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Who Freed the Slaves?: The Fight over the Thirteenth Amendment



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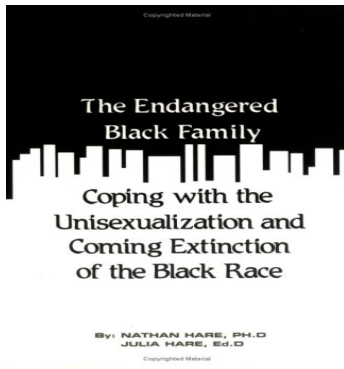
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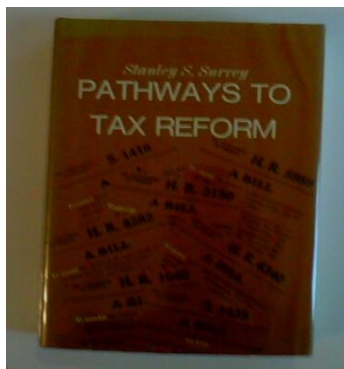
In the popular imagination, slavery in the United States ended with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation may have been limited—freeing only slaves within Confederate states who were able to make their way to Union lines—but it is nonetheless generally seen as the key moment, with Lincoln's leadership setting into motion a train of inevitable events that culminated in the passage of an outright ban: the Thirteenth Amendment. The real story, however, is much more complicated—and dramatic—than that. With *Who Freed the Slaves?*, distinguished historian Leonard L. Richards tells the little-known story of the battle over the T

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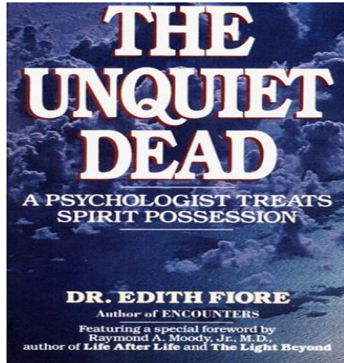


The Endangered Black Family: Coping With the Unisexualization and Coming Extinction of the Black Race (Black Male / Female Relationships Book Series, No. 1)

Discusses the origins of many of the ideas that Americans have about what roles men and women play in family units as well as many of the ways in which the black family unit has broken down as a result of slavery, racism, and the women's liberation movement.

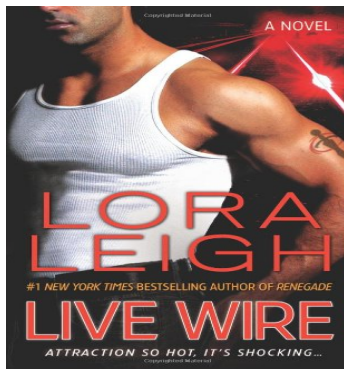


Pathways to Tax Reform



The Unquiet Dead: A Psychologist Treats Spirit Possession

Noted psychologist Dr. Edith Fiore explains how to detect spirit possession in yourself and others, how to protect yourself from entities, how to release your home from displaced spirits, and how to perform a deossession. Filled with shocking case histories.



Live Wire (Elite Ops)

Meet Captain Jordan Malone. For years he has been a silent, sexy warrior and guardian, operating independent of government protocol or oversight, leading his loyal team of Elite Ops agents to fight terror at all costs. A legend in the field, Jordan's true identity has remained a mystery even to his

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Congressman James Ashley is rightly rescued from obscurity in Leonard Richard's "Who Freed the Slaves?..."

Ashely is the Ohio Congressman who proposed the Thirteenth Amendment and worked assiduously to make it a part of the Constitution. Buffeted by the ups and downs of Union fortune during the war, the amendment languished until Union victories, northern determination to never let the slave powers again rise and Abraham Lincoln's unerring sense of timing propelled it to enactment.

This book focuses on the political march toward abolition. It is well written and provides a lens on players and actions that are usually glossed over in Lincoln biographies and comprehensive books on the war. Richards has done those interested in the history of this era a good service in telling this neglected story.

