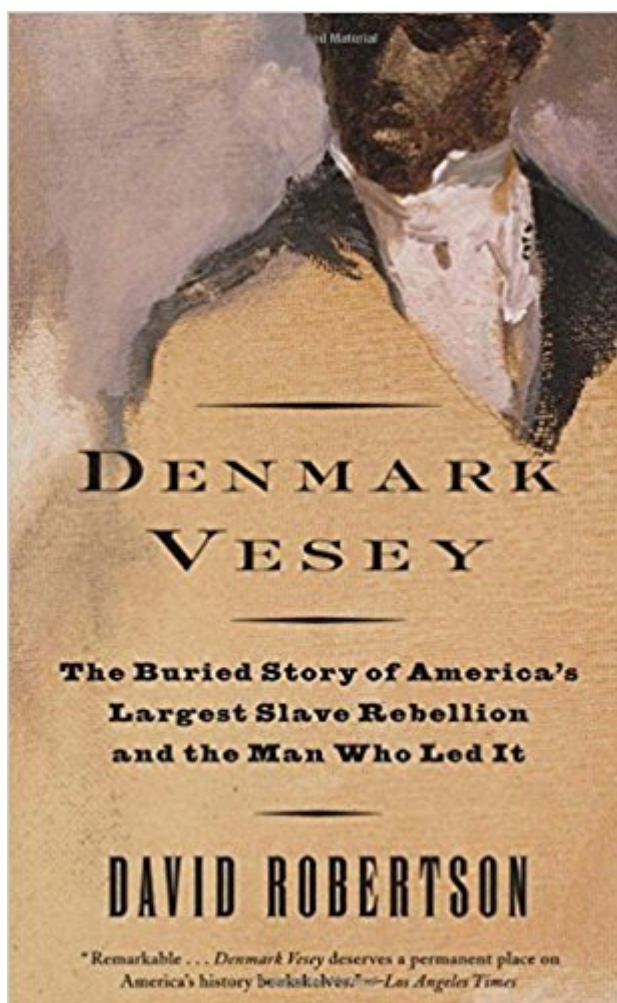


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Denmark Vesey: The Buried Story Of America's Largest Slave Rebellion And The Man Who Led It



Synopsis

In a remarkable feat of historical detective work, David Robertson illuminates the shadowy figure who planned a slave rebellion so daring that, if successful, it might have changed the face of the antebellum South. This is the story of a man who, like Nat Turner, Marcus Garvey, and Malcolm X, is a complex yet seminal hero in the history of African American emancipation. Denmark Vesey was a charismatic ex-slave--literate, professional, and relatively well-off--who had purchased his own freedom with the winnings from a lottery. Inspired by the success of the revolutionary black republic in Haiti, he persuaded some nine thousand slaves to join him in a revolt. On a June evening in 1822, having gathered guns, and daggers, they were to converge on Charleston, South Carolina, take the city's arsenal, murder the populace, burn the city, and escape by ship to Haiti or Africa. When the uprising was betrayed, Vesey and seventy-seven of his followers were executed, the matter hushed by Charleston's elite for fear of further rebellion. Compelling, informative, and often disturbing, this book is essential to a fuller understanding of the struggle against slavery.

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Customer Reviews

In 1822, Denmark Vesey, a Caribbean-born free Negro from Charleston, South Carolina, led the largest attempted slave revolt in U.S. history with over 9,000 blacks. Although it failed--thanks to the confessions of a house slave to his master--and Vesey was executed, his heroic attempt continues to be a source of pride for African Americans. David Robertson's well-researched book chronicles Vesey's life as a slave in Haiti, his move to Charleston, his fluency in English, Creole, and French, and his skillful use of Christian teachings (and possibly Islamic ones, as well) to inspire the slaves to

rebel. "He was a black man of great physical presence, strength, and intellect," Robertson writes, "linguistically fluent and politically facile enough to mold various African ethnic and religious groups into one unified force." Using court testimony from Vesey's trial and historical archives, Robertson unveils the stark and violent climate of antebellum life in 18th-century America, bringing to life a hero who fought for the same principles upon which the democratic nation in which he was made a slave was founded. --Eugene Holley Jr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Much is already known about Denmark Vesey, who purchased his freedom from slavery in 1800 with money he won in a lottery. Yet his apparently sudden transformation from successful free black carpenter and property owner to the organizer of "the most elaborate and well-planned slave insurrection in U.S. history," in 1822, still fuels lingering curiosity. Evoking the atmosphere of material wealth enjoyed by antebellum South Carolina whites, Robertson reveals their fear at being surrounded by a black slave population whose labor made their comfort possible but who outnumbered them four to one. Drawing on the correspondence and memoirs of whites and their descendants, but not of blacks, Robertson addresses his central question: "Why were individual freedom and prosperity not enough for Denmark Vesey?" The author's answer, which links Vesey's dissatisfaction (and that of the thousands of slaves who were reputedly ready to join him in arms) to the spiritual autonomy he achieved through the African Methodist Episcopal Church, is persuasive. Furthermore, Robertson identifies Vesey as a spiritual and political leader whose views were a precursor to modern Black Theology. Based on the word of a slave informant, Vesey and more than 20 slaves were hanged as insurrectionists in the summer of 1822, despite little physical evidence. Robertson's well-researched narrative and smooth style make this an intelligent analysis of, as well as a worthy tribute to, his subject. Photos not seen by PW. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although much of the evidence about Denmark Vesey's revolt was destroyed, David Robertson rolled with what he had and produced a plausible account of what happened in Charleston, SC. After reading this book, I went to Charleston for the second time and saw the city in a different light. Back in the day, the city was not quaint or picturesque; it was hell for black people, slave and free. After reading this, I better understand why Mother Emanuel Church was a target of racial hate, and I want to read more about Denmark Vesey. Kudos to David Robertson.

A lot of history is stored in this book, anyone who thought slaves were content and happy with their condition because they were housed and fed by others should read the book. How could human beings treat another human so savagely because of their skin color, then use the Bible for justification should read Vesey.

Very informative and relevant about Charleston. Denmark Vesey and his army of enslaved and free men of color were involved in the AME Church in Charleston where a bible study group were murdered recently by a racist white man. This gives an intense look at the history of slavery and racism in the USA.

The Author wastes no time getting into the details of what was a very important part of our enforced history and how we chose to handle the unwarranted abuses.1LoveFine1952

Just as listed.

One of the most prolific books and records to have about slavery. This should be required reading in all high schools and colleges in America.

Great read...

GIFT 4 MY DADDY....GREAT! Condition...MY DADDY LUVd IT!

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