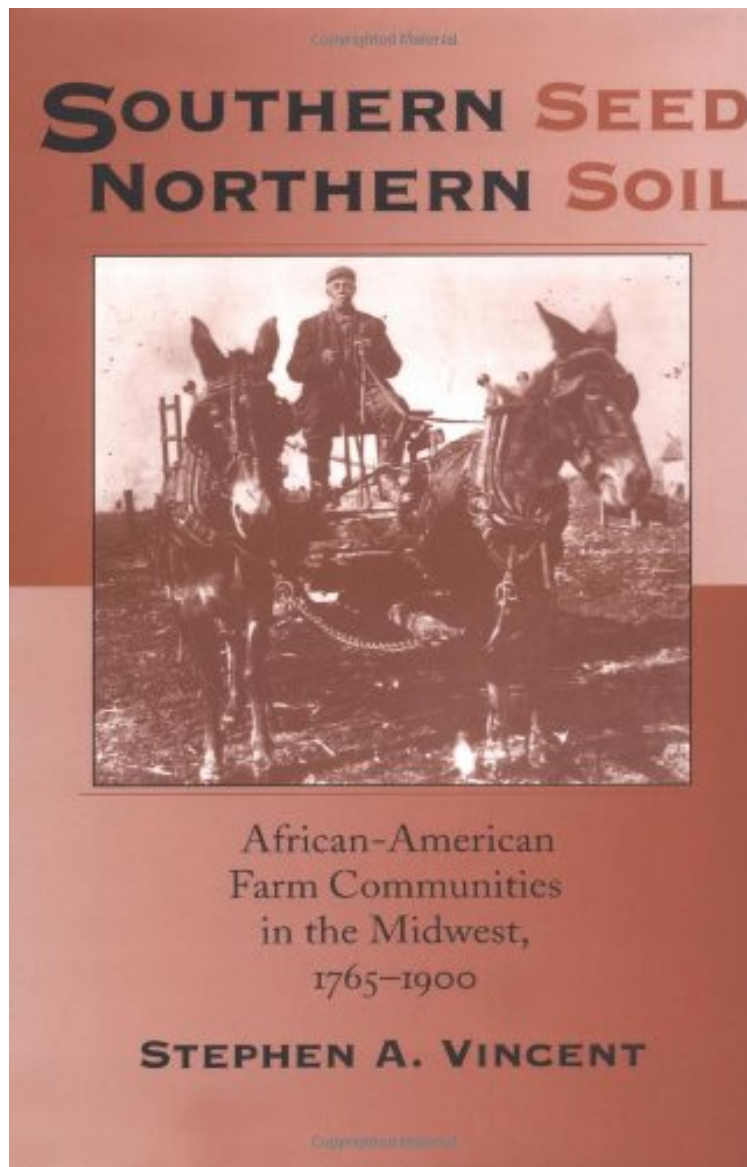


(Free download) Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities in the Midwest, 1765-1900

Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities in the Midwest, 1765-1900

Stephen A Vincent

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Stephen A Vincent : Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities in the Midwest, 1765-1900 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities in the Midwest, 1765-1900:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I live on the Beech. Same square mile as the church, on a 100 year farm. I just wanted to see wider research on this community. I've talked many times to Lawrence Carter who absolutely was the best resource on this area. He had the deep information, but a broader research would have made me appreciate the book more. Southern Seed, Northern Soil is a truly a worthy and needed book which melds Indiana History with a movement of the times. I think my husband's grandmother attended every Beech meeting unless she was sick. Most of the stories have died with that next generation, but there are more. As a past member of the Chrottesville Fiends Meeting located at the Northwest fringes of the Beech I feel that the old minutes of that meeting might have revealed more. A writer has just so much time though and the larger picture is the story.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Vince Lepera
A very solid story and a good piece of history!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have For All Rush County Researchers
By William J. Hill
This book not only helps the part-time genealogist, but also gives the purpose of the free persons of color's move to this territory. It helps the descendants of these people (such as myself) put a personality on the many names of people we've come to know and have pictures for. It has spurred my family I on to take the trip from NJ to IN to attend the 2000 Beech Homecoming look forward to the Roberts Homecoming in 2001. I greatly appreciate Stephen A. Vincent's labors.

Southern Seed, Northern Soil captures the exceptional history of the Beech and Roberts settlements, two African-American and mixed-race farming communities on the Indiana frontier in the 1830s. Stephen Vincent analyzes the founders' backgrounds as a distinctive free people of color from the Old South. He traces the migration that culminated in the founding of the two communities. He follows the settlements' transformations through the pioneer and Civil War eras, and their gradual transition to commercial farming in the late 19th century. The Beech and Roberts story is at once part of and distinct from mainstream African-American history. Like other black Americans, the residents of these two communities had to struggle constantly to achieve freedom, autonomy, and economic well-being, yet they were able to defy the odds and thrive over several generations. Building on their advantages as late-18th-century landowners, they took root on the frontier and ultimately paved the way for their descendants' climb into the urban middle class.

About the Author
Stephen A. Vincent is Associate Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.