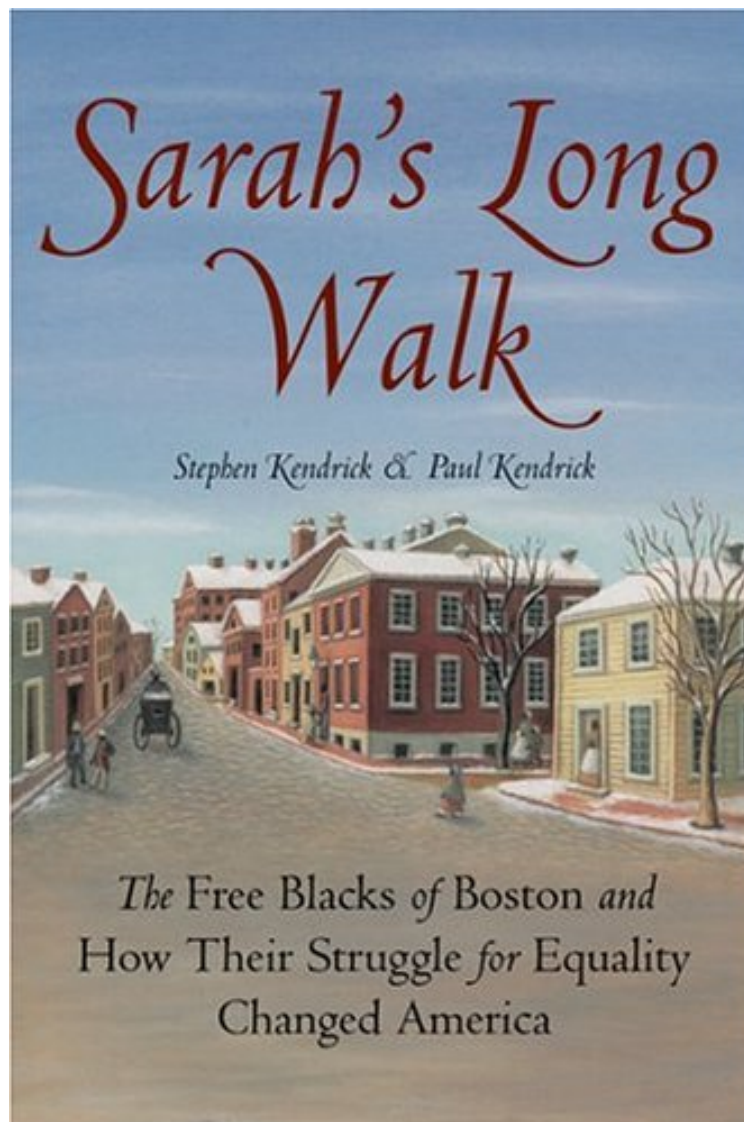


(Download pdf ebook) Sarah's Long Walk: How the Free Blacks of Boston and their Struggle for Equality Changed America

Sarah's Long Walk: How the Free Blacks of Boston and their Struggle for Equality Changed America

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Stephen Kendrick, Paul Kendrick : Sarah's Long Walk: How the Free Blacks of Boston and their Struggle for Equality Changed America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sarah's Long Walk: How the Free Blacks of Boston and their Struggle for Equality Changed America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. WOW!By AvidReaderThis is such a powerful story of some of

America's earliest Civil rights leaders. In a time when slavery was still legal and fugitive slaves were being hunted down, a group of courageous African Americans dared to stand for desegregation of schools. And they won the fight! You'll find yourself cheering as they pray for the impossible and it comes to pass. The authors have done an incredible job of researching little known and hard to find historical facts to present this remarkable story that proves people can make a big difference. This lays the foundation for better understanding the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that came over a century later, but was heavily influenced by this early court case. We really enjoyed reading this very well documented, entertaining, and well organized book. We look forward to reading more by these authors. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. *Pride of Boston* By J. A. Murphy So you want to be proud of Boston? Yes there are Red Sox and Celtics and ok, John Adams, but you ain't seen nothing yet. Read this book and tell your friends about it. Sarah herself is somewhat inconsequential...but the scenes, the smells, the names, the flavors, the history...these make it an awesome read. Buy it even if you are not from Boston, but just love history and justice. Buy it for your friends. Buy it now!!! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. *Early Civil Rights History--Excellent* By Alan Mills Sarah's *Long Walk* is a well-written history of the first civil rights movement--pre-civil war--in Boston. Without the First Amendment, and without any of the Civil Rights laws that we all take for granted, free Blacks in Boston first demanded and built their own school, and then fought to integrate all public schools. The center of the book is an--at the time--court case, in which America's first Black lawyer co-counseled with the soon to be Senator Charles Sumner (later famous for having been beaten half to death by a southern Senator on the floor of the Senate) to bring a legal challenge to segregated schools. In what could have served as the model for the civil rights movement of the 40's -- 60's, the legal strategy meshed with a community organizing strategy. Despite arguments which largely were identical to those used by the S.Ct. in *Brown* over 100 years later, plaintiff lost the Boston case. However, a few years later, they won in the legislature, and Massachusetts became the first state to desegregate its public schools as a matter of law. This struggle was truly remarkable when it is placed in historical context (as the authors do very well). This was the period when the fugitive slave law was in full swing, and every Black in Boston--free or slave--was at risk of being kidnaped and sent to slavery in the south. *Dred Scott* held that slaves had no legal rights. Despite this extraordinarily tenuous hold on legal citizenship, Boston's school desegregation struggle was almost exclusively lead by local Blacks. The abolitionists initially ignored, or even opposed, their demands. A remarkable story, well told.

