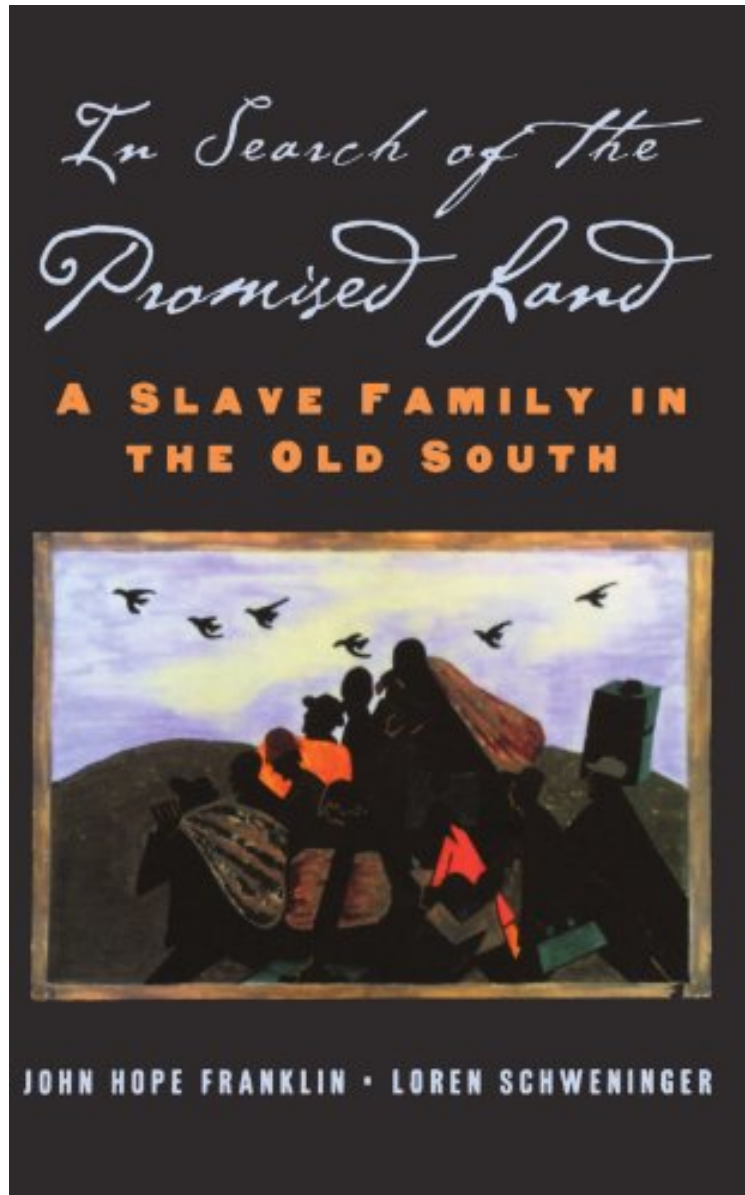


(Read free ebook) In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South (New Narratives in American History)

In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South (New Narratives in American History)

John Hope Franklin, Loren Schweninger
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#608484 in Books 2006-02-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 4.70 x .60 x 6.70l, .55 #File Name: 0195160886304 pages | File size: 56.Mb

John Hope Franklin, Loren Schweninger : In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South (New Narratives in American History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South (New Narratives in American

History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy GerryNever had read anything more interesting. Full of detail, not just general information.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. history book about a slave familyBy CustomerReally nice history story. Book was in great condition and arrived on time.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An extended yet focused case studyBy L. Speyer_Promised Land_ does indeed cover an interesting family. The true tales of the Thomas clan, descendents of a "semi-free" entrepreneuring slave in mid-nineteenth-century Nashville, have the potential to enlarge the boundaries of our imagination of American history. The telling is another matter: far less imaginative. Much of what one learns in _Promised Land_ one could get more amusingly and emotionally wrenchingly from Edward Jones's _The Known World_. If one prefers history in non-fiction, though, _Promised Land_ is a good bet.

The matriarch of a remarkable African American family, Sally Thomas went from being a slave on a tobacco plantation to a "virtually free" slave who ran her own business and purchased one of her sons out of bondage. In *In Search of the Promised Land* offers a vivid portrait of the extended Thomas-Rapier family and of slave life before the Civil War. Based on personal letters and an autobiography by one of Thomas' sons, this remarkable piece of detective work follows the family as they walk the boundary between slave and free, traveling across the country in search of a "promised land" where African Americans would be treated with respect. Their record of these journeys provides a vibrant picture of antebellum America, ranging from New Orleans to St. Louis to the Overland Trail. The authors weave a compelling narrative that illuminates the larger themes of slavery and freedom while examining the family's experiences with the California Gold Rush, Civil War battles, and steamboat adventures. The documents show how the Thomas-Rapier kin bore witness to the full gamut of slavery--from brutal punishment, runaways, and the breakup of slave families to miscegenation, insurrection panics, and slave patrols. The book also exposes the hidden lives of "virtually free" slaves, who maintained close relationships with whites, maneuvered within the system, and gained a large measure of autonomy.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Tracing the Thomas-Rapier family through three antebellum generationsfrom about 1808 to 1865distinguished historians Franklin and Schweninger present an absorbing, impeccably researched account of "blacks who [have] only received passing notice the free and quasi-free persons of mixed racial ancestry." Through this uncommon but not unique family, Franklin and Schweninger compress vast strata of slavery studies into an awesomely compact monograph, treating the reader to enough material (and drama) for a door-stopper; if the book were not so gemlike in size (it's 4"6"), style and substance, one could call it a page-turner. From Tennessee, Thomas-Rapiers travel widely (sometimes as slaves), and there is a panoramic quality to their immersion in American historical events: one attends a Jenny Lind concert; one seeks gold in California; one escapes to Buffalo and later settles in Canada; one is involved with the filibusters in Nicaragua. They become entrepreneurs and adventurers, gamblers and teachers, churchmen and a congressman. They talk politics; they worry about their children. The brutalization endemic in slave culture is ever present. The authors bring it all to life with startling clarity, using documents, letters and diaries with such judiciousness that the scholarly apparatus enlivens rather than deadens. A genealogy that keeps the family connections clear, maps that trace their peregrinations and the fully informative captions that accompany the illustrations supplement this remarkable text. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "In *In Search of the Promised Land* is a unique and exciting addition to the literature on slavery and nineteenth-century history. It shows the complexity of slave life and challenges existing historical interpretations without completely overturning the studies of the last thirty years. . . . I love the story itself--what a story!"--James Fuller, University of Indianapolis"The book's focus on the Thomas-Rapier family provides for one of the more vivid presentations of antebellum race relations I have seen. So much of scholarship on slave life tends to lose sight of individuals who had to confront life in a slave society. This book brings individuals back into the picture."--Dickson D. Bruce, University of Irvine CaliforniaAbout the AuthorJohn Hope Franklin is at Duke University. Loren Schweninger is at University of North Carolina-Greensboro.