot, Jean Lesly Rene, Marc Prou, Mari Evans, Dave Glovsky, Jesus Ruiz, Jonathan Krause, Wendy Guillaume, Marc Joseph, Kyrah Daniels, Marvin Chocotte, Amber Gray, Joanna de Hora, Rodrigo Bulamah, Constance, Wamabale, Paulette and Cleopha at the Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation Home in Port-au-Prince, Habitation Lauriers in Cap Haïtien, Michael D. Rogers, Reggie Turner, the Avril family, David Ingleman, Ebby Louis, Tahina Vatel, David Rocourt, Rebecca Olivier, Eziaku Nwokocha, Ernesto Mercado, Leo Carrio Cataldi, Linda Rupert, Alex Borucki, Jesse Dorst, Mary Draper, Aysha Pollnitz, Larry Tise, Josh Fitzgerald, Timo McGregor, Andrew Dial, Miguel Cruz, Mark Kelley, Marcy Norton, Diogo Ramada Curto and Renzo Baldasso, Daniel Ruppel, and Bruno Feitler.

Many thanks go to archivists and staff members at the French Archives Nationale and Archives Nationale d’Outre-Mer, the John Carter Brown Library, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Library

Acknowledgements

xv

Company of Philadelphia, University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Michigan William L. Clements Library, the UK College of Arms, the British National Archives, and the British Library. Several Haitian scholars and librarians patiently answered my questions and were critically helpful in identifying local sources of knowledge about my work: Patrick Tardieu, head archivist of the Bibliothèque des Pères du Saint-Esprit; Erol Josué, Director of the Bureau Nationale d’Ethnologie; Mr. Cezar and staff at the Archives Nationale d’Haïti (Poste Marchand); Laënnec Hurbon; Maurice Etienne at Lakou Lakay in Milot; and Evains Wêche at the library of Jérémie.

Various entities have supported this project at each stage of inception: the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, the University of North Carolina-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies, the African American Intellectual History Society, the National Science Foundation Sociology Program, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Faculty Research Grant and the Department of Africana Studies, and Michigan State University’s Graduate School, Departments of Sociology and African American & African Studies, and Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

This book has benefitted greatly from the support of, and inspiration from, several organizations, conferences, and workshops: the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, the African American Intellectual History Society, the Social Science History Association, the Du Bois Scholars Network, the Slavery’s Hinterlands Symposium, the Revolutionary Era Consortium, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies, the (En)gendering the Atlantic World Workshop, the International Sociological Association, and the University of Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements Young Scholars Conference.

Finally, my sincerest thanks, love, and appreciation go to my parents Eddie and Edith Eddins, brothers Eddie and Greg, sister-in-law Adina, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, my godmother Cheryl Garnett, Carolyn Arnold, friends Jasmine Gary Oke, Tiffany Samuel, Kevin Post, and other friends and family for their encouragement, patience, love, and support.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-25615-5 — Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution
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