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Entry Nr. 104 Aaron

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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).

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Aspects of her life story printed on p. 1821-1822 in vol. 2, Part 3 of C. G. A. Oldendorp, *Historie der caribischen Inseln Sanct Thomas, Sanct Crux und Sanct Jan, insbesondere der dasigen Neger und der Mission der evangelischen Brüder unter denselben: kommentierte Ausgabe des vollständigen Manuskriptes aus dem Archiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität Herrnhut*, edited by Gudrun Meier et al. (= Volume 51 in the series *Abhandlungen und Berichte des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden*). Berlin, Germany: VWB, Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000-2002.

<i>Comments:</i>	None
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Text of Account:

Original German –

“Aaron, ein alter siebzigjähriger Aminaneger, wurde im vorigen Jahre getauft. Es zeigte sich nachher an ihm eine gänzliche Veränderung, und er ging in der empfangenen Gnadegetreu und selig fort. Nachdem er an einem Sonntage noch in der Kirche und recht vergnügt gewesen war, welches aus seinem Blick hervorgeleuchte hatte, so fing er am folgenden Montage auf seiner Plantage krank zu werden an und beklagte sich, mußte aber mit fort in die Arbeit. Denn es wird solches von manchen Meisterknechten und Bombas den Negern teils nicht geglaubt, teils werden es, wenn es auch sichtbar genug ist, von Menschen, die wenig menschliches Gefühl mehr haben, dennoch angetrieben. Aaron mußte immer mitarbeiten, und als er den Freitag darauf fast nicht mehr gehen konnte, dem ungeachtet Wieder daran. Da sagte er: ‘Der Herr weiß es, ich gehe so lange, bis ich liegen bleibe.’ Er wollte arbeiten, konnte aber nicht. Er setzte sich, lehnte sich an den Stumpf eines Baumes, hob seine Augen gen Himmel, betete zum Heiland. Und so fiel er um und verschied. Der Helfer Anton beerdigte seine Hütte, wobei viele Geschwister und andere aus der Nachbarschaft zugegen waren. Er hinterließ den Ruhm, daß er seinem Meister, so unbillig er

auch behandelt worden, treu und gehorsam und dem Heiland bis ans Ende ergeben gewesen war, bei dem er nun nach der zeitlichen Not in der ewigen Freude war.”

English translation (Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“Aaron, who was a seventy-year-old Amina Negro, was baptized the previous year. A complete change came over him after that, and he went forth faithfully and with blessings in the grace he had received. After he had been to church one Sunday and was quite happy, which showed in his glowing countenance, he began getting sick on this plantation the following Monday. He let others know but had to work anyway. Sometimes the overseers and *Bombas* [enslaved supervisors] do not believe the Negroes when they say they are sick, partly because the problem is not visible enough to them and partly because these are people who are driven in their work and have lost all human compassion. So Aaron had to keep working, even though by that Friday he could hardly walk. To all this he said, ‘The Lord knows it, and I will keep going until I can no longer stand up.’ When he wanted to keep working but no longer could, he sat down, leaned against a tree stump, lifted his head toward heaven, and prayed to the Savior. Then he slumped down and passed away. The Helper* Anton buried his body in the presence of many brothers and sisters [of the missionary community], as well as other neighbors, for whom Aaron had left behind the legacy that he had remained true and obedient to his master and to the Savior to the end, even though he had been treated unfairly. Now, after his time of troubles, Aaron was with the Savior in eternal joy.”

* A native assistant in a Moravian missionary community.

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