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Entry Nr. 019 Magdalene Beulah Brockden

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

Catalog number: **19**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Magdalene Beulah Brockden**
Date account recorded: ca. 1755
Date account first published: 1997
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Source: English translation of original German on p. 77-78 in Katherine M. Faull (ed.), *Moravian Women's Memoirs: Their Related Lives, 1750-1820*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997. Used by permission of the publisher.

Comments:

In addition to the brief introduction below, a Moravian church member recorded the following about Magdalene Beulah Brockden after her death:

English translation –

p. 78:

“In 1748 on the 19th of May she was baptized in the death of Jesus and on the 26th of January 1749 she attained the pleasure of Holy Communion with the congregation. On 21st January 1762 she entered into matrimony with the Negro Brother Andrew, and this marriage was blessed with two sons who have gone home. In 1779 on March 30th she became a widow. She enjoyed lasting health until her old age. About fourteen days ago she became seriously ill, and it soon became clear that this illness was to be her end, and this became clear to her also. She fell asleep the above day in the 89th year of her life.”

Text of Account:

English translation –

p. 77:

“Our Negro sister Magdalena, who happily departed on January 3rd of this year, left behind the following report.”

“I was, as is known, a slave or the property of the late Mr. Brockden who bought me from another master, when I was ten years old and from then on I served his family until I was grown. Because my master was much

p. 78:

concerned about the salvation of my soul and he saw that it was high time that I was protected from the temptations of the world and brought to a religious society, so he suggested to me that I should go to Bethlehem.

Because I had no desire to do so, I asked him rather to sell me to someone else, for at that time I still loved the world and desired to enjoy it fully. However, my master said to me lovingly that I should go to Bethlehem and at least try it. He knew that I would be well treated there. And if it did not suit me there so he would take me back at any time. When I arrived here I was received by such love and friendship by the official workers and all the Brethren that I was much ashamed. [Faull: She arrived on November 23, 1743 in Bethlehem.] I soon received permission to remain here. My behaviour in the beginning was so bad; I really tried to be sent away again, which did not happen. The love of the Brethren, however, and in particular the great mercy of the Saviour that I came to feel at this time moved me to stay here. Some time after, my master came here and gave me his permission and blessing, and I became content and happy.

The Saviour showed great mercy to my poor soul, which was so deeply sunk in the slavery of sin that I never thought I would be freed from these chains and could receive grace. How happy I was for the words, ‘Also for you did Jesus die on the stem of the cross so that you may be redeemed and eternally blessed.’ I understood this in faith and received forgiveness for my sins.”

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