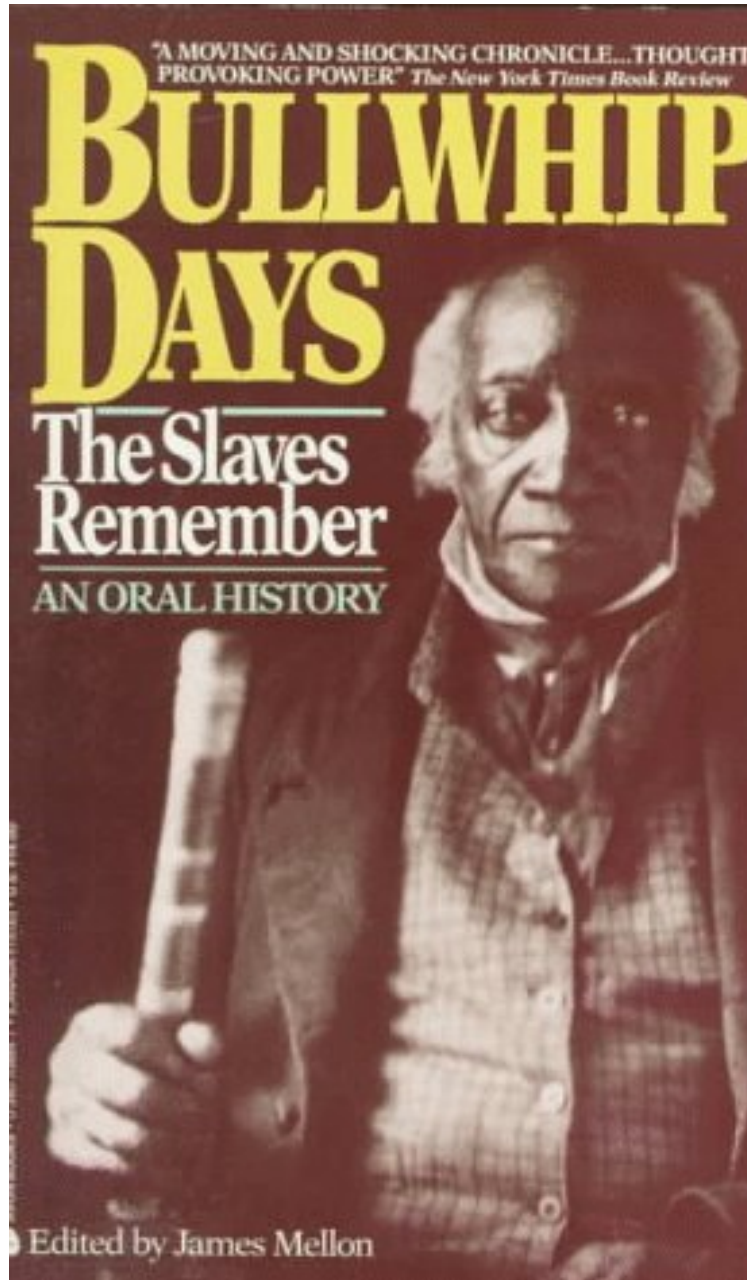


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Bullwhip Days the Slaves Remember

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From Quill (HarperCollins) : Bullwhip Days the Slaves Remember before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bullwhip Days the Slaves Remember:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the most important books I have read as an American adult male of African descent. By Mississippi Mud This is one of the most important books I have read as an American adult male of African descent. American slavery will forever be a blight on her history. The effects of slavery and Jim Crow can still be seen and felt today. As a young black man from the great state of Mississippi, I was fortunate enough to be raised by parents who were born in the Jim Crow south (Mississippi Alabama) who did not teach me about race. I didn't know I was black until the third grade. The one negative aspect of the upbringing free of color, was the my indifference to my ancestral history. This book brought many things into perspective. It showed me how blessed I am to be alive in this certain time in this country. The pain, joy, sorrow, and laughter of the narrators leap off the page at you. The way they convey their stories show how slavery really was a long lasting curse on this country. I'm glad somebody had the idea to document their stories and record them for all time. Being fortunate enough to know a large portion of my family tree (up to my 3rd great grandparents on both sides), this book has helped me realize my place in the history of America. As the married father of 5 children (who also happen to be black) and a U.S. Marine I hope to continue to be the embodiment of the hope of freedom these slaves had. This book is a must have for all history buffs and those who want to know more about the heritage of this country. This is not a black heritage book neither is it a black history book. It is an American history book. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Should be required American reading By ChillyBullwhip Days should be required reading for all Americans. Let me share a story: As a graduate student, I took a seminar in American literature. One mature student in the class let it be known early on that he was an MD taking courses in contemplation of a career change. I suppose he thought he might make a better professor. Whatever the case, our readings were diverse and our focus was how American literature represents the nation's growing industrialization and individualism. The MD was pleased with his progress until we read Frederick Douglass's classic slave narrative. At this he sneered--pronounced it beneath his consideration. Among other things, he said, "I don't know why we're wasting time on this." Like Justice Tawny, the MD decided a black man had no ideas, no experience, no humanity that he was bound to respect. Because such racial arrogance yet exists, Bullwhip Days (and Frederick Douglass's Autobiography of an American Slave) should be required reading for all. Any human being who can read these 'as-told-to' Depression era slave narratives without compassion and some measure of intellectual growth should have read them much earlier in life--and most certainly should not be practicing medicine on human beings or professing to others at the front of a classroom. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Karennot finished reading this book but I find it very interesting

In the mid-thirties, the Federal Writer's Project, an adjunct of the W.P.A., dispatched interviewers to capture the personal memories of the last few thousand survivors of American slavery. In *Bullwhip Days*, they tell, in their own voices, of the harsh realities of human bondage. The vivid and powerful images are a vital part of America's history and offer sobering insight into the roots of racism in today's society.

From Publishers Weekly "Twenty-nine oral histories and additional excerpts, selected from 2000 interviews with former slaves conducted in the 1930s for a WPA Federal Writers Project, document the conditions of slavery that, Mellon maintains, lie at the root of today's racism," reported PW. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal As part of the Federal Writers' Project in the 1920s and 1930s, a rich oral history of slavery was compiled from interviews with thousands of former slaves. Selections were first published in 1945 in B.A. Botkin's *Lay My Burden Down*, and later in collections by Norman Yetman and Lester Julius, now all out of print. The complete set is still available (George P. Rawick, ed. *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*, 19 vols, 1972; Suppl. Series 1, 12 vols., 1978; Suppl. Series 2, 10 vols., 1980, Greenwood Pr.). Although this sample of 29 full narratives and several excerpts is excellent, recalling such varied experiences as religion, sexuality, and escape attempts, editor Mellon provides no historical context or setting. As a result, the larger meaning of a people's resilience in adversity is lost. Currently, libraries in need of a one-volume sampling of this fascinating body of work will have to be content with this faint echo. Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.