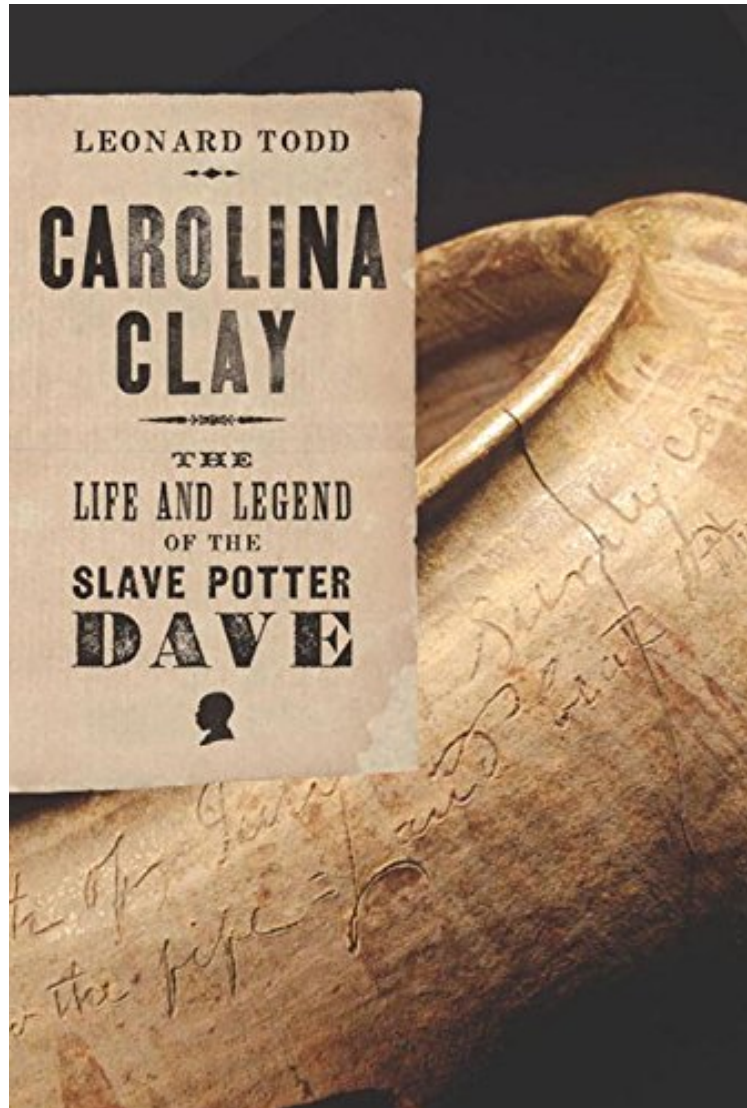


(Get free) Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave

## Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave

Leonard Todd

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**Leonard Todd : Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A glimpse into an educated slaves life and times By deeAn  
interesting read...there were a lot of phrases like, "Dave may have", "he probably experienced this" etc. as the author tried to fill in the blanks. It was also very slow moving at times as the author traced his steps and frankly had little to

go on, scant census records, ledgers of purchase and a newspaper article or two. But, Mr. Todd remained steadfast, determined to tell the story and give us a glimpse into the life of an educated slave, one his family had owned and obviously respected. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. New insight on Dave, the potter By G. Dexter Carolina Clay by Leonard Todd is a must for anyone wishing to learn of the great enslaved potter, Dave Drake. The material is presented in chronological order starting with Dave's first master Reuben Drake and his early years at Pottersville after Dr. Abner Landrum became his owner. Todd uses family records as well as public archives to present a well-rounded sketch of Dave, period politics and the antebellum Old Edgefield District of South Carolina. Several exciting, previously unknown facts are presented about Dave which, before now, were not found in the record of entries about Dave. Todd's research sheds new light on several exciting propositions in which scholars, historians and collectors have long debated concerning Dave's life and family relationships. The amazing stoneware manufacturers from the Old Edgefield District started a tradition of pottery making in the southern USA unlike any other known in this country. As more and more people discover alkaline glazed stoneware, the prices of the old pottery sky rockets! Dave's pots are at the pinnacle of both rarity and price. This book will become the necessary bible on Dave and a "must have" companion book to the several other publications on southern alkaline glazed pottery. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book arrived on time and in great shape. I used it for a ceramics course By RubyLee This book arrived on time and in great shape. I used it for a ceramics course. It happened to be my professors favorite book which he raves about all the time. The story is commendable, great read.

The compelling story of a slave, owned by the author's ancestors, who became one of the singular artists of the nineteenth century. He is known today, as he was then, only as Dave. His pots and storage jars were everyday items, but because of their beauty and massive size, and because Dave signed and inscribed many with poems, they now fetch six figures at auction. We know of no other slave artist who dared to put his name on his work, a dangerous advertisement of literacy. Fascinated by the man and by this troubling family history, Leonard Todd moved from Manhattan to Edgefield, South Carolina, where his ancestors had established a thriving pottery industry in the early 1800s. Todd studied each of Dave's poems for biographical clues, which he pieced together with local records and family letters to create this moving and dramatic chronicle of Dave's life—a story of creative triumph in the midst of slavery. Many of Dave's astounding jars are found now in America's finest museums. 8 pages of color; 31 black white

From Publishers Weekly The life of the slave potter Dave unfolds against a backdrop of cruelty, repression, war and unexpected tenderness in this intimate history. Little is known about Dave, whose stunning stoneware vessels are made more exceptional by the fact that he often inscribed verses, usually rhymed couplets, into their wet clay during the era when literacy among blacks was illegal and brutally punished. Driven by the chance discovery that his ancestors had enslaved Dave, Todd traveled to the heart of the antebellum South Carolina pottery industry to draw on local lore, archeological data, slave-era archival records and the famous verses to reconstruct Dave—and his family's—story. What emerges is not so much a definitive biography of Dave as a sweeping tale of the South itself and a touching testament to the artist. Given the paucity of records of Dave's life, much of Todd's account is speculative, with the author filling in the blanks with details taken from slave narratives, oral histories and popular literature of the era, and the book suffers from the author's penchant for imagining events, relationships and even thoughts and feelings on the basis of little documentation. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School—Imagine reading an article in the New York Times about an obscure but talented South Carolina potter named Dave, who was a slave for most of his life, only to learn that your great-great-grandfather had owned him. Todd did just that and then began an involved, lengthy investigation to uncover the truth of his family's past. His book reads like a combination of Antiques Roadshow and History Detectives. Piecing together information gathered from local records, newspapers, family letters, and remaining pottery complete with encrypted verse, the author presents a window into what life was like for a literate slave who eventually became a free man. Photos give glimpses of the pottery. This book provides a real feel for a slave's life and experience. Reading about how often Dave was sold and had to restart his family, no matter how thoughtful his master believed he was being to him, along with the countless other indignities and injuries he suffered, will make a lasting impression on teens.—Joanne Ligamari, Twin Rivers United School District, Sacramento, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Leonard Todd, the author of three previous books, has written for Travel Leisure and Cosmopolitan, among other magazines. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Art and Architecture and works as a graphic designer. He lives in Edgefield, South Carolina.