

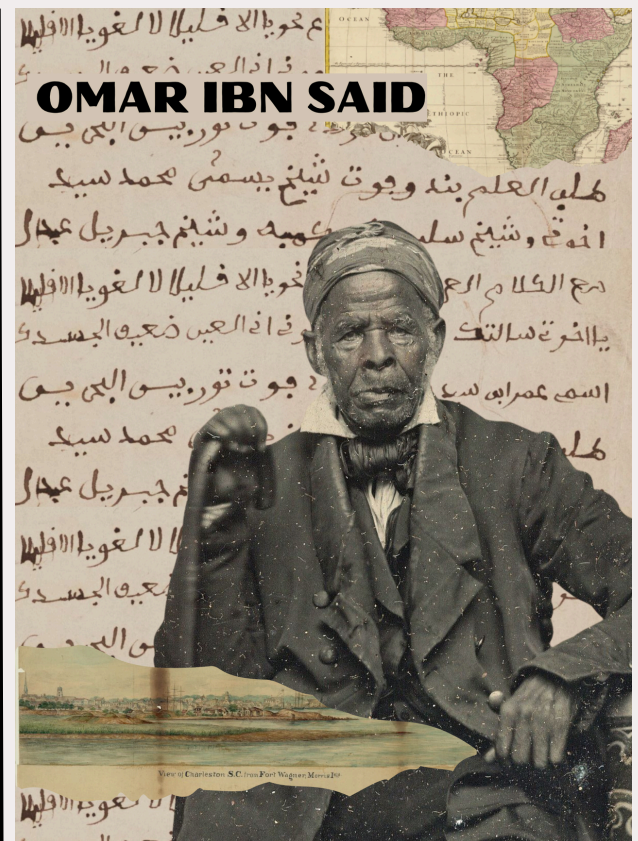
Breaking News

FORGOTTEN VOICE OF OMAR IBN SAID

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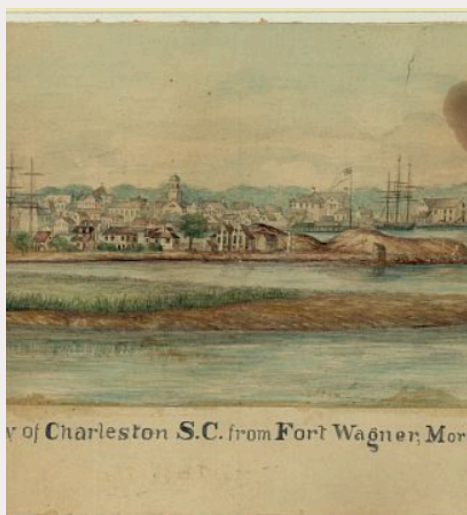
Introduction

Omar Ibn Said was a member of the Fula group/tribe located in West Africa. He was born in Futa Toro, which is located in Senegal. He was an Islamic scholar who spent over 25 years of his life devoted to studying the Quran and many other subjects. He was captured during a military conflict in 1807 by a raiding army, taken as a slave, and he was sent across the Atlantic to the United States.



His life

The army 'sold me into the hand of a Christian man who bought me and walked me to the big ship in the big sea', Ibn Said wrote. 'We sailed in the big Sea for a month and a half until we came to a place called Charleston [South Carolina].



1770-
1864

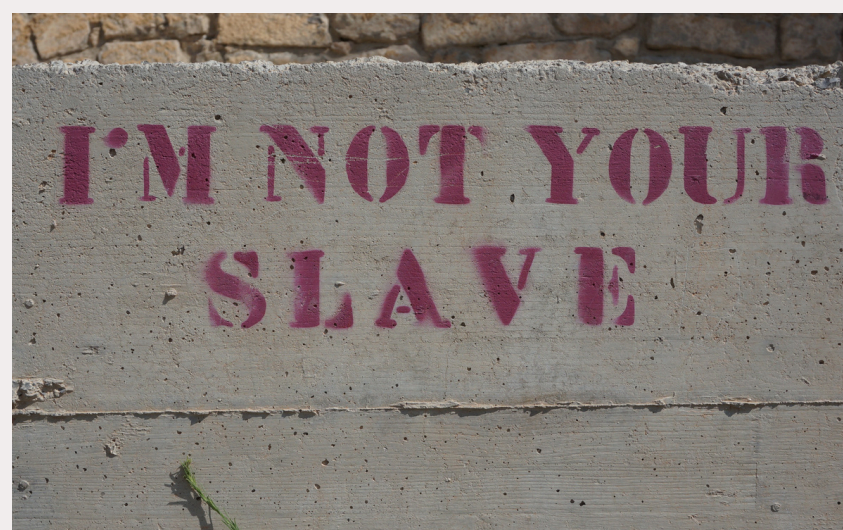
94 Years old

Bladen
County N.C

Omar served a harsh slave owner in South Carolina. He did physical labor in rice fields before he escaped and traveled north, to North Carolina. He was captured again, imprisoned, and later sold to James Owen, who recognized that Omar was intelligent and was very gracious towards Omar. It is said that Omar converted to Christianity, however, there is no hard proof that he did.

Ibn Said was offered many opportunities to return to Africa but he refused them and chose to stay in the United States.

Omar wrote an Arabic autobiography in 1831 and he would receive many visits from Christian ministers.



Omar had maintained respect in the Owen household. Omar Ibn Said died in 1864, at the age of over ninety years old. He died at Owen Hill and he was buried in the family plot.

A mosque and historical marker have been named after him to honor him. He is still remembered today as one of the best-established practicing Muslims in America

Omar did not secure his freedom—he died a slave in 1864. Still, the attention brought by his faith and literacy landed him in a situation that relieved him of hard labor.

Omar was also a man who used his jihad of the pen to influence the very culture that enslaved him

“Allah sets forth the parable of a slave owned by several quarrelsome masters and a slave owned by only one master. Are they equal in condition? Praise be to Allah! In fact, most of them do not know.” Az-Zumar: 29



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 اذ العيين ذعير الجسد
 موت نور يسو البهي يسو
 بسمي محمد سيد
 وشيخ جبريل عباد
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View of Charleston, S.C. from Fort Wagner, Morris Ist

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OMAR IBN SAID
 ca. 1770-1863

Muslim slave & scholar.
 African-born, he penned
 autobiography in Arabic,
 1831. Lived in Bladen
 County and worshipped
 with local Presbyterians.