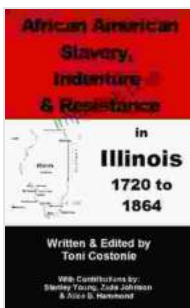


African American Slavery Indenture Resistance In Illinois 1720 To 1864



African American Slavery, Indenture & Resistance in Illinois - 1720 to 1864 by Toni Costonie

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1730 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 464 pages
Lending : Enabled



For centuries, the history of African Americans in the United States has been marked by oppression, enslavement, and resistance. While the horrors of slavery in the American South are well-documented, the experiences of enslaved and indentured African Americans in the northern states, including Illinois, have often been overlooked.

The book "African American Slavery, Indenture, and Resistance in Illinois, 1720-1864" sheds light on this hidden history, revealing the complex and often-forgotten experiences of African Americans in Illinois during a period of immense social and political change.

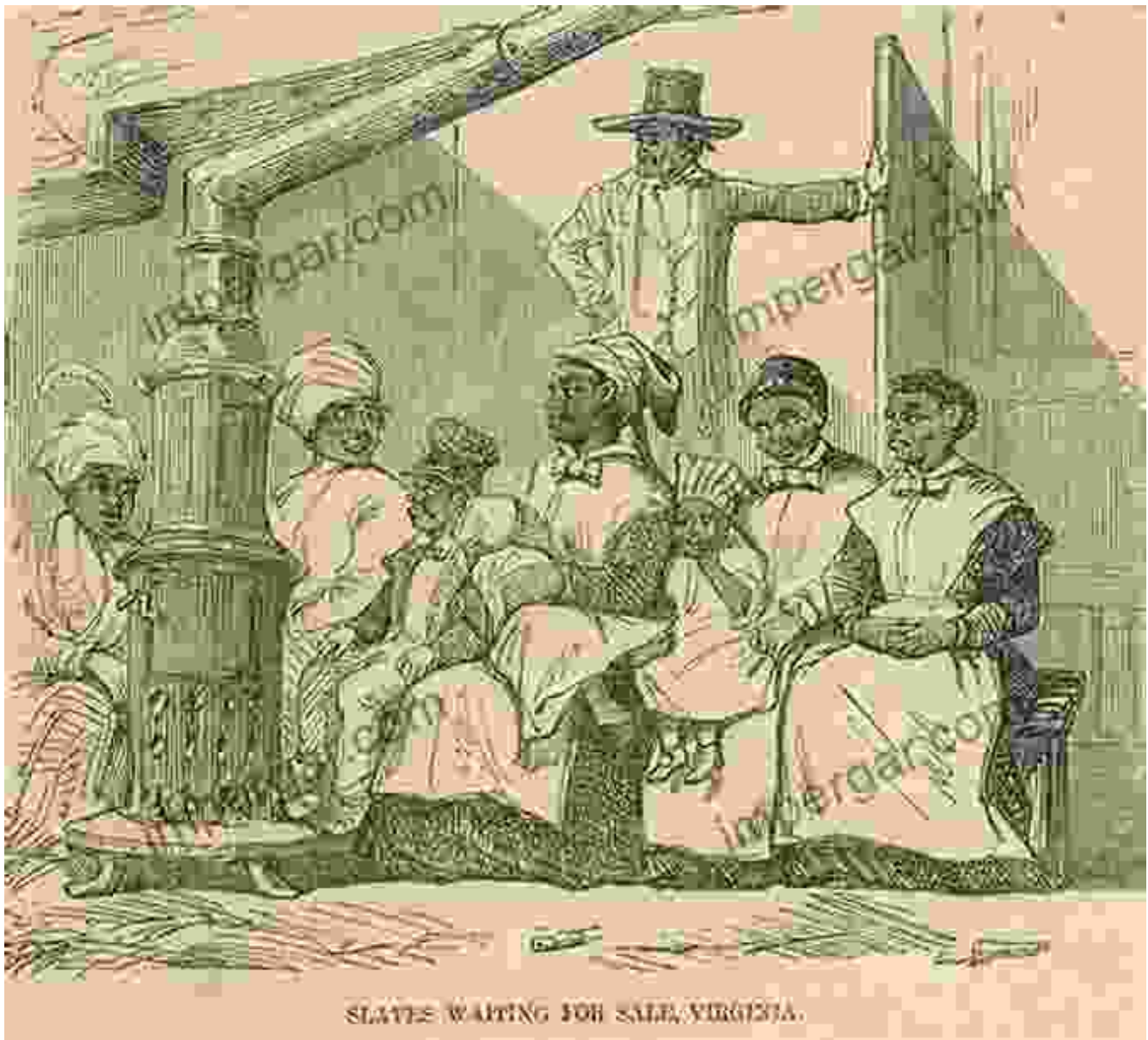
Slavery in Illinois

Contrary to popular belief, slavery was legal in Illinois for over a century. After the French colony of Louisiana was ceded to the United States in 1803, the Illinois Territory became part of the "free" North. However, the presence of enslaved individuals in the territory continued, often through indenture agreements or by being brought from other slave states.

The number of enslaved African Americans in Illinois remained relatively small compared to the South, but their presence had a significant impact on the state's social and economic development. Enslaved individuals were forced to work in a variety of occupations, including agriculture, domestic service, and manufacturing.

Indenture and Resistance

In addition to slavery, many African Americans in Illinois were subjected to a form of quasi-slavery known as indenture. Indenture agreements typically involved a person agreeing to work for a certain period in exchange for payment or freedom. However, in practice, indenture often became a form of forced labor, with individuals being sold and exploited by employers.



Despite the harsh conditions they faced, enslaved and indentured African Americans in Illinois exhibited remarkable resilience and resistance. They

engaged in a variety of tactics to assert their freedom and dignity, including running away, filing lawsuits, and petitioning for emancipation.

