Main content


In 1999 Lamin Sanneh published Abolitionists Abroad, arguing that African-Americans engaged the motherland successfully because they were inspired by certain republican principles and anti-structural ideology that sidelined the traditional chiefs, who were compromised in the slave trade. But Sanneh did not pursue the consequences of the settler presence. A different genre of historiography soon emerged: county/parish histories characterized by intrepid archival grubbing and detailed biographical narratives. Richard Hall represents the latter mold. During his undergraduate years in the early 1980s, he encountered sixty boxes...