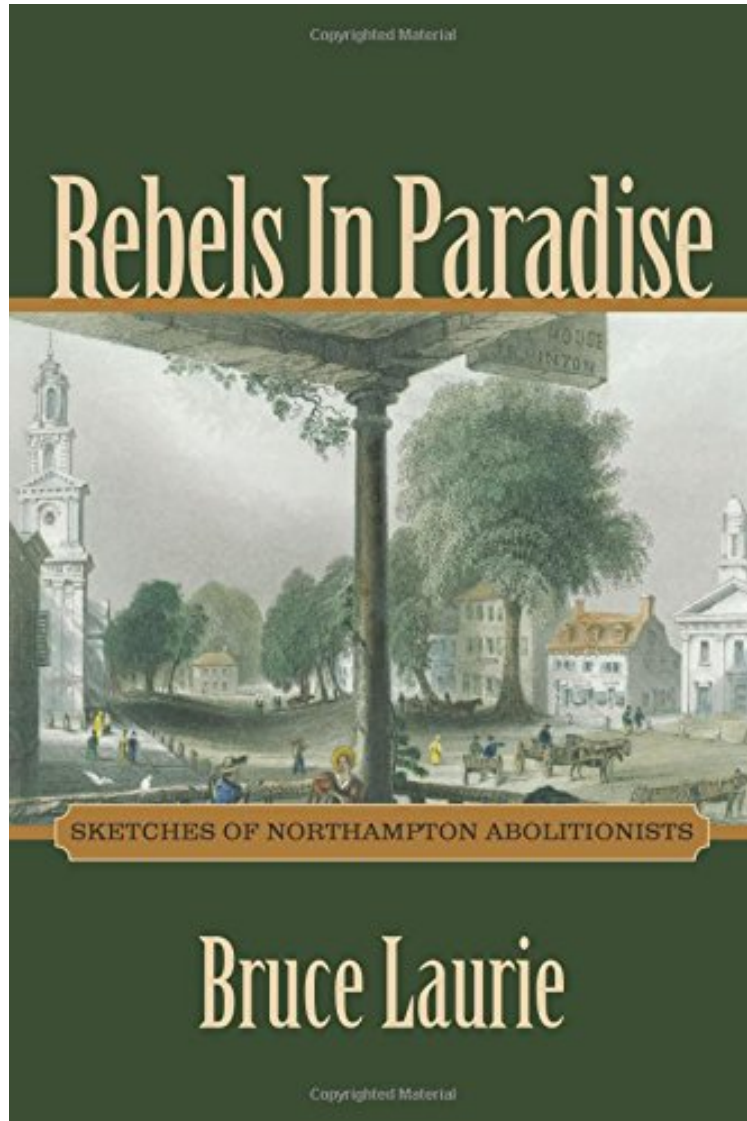


(Mobile ebook) Rebels in Paradise: Sketches of Northampton Abolitionists

Rebels in Paradise: Sketches of Northampton Abolitionists

Bruce Laurie

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Bruce Laurie : Rebels in Paradise: Sketches of Northampton Abolitionists before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rebels in Paradise: Sketches of Northampton Abolitionists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Peter P. Hinks More luminous work from Bruce Laurie! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written gem of a book By R Paule This elegantly crafted gem of a book provides deep insight into the abolitionist movements through a place--Northampton, Massachusetts--and five individuals who played critical roles in the antebellum antislavery movement. The writing is typical of historian Bruce Laurie, clear, concise, often witty with the telling detail or anecdote. Laurie was perfectly

positioned to write this study by his acclaimed earlier work, "Beyond Garrison: Antislavery and Social Reform (2005) that had a significant impact on the interpretation of antislavery and allied reform movements before the Civil War. Both works convey Laurie's understanding of how reform and radical movements work apart from, within, and on mainstream politics to practical effect.

Long ago dubbed the "Paradise of America," Northampton, Massachusetts, is also known as the home of visionaries?from the Reverend Jonathan Edwards, father of the First Great Awakening, to George W. Benson, brother-in-law of William Lloyd Garrison and a founder of the utopian Northampton Association for Education and Industry. During the mid-nineteenth century the town became a center of political abolitionism and a hub in the Underground Railroad. In this book, Bruce Laurie profiles five rebellious figures who launched Northampton's abolitionist movement?Sylvester Judd Jr., John Payson Williston, David Ruggles, Henry Sherwood Gere, and Erastus Hopkins. Through their individual stories he traces the evolution of the antislavery movement in western Massachusetts and links it to broader developments in economics, civil life, and political affairs. Northampton's abolitionists were a heterodox group, yet most were intrepid devotees of democracy and racial equality, idealists who enjoyed genuine friendships and political alliances with African Americans. Several even took the bold step of hiring African Americans in their businesses. They avoided the doctrinal rivalries that sometimes troubled the antislavery movement in other places, skillfully steering clear of the xenophobic nativism that infected Massachusetts politics in the mid-1850s and divided the Republican Party at large. Although a prohibitionist faction disrupted the Northampton abolitionist movement for a time, the leaders prevailed on the strength of their personal prestige and political experience, making the seat of Hampshire County what one of them called an abolitionist "stronghold."

"A lively, lucid, and eminently readable study. Succinctly but in well-judged detail, Bruce Laurie tells the story of antebellum abolitionism through biographies of some of the movement's prominent local figures in Northampton, Massachusetts."?Christopher Clark, author of *The Communitarian Moment: The Radical Challenge of the Northampton Association*"In writing of David Ruggles and four other local abolitionists?Sylvester Judd Jr., John Payson Williston, Henry S. Gere, and Erastus Hopkins?Laurie also looks at the larger anti-slavery movement in western Massachusetts and draws links to national developments of the era, from the birth of the Free Soil party to temperance movements to the creation of the Underground Railroad, along which Northampton became an important stop."?Hampshire Daily GazetteAbout the AuthorBruce Laurie is professor of history emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and author of *Beyond Garrison: Antislavery and Social Reform*.