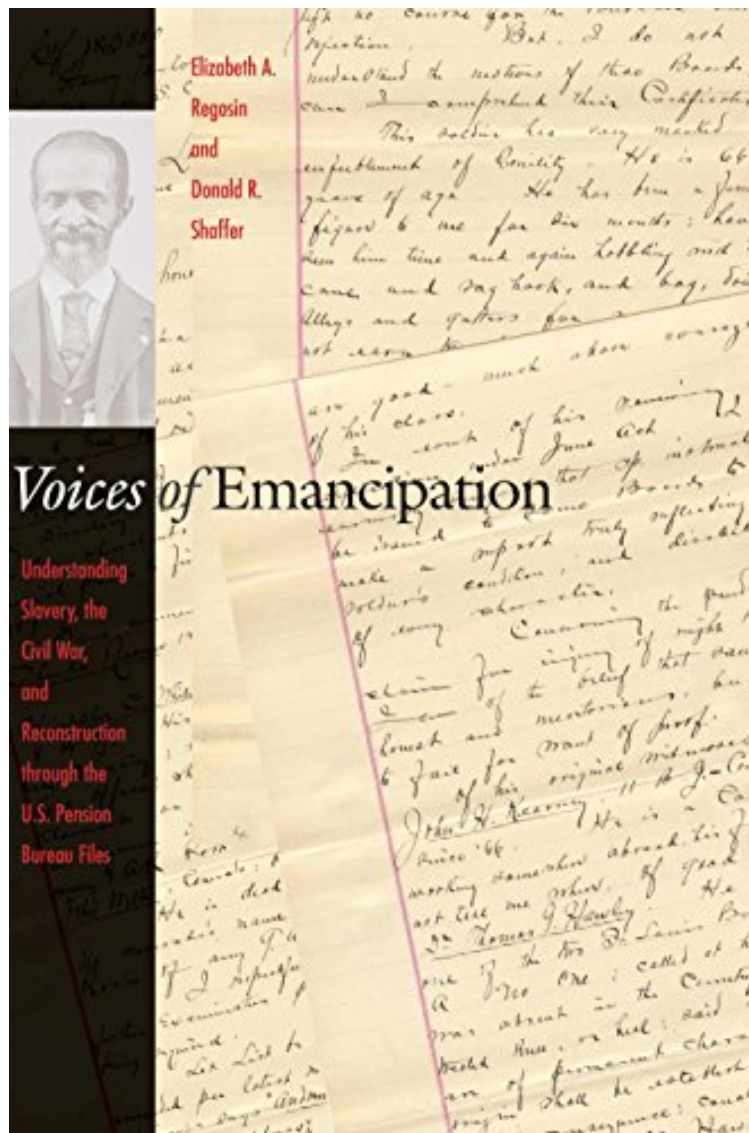


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From Brand: NYU Press : **Voices of Emancipation: Understanding Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction through the U.S. Pension Bureau Files** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voices of Emancipation: Understanding Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction through the U.S. Pension Bureau Files:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Voices of Emancipation* By Hayseed9 This is a very good book if you are interested in finding out about how the slaves were treated and what was going on politically in the world at that time. I was amazed to read about President Lincoln's emancipation of the slaves and the politics that were involved with it. Also, it's so interesting to find that the slaves in question were actually mixed blood. Two actual diaries of slaves were preserved and are published in the end of this book. It's a very good book.

Voices of Emancipation seeks to recover the lives and words of former slaves in vivid detail, mining the case files of the U.S. Pension Bureau, which administered a huge pension system for Union veterans and their survivors in the decades following the Civil War. The files contain an invaluable, first-hand perspective of slavery, emancipation, black military service, and freedom. Moreover, as Pension Bureau examiners began interviewing black Union veterans and their families shortly after the Civil War, the files are arguably among the earliest sources of ex-slaves reflecting on their lives, occurring decades before better-known WPA Slave Narratives of the 1930s took place. *Voices of Emancipation* explores the words of former slaves topically, beginning with recollections of slavery, moving on to experiences of military service in the Civil War, the transition to freedom, and finally to reflections on marriage and family before and after emancipation. With an introduction that places the pension files in context and presents the themes of the book, and historical commentary interwoven throughout the excerpts of the interviews themselves, Elizabeth A. Regosin and Donald R. Shaffer effectively introduce the files and the treasures they contain to students and general readers, but also provide specialists with an indispensable research tool.

Civil War pension records offer an unrivaled view into the lives of ordinary Americans during the nineteenth century, and Regosin and Shaffer, scholars who have published important books drawing largely from the pension records, have unrivaled familiarity with them. Their selections and annotations provide a fascinating glimpse not only into a complex and deeply moving historical process but also into the lives of persons who experienced it at the cutting edge. *Voices of Emancipation* is a treasure trove of insights that will surely appeal to scholars, students, and general readers alike. -Joseph P. Reidy, Howard University
Regosin's and Shaffer's careful editorial work makes the U.S. Pension Records come alive. -Laura F. Edwards, author of *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction* This collection will speak in an entirely unique way. . . . There is no question that this will be an important contribution to historians. -Stephanie Camp, University of Washington "The central objective of *Voices of Emancipation* is to expose readers to a sample of the Civil War pension file of ex-slaves in order to learn more about their individual and personal experience during slavery, wartime, and the postwar era."