The never-before-told story of the African-American child who started the fight for desegregation in America's public schools One fall day in 1848, on windswept Beacon Hill in Boston, a five-year-old girl named Sarah Roberts walked past five white schools to attend the poor and densely crowded all-black Abiel Smith School. Incensed that his daughter had been turned away at each white school, Benjamin Roberts resolved to sue the city of Boston on her behalf. Thus began what would be a more than one-hundred-year struggle that culminated in 1954 with the unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* to desegregate America's schools. Today, few have heard of the Roberts case or of the black abolitionist printer whose love for his daughter started it all, but now, with *Sarah's Long Walk*, readers can learn about one black community's heroic struggle for equality. *Sarah's Long Walk* recovers the stories of white and black Boston; of Beacon Hill in the nineteenth century; of twenty-four-year-old Robert Morris, the black lawyer who tried the case; and of all the people who participated in this early struggle to desegregate Boston's schools. Stephen Kendrick and his son, Paul, have told Sarah's story—previously a mere footnote in the history books—with color and imagination, bringing out the human side of this very important struggle. *Sarah's Long Walk* is popular history at its best.

From Publishers Weekly Minister and novelist Stephen Kendrick (*Night Watch*) collaborates with his college student son, Paul, to recount the story of Sarah Roberts, who, in 1848, at five years old, became a symbol of the plight of free blacks "forced to persevere in unjust circumstances." Because Sarah had to walk past five white-only schools to reach her school, Sarah's father, aided by African-American attorney Robert Morris, sued the city in a case whose ultimate decision established the concept of "separate but equal." The Kendricks not only tell Sarah's story but also offer a chronology of Boston's black activism, including portraits of David Walker, a Southern-born thrift store owner whose *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* galvanized blacks as Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* had roused white patriots, and William Nell, a former errand boy for abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison who became one of the great leaders of the fight for school equality. Most notably, the authors unearth considerable information about Robert Morris, the attorney who represented Sarah Roberts, whose name has been left out or listed incorrectly in many accounts of the court case. The authors handle the weighty issue of desegregation with skill; this is a book for historians and humanitarians. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist One hundred three years before *Brown v. Board of Education* was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, a black father in Boston challenged the policy of segregated education that forced his five-year-old daughter to walk past white schools to attend a poorly equipped black school. The Kendricks offer a thoroughly well researched and absorbing look at the social forces that culminated in the first legal challenge to segregated education,

including the tense social debate within the Boston black community on the merits of segregation versus integration. Amidst growing social foment for abolition and equal rights, the Kendricks highlight the work of black attorney Robert Morris, activist William Cooper, and other black citizens, whose contributions have been obscured by luminaries such as William Lloyd Garrison and Charles Sumner. Readers interested in how contemporary issues of integration have evolved and the important roles played by ordinary people in making historic changes will enjoy this compelling account of the antebellum struggle for equal rights in the North. Vanessa Bush Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved A truly outstanding account of the struggles of some extraordinary people-the 'ordinary' black citizens of pre-Civil War Boston. Supremely gifted historians in every respect, Stephen Kendrick and Paul Kendrick have given us an exceptionally full and compelling history of the antebellum struggle for racial equality in the nation's Birthplace of Liberty." -James Brewer Stewart, author of Holy Warriors: The Abolitionists and American Slavery "Stephen Kendrick and Paul Kendrick have succeeded where professional historians have failed. They not only have rescued important African American figures from historical obscurity but have brought them back to life, walking the streets and breathing the air of nineteenth-century Boston. They will make Robert Morris, William C. Nell, and Benjamin and Sarah Roberts as familiar to us as Charles Sumner. More importantly, they focus our attention on the victory African Americans achieved against segregation in the cradle of liberty and have demonstrated its relevance to us today. They have connected the past with the present-they have made the past present." -Donald Yacovone, author of Freedom's Journey: African American Voices of the Civil War "An absorbing book about the heroic and successful struggle of Boston's black community during the antebellum period to desegregate the public schools of their city. This well-written and carefully documented account of Roberts v. City of Boston is greatly enhanced by biographical studies of figures like Benjamin Roberts, Sarah's father; William Cooper Nell, the indefatigable black abolitionist; and Robert Morris, the black lawyer who pleaded the Roberts case and who finally receives the historical recognition he richly deserves." -Thomas H. O'Connor, University Historian, Boston College