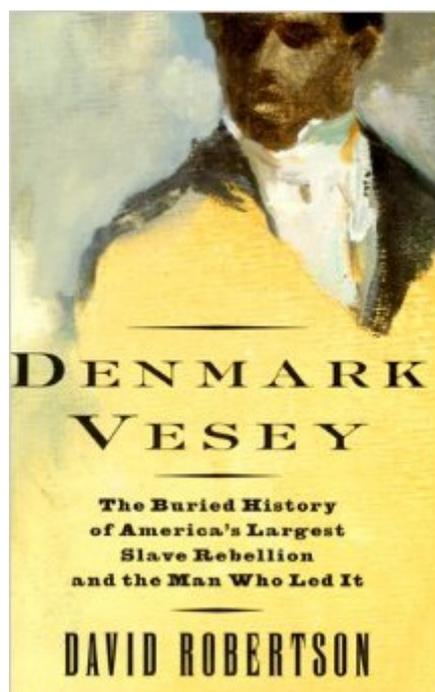


The book was found

# Denmark Vesey: The Buried History Of America's Largest Slave Rebellion And The Man Who Led It



## Synopsis

On July 2, 1822, Denmark Vesey and five co-conspirators were hanged in a desolate marsh outside of Charleston, South Carolina. They had been betrayed by black informers during their attempt to set in motion the largest slave rebellion in the history of the United States--an effort astonishing in its level of organization and support. Nine thousand armed slaves and free blacks were to converge on Charleston, set the city aflame, seize the government arsenal, and then murder the entire white population of the city, sparing only the ship captains who would carry Vesey and his followers to Haiti or Africa. The attempted revolt was a significant episode in American history, yet it, and its leader, have been all but forgotten. In this balanced and gracefully written biography of Vesey--the first in many decades--David Robertson gives us a profile of this extraordinary man. He shows how, by preaching a doctrine of negritude combined with various religious elements, Vesey was able to attract large numbers of blacks to a messianic crusade for freedom. Robertson details the aftermath of the failed revolt, analyzes its social and political consequences, and articulates the essential, disturbing questions it poses to a racially and ethnically pluralistic society today.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 202 pages

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf; 1st edition (August 24, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 067944288X

ISBN-13: 978-0679442882

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 6.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,185,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Scandinavian](#) #745 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > South](#) #2559 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black](#)

## Customer Reviews

The parallels between Denmark Vesey's failed slave insurrection in Charleston in 1822 and the start of Toussaint's successful slave insurrection in Saint Domingue (now Haiti) in 1791 are striking. In both circumstances, black slaves comprised the vast majority of the population -- 75% in Charleston, 90% in Saint Domingue. In both, the hopeful liberators were former slaves who had

become literate, fairly well-to-do, free blacks. Both Toussaint and Vesey distrusted mulattoes, who were regarded in both societies as a distinct class, with ambivalent loyalties. Both leaders took advantage of the disparate religious beliefs of their followers to enhance group cohesiveness. In any such mass event, planned well in advance, the risk of discovery or betrayal is always great. Remarkably, in both of these planned insurrections, rumors and confessions alerted authorities weeks in advance of the scheduled dates. And in both, the white slaveholders were incredulous that ignorant, simple blacks could possibly coordinate an uprising of the size suggested by their informants. In both instances, the threat was dismissed as fantasy. As we know, the French authorities of Saint Domingue were too late in recognizing the magnitude and reality of the uprising. Few of us, however, have grasped the slim margin of time by which white Charlestonians were able to prevent a similar success in Charleston. Considering that Charleston was the prime destination of French planters fleeing the conflagration in Saint Domingue, Charlestonians should have been more attuned to the threat brought on by their slaveholding, minority autocracy.

The more History I read of this Country the more I seem to read about South Carolina. I am not a concentrated reader of The Civil War, and while South Carolina played key roles in that conflict, it also was the locale of a number of additional notable events in this Country's History. If I were to pick one State the approximate vintage of South Carolina, I cannot make a better argument for a single State that was as independently oriented, and that defended its independence from influence outside its borders, and defended it with even greater passion from any Federal influence. To the very present, South Carolina has been expressing the same theme through the issue of what Flag they will fly over their Capital, and who the decision will be made by. A decision was reached, the flag may no longer fly over the Capital, but it shall fly not far from it. Denmark Vesey's birthplace is unknown contrary to the conflicting commercial reviews. From the book, "It is not confirmable whether Vesey was born in Africa or The West Indies". If there is a consistent thread through the book, it is how much is not known about this man who attempted what would have been a massive Rebellion, Slave in makeup or otherwise composed. This is not to say the book is not well done, quite the contrary. I believe that the documentation achieved by Mr. David Robinson is nothing short of remarkable when the effort to destroy all remnants of the rebellion is considered. The book loses no credibility because we don't know from what tree he was executed, nor where his body was finally buried. These issues are more legend than they will ever be fact, but these issues do not change the heart of the event, and the facts of what took place. Even Mr.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Denmark Vesey: The Buried History of America's Largest Slave Rebellion and the Man Who Led It  
Denmark Vesey: The Buried Story of America's Largest Slave Rebellion and the Man Who Led It He  
Shall Go Out Free: The Lives of Denmark Vesey (American Profiles) Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion  
(Graphic History) The American Slave Coast: A History of the Slave-Breeding Industry Twelve  
Years a Slave (the Original Book from Which the 2013 Movie '12 Years a Slave' Is Based)  
(Illustrated) When I Was a Slave: Memoirs from the Slave Narrative Collection (Dover Thrift  
Editions) Buried History of American Music, Songs and Showbiz Since 1606: The Forgotten  
Originals, Pioneers, and Mega Stars. Part 2. (America's Musical Heritage and Treasures) The Tapir  
Scientist: Saving South America's Largest Mammal (Scientists in the Field Series) Tahoe beneath  
the Surface: The Hidden Stories of America's Largest Mountain Lake A Short Residence in Sweden,  
Norway and Denmark and Memoirs of the Author of the Rights of Women Classic Recipes Of  
Denmark: Traditional Food And Cooking In 25 Authentic Dishes Letters written in Sweden, Norway,  
and Denmark (Oxford World's Classics) The Twin Flame Lover of China and Denmark Yellow Star,  
the: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark Ambrosia, Volume 2: Denmark Kierkegaard in  
Golden Age Denmark (Indiana Series in the Philosophy of Religion) Sound Man: A Life Recording  
Hits With the Rolling Stones, the Who, Led Zeppelin, the Eagles, Eric Clapton, the Faces... The  
Rebellion in India, 1857 (Cambridge Introduction to World History) The Slave Trade in Early  
America (Colonial America)

[Dmca](#)