

Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth

By Phillip Seitz



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The City of Brotherly Love drank deeply from the well of misery for more than three centuries. Personal resistance and plantation revolution in the city and surrounding counties was more common than previously understood, and **Slavery in Philadelphia** features a series of rich, intimate, and amazingly detailed accounts of previously unknown slave rebellions, as well as struggles to reunite families, nineteenth century legal battles, and individual agency in the face terrible opposition.

Slavery in Philadelphia tells the story of the prominent families who purchased Africans to do their bidding, but the city's relationship with enslavement went far beyond this. In the late eighteenth century Philly was the center of the mid-Atlantic grain trade, processing thousands of tons of slave-produced grain into flour from plantations in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware for shipment overseas. By the 1850s the city was a major textile center, driving the expansion of southern enslavement through its thirst for cotton. The story continues to the present day through the management of wealth generated over a century of slave-supported industry.

This book follows the history of the Chew family, Pennsylvania's leading slaveholders, from their arrival in Jamestown to their residence on Philadelphia's social register today, including their desperate efforts to erase and purify their past of the stain of slave ownership. Based on newly discovered records preserved for centuries by the family itself, **Slavery in Philadelphia** shows the full breadth of slavery in the mid-Atlantic region, and encompasses memoir, African American history, industrial records, elite ancestry, and a fascinating money trail.



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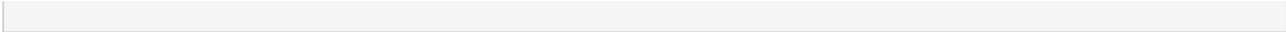
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Editorial Review

From the Author

In my mind this book is important for three reasons. First, it shows that slave rebellion and resistance in the cities and on the plantations was remarkably common, and through the window of some remarkable original letters, gives us an amazingly detailed view of what that resistance looked like. Second, it expands our notion of slavery from the direct ownership of slaves to include slave-based industry, such as Philadelphia's enormous textile manufacturing business (one firm alone used 1.5 million pounds of slave-grown cotton in a single year), and beyond that to the continuing benefit from slavery-generated financial gains. Finally, the book urges us to see how the continuing presence of slavery inhibits racial interaction and discussion, perpetuating the wounds it inflicted years ago.

From the Back Cover

350 years of shame...

Follow the rise of the aristocratic Chew family, major Mid-Atlantic slave holders, as they profited over the course of three centuries through their plantations, cotton factories and slavery-tainted finances. In **Slavery in Philadelphia** award winning writer and former Smithsonian Institution historian Phillip Seitz uncovers this haunting past, and highlights the lives of many enslaved families who paid the ultimate price to create this wealth.

About the Author

In 2000 Phillip Seitz became Curator of History at Cliveden, a 1767 National Trust Historic Site located on a 1777 Revolutionary War battlefield. Shortly afterward he discovered an enormous and long-neglected story of Philadelphia slavery buried in the vast papers of the Chew Family, who had occupied Cliveden for two centuries. Following ten years of research, in 2010, he directed a pioneering program to present this difficult history to the site's neighborhood, which is eighty-five percent African American. This research and approach to presentation form the basis for **Slavery in Philadelphia**. He received the American Alliance of Museums' Brooking Prize for Creativity in 2011 for this work, based on the essay, "When Slavery Came To Stay," which is included in this book. An accidental discovery in 2014 revealed he is a descendent of a Continental soldier who fought at Cliveden in the 1777 Battle of Germantown.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Danielle Deguzman:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important normally. The book Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The guide Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth is not only giving you more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth. You never experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

Nicholas Mishler:

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Elizabeth Brown:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

Caitlin Cruz:

The book untitled Slavery in Philadelphia: A History of Resistance, Denial and Wealth contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the woman idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

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