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Dred Scott's Advocate: A Biography of Roswell M Field (Missouri Biographies)

Kenneth C. Kaufman

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Kenneth C. Kaufman : Dred Scott's Advocate: A Biography of Roswell M Field (Missouri Biographies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dred Scott's Advocate: A Biography of Roswell M Field (Missouri Biographies):

How did Roswell M. Field, an attorney who specialised in real estate cases, become the attorney for a penniless slave named Dred Scott? Why did he spend more than a decade of his life fighting for Scott's freedom? Told through Field's eyes, this story recreates 11 years of litigation.

From Library Journal Kaufman, a freelance scholar based in St. Louis, uses scattered archival collections and secondary sources to flesh out the life of the lawyer who became Dred Scott's attorney in 1852 and helped steer his case to the Supreme Court. Although one of the best property lawyers in Missouri, the antislavery Field was unable to overcome the proslavery bias of the court. Fragmentary evidence leads to a heavy use of phrases like perhaps and must have been. Frustrating because of this speculativeness, Kaufman's work is nonetheless a well-written attempt to recreate the life of an intriguing minor actor in the history of the antebellum United States. For academic libraries. ?Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. This

strong biography of Roswell M. Field, an attorney who successfully defended a penniless slave named Dred Scott, uses a review of the character of Field to consider the reasons why he spent his life fighting for Scott. This is no dry review of facts but a lively consideration of changes in legal and racial precedent and how Field's mission fostered change. -- Midwest Book