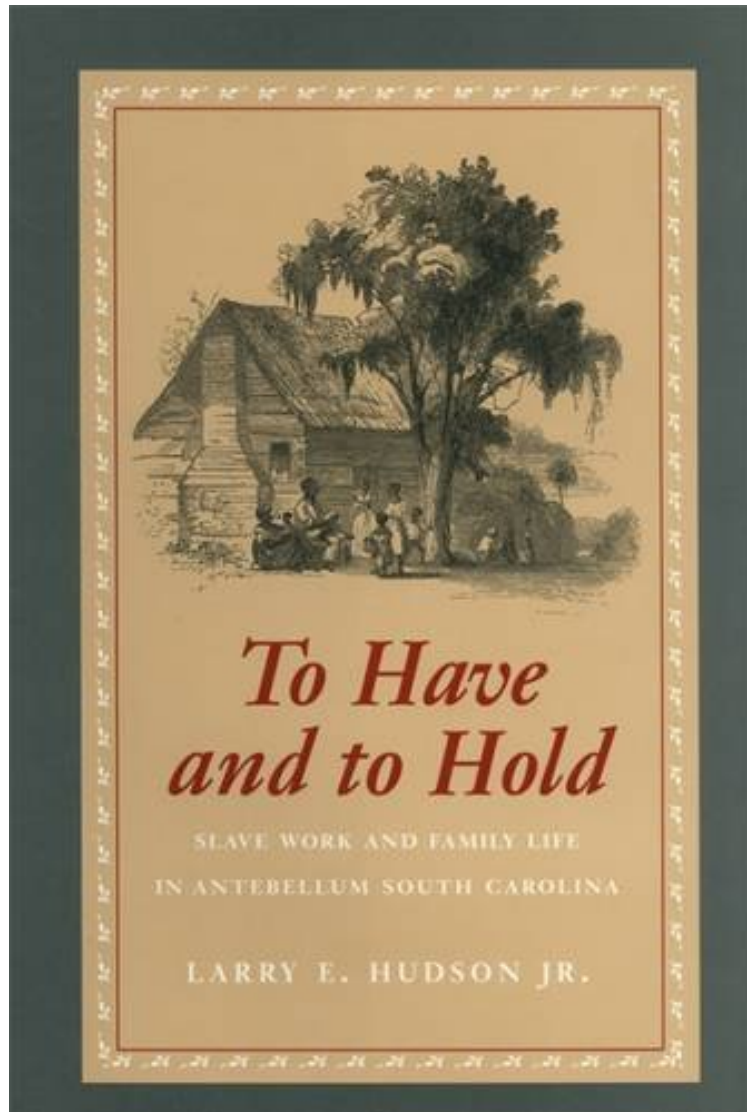


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# To Have and to Hold: Slave Work and Family Life in Antebellum South Carolina

Larry Hudson

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**Larry Hudson : To Have and to Hold: Slave Work and Family Life in Antebellum South Carolina** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Have and to Hold: Slave Work and Family Life in Antebellum South Carolina:

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking work in the discipline of slaveryBy

William Woolworth Hudson has addressed several key questions in an effort to expand on our knowledge of the life of the American slave outside of the daily brutalities that sometimes overshadow understanding of microcosmic economic conditions, family life, and personal property. It is not that Hudson dismisses the horrors of slavery, but rather he expands on the story of the "humanity, endeavor and creativity of the enslaved" (p. xiii). *To Have and to Hold* is a fundamental work for the study of American slavery; a backbone on which all further study of slavery will build and be judged against. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Teaching Material By Roger Spitale Any class involving antebellum African-American History ought to integrate this utterly fundamental work into its selected readings list. A syllabus lacking this work would provide for an incomplete and skewed discussion of American Slavery.

Looking closely at both the slaves' and masters' worlds in low, middle, and up-country South Carolina, Larry E. Hudson Jr. covers a wide range of economic and social topics related to the opportunities given to slaves to produce and trade their own food and other goods contingent on first completing the master's assigned work for the day. In particular, Hudson shows how these opportunities were exploited by the slaves both to increase their control over their family life and to gain status among their fellow slaves. Filled with details of slaves' social values, family formation, work patterns, "internal economies," and domestic production, *To Have and to Hold* is based on a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, emphasizing wherever possible the recollections of former slaves. Although their private world was never immune to intervention from the white world, Hudson demonstrates a relationship between the agricultural productivity of slaves, in family situations that range from simple to complex formations, and the accumulation of personal property and social status within slave communities.

No reader will come away from this book without having reconsidered and reimagined much of the conventional scholarly wisdom surrounding the slave family. . . . Hudson merits praise for this provocative study. (H-SHEAR) An important contribution to slave studies . . . Although this volume is slender, the descriptions of slave life are thick and deep, rendering a more nuanced appreciation of both the hardships confronting slaves and the coping mechanisms of antebellum African Americans anchored on plantations. (Journal of American History) From the Back Cover Looking closely at both the slaves' and masters' worlds in low, middle, and up-country South Carolina, Larry E. Hudson Jr. covers a wide range of economic and social topics related to the opportunities given to slaves to produce and trade their own food and other goods - contingent on first completing the master's assigned work for the day. In particular, Hudson shows how these opportunities were exploited by the slaves to both increase their control over their family life and to gain status among their fellow slaves. Filled with details of slaves' social values, family formation, work patterns, "internal economies", and domestic production, *To Have and to Hold* is based on a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, emphasizing wherever possible the recollections of former slaves. Although their private world was never immune to intervention from the white world, Hudson demonstrates a relationship between the agricultural productivity of slaves, in family situations that range from simple to complex formations, and the accumulation of personal property and social status within slave communities. By capitalizing on these opportunities for autonomy, says Hudson, slaves not only tempered some of the daily brutalities of their lives but also prepared themselves for freedom, for it was the family group that most powerfully influenced the personalities of the slaves and it was in the slave quarters that the foundations of an African American culture were established. About the Author Larry E. Hudson Jr. is an associate professor of history at the University of Rochester.