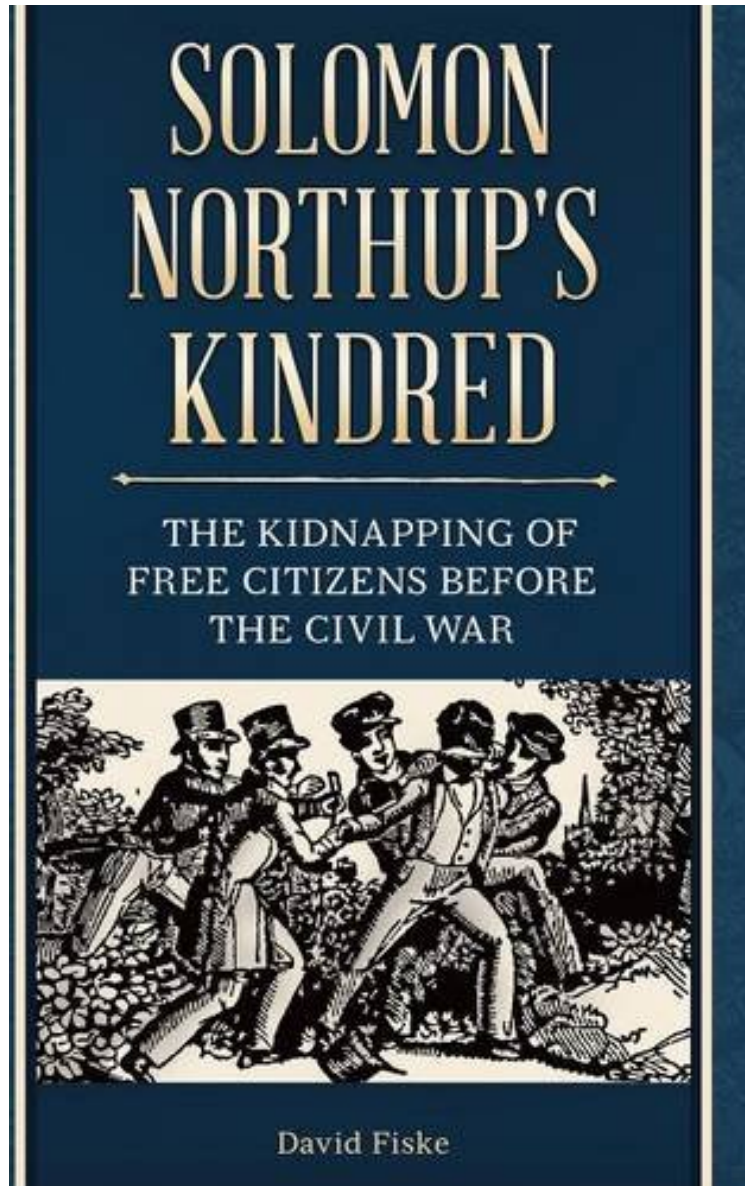


(Mobile book) Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War

Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War

David Fiske

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David Fiske : Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So many times I went to look at the references and was amazed at the research which is proven in those references. By Denis J. Winsness This is the second of David Fiske's book about Solomon Northup that I have read. I have followed links about this book from several sources, and none of those very positive links does justice for his research and presentation in this book! I cannot remember a time where I kept a bookmark in the references section while reading a book! So many times I went to look at the references and was amazed at the research which is proven in those references. Without them, it could be considered 'opinion' too often but David Fiske presents an incredible accumulation of so many situations backed up by the references making them fact. I often think there is no new history, but the accumulation of so many documented facts into one document is a historical treasure.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another informative work. By Customer I am never dissatisfied with this author's informative and easy to read historical works.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A little-discussed horror of American history: free black people stolen and sold into slavery. By lyndonbrecht This is a quite short book, and the actual narrative is half that; the most valuable part of the book is the last portion, a series of accounts of free black people stolen into slavery. These are variously appalling, hopeful, and touching. The accounts range from a paragraph to several pages. The first half of the book looks at the whole subject--who was stolen, who stole, how it was done, how people resisted, white folks who helped, legal matters. and more, a lot of material in such short portions. Chapter 1 sets it all up. There were a few free states that had laws against the taking of free people into slavery (occasional victims were white but most were African American). Some people were caught and served time for the crime of kidnapping; it's heartening to read that a few times states like Massachusetts sent agents to find and bring back their kidnapped free citizens. Some aspects of law were intentionally unfair--black people in most places could not testify on their own behalf, and a simple oral assertion that the victim was an escaped slave was accepted in many places. Chapter 2 discusses the kidnappers and their methods. Among these were stealing unattended children, offering jobs and then seizing the unsuspecting victim, invading houses, grabbing people off the street. A slave could be sold for say \$500, a year's wages for a New England carpenter. Interestingly, kidnappers had a bad reputation and sometimes real slave dealers refused to trade with them. Chapter 4 examines resistance. This was accomplished by publicity, public meetings, word on the street, stubbornness of the enslaved, letters and other means. Some southerners were suspicious of someone enslaved who didn't seem like slaves, and wrote letters; and friends, family, ministers and others might search far and wide. Chapter 5 looks at how victims were kept enslaved: this was done by physical and psychological intimidation, giving slave names, destroying paperwork and sales to people off the beaten path. The most heartening chapter is 6, about white people who helped; these included Quakers, conscientious officials, friends of the victims, abolitionists (both individual and organizations) and preachers. Chapter 8 is the long list of cases. Among others is that of George Anderson, kidnapped at age 13 in 1840 New York; he was found, freed and the kidnapper actually spent some years in prison. The case of Emily, George, Louisa and William, an Illinois case in 1849; four white men invaded a home, tied up the father and took the four children--this is another case that ended well, the children were found and freed. Many were not, vanishing into the slave world in the Plantation South. The number of victims is unknown and likely impossible to find, but that it was considerable seems obvious.

Kidnapping was a lucrative crime in antebellum America, and many American citizens--especially free blacks--were abducted for profit. This book reveals the untold stories of the captured.

- Features portraits, sketches, and images of documents and newspaper articles related to kidnapping
- Identifies the numerous factors that led to the lucrative business of kidnapping
- Describes the physical and psychological subduing of victims
- Includes the perspectives of those who tried to help: educators, crusaders, rescuers, and cooperative slave owners

"Fiske is an historian with astounding research skills, honed by years of tracking down every available clue about the legendary author of *Twelve Years a Slave*. Now, in his latest book, *Solomon Northup's Kindred*, Fiske applies those same skills to the wider phenomenon of kidnapping free blacks into slavery before the Civil War....Fiske's efforts to document these victims and the crimes that robbed them of their families and freedom are heroic indeed and should be applauded." - Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

"David Fiske, in encyclopedic fashion, recreates the history of free Black citizens of the United States and the north who were kidnapped and sold into slavery in the years leading up to the American Civil War. Many were not rescued at the time and were victimized again when their stories were erased from the historical record. With this book Fiske is able to finally provide them with some measure of justice." - Alan Singer, Hofstra University