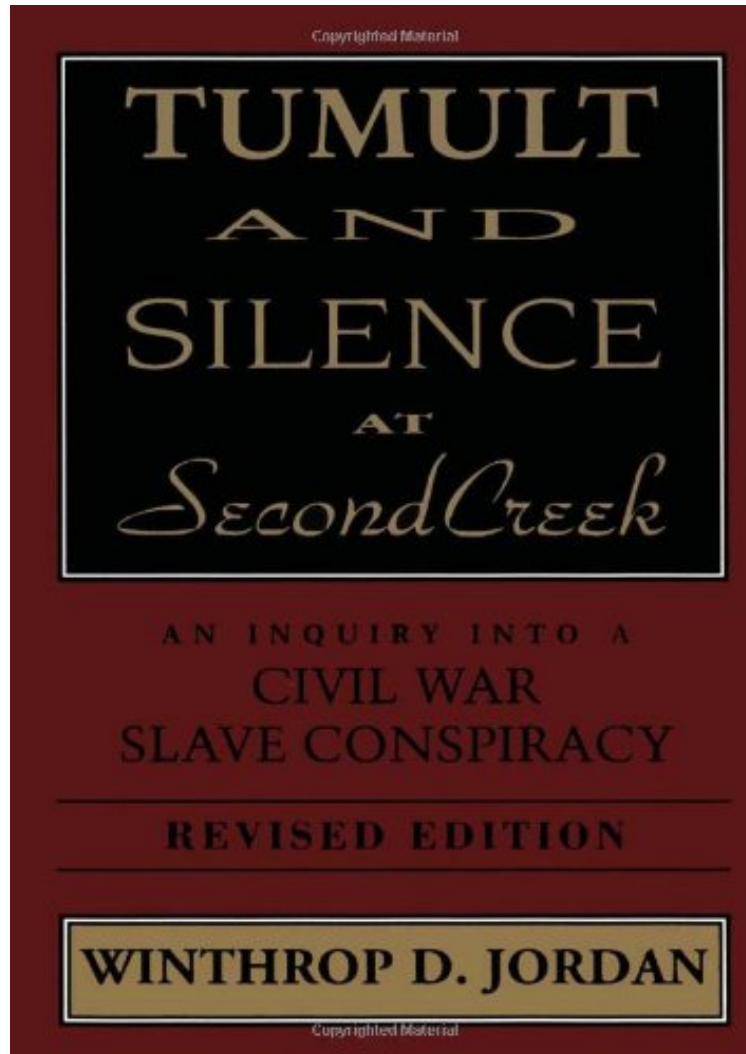


[Read free] Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy

Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy

Winthrop D. Jordan

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1339308 in Books Louisiana State University Press 1996-01-01 1996-01-01 Original language: English PDF

1 9.02 x .94 x 5.98l, 1.51 #File Name: 0807120391408 pages Slavery Emancipation Civil

War Abolition African American Discrimination Racism | File size: 60.Mb

Winthrop D. Jordan : Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Conspiracy or a mistake? By Marian I read this book as part of a retirees' book club selection. It describes the background, and the little that actually is known, about an alleged slave revolt near Natchez, Mississippi, in the very early days of the Civil War. Prof. Jordan produces a tour de force of

historiography, making extensive use of a wide variety of sources, both contemporary and later recollections. But the basic human drama is never lost: were the planters more than willing to believe there was a conspiracy to overthrow them and "ravish" their women because they were so outnumbered? Because of a history of slave rebellions in the South? Were the confessions of the slaves actual evidence of a plot, or were they just fantasies -- wishful thinking brought about by the rumors that "Captain Lincoln" was coming to set them free -- admitted as conspiracy to murder "under the lash" of the planter-examiners who ultimately condemned them to death? This is an excellent combination of meticulous historical research, sometimes overwhelming (and occasionally boring) in its detail that also reveals great human emotions set against the backdrop of hugely important American historical events. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not Gone With the Wind By Customer I found this book interesting due to the fact that the author was able to make a pretty lengthy story out of what he himself admitted was very limited subject matter. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a good read By Donald W. Smith A good read. The problem with this book is the lack of historic information. The author visits other rebellions to add pages.

