
This volume is yet another Da Capo Press unabridged republication of an out-of-print book. Like many of the others, it has a major shortcoming; the absence of an introductory essay by a modern scholar prevents the reader from understanding the book's relevance to present day historical studies. Da Capo Press continues to do students of history a service by making older classics available, but it also continues to miss the opportunity to make its contribution that much more significant by attaching introductions.

A solid introductory essay is particularly needed in this book. It was written over fifty years ago by a witness to some of the events described and is still valuable as a research source. However, it has a number of weaknesses which a good introduction might have pointed out. Initially, the title is misleading. The book discusses the whole series of federal fugitive slave laws not simply the most famous one, the one incorporated in the Compromise of 1850. It discusses all of Ohio not just the Western Reserve. In fact, the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law and the Western Reserve are not mentioned until page 78. The crucially important fact that the book's author was present in the Western Reserve in the 1850s is not made clear until page 122. Finally, the book is bogged down by a writing style which is a classic example of the "cut and paste, string the quotations" school of writing. Similarly constructed, long explanatory footnotes only compound the stultifying effect.

Still, the patient reader can benefit from The Western Reserve and the Fugitive Slave Law. He will see the evolution of fugitive slave laws from the Constitution to the Civil War and learn the reaction of a Northern state to these laws and to black people in general. Author Cochran shows how boredom and exhaustion kept the Constitution makers from even debating the fugitive slave section of that document. He catalogues the antiblack nature of many of nineteenth century Ohio's laws and indicates a minority's effort to eliminate the racism. In the most interesting and the most valuable part of the book, he details the circumstances surrounding the rescue of a fugitive slave on the Western Reserve, the subsequent trials of the rescuers, the people's adverse reactions to the Fugitive Slave Law, and the political ramifications thereof.
Throughout the book, Cochran shows his marked disdain for all antiblack measures and his support for those who opposed them. But, he makes it more than clear that he is opposed to any violent nullification. In fact, he says, this is the lesson of the Western Reserve's reaction to the Fugitive Slave Law. The threat of violence was kept under control "and resulted in a settled determination to cure the evils ... [of the government] through the ballot and strictly Constitutional procedure."

This Da Capo reprint, then, does have value but mainly it is to the researcher. Most readers would do better to read more modern accounts, for example, Professor Larry Gara's excellent article on the Fugitive Slave Law in the September 1964 issue of Civil War History.

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This book is a new edition of a volume published in 1963 as part of the National Survey of the Historic Sites and Buildings series. Soldier and Brave represents an attempt to pinpoint the location of each of 214 historic sites in twenty-four states which were associated with Indian affairs and the Indian wars west of the Mississippi River.

Part 1 of the volume is devoted to a short history of the American Indian in the western United States and his relationship with the federal government. A brief history and geographical sketch of each historic site is provided in part 2.

The National Park Service has undertaken the task of providing the reader with a historical background of the subject and a convenient reference to each of the historic sites. The book is readable and the numerous illustrations are excellent. The state of preservation of each site is mentioned, and those sites where restoration projects are in progress are noted. A vast amount of material is covered in one volume, but with the judicious use of illustrations and concise data the