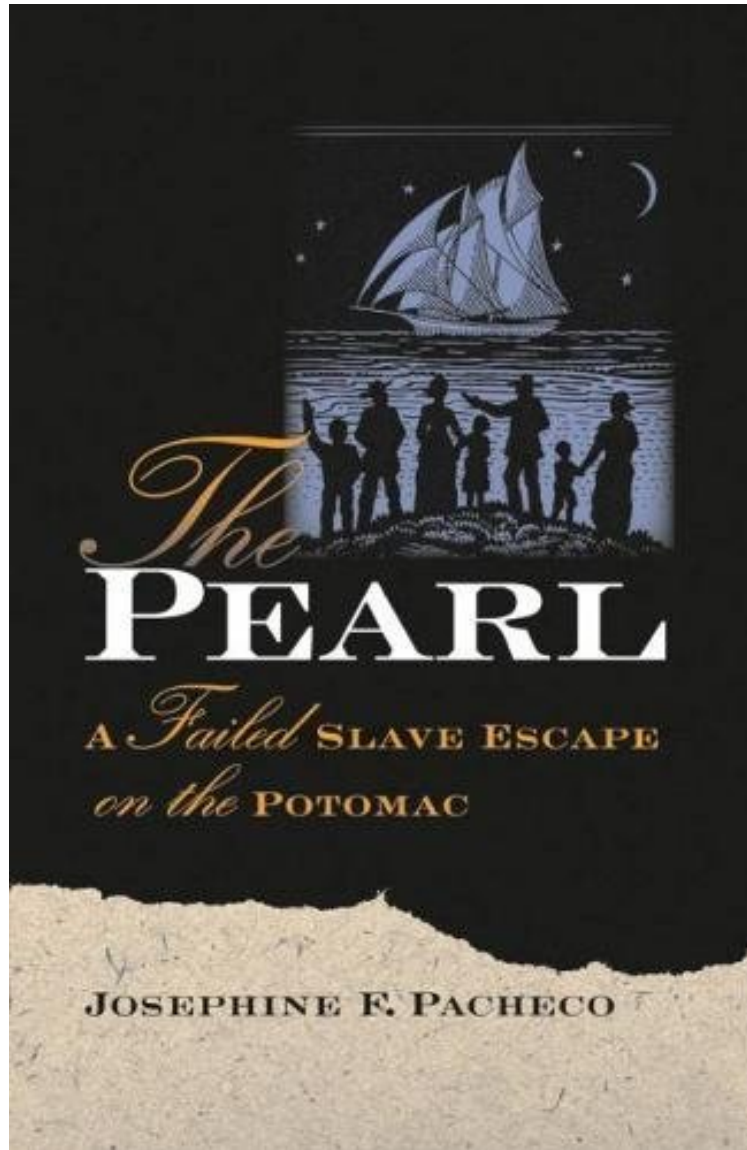


[Free pdf] The Pearl: A Failed Slave Escape on the Potomac

The Pearl: A Failed Slave Escape on the Potomac

Josephine F. Pacheco

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Josephine F. Pacheco : The Pearl: A Failed Slave Escape on the Potomac before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pearl: A Failed Slave Escape on the Potomac:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic DealBy J. CampbellAmazing story about America's early years! Hard to believe this is the same country. Book was a great deal.

In the spring of 1848 seventy-six slaves from the nation's capital hid aboard a schooner called the Pearl in an attempt

to sail down the Potomac River and up the Chesapeake Bay to freedom in Pennsylvania. When inclement weather forced them to anchor for the night, the fugitive slaves and the ship's crew were captured and returned to Washington. Many of the slaves were sold to the Lower South, and two men sailing the Pearl were tried and sentenced to prison. Recounting this harrowing tale from the preparations for escape through the participants' trial, Josephine Pacheco provides fresh insight into the lives of enslaved blacks in the District of Columbia, putting a human face on the victims of the interstate slave trade, whose lives have been overshadowed by larger historical events. Pacheco also details the Congressional debates about slavery that resulted from this large-scale escape attempt. She contends that although the incident itself and the trials and Congressional disputes that followed were not directly responsible for bringing an end to the slave trade in the nation's capital, they played a pivotal role in publicizing many of the issues surrounding slavery. Eventually, President Millard Fillmore pardoned the operators of the Pearl.

This book gives rare insight into slavery in the nation's capital. -- Black Issues Book , January-February 2005 This book gives rare insight into slavery in the nation's capital.--Black Issues Book Josephine Pacheco has written a superb book that takes us back to Washington, D.C., in 1848. It conveys a tactile sense of how the institution of slavery degraded our nation's capital, how fevered the South's defense of slavery became, how sputtering and fragmented the North's attack on it was, and how the sounds of a splintering nation rent the air. It is just a splendid piece of work.-- Roger Wilkins, George Mason University [An] important book. . . . Every serious student of history should read this book. Pacheco's compelling narrative and graceful prose make it easily accessible to lay audiences and specialists alike.--NC Historical Pacheco offers a compelling narrative of first-rate historical craftsmanship.--Register of the Kentucky Historical Society A thorough treatment and a good place to start for anyone interested in the Pearl.--Journal of the Early Republic Pacheco's story of the Pearl is riveting. The rich profiles of the slaves who tried to escape-- particularly the members of the Edmondson family--are an especially attractive feature of the book. In its broad sweep and deep engagement with the issues that eventually propelled the nation to Civil War, The Pearl contributes new insights into the antebellum contest over the future of slavery in the nation's capital.--Joseph P. Reidy, Howard University An important addition to the growing literature on fugitive slaves and the persons who aided them. . . . By skillfully weaving the story of the ill-fated Pearl into the history and politics of slavery in the nation's capital, Pacheco also provides a revealing vantage point into the larger political debates that swirled in the late 1840s. . . . Pacheco helps restore the movement broadly known as the Underground Railroad to its rightful place in the history of abolitionism and the politics of slavery.--Journal of American History Pacheco's tale is masterfully told. . . . We are in Josephine Pacheco's debt for bringing this neglected story to deserved attention. Clearly the story could become part of a larger synthesis on slave resistance and the coming of the war, a topic that Pacheco's important book foreshadows.-- Civil War History From the Inside Flap The dramatic story of a group of Washington, D.C.,-area slaves who attempted to escape slavery in 1848 by sailing up the Chesapeake, but were apprehended and returned to Washington. Pacheco's narrative illuminates the lives of enslaved and free blacks in the nation's capital.