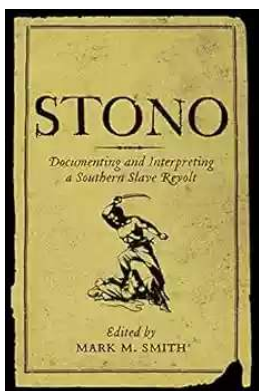


Stono: Documenting And Interpreting Southern Slave Revolt

The Stono Rebellion, also known as Cato's Conspiracy, was one of the largest slave revolts in colonial America. Taking place in South Carolina in 1739, it has become a significant event in American history, highlighting the struggles and resistance faced by enslaved individuals. This article will delve into the Stono Rebellion, discussing its causes, events, and its impact on the region. Through documenting and interpreting this revolt, we gain a deeper understanding of the complex and often tragic history surrounding slavery in the southern United States.

Causes of the Stono Rebellion

The origins of the Stono Rebellion can be traced back to various factors that contributed to the growing unrest among enslaved Africans. These factors include harsh living conditions, inhumane treatment by slaveholders, cultural and ethnic diversity among the enslaved population, and knowledge of successful slave revolts in other regions. With the desire for freedom burning within them, a group of enslaved individuals seized an opportunity to rise against their oppressors.



Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Revolt by Mark M. Smith(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2817 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 145 pages



The Events of the Rebellion

On September 9, 1739, a Sunday when many whites attended church, a group of about 20 enslaved individuals gathered near the Stono River. Led by a man named Jemmy, who obtained military experience from his time in Africa, they marched towards Spanish Florida, where they believed they could find freedom. Along the way, they raided several plantations, killing several whites and recruiting more enslaved individuals to join their cause. Their journey, however, was ultimately met with military resistance, resulting in the deaths of many rebels.

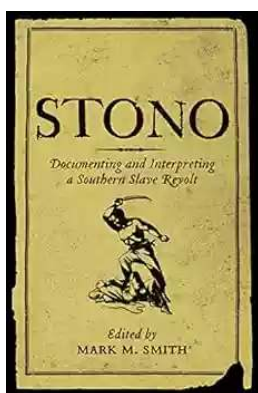
Impact on the Region

The Stono Rebellion had a significant impact on the region, both in terms of legal and social consequences. It led to the passing of the Negro Act of 1740, which imposed stricter regulations and restrictions on enslaved individuals, further limiting their freedoms. This act aimed to prevent further rebellions by tightening the control exerted by slaveholders. Consequently, it also fostered deeper divisions between the enslaved and white populations, heightening tensions and increasing surveillance measures.

Documenting and Remembering the Stono Rebellion

Documenting and interpreting historical events like the Stono Rebellion is crucial in remembering the atrocities of the past and understanding the ramifications they had on subsequent generations. Through archeological findings, oral histories, and historical documents, historians continue to piece together the narrative of the rebellion, acknowledging its significance in the fight for justice and equality for enslaved individuals.

The Stono Rebellion serves as a reminder of the resistance and resilience of enslaved Africans in the face of oppression. It shed light on the harsh realities of slavery and the lengths individuals were willing to go to free themselves from its chains. By documenting and interpreting this revolt, we ensure that the stories and struggles of those who fought for freedom are not forgotten. The Stono Rebellion remains a significant event in American history, demanding our attention and deep reflection on the legacy of slavery in the southern United States.



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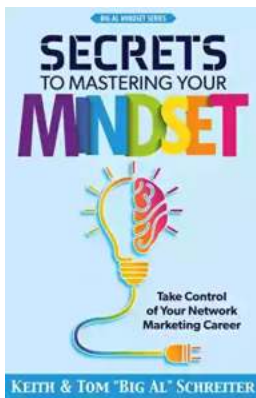


A sourcebook for understanding an uprising that continues to incite historical debate

In the fall of 1739, as many as one hundred enslaved African and African Americans living within twenty miles of Charleston joined forces to strike down their white owners and march en masse toward Spanish Florida and freedom. More than sixty whites and thirty slaves died in the violence that followed. Among the most important slave revolts in colonial America, the Stono Rebellion also

ranks as South Carolina's largest slave insurrection and one of the bloodiest uprisings in American history. Significant for the fear it cast among lowcountry slaveholders and for the repressive slave laws enacted in its wake, Stono continues to attract scholarly attention as a historical event worthy of study and reinterpretation.

Edited by Mark M. Smith, *Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Revolt* introduces readers to the documents needed to understand both the revolt and the ongoing discussion among scholars about the legacy of the insurrection. Smith has assembled a compendium of materials necessary for an informed examination of the revolt. Primary documents—including some works previously unpublished and largely unknown even to specialists—offer accounts of the violence, discussions of Stono's impact on white sensibilities, and public records relating incidents of the uprising. To these primary sources Smith adds three divergent interpretations that expand on Peter H. Wood's pioneering study *Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion*. Excerpts from works by John K. Thornton, Edward A. Pearson, and Smith himself reveal how historians have used some of the same documents to construct radically different interpretations of the revolt's causes, meaning, and effects.



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