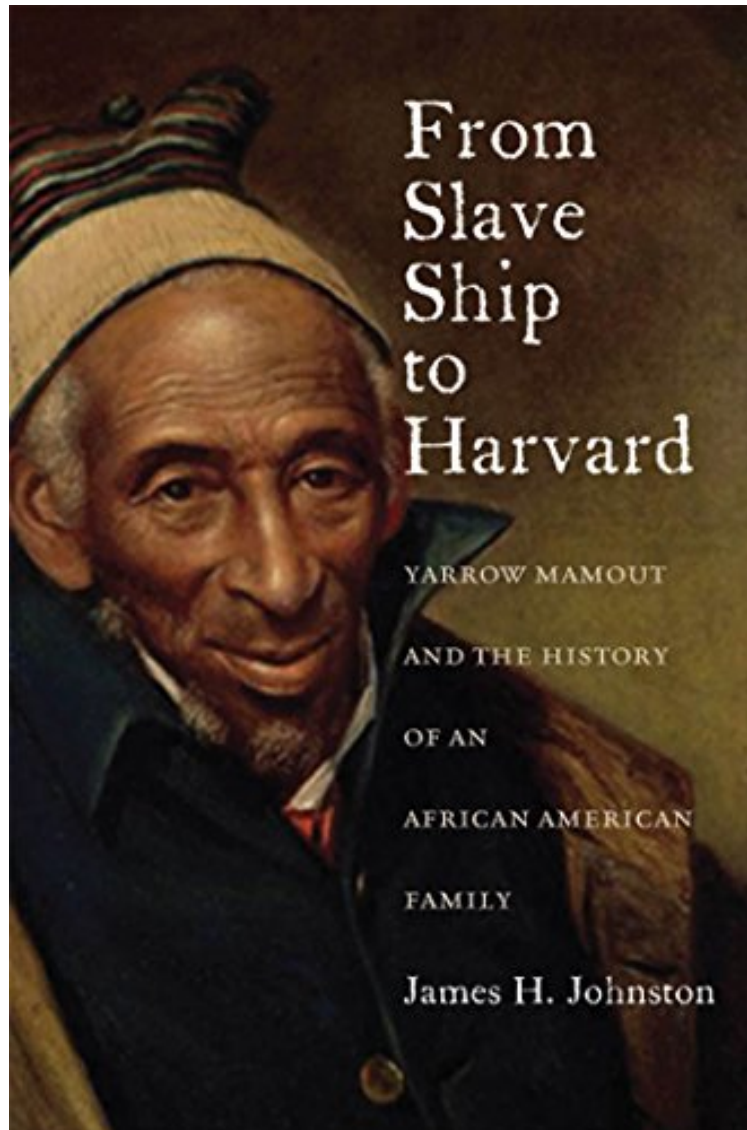


[Pdf free] From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family

## From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family

James H. Johnston

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**James H. Johnston : From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Revelation of Lives Well LivedBy Stuart R. LoughboroughThis book is a revelation of lives well lived. Two Hundred and Sixty Years ago (June 4, 1752) Yarrow Mamout arrived at

the port of Annapolis Maryland and began a life in a new land. 260 years later sitting in my living room I was able to read the remarkable story of Yarrow Mamout's life and the lives of his descendants. I use the word remarkable because to have had his portrait painted twice was itself remarkable but to now have his story and that of his family told in such detail and with such love just adds to the remarkableness that began in June 1752. I know that James Johnston was amazed at the portrait that was painted by James Simpson in 1822 and is in the Peabody Room of the Georgetown Library. I have a gut feeling that Yarrow Mamout looked out at Mr. Johnston and was saying, "please tell my story" and what a story that needs to be heard by many of us today in 2012. On reflection I have to say that one thing amazed me was that Yarrow Mamout remained a faithful Muslim all his life. He practiced his faith faithfully and even when Mr. Johnston and Nancy Kassner, then archaeologist of the District of Columbia, looked for his grave they looked in the place where Yarrow Mamout would have gone to pray, the south east corner facing Mecca. His faithfulness to his faith must have been a remarkable witness to the Beall family as well as all who knew him and should be a witness to all of us. If all of us could have some small degree of the spirit that Yarrow Mamout had we would be far better for it. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An Astonishing Story By Ronald M. Johnson With clear writing and impressive detail, James H. Johnston provides his readers with the truly remarkable saga of Yarrow Mamout, the African who arrived in the English colonies in 1752, spent over four decades as a slave, and lived on in Georgetown (now part of Washington, D.C.). As others have noted, there are two compelling reasons why one should read this book: the incredible life that Yarrow lived, from beginning to end; and, secondly, the masterful way that the author researched and narrated the book. Johnston is as careful and meticulous a historian of what he has uncovered as anyone would ever want to have the pleasure of reading. In his hands, Yarrow and the world that he was forced into by slavery comes alive in all respects. For any reader interested in seeing through contemporary Washington, D.C. and the broader geographic area into the early 19th century, i.e. life on Dent Place, N.W. Washington then and now as an example, this is the book. It will transport you back into an earlier time in a way you could never imagine. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Read By C. Ray This book gives you an amazing sense of life for a slave in the northern states from the 1700 until after the Civil War. It is also a story that will inspire and amaze you with the lives of so many families, black and white, that shaped the Washington D.C. Area.

