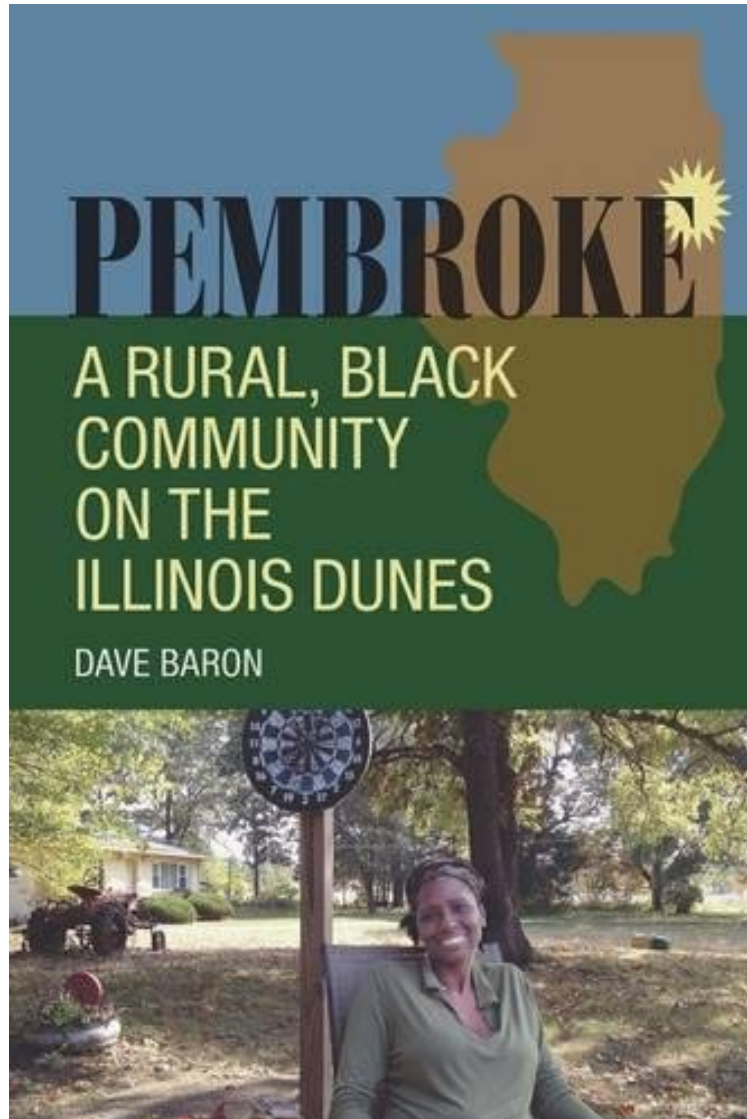


(Download) Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes

Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes

Dave Baron

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#1219959 in Books Dave Baron 2016-07-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0809335026248 pagesPembroke A Rural Black Community on the Illinois Dunes | File size: 15.Mb

Dave Baron : Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A balanced, well written critique and celebration of a people, its culture, its past and its potentialBy CustomerIn this wonderfully written examination of Pembroke Township, Baron skillfully articulates both the complexities of a people teeming with talent and vision—and the tension between the Township's drive for self-determination and outsiders' attempts to shape the trajectory of its development. Anchoring

this study in his own, decidedly personal relationship to this community and people, Baron describes with candor the popular demographics, geography, economics, politics, and history of Pembroke—and the role each has played in the many successes, and failures, this community has seen both as a discrete municipal entity and as part of a larger political force within Chicagoland. Baron does not present this as the definitive, final word on Pembroke Township, but he does provide an incisive, balanced look at a people, its struggles, its victories, and everything in between. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend this book. My exposure to Pembroke has been limited but reading *Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes* has made me want to learn more about the area and spend additional time in the community. Dave Baron's account expertly combines both the history of the area from its geographical beginnings and the unique process that made the dunes and savannah possible, to the trials and triumphs of the first families who settled the area, to the Pembroke residents today who continue to create its incredible culture. Interspersed throughout the book are also stories of the author's own experiences in the Pembroke community and the profound effect it has had on his own life. This book will be of interest to anyone with a passion for Illinois history, for black history or just an interest in what can happen when a person takes the time to look outside their typical worldview and the beauty that can be found just beyond. I highly recommend this book! 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Over all good read. A number of inaccuracies but most readers ... By Tom DeYoung Over all good read. A number of inaccuracies but most readers would not realize unless you lived through the time frame.

With a population of about two thousand, Pembroke Township, one of the largest rural, black communities north of the Mason-Dixon Line, sits in an isolated corner of Kankakee County, Illinois, sixty-five miles south of Chicago. It is also one of the poorest places in the nation. Many black farmers from the South came to this area during the Great Migration; finding Chicago to be overcrowded and inhospitable, they were able to buy land in the township at low prices. The poor soil made it nearly impossible to establish profitable farms, however, and economic prosperity has eluded the region ever since. *Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes* chronicles the history of this inimitable township and shows the author's personal transformation through his experiences with Pembroke and its people. A native of nearby Kankakee, author Dave Baron first traveled to Pembroke on a church service trip at age fifteen and saw real poverty firsthand, but he also discovered a community possessing grace and purpose. Baron begins each chapter with a personal narrative from his initial trip to Pembroke. He covers the early history of the area, explaining how the unique black oak savanna ecosystem was created and describing early residents, including Potawatomi tribes and white fur traders. He introduces readers to Pap and Mary Tetter, Pembroke's first black residents, who—according to local lore—assisted fugitives on the Underground Railroad; details the town's wild years, when taverns offered liquor, drugs, and prostitution; discusses the many churches of Pembroke and the nearby high school where, in spite of sometimes strained relations, Pembroke's black students have learned alongside white students of a neighboring community since well before *Brown v. Board of Education*; outlines efforts by conservation groups to preserve Pembroke's rare black oak savannas; and analyzes obstacles to and failed attempts at economic development in Pembroke, as well as recent efforts, including organic farms and a sustainable living movement, which may yet bring some prosperity. Based on research, interviews with residents, and the author's own experiences during many return trips to Pembroke, this book—part social, cultural, legal, environmental, and political history and part memoir—profiles a number of the colorful, longtime residents and considers what has enabled Pembroke to survive despite a lack of economic opportunities. Although Pembroke has a reputation for violence and vice, Baron reveals a township with a rich and varied history and a vibrant culture.

“When Americans think about black-white racial inequalities, they typically conjure images of urban settings. Dave Baron's *Pembroke* shows us that these racial gaps persist in rural areas as well. His rich historical account illustrates how labor markets, housing policies, and the political arena in small-town America hold the same potential to expand or truncate African American life chances as they do in big cities. Baron's book also documents the dedication and resilience demonstrated by residents as they struggle to improve their communities. This book is a must read for anyone interested in understanding the roots of the racial gaps that plague post-Civil Rights America.”—Alvin B. Tillery, Jr., Northwestern University “*Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes* is a noble, compelling, and artistic work. As an African American Chicagoan, and a son of parents who came to the city from the South during the Second Great Migration, I was inspired and enlightened by it. Furthermore, the beautifully descriptive imagery mesmerized me. I loved it.”—Vincent Guider, director of the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative