

Michael J. Crawford. *The Having of Negroes Is Become a Burden: The Quaker Struggle to Free Slaves in Revolutionary North Carolina*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2010. 237 pp. \$69.95. ISBN 978-0-8130-3470-6.

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During the eighteenth century, many Quakers living in North Carolina began to protest the practice of slaveholding and embarked on a campaign to free the slaves on their plantations through a process known as manumission. Specifically, George Walton, the former captain of a merchant ship, believed that keeping African Americans in bondage denied them a human existence and went against the Golden Rule. *The Having of Negroes Is Become a Burden: The Quaker Struggle to Free Slaves in Revolutionary North Carolina* provides readers with a history of the Quaker manumission movement in North Carolina at the time of the American Revolution. Michael Crawford explains the reasoning behind Quaker opposition to slavery through the use of primary documents, including diaries, petitions, transcripts, and correspondence between members of the North Carolina Society of Friends. Although Quaker slaveholders freed their slaves, many of the newly-released African-Americans were re-captured and sold back into bondage. The North Carolina government cited fears of slave uprisings and specific statutes as rationales for continued slavery. The author helps to delineate the impact of the legislature's actions in response to the North Carolina Society of Friends' manumission campaigns by including tables showing the identities of slaves who were set free and then resold into slavery and the eventual fate of their families.

Crawford divides his book into four sections: George Walton's efforts to combat the practice of slavery by manumitting or releasing from bondage his own slaves; the beliefs of the North Carolina Society of Friends regarding slaveholding; the reactions of the North Carolina legislature to Quaker manumissions; and the national debate. Each chapter begins with specific historical dates which are used to place the content in context for the reader. The author includes an extensive bibliography of both primary and secondary sources, a chronology of key events in the Quaker struggle to free slaves, and biographies of Charles Osborn, Levi Coffin, and Addison Coffin, three notable Society of Friends members who opposed slavery and who made contributions to the manumission effort in North Carolina and to the Underground Railroad.

Michael J. Crawford is employed as senior historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) which is situated at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. In addition to this book, Crawford has also written thirteen other works, including *Seasons of Grace: Colonial New England's Revival Tradition in Its British Context*.

This book is intended to help readers gain a better understanding of North Carolina Quakers' opposition to slavery and their continuing efforts to offer a better existence to former slaves. This book is well-suited for inclusion in any academic, special, or public library with an interest in the history of manumission or abolitionist movements in the South during the time of the American Revolution.

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