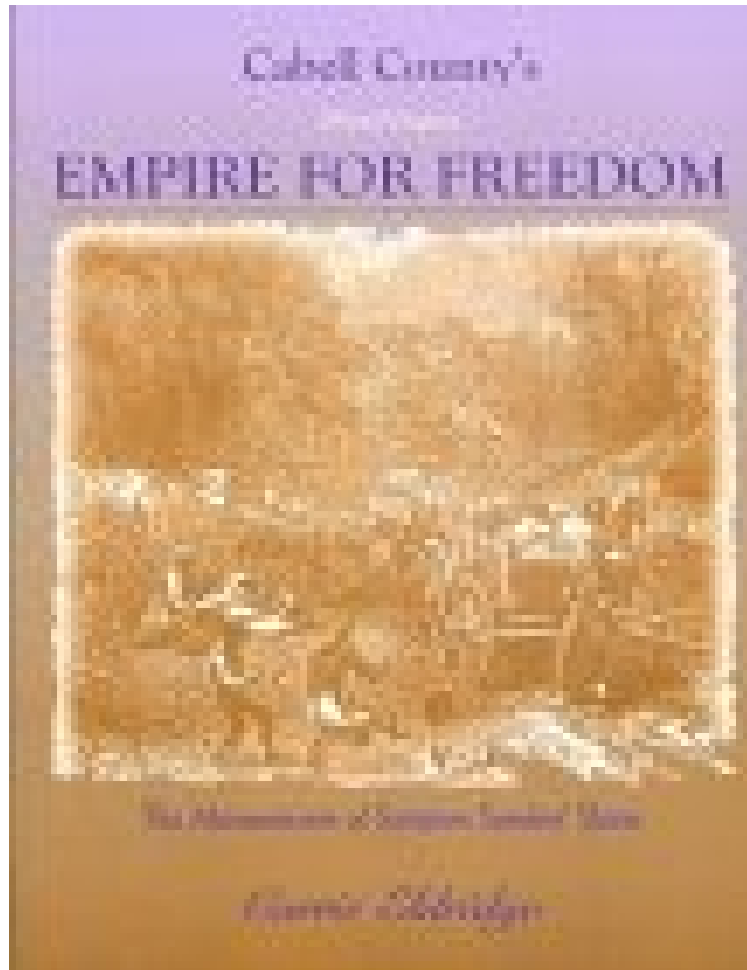


(Download free pdf) Cabell County's Empire for Freedom: The Manumission of Sampson Sanders' Slaves

Cabell County's Empire for Freedom: The Manumission of Sampson Sanders' Slaves

Carrie Eldridge

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

#3981588 in Books 2004-07Original language:English #File Name: 158549884X182 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Carrie Eldridge : Cabell County's Empire for Freedom: The Manumission of Sampson Sanders' Slaves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cabell County's Empire for Freedom: The Manumission of Sampson Sanders' Slaves:

Sampson Sanders was the wealthiest landowner in Cabell County, [West] Virginia during the Anti-bellum Period, and the owner of fifty-one slaves that came to him through inheritance. Sanders never purchased or sold a slave, and upon his death, he manumitted all his slaves and provided them with the means and land to start a new life as free men and women in Michigan. This remarkable man taught his slaves to run his holdings rather than hire an overseer, and in defiance of Virginia laws, it is evident that some of his slaves could read, write and cipher. Readers and historians will

appreciate this well researched perspective of life on Sander's unique plantation, as well as the history of its slaves. Thanks to nearly complete records, Carrie Eldridge is able to trace family origins back to Hannah, the family matriarch, and reconstruct the history and evolution of an African-American family from 1780 to the present. Numerous illustrations, appendices, a bibliography and indices to people and places enhance the text.

This project had its origins several years ago when I was doing research on the evolution of slavery in Cabell County. About ten years ago, I introduced the story to Ms. Carrie Eldridge who took the material and ran with it! Ms. Eldridge, a noted local cartographer and historical geographer, has traveled extensively in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Michigan in compiling this wonderful historical account. Sampson Sanders was an exceptional individual. Not only was he the wealthiest landowner in Cabell County, Virginia, but he was also the master of fifty-one slaves. Placed within the top 2.7% of Southern slave holders, he became even more unique when he manumitted all the slaves upon his death. Sanders provided the slaves with the means and the land required to start a new life as free men and women in Cass County, Michigan. This was indeed remarkable for a man who never purchased or sold a slave nor hired an overseer. Perhaps, however, the most unique and significant aspect of the story of Sampson Sanders is the nearly complete record and history of his slaves. Tracing their history back to Hannah, the family matriarch, Ms. Eldridge has reconstructed a continuous history of a African-American family from 1780 to the present! One of the major assets of this book and a real value to historians and the interested lay public is found in the extensive appendices and impressive bibliography. The resource materials cited herein give the reader real insight into the "underside" of history. In conclusion, this work provides a unique perspective of not only life on a Mid-Ohio Valley Antebellum plantation; but thanks to the patience and persistence of Ms, Eldridge, an even rarer view of the history and evolution of an African-American family. -- Dr. Alan B. Gould, Executive Director, The John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture, Marshall University, Huntington, WV. About the Author Carrie Eldridge, a former educator, is a historical geographer with 20 years experience in local history information. A frequent lecturer, she has been included in "Who's Who in the Midwest" for her work in preserving historical information. With 30 titles of abstracted materials, 2 gazetteers, 6 maps and 2 atlases to her credit, "Cabell County's EMPIRE FOR FREEDOM, The Manumission of Sampson Sanders Slaves" is the culmination of several years of research. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Cabell County is bounded on the north by the Ohio River. In 1850 that meant slaves could literally see freedom a few hundred yards away but completely unattainable. One Cabell County slave holder was unhappy with his situation. Although he owned many slaves, he did not think slavery was right. Virginia's laws made it very difficult to free a large number of slaves because the former owner was responsible for the welfare of his freed slaves. Sampson Sanders was also confronted with providing for his legal heirs. Sanders' answer to both situations was to amass a fortune in land and cash and then to disperse his funds to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. The Sanders' story spans the early American frontier. A young family with a slave left northern Virginia about 1785 and moved southwest into North Carolina and Tennessee. Business opportunities called the family west to the Ohio River valley where the father died in 1802. Sampson Sanders, the son, enlarged the family holdings and protected his slaves from other family members. At his death in 1849, Sanders had about fifty slaves. He willed that each slave should be manumitted, provided with cash and supplies and assisted in finding new homes in Michigan.