

Negro Slavery In Arkansas

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long out of print and found only in rare book stores it is now available to a contemporary audience with this new paperback edition when slavery was abolished by the emancipation proclamation there were slaves in every county of the state and almost half the population was directly involved in slavery as either a slave a slaveowner or a member of an owner's family orville taylor traces the growth of slavery from john law's colony in the early eighteenth century through the french and spanish colonial period territorial and statehood days to the beginning of the civil war he

describes the various facets of the institution including the slave trade work and overseers health and medical treatment food clothing housing marriage discipline and free blacks and manumission while drawing on unpublished material as appropriate the book is to a great extent based on original often previously unpublished sources valuable to libraries historians in several areas of concentration and the general reader it gives due recognition to the significant place slavery occupied in the life and economy of antebellum arkansas

the first edition of bearing witness brought together for the first time 176 slave narratives from the state of arkansas now this new edition adds ten previously undiscovered accounts no one knew the truths of slavery better than the slaves themselves but no one consulted them until the 1930s then recognizing that this generation of unique witnesses would soon be lost to history the works progress administration s federal writers project acted to interview as many former slaves as possible in a continuation of the project s interest in the life histories of ordinary people writers interviewed over two thousand former slaves more than a third of them in arkansas these oral histories were first published in the 1970s in a thirty nine volume series organized by state and they transformed america s understanding of slavery they have offered crucial evidence on a variety of other topics as well the civil war reconstruction agricultural practices everyday life and oral history itself but some former arkansas slaves were interviewed in texas oklahoma and other states so their narratives were published in those other collections and more than half of the testimonies in the arkansas volume were interviews with people who had moved to arkansas after freedom folklorist george lankford combed all of the state collections for the testimonies properly belonging to arkansas and deleted from this state s collection the testimony of later migrants

in the first book length study of arkansas slavery in more than sixty years a weary land offers a glimpse of enslaved life on the south s western margins focusing on the intersections of land use and agriculture within the daily life and work of bonded black arkansans as they cleared trees cultivated crops and tended livestock on the southern frontier arkansas s enslaved farmers connected culture and nature creating their own meanings of space place and freedom kelly houston jones analyzes how the arrival of enslaved men and women as an imprisoned workforce changed the meaning of arkansas s acreage while their labor transformed its landscape they made the most of their surroundings despite the brutality and increasing labor demands of the second slavery the increasingly harsh phase of american chattel bondage fueled by cotton cultivation in the old southwest jones contends that enslaved arkansans were able to repurpose their experiences with agricultural labor rural life and the natural world to craft a sense of freedom rooted in the ability to own land the power to control their own movement and the right to use the landscape as they saw fit

arkansas slave narratives a folk history of slavery in the united states from interviews with former slaves volume ii part i i was born in chickashaw county mississippi ely abbott and maggie abbott was our owners they had three girls and two boys eddie and johnny we played together till i was grown i loved em like if they was brothers papa and mos ely went to war together in a two horse top buggy they both come back when they got through there was eight of us children and none was sold none give way my parents name peter and mahaley abbott my father never was sold but my mother was sold into this abbott family for a house girl she cooked and washed and ironed no m she wasn t a wet nurse but she tended to eddie and johnny and me all alike she whoop them when they needed and miss maggie whoop me that the way we grow d up mos ely was ceptionly good i recken no m i never heard of him drinkin whiskey they made cider and simmon beer every year grandpa was a soldier in the war he fought in a battle i don t know the battle he wasn t hurt he come home and told us how awful it was

this title consists of the works progress administration slave narratives of arkansas the title consists of the arkansas slave narratives and is part 2 of volume 2

from 1936 to 1938 the works projects administration wpa commissioned writers to collect the life histories of former slaves this work was compiled under the franklin roosevelt administration during the new deal and economic relief and recovery program each entry represents an oral history of a former slave or a descendant of a former slave and his or her personal account of life during slavery and emancipation these interviews were published as type written records that were difficult to read this new edition has been enlarged and enhanced for greater legibility no library collection in arkansas would be complete without a copy of arkansas slave narratives

as african americans in arkansas emerged from slavery in the aftermath of the civil war and the emancipation proclamation it was the job o the federal freedmen s bureau to help them build bridges to freedom the bureau supported former slaves as they assumed new names searched for lost family members moved to new homes worked to provide for their families learned to read and write formed and attended their own churches created their own histories and myths and struggled to obtain land in this account of hte gains made by arkansas freedman during this period randy finley describes the ways that blacks whites and bureau officials undertook their foles in a new society and began to live the complex reality of freedom 1996 certificate of commendation american association for state and local history

from the civil war to reconstruction the redeemer period jim crow and the modern civil rights era to the present ruled by race describes the ways that race has been at the center of much of the state s formation and image since its founding

grif stockley uses the work of published and unpublished historians and exhaustive primary source materials along with stories from authors as diverse as maya angelou and e lynn harris to bring to life the voices of those who have both studied and lived the racial experience in arkansas

a collection of first hand narratives of ex slaves in arkansas gathered by the work projects administration between 1936 and 1938

not distributed available at arkansas state library

autobiographical accounts of former slaves compiled in the 1930s by the federal writers project of the works progress administration

arkansas slave narratives contains a folk history of slavery in the united states from interviews with former arkansas slaves

the complete arkansas slave narratives collection a folk history of slavery in the united states from interviews with former slaves this volume consists of parts 1 2 of volume ii of the arkansas slave narratives and interviews conducted by the works progress administration these slave narratives interviews represent some of the only sources of information from former slaves in the united states as many slaves were not allowed to learn to read or write therefore only a small number of former slaves were able to document their experiences while in bondage as a slave in america although there are some criticisms of these interviews they do offer some valuable insights into the daily lives of those who were slaves in america prepared by the federal writers project of the works progress administration for the state of arkansas

arkansas slave narratives contains a folk history of slavery in the united states from interviews with former arkansas slaves

often thought of as a primitive backwoods peopled by rough hunters and unsavory characters early arkansas was actually productive and dynamic in the same manner as other american territories and states in this the second volume in the histories of arkansas s charles bolton describes the emigration mostly from other southern states that carried americans into arkansas the growth of an agricultural economy based on cotton corn and pork the dominance of evangelical religion and the way in which women coped with the frontier and made their own contributions toward its improvement he closely compares the actual lifestyles of the settlers with the popularly held uncomplimentary image

separate chapters deal with slavery and the lives of the slaves and with Indian affairs particularly the dispossession of the native Quapaws and the later arriving Cherokees political chapters explore opportunism in Arkansas territory the rise of the Democratic party under the control of the Sevier Johnson group known as the dynasty and the forces that led Arkansas to secede from the Union in addition Arkansas's role in the Mexican War and the California Gold Rush is treated in detail in truth geographic isolation and a rugged terrain did keep Arkansas underpopulated and political violence and a disastrous experience in state banking tarnished its reputation but the state still developed rapidly and successfully in this period playing an important role on the southwestern frontier winner of the 1999 Booker Worthen literary prize

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