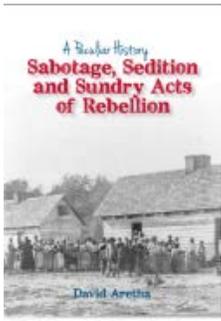


A Peculiar History



SABOTAGE, SEDITION AND SUNDRY ACTS OF REBELLION

From the "A Peculiar History" series

by David Aretha

Age Range: 12 - 16

KIRKUS REVIEW

A dramatic, revealing chronicle of enslaved people resisting their oppressors through acts of defiance, escape, sabotage, organized rebellion and vengeful murder.

This entry in the A Peculiar History series opens dramatically with a description of the German Coast Uprising, a violent, widespread rebellion in French Louisiana in 1811, and proceeds with a mostly chronological account of acts of resistance and rebellion from the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade in the early 15th century. Subjects briefly touched upon include a 1712 New York City rebellion as well as revolts led by Gabriel Prosser, Nat Turner and Denmark Vesey. Aretha discusses the Haitian revolution but curiously fails to mention its leader, Toussaint L'Ouverture. In addition, Aretha covers everyday acts of rebellion by slaves such as burning barns, killing livestock, sabotaging crops, suicide, and infanticide by mothers who wished to keep their children from enslavement. There is good information on the draconian lengths colonies and states went to to discourage slave resistance of any kind. With an attractive design, the text is complemented with photographs, maps and reproductions of archival materials, many in color.

An informative, engaging chronicle of organized and individual acts of resistance to slavery. (timeline, source notes, bibliography, websites, index) (Nonfiction. 12-16)

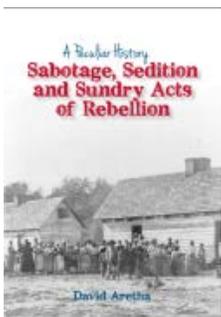
Pub Date: Oct. 25th, 2014

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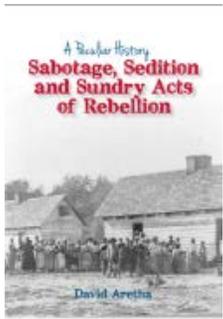
Kirkus Reviews Issue: Sept. 15th, 2014



Morgan Reynolds –SLJ October, 2014

Aretha, David. Sabotage, Sedition and Sundry Acts of Rebellion. 112p. (A Peculiar History). bibliog. chron. index. notes. photos. reprints. websites. Morgan Reynolds. Oct. 2014. lib. ed. \$28.95. ISBN 9781599354064. LC 2013016550.

Gr 5-8—Aretha chronicles accounts of African American slaves who fought for their freedom on slave ships, plantations, and wherever else they were held against their will. One of the first documented slave rebellions occurred in New York City in 1712. Acts of resistance took many forms, including running away, breaking tools, damaging equipment, and deliberately slowing down their work. Well-known slave insurrections that took place in the South are included in this volume, such as those led by Gabriel Prosser in 1799, Denmark Vesey in 1822, and Nat Turner in 1831. Aretha includes information on slave rebellions in the West Indies, conditions endured by the slaves, vulnerabilities and dangers faced by enslaved women, the abolitionist movement, and the Civil War, with its Emancipation Proclamation and enlistment of African American soldiers. Concisely written and nicely illustrated with maps and period photographs, this is a welcome addition.—Patricia Ann Owens, formerly with Illinois Eastern Community Colls., Mt. Carmel



Booklist October 2014 Spotlight on Non Fiction

Sabotage, Sediton and Sundry Acts of Rebellion.

By David Aretha.

2014. 112p. illus. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$28.95 (9781599354064). Gr. 7–10. 306.3.

First published October 1, 2014 (Booklist).

This title belongs to the series *A Peculiar History*, a phrase that refers to the term peculiar institution, long associated with slavery in America. This volume discusses rebellion against that institution and its enforcers, sometimes initiated by free men, but mainly by the slaves themselves. Aretha chronicles a broad range of rebellion, from passive resistance (work slowdowns and disrespect) to violent uprisings, which occurred from New York to Virginia to South Carolina to Texas. Both sides, driven by rage and fear, acted with extreme brutality. One chapter deals with the particular hardships endured by slave women. Throughout the book, well-chosen quotes are used within the text and in sidebars. The many illustrations include color reproductions of period photos, documents, paintings, drawings, and maps. A moving scene closes the book: the Fifth Massachusetts Colored Cavalry enters Richmond near the end of the Civil War.

—Carolyn Phelan