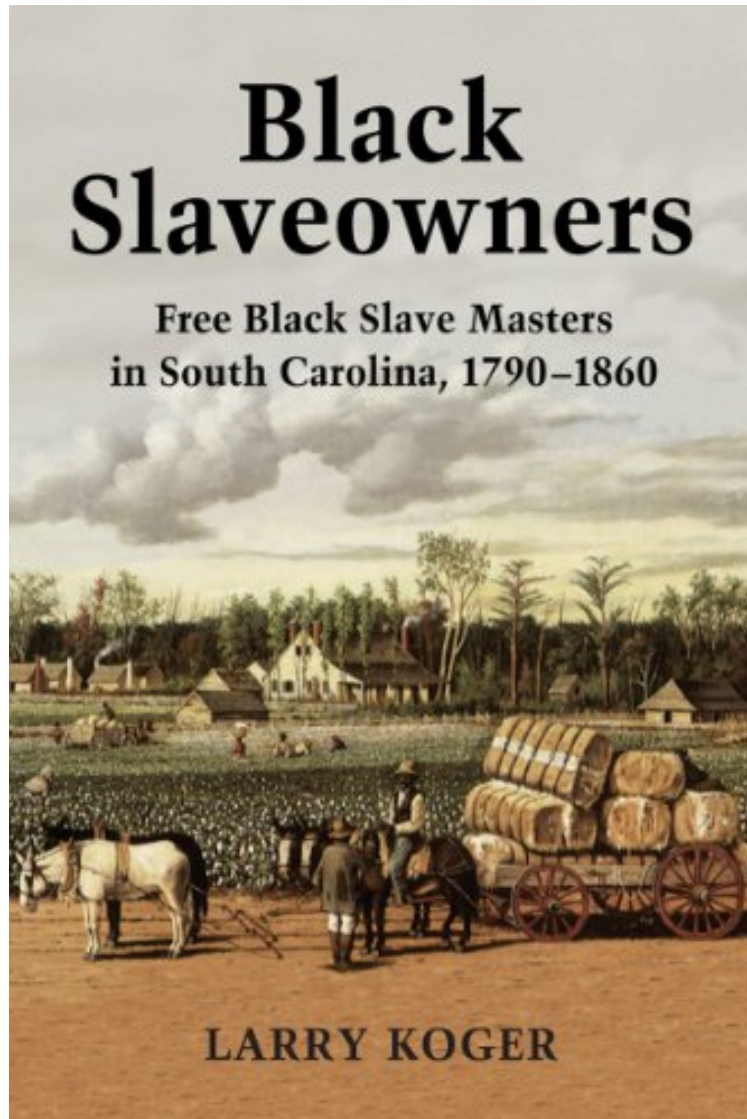


(Ebook free) Black Slaveowners: Free Black Slave Masters in South Carolina, 1790-1860

Black Slaveowners: Free Black Slave Masters in South Carolina, 1790-1860

Larry Koger

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Most Americans, both black and white, believe that slavery was a system maintained by whites to exploit blacks, but this authoritative study reveals the extent to which African Americans played a significant role as slave masters. Examining South Carolina's diverse population of African-American slaveowners, the book demonstrates that free African Americans widely embraced slavery as a viable economic system and that they--like their white counterparts--exploited the labor of slaves on their farms and in their businesses. Drawing on the federal census, wills, mortgage bills of sale, tax returns, and newspaper advertisements, the author reveals the nature of African-American slaveholding, its complexity, and its rationales. He describes how some African-American slave masters had earned their freedom but how many others--primarily mulattoes born of free parents--were unfamiliar with slavery's dehumanization.

"artfully demonstrates the full extent" --ChoiceAbout the AuthorHistorian Larry Koger lives in Largo, Maryland.