

Summer 7-1-2019

Slaves, Slaveholders and a Kentucky Community's Struggle Toward Freedom

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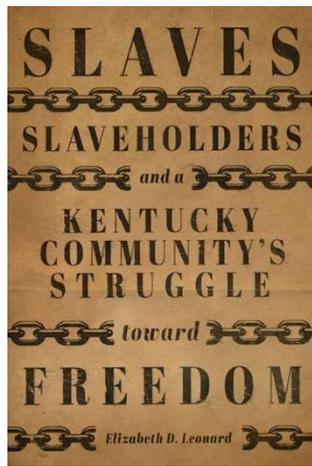
Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2019) "Slaves, Slaveholders and a Kentucky Community's Struggle Toward Freedom," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 67 : Iss. 2 , Article 17.

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Slaves, Slaveholders and a Kentucky Community's Struggle Toward Freedom. Elizabeth D. Leonard. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2019. ISBN 978-0-8131-7666-6. \$50. 196 p.



Elizabeth D. Leonard lays before us two primary goals for this book, *Slaves, Slaveholders and a Kentucky Community's Struggle Toward Freedom*

Goal One, Leonard explains her hopes to offer a close-up look at a group of slaves from Breckinridge County, Kentucky, who served in Company A of the 118th United States Colored Troops. Her research follows them “from slavery through the Civil War and on into a post war world” (p.x)

Goal Two, Leonard depicts in “specific detail the complicated tensions that characterized the intersecting communities—state, local, and interpersonal—from which Kentuckians came and to which they returned after the war.” (p.x)

The book is divided into helpful sections: Part One: Once a Slaveholder...Part Two: Once a Slave...Part Three; War's End and returning to Kentucky.

Leonard presents two lives that come from different but similar backgrounds. Joseph Holt was a wealthy, highly educated land and slave owner, and Sandy Holt was a slave who was born into slavery, lived his life as a laborer and never learned to read and write.

Both men lived in Holt Bottom, Kentucky, until circumstances took them away. Joseph Holt went to Washington where he became a strong force against slavery. Sandy Holt found the opportunity to escape slavery by joining the United States Colored Troops where he fought with the Union hoping to earn his freedom by his service.

In the 1860s both men left Kentucky. Joseph Holt was appointed by President Lincoln as his Judge Advocate General shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation.

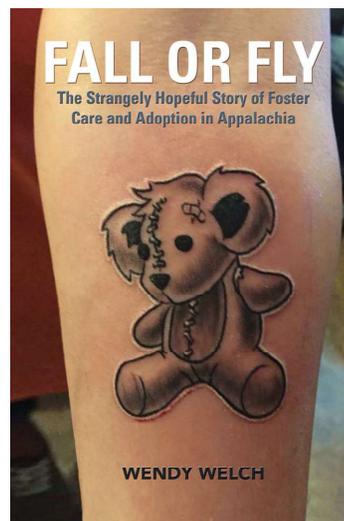
Sandy Holt ran away to join the 118th United States Colored Infantry regiment.

Leonard's research is fascinating and her determination to help the reader understand how Kentucky and other slave state owners dealt with the Civil War, the loss of the war to the Union and the aftermath of Lincoln's proclamation of freedom from slavery for slaves in the “slave states”. There is a Notes Section, a Bibliography, and an Index that provides great resources for searching primary documents. There are no illustrations except for one small map.

Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

Fall or Fly: The Strangely Hopeful Story of Foster Care and Adoption in Appalachia. Wendy Welch. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0821423011. \$49.95. 198 p.



How do you serve the best interest of a child, when the parents can't? What resources exist for children suffering wholesale family disintegration in the midst of a national drug epidemic that has hit Appalachia the hardest? In *Fall or Fly: The Strangely Hopeful Story of Foster Care and Adoption in Appalachia*, Wendy Welch documents the social service crisis unfolding in the region. By relating the personal stories of service providers, foster and adoptive parents and the children themselves, she reveals bleak truths about the system, while at the same time highlighting the compassion and hope inspiring care providers to make a difference.

An Appalachian native with a background in public health and author of the memoir *The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap*, Welch uses storytelling journalism to narrate the personal accounts of these social service workers, adopting and foster parents and older adoptee and foster youth.