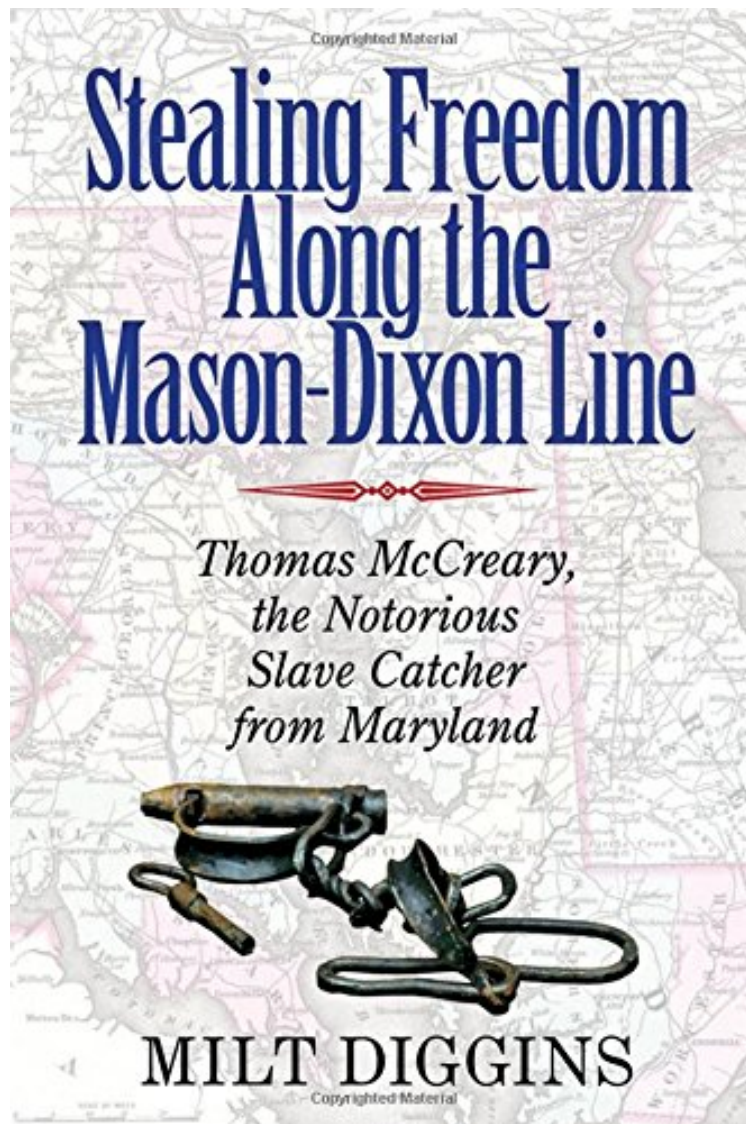


[Mobile ebook] Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland

Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland

Milt Diggins

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Milt Diggins : Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Have simply skimmed through this, much of it very ...By MM

GoodwinHave simply skimmed through this, much of it very county specific, but as it deals with Thomas McCreary I should have expected as much. It gives a very clear picture for a certain group that needs to be clarified beyond the limits of those addressed specifically. There needs to be a follow-up book that deals with other counties on the Eastern Shore. Thomas McCreary was not alone.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I bought the book to see if the main protagonist ...By john a mcreary srI bought the book to see if the main protagonist was related to me. He wasn't. That aside, the story was one with which I was not previously familiar and took place in an area about which I do have some prior familiarity. If nothing else, the history once again proves (if additional proof is needed), that the politicians of the mid 19th century were equally as venal and self-serving as those of the early 21st century.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Terrific compilation of the lawless antics of a particular man ...By sharron francisTerrific compilation of the lawless antics of a particular man who hunted escaped slaves in slave-free states, stole free men and women and sold them into slavery, raided the homes of community notables in the middle of the night, --and was protected by a largely complicit judiciary and law enforcement establishment--real consequences of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Read it and weep.

This is the story of Thomas McCreary, a slave catcher from Cecil County, Maryland. Reviled by some, proclaimed a hero by others, he first drew public attention in the late 1840s for a career that peaked a few years after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Living and working as he did at the midpoint between Philadelphia, an important center for assisting fugitive slaves, and Baltimore, a major port in the slave trade, his story illustrates in raw detail the tensions that arose along the border between slavery and freedom just prior to the Civil War. McCreary and his community provide a framework to examine slave catching and kidnapping in the Baltimore-Wilmington-Philadelphia region and how those activities contributed to the nation's political and visceral divide.

"An extraordinary book?the terrifying tale of real life human hunters who earned their living legally tracking and capturing escaped slaves, and kidnapping free people of color, in the decades leading to the Civil War. Diggins weaves a compelling narrative of a notorious slave hunter, Thomas McCreary, and others like him, who operated for years along the border between slavery and freedom in Maryland and Pennsylvania. While white and black abolitionists, escaped slaves, and their free neighbors fought McCreary and others with fists, guns, and through the courts, they discovered that the man-hunters found much support for their legal and extra-legal activities, even at the cost of innocent lives and the freedom of many more. A must-read!" (Kate Clifford Larson, author of *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero*)"There is no other Underground Railroad book quite like this excellent study from Milt Diggins. *Stealing Freedom* offers the most sophisticated portrait yet crafted about a notorious slave catcher and about the tragic realities of antebellum kidnapping along the Mason-Dixon Line." (Matthew Pinsker, Director, House Divided Project at Dickinson College)"Milt Diggins presents the Mason-Dixon Line as a perpetually shifting boundary between slavery and freedom, a border region in which free people of color as well as fugitive slaves lived in constant danger, and kidnappers operated with the government's blessing." (Carol Wilson, Washington College)"A thorough and thoughtful study those researching the Underground Railroad or the growing conflict between North and South over slavery should have on their bookshelves. We need more books like this." (Christopher Densmore, Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College)About the AuthorMilt Diggins, an independent scholar, is a former editor of the *Cecil Historical Journal* and a frequent contributor to local publications.