In the war-fevered spring and summer of 1861, a group of slaves in Adams County, Mississippi, conspired to gain their freedom by overthrowing and murdering their white masters. The conspiracy was discovered, the plotters were arrested and tried, and at least forty slaves in and around Natchez were hanged. By November the affair was over, and the planters of the district united to conceal the event behind a veil of silence. In 1971, Winthrop D. Jordan came upon the central document, previously unanalyzed by modern scholars, upon which this extraordinary book is based - a record of the testimony of some of the accused slaves as they were interrogated by a committee of planters determined to ferret out what was going on. This discovery led him on a twenty-year search for additional information about the aborted rebellion. Because no official report or even newspaper account of the plot existed, the search for evidence became a feat of historical detection. Jordan gathered information from every possible source - the private letters and diaries of members of the families involved in suppressing the conspiracy and of people who recorded the rumors that swept the Natchez area in the unsettled months following the beginning of the war; letters from Confederate soldiers concerned about the events back home; the journal of a Union officer who heard of the plot; records of the postwar Southern Claims Commission; census documents; plantation papers; even gravestones. What has emerged from this odyssey of research is a brilliantly written re-creation of one of the last slave conspiracies in the United States. It is also a revealing portrait of the Natchez region at the very beginning of the Civil War, when Adams County was one of the wealthiest communities in the nation and a few powerful families interconnected by marriage and business controlled not only a large black population but the poorer whites as well. In piecing together the fragments of extant information about the conspiracy, Jordan has produced a vivid picture of the plantation slave community in southwestern Mississippi in 1861 - its composition and distribution; the degree of mobility permitted slaves; the ways information was passed around slave quarters and from plantation to plantation; the possibilities for communication with town slaves, free blacks, and white abolitionists. Jordan also explores the treatment of blacks by their owners, the kinds of resentments the slaves harbored, the sacrifices they were willing to make to protect or avenge abused family members, and the various ways in which they viewed freedom. *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek* is a major work by one of the most distinguished scholars of slavery and race relations. Winthrop D. Jordan's study of the slave society of the Natchez area at the onset of the Civil War is a landmark contribution to the field. More than that, his exhaustive and resourceful search for documentation and his careful analysis of sources make the study an extended and innovative essay on the nature of historical evidence and inference.

From Library Journal Historian Jordan turns his prize-winning skills from probing the nature of white attitudes toward blacks in early America to exploring the process, possibilities, and limits of historical inference from the fears and facts of black-white violence in early Civil War Mississippi. Delving into an alleged 1861 slave conspiracy and the actual repression near Natchez, Jordan discourses on his finding and their meanings. His essay puts the local crisis in a context of sights, sounds, and other sensations that develop the significance of the events while showing how a historian works; for the latter purpose, he appends much of his evidence in 20 documents. More than the story of a black plot or white panic, this book is an engaging primer in historical reasoning and an absorbing study of the tenuous hegemony that ruled the slave South. Recommended for Civil War, local, Southern, and general history collections. - Thomas J. Davis, Univ. at Buffalo, N.Y. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover In the war-fevered spring and summer of 1861, a group of slaves in Adams County, Mississippi, conspired to gain their freedom by overthrowing and murdering their white masters. The conspiracy was discovered, the plotters were arrested and tried, and at least forty slaves in and around Natchez were hanged. By November the affair was over, and the planters of the district united to conceal the event behind a veil of silence. In 1971, Winthrop D. Jordan came upon the central document, previously unanalyzed by modern scholars, upon which this extraordinary book is based - a record of the testimony of some of the accused slaves as they were interrogated by a committee of planters determined to ferret out what was going on. This discovery led him on a twenty-year search for additional information about the aborted rebellion. Because no official report or even newspaper account of the plot existed, the search for evidence

became a feat of historical detection. Jordan gathered information from every possible source - the private letters and diaries of members of the families involved in suppressing the conspiracy and of people who recorded the rumors that swept the Natchez area in the unsettled months following the beginning of the war; letters from Confederate soldiers concerned about the events back home; the journal of a Union officer who heard of the plot; records of the postwar Southern Claims Commission; census documents; plantation papers; even gravestones. What has emerged from this odyssey of research is a brilliantly written re-creation of one of the last slave conspiracies in the United States. It is also a revealing portrait of the Natchez region at the very beginning of the Civil War, when Adams County was one of the wealthiest communities in the nation and a few powerful families interconnected by marriage and business controlled not only a large black population but the poorer whites as well. In piecing together the fragments of extant information about the conspiracy, Jordan has produced a vivid picture of the plantation slave community in southwestern Mississippi in 1861 - its composition and distribution; the degree of mobility permitted slaves; the ways information was passed around slave quarters and from plantation to plantation; the possibilities for communication with town slaves, free blacks, and white abolitionists. Jordan also explores the treatment of blacks by their owners, the kinds of resentments the slaves harbored, the sacrifices they were willing to make to protect or avenge abused family members, and the various ways in which they viewed freedom. *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek* is a major work by one of the most distinguished scholars of slavery and race relations. Winthrop D. Jordan's study of the slave society of the Natchez area at the onset of the Civil War is a landmark contribution to the field. More than that, his exhaustive and resourceful search for documentation and his careful analysis of sources make the study an extended and innovative essay on the nature of historical evidence and inference.

About the Author Winthrop D. Jordan, the William F. Winter Professor of History at the University of Mississippi, is the author of several books, including *White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550--1812*, for which he received the Bancroft Prize, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, the National Book Award, and the Francis Parkman Prize.