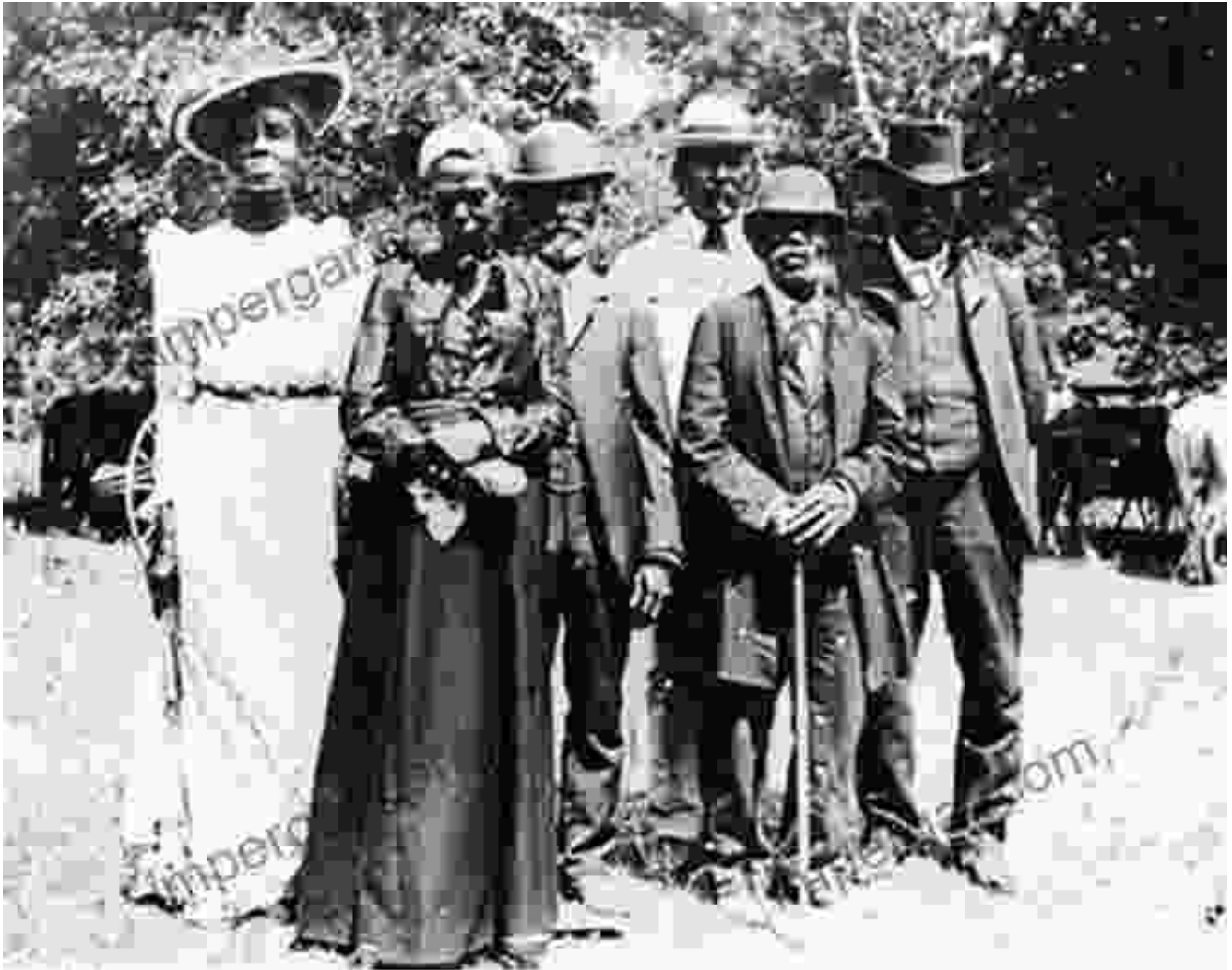
The Underground Railroad played a crucial role in aiding the escape of enslaved individuals from Illinois. With the help of abolitionists and sympathetic individuals, enslaved people made their way north through a network of safe houses and secret routes, eventually reaching freedom in Canada or other free states.

Abolition and Emancipation

The growing movement for abolition and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 led to a gradual decline in slavery and indenture in Illinois. The Illinois Constitution of 1848 prohibited the future of slavery into the state, and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 declared all enslaved people in the United States to be free.

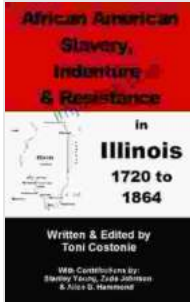
However, it took years for the full effects of emancipation to be realized. Many formerly enslaved individuals faced discrimination, poverty, and social stigma. The struggle for racial equality and civil rights continued long after the end of slavery.

Legacy and Impact



The history of African American slavery, indenture, and resistance in Illinois has left a lasting legacy on the state and the nation. It is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of resistance in the face of adversity.

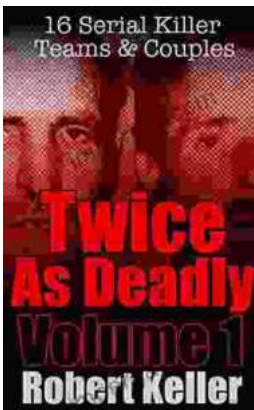
This book provides a valuable contribution to our understanding of the complex history of race and slavery in the United States. By unearthing the hidden stories of enslaved and indentured African Americans in Illinois, it sheds light on a forgotten chapter in our nation's past and inspires us to continue the struggle for racial justice and equality today.



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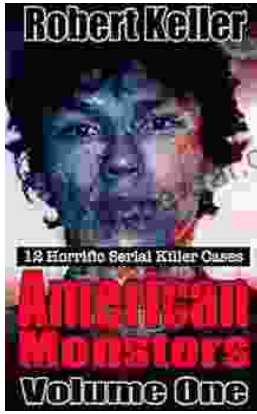
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