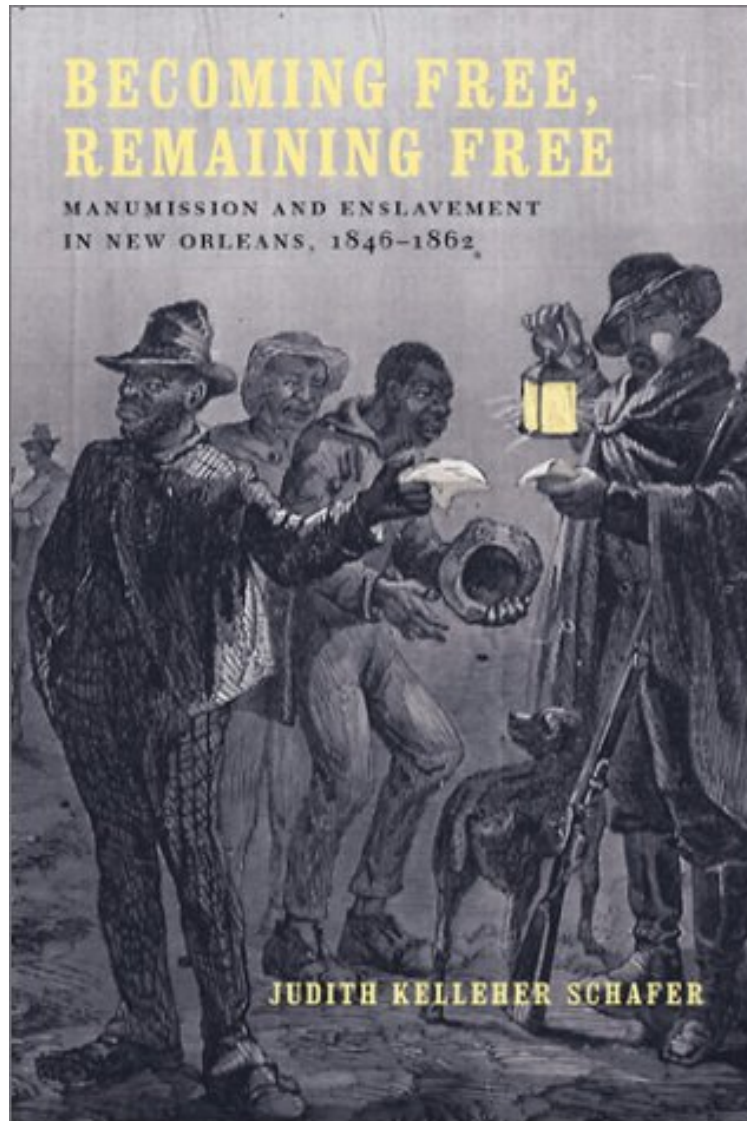


(Download) South of Freedom: Manumission and Enslavement in New Orleans, 1846--1862

South of Freedom: Manumission and Enslavement in New Orleans, 1846--1862

Judith Kelleher Schafer

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Judith Kelleher Schafer : South of Freedom: Manumission and Enslavement in New Orleans, 1846--1862

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised South of Freedom: Manumission and Enslavement in New Orleans, 1846--1862:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important Chapter of History By A reader Judith Schafer was taken from us too soon. She was (and remains) one of the best New Orleans historians of the current era. This book

details a little-known aspect of the American experience: the free black population of New Orleans, which was the largest of any city in antebellum America. In the 1850s, fears of slave insurrection reached heights of hysteria in the South. Many southern states passed laws attempting to force free blacks to flee under threat of enslavement. This book and Desdunes' "Our People and Our History" are vital sources for understanding the free black and "colored Creole" (as they called themselves) experience pre- and post- Civil War. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brick wall busted. By Terry Good understandable info about legal issues related to emancipation, manumission, free persons of color. The bonus was the case proving free status for some of my family is in this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Great book.

For more than 150 years, the tales of hundreds of slaves and free people of color who used the judicial system to negotiate their freedom lay buried deep within the dusty records of the New Orleans district courts. Then Judith Kelleher Schafer spent fourteen years poring over Minute Books and trial transcripts, uncovering fascinating cases. In *Becoming Free, Remaining Free*, Schafer presents her findings and offers a profound analysis of slavery and manumission in the Crescent City. Louisiana state law was unique in allowing slaves to contract for their freedom and to initiate a lawsuit for liberty. Schafer describes the ingenious and remarkably sophisticated ways slaves used the legal system to gain their independence and find a voice in a society that ordinarily gave them none. Showing that remaining free was often as challenging as becoming free, she also recounts numerous cases in which free people of color were forced to use the courts to prove their status. She further documents seventeen free blacks who, when faced with deportation, amazingly sued to enslave themselves. Schafer's impressive detective work achieves a rare feat in the historical profession—the unveiling of an entirely new facet of the slave experience in the American South. With a rich bibliography sure to ease future research, *Becoming Free, Remaining Free* is a milestone in the historiography of slavery.

About the Author Judith Kelleher Schafer, associate director of the Murphy Institute of Political Economy at the Tulane University in New Orleans, is the author of *Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana*.