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NEGRO INTEREST IN CHARLESTON

There is in Charleston an unusual Negro woman, and one just like her is not to be found in any other city or town in the Palmetto State. This person is (Mrs.) Diana Brown. This statement is made after having made written inquiries to some fifteen cities and large towns in this state. (A)

If there is one Negro woman that ^o tourists seek to see when they are in America's most historic city, it is "Diana". During the winter sometimes she goes to Aiken, South Carolina, another tourists' center, and winter resort. (A)₁

Diana Brown lives at 62 Queen Street. She is the first Negro woman in Charleston to have ventured into the antique business. At first she sold privately for white people of the Southern Aristocracy who did not want their names exposed as connected with this business. Then, finding that she could make a living at it, took out a license in 1920, and sold to the public. Her antiques are of the rarest kind. During the twenty-three years in business, Diana is known, she said, through out America.

Whenever she is asked the history of a piece of antique, she replies, "I don't give history of anything, unless I know to whom I am talking". In other words, the tourist must make himself, (herself) known aforehand. To complete strangers she says, "...but my guarantee is whatever you buy from me

Negro Interest in Charleston

is old".

Before going into her present business, Diana Brown assisted her husband who kept a livery stable which kept some of the very ancient carriages in which the aristocratic white people of Charleston used to enjoy such a delightful ride to church, joy-riding, and often to business. This was during the "horse-and-buggy days".

Dianna Brown is now over seventy years of age; and she carries on her antique business and meets her customers daily.

SOURCE

(A)....Personal information gathered from other people in down-town Charleston who know Dianna Brown. This is a check on the information Dianna gave me herself. Gathered by Augustus Ladson.

(A)1....Information collected from Dianna Brown personally by Augustus Ladson, 43 Vanderhorst Street Charleston, S.C.