Review 2:

Today, many people believe Abe Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in America. Of course, it's not true- it was the 13rd Amendment that finally did it. But how many of us actually know about the long path it took for it to get passed & ratify?

This book is about the passage of the 13th Amendment. It focuses heavily on one James Ashley, a now forgotten Congressman from Ohio who originally introduced the amendment & it shows the ups & downs of him trying to get support for it-all during the mists of the Civil War. The book gives us a great look into the legislation process as Ashley proposed, fine-tunes & pushes his amendment-with limited help from Lincoln-he don't support it until the last minute. It also talks about the former Confederate states & their role in its ratification & later attends to limit its impact.

All in all a great read. Well written & researched. Upon reading this, you'll understand why the the 13th Amendment is so important & not because it finally ending slavery, but for the 2nd part which gives Congress the power to enforce it- enforcement clauses will be a part of future Constitutional amendments as well.

Review 3:

The author all but trivializes his own book with a prologue saying that the need for the Thirteenth Amendment was obvious. The book goes on to say that the initial proposal by Ohio congressman James Ashley was considered radical, hardly consistent with ?obvious.? Need for the amendment was far from obvious. It still isn't. In the face of the Emancipation Proclamation and exigencies of war, need for a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery was far from obvious to many of the smartest legislators in the North. Nor does Richards consider the modern significance of the Thirteenth with strange expansion of the definition of slavery in the cause of social legislation. In between, the book is an entertaining but informative history of a serious topic.

To answer the titular question, a case can be made among many issues and personages:

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) the Emancipation Proclamation
- c) the war

- d) the Confiscation Acts
- e) the slaves themselves
- f) the Thirteenth Amendment
- g) the Southern State legislatures

In my opinion, only Lincoln was the single essential ingredient. Ashley could have been replaced, Lincoln never. That's not to devalue the book in a fine informative introduction to the role of Ashley in introducing and promoting the Amendment. Under constitutional law before 1865, slavery was an issue allocated to the states. To rejoin the Union, the Southern State legislatures were under federal coercion. Nonetheless, it was they who legally freed those slaves that had not already freed themselves.

In addition it's difficult to evaluate the roles the Wilmot Proviso or ?Uncle Tom's Cabin.? They both had an effect in bringing on the war and accelerating the demise of the peculiar institution. There is also the very plausible idea that slavery was in the process of dying by its own accord, mainly due to declining economic viability. If the Thirteenth had failed passage, would there have been a return to slavery? I think not. The credit for ending slavery must be shared among many factors.

There was Lincoln's promotion of colonization as well as alternate plans. Early on we had the Crittendon compromise plan to head off secession and later the Wade-Davis bill for readmission which Lincoln vetoed. The book goes on to describe legal consequences of the Amendment with Supreme Court case featuring the roles of Lincoln appointees Noah Swayne and Samuel Miller. In 1893 an Emancipation Day celebration associated with the Chicago World Fair featured a tribute to James Ashley, whose collected papers were lost in a fire.

There's an interesting contrast to the handling of the Amendment process in the recent Spielberg movie ?Lincoln? that served to popularize the topic with modern audiences. That one focused on the roles of Lincoln and Stevens, whereas Richards features the role of congressman James Ashley who originated the process with his ?radical? proposal.

Review 4:

From anyone who wants to know the politics and reasons behind the Thirteenth Amendment, This a must read.

Review 5:

A solid, concise history on the passage and adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment; a powerful action that laid to an unsettled rest the great injustice of direct human slavery. This political capstone to the Civil War was the product of the hands and minds of many people, not merely Abraham Lincoln.

Most notably, the forceful work of James Ashley, now obscure but then a member of Congress from Ohio, is here given proper recognition in the achievement of this by-no-means-certain change to the nation's constitution.

Fans of Spielberg's "Lincoln" and others interested in our nation's story should read Leonard L. Richards's informative book to learn more about "who" did free the slaves by passage of the Thirteenth. And to learn of the stubborn efforts, for decades piled on decades, to deny its liberating spirit.

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