

The Forgotten History of the St Louis African American Community and the Exodusters

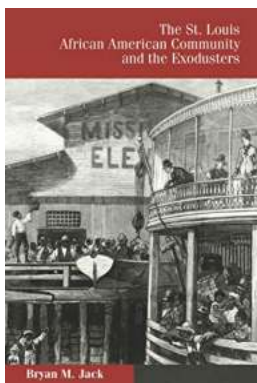
The Struggle for Equality and Freedom

The St Louis African American community has a rich and often overlooked history. One significant event in this history is the migration of African Americans to the city known as the Exodusters.

Understanding the Exodusters

In the late 19th century, after the end of slavery, many African Americans sought to escape the oppressive conditions in the South and find better opportunities in the North and Midwest. St Louis became a popular destination for these migrants due to its relative proximity and the promise of employment.

The term "Exodusters" was used to refer to the thousands of African Americans who migrated to St Louis during this period. These individuals were seeking a fresh start and the chance to build a thriving community away from the racial discrimination and violence they faced in the South.



The St. Louis African American Community and the Exodusters by Bryan M. Jack (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1001 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 192 pages



Establishing a Community

Upon their arrival in St Louis, the Exodusters faced significant challenges. They had to establish a sense of community, find employment, and navigate the racial tensions that existed in the city. Despite these obstacles, they were determined to forge a better future for themselves and their families.

The St Louis African American community gradually grew and became an integral part of the city's history and culture. African American churches, businesses, and organizations played a crucial role in providing support and fostering a sense of unity among the community members.

Contributions to St Louis

The African American community in St Louis made significant contributions to the city's arts, music, and culture. Jazz and blues musicians from the community gained recognition and helped shape the city's vibrant music scene. Notable figures such as Scott Joplin and Miles Davis emerged from this community, leaving a lasting impact on American music.

Furthermore, African American activists in St Louis played significant roles in the Civil Rights Movement, fighting for desegregation, equal rights, and social justice. Figures like Frankie Muse Freeman and Margaret Bush Wilson became pivotal in shaping the course of history.

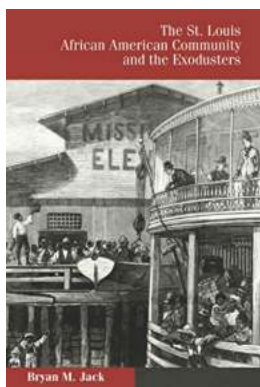
Remembering the Exodusters

While the Exodusters and their contributions have largely been forgotten in mainstream narratives, it is crucial to remember and honor their struggles and

achievements. Their determination to build a better life and the resilience they demonstrated in the face of adversity should inspire us today.

By recognizing and learning about the Exodusters, we can gain a deeper understanding of the journey for equality and freedom that the St Louis African American community has traversed throughout history.

The St Louis African American community and the Exodusters have played a significant role in shaping the city's history and culture. Their migration to St Louis represented a desire for freedom, equality, and a better future. Through their contributions in various fields, they have left an indelible mark on the city's identity. It is essential to acknowledge and celebrate their stories to ensure that their legacy is not forgotten.



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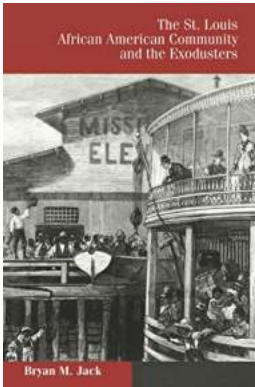


In the aftermath of the Civil War, thousands of former slaves made their way from the South to the Kansas plains. Called “Exodusters,” they were searching for their own promised land. Bryan Jack now tells the story of this American exodus as it played out in St. Louis, a key stop in the journey west.

Many of the Exodusters landed on the St. Louis levee destitute, appearing more as refugees than as homesteaders, and city officials refused aid for fear of encouraging more migrants. To the stranded Exodusters, St. Louis became a barrier as formidable as the Red Sea, and Jack tells how the city's African American community organized relief in response to this crisis and provided the migrants with funds to continue their journey.

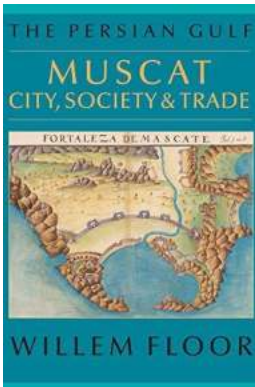
The St. Louis African American Community and the Exodusters tells of former slaves such as George Rogers and Jacob Stevens, who fled violence and intimidation in Louisiana and Mississippi. It documents the efforts of individuals in St. Louis, such as Charlton Tandy, Moses Dickson, and Rev. John Turner, who reached out to help them. But it also shows that black aid to the Exodusters was more than charity. Jack argues that community support was a form of collective resistance to white supremacy and segregation as well as a statement for freedom and self-direction—reflecting an understanding that if the Exodusters' right to freedom of movement was limited, so would be the rights of all African Americans. He also discusses divisions within the African American community and among its leaders regarding the nature of aid and even whether it should be provided.

In telling of the community's efforts—a commitment to civil rights that had started well before the Civil War—Jack provides a more complete picture of St. Louis as a city, of Missouri as a state, and of African American life in an era of dramatic change. Blending African American, southern, western, and labor history, *The St. Louis African American Community and the Exodusters* offers an important new lens for exploring the complex racial relationships that existed within post-Reconstruction America.



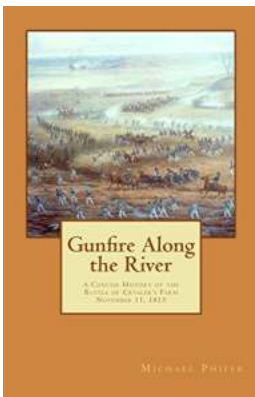
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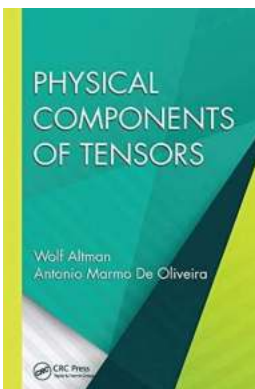
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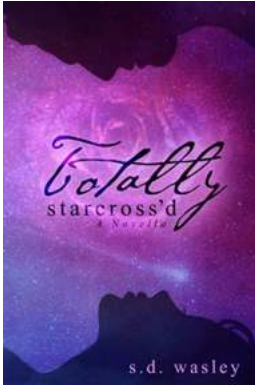
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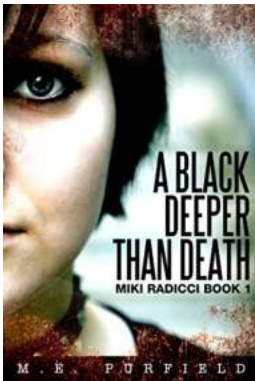
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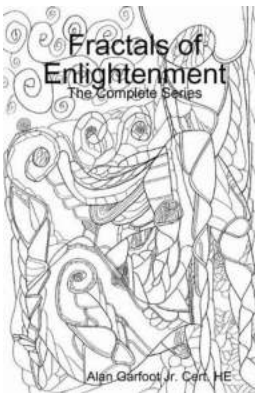
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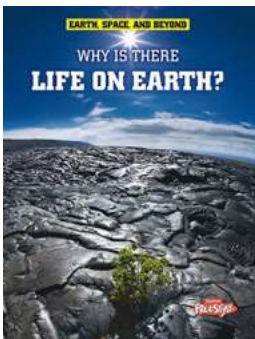
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