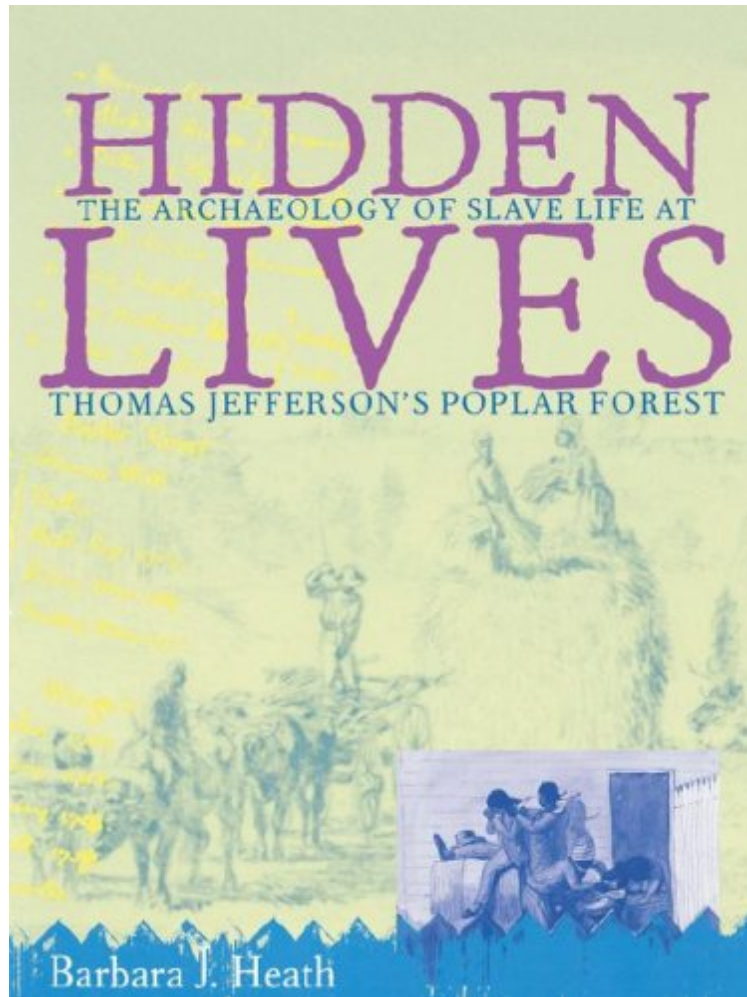


Hidden Lives: The Archaeology of Slave Life at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Barbara J. Heath

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Barbara J. Heath : Hidden Lives: The Archaeology of Slave Life at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hidden Lives: The Archaeology of Slave Life at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Minnesota Loves Brazil You will learn more in these fascinating and well-written 81 pages than in most tomes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Island Cook A good research book. 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Excellent easy to read with surprising insights into slavery By A Customer This is a short overview of some of the discoveries made by the author and her team of archaeologists at Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's retreat home. It is well written with

outstanding photographs and maps. The author writes clearly without imposing her own opinion on the reader as to the results of some of the surprising discoveries made at the site. The author encourages the reader to continue his/her own provoking thought by acknowledging that the site is still very much a work in progress and causes the reader to look forward to further discoveries. This author is to be commended for her straightforward writing that allows even the layperson to come away with a great deal of acquired knowledge.

LIKE MONTICELLO, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest offers a significant archeological view of slave life at the turn of the nineteenth century in rural Virginia. In *Hidden Lives*, Barbara J. Heath re-creates the daily life of slaves at Jefferson's second home from 1773, the year he inherited the plantation, until 1812, when his reorganization of its landscape resulted in the destruction of a slave quarter. Drawing on census data, letters, memoranda, and other primary material, Heath describes the slave community's family ties, the agricultural cycle of work, and the sickness and health care they experienced. Her portrait is enhanced by fresh archaeological findings and a wealth of illustrations, including site and contemporary maps, images of slaves at work and at home, artifacts, and interpretive drawings. By looking at the social meaning of buildings, yards, and artifacts, Heath presents new interpretations of how individuals used materials to create a sense of self and community, how they acquired belongings, and how they safeguarded them. For visitors to historic sites and students and scholars of archaeology, Heath's book offers a visual and textual exploration of complex relationships within the plantation and of the resulting choices, compromises, and limitations that Jefferson's slaves negotiated in the process of making a home within the confines of institutionalized slavery.

An original and fascinating contribution to the growing literature on the archaeology of the African-American experience. Heath writes exceptionally well and has a captivating style. (Mary C. Beaudry, Boston University) A fine addition to our understanding of the archaeology of slavery in the Virginia piedmont and on the plantations of Thomas Jefferson. The writing is lucid, and the treatment, while maintaining its scholarly standards, is suitable for a broad range of readers. (Lucia C. Stanton, Monticello) About the Author Barbara J. Heath is Director of Archaeology at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in Forest, Virginia.