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Emancipation's Diaspora: Race and Reconstruction in the Upper Midwest

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New Book

Emancipation's Diaspora: Race and Reconstruction in the Upper Midwest

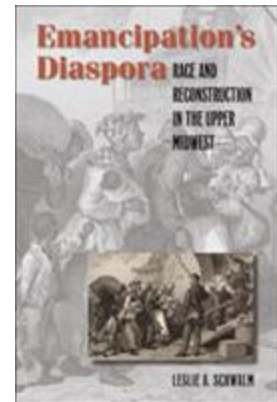
By Leslie A. Schwalm

University of North Carolina Press, Cloth, 400 pp.,

ISBN-10: 0807859508, ISBN-13: 978-0807859506, June 2009.

Description from the Publisher:

Most studies of emancipation's consequences have focused on the South. Moving the discussion to the North, Leslie Schwalm enriches our understanding of the national impact of the transition from slavery to freedom. *Emancipation's Diaspora* follows the lives and experiences of thousands of men and women who liberated themselves from slavery, made their way to overwhelmingly white communities in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and worked to live in dignity as free women and men and as citizens.



Schwalm explores the hotly contested politics of black enfranchisement as well as collisions over segregation, civil rights, and the more informal politics of race -- including how slavery and emancipation would be remembered and commemorated. She examines how gender shaped the politics of race, and how gender relations were contested and negotiated within the black community. Based on extensive archival research, *Emancipation's Diaspora* shows how in churches and schools, in voting booths and Masonic temples, in bustling cities and rural crossroads, black and white Midwesterners -- women and men -- shaped the local and national consequences of emancipation. Leslie Schwalm is associate professor of history, women's studies, and African American studies at the University of Iowa, and author of *A Hard Fight for We: Women's Transition from Slavery to Freedom in South Carolina*.