From Slave Ship to Harvard is the true story of an African American family in Maryland over six generations. The author has reconstructed a unique narrative of black struggle and achievement from paintings, photographs, books, diaries, court records, legal documents, and oral histories. From Slave Ship to Harvard traces the family from the colonial period and the American Revolution through the Civil War to Harvard and finally today. Yarrow Mamout, the first of the family in America, was an educated Muslim from Guinea. He was brought to Maryland on the slave ship *Elijah* and gained his freedom forty-four years later. By then, Yarrow had become so well known in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C., that he attracted the attention of the eminent American portrait painter Charles Willson Peale, who captured Yarrow's visage in the painting that appears on the cover of this book. The author here reveals that Yarrow's immediate relatives—his sister, niece, wife, and son—were notable in their own right. His son married into the neighboring Turner family, and the farm community in western Maryland called Yarrow'sburg was named for Yarrow Mamout's daughter-in-law, Mary Polly Turner Yarrow. The Turner line ultimately produced Robert Turner Ford, who graduated from Harvard University in 1927. Just as Peale painted the portrait of Yarrow, James H. Johnston's new book puts a face on slavery and paints the history of race in Maryland. It is a different picture from what most of us imagine. Relationships between blacks and whites were far more complex, and the races more dependent on each other. Fortunately, as this one family's experience shows, individuals of both races repeatedly stepped forward to lessen divisions and to move America toward the diverse society of today.

"A history of an African-American family, from Yarrow Mamout's enslaved arrival in North America in 1752, proceeding through Robert Turner Ford's debut at (residentially segregated) Harvard College in 1923, and beyond. The family was remarkable from the outset: Mamout, freed, was painted by Charles Willson Peale." (Harvard Magazine) "Part historical narrative, part genealogical detective work, this book will appeal to a range of academic and general readers, especially those interested in race relations in early America." (Library Journal) "Carefully researched and engagingly written, this fascinating book tells the story of an education Muslim who was brought as a slave to America in 1752 then earned his freedom 44 years later. The book also traces the history of his family to the time when a descendant graduates from Harvard University in 1927. The narrative absorbingly weaves together one family's amazing tale with the history of American and slavery and race relations." (Steve Norman, Collection Development and Evaluation Section of the Reference and User Services Association) . . . James H. Johnston recounts the story of Yarrow Mamout's life and traces some of Yarrow's descendants into the twentieth century." (Journal of Southern History) . . . Portray[s] an illuminating, thought-provoking, relatively unusual moment in early American history." (Publishers Weekly) Johnston has given Americans a rare treasure, a true story of an African American family, and its triumph over slavery. The great American painter Charles Willson Peale, best remembered for his portrait paintings of leading figures of the American Revolution, would have very much approved--Johnston's

done with a whole lot of research, patience, and writing, what Peale did with his brush almost 200 years ago. (Sidney Hart Senior Historian, National Portrait Gallery)"Johnston has admirably sought to connect the dots of the family's history while also providing parallels to the larger story of slavery and emancipation in colonial America." (New Bay Times Weekly)"Historians typically write about this chapter of American history from a sweeping, birds-eye view perspective primarily because so few records exist about the lives of individual slaves. It's for this reason that James Johnston's 'From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family' is such a valuable addition to the subject's literature." (Michael G. Williams Erickson Tribune)About the AuthorJames H. Johnston, an attorney and journalist, has published extensively on national affairs, law, telecommunications, history, and the arts. His contributions include papers on local Washington, D.C., history, Yarrow Mamout, and an edition of The Recollections of Margaret Cabell Brown Loughborough.