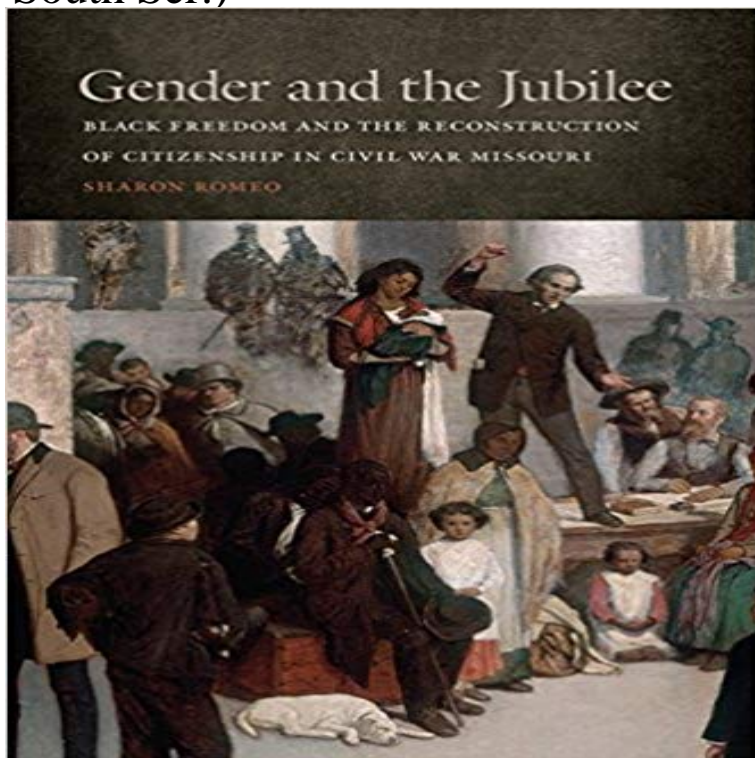


## Gender and the Jubilee: Black Freedom and the Reconstruction of Citizenship in Civil War Missouri (Studies in the Legal History of the South Ser.)



Gender and the Jubilee is a bold reconceptualization of black freedom during the Civil War that uncovers the political and constitutional claims made by African American women. By analyzing the actions of women in the urban environment of St. Louis and the surrounding areas of rural Missouri, Romeo uncovers the confluence of military events, policy changes, and black agency that shaped the gendered paths to freedom and citizenship. During the turbulent years of the Civil War crisis, African American women asserted their vision of freedom through a multitude of strategies. They took concerns ordinarily under the jurisdiction of civil courts, such as assault and child custody, and transformed them into military matters. African American women petitioned military police for free papers; testified against former owners; fled to contraband camps; and joined the army with their male relatives, serving as cooks, laundresses, and nurses. Freedwomen, and even enslaved women, used military courts to lodge complaints against employers and former masters, sought legal recognition of their marriages, and claimed pensions as the widows of war veterans. Through military venues, African American women in a state where the institution of slavery remained unmolested by the Emancipation Proclamation, demonstrated a claim on citizenship rights well before they would be guaranteed through the establishment of the Fourteenth Amendment. The litigating slave women of antebellum St. Louis, and the female activists of the Civil War period, left a rich legal heritage to those who would continue the struggle for civil rights in the postbellum era.

of American Cultural Studies Jon Smith Jennifer Trost. 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Table 6: Slave-Dense: Gender Composition of Enslaved Population 52 Printed in Laws of the State of Missouri, 1860. 2 Berlin et al., The Black Military Experience, ser. Ellison, Mary, African-American Music and Muskets in Civil War New Orleans, Citizenship in the New Nation, William and Mary Quarterly, 51 (July 1994), 507-38. can Sermons, Western Journal of Black Studies, 18 (Spring 1994), 11-17. Hurt, R. Douglas, Planters and Slavery in Little Dixie, Missouri Historical **Americans of African Ancestry - International World History Project** The black people of the United States are mainly of African ancestry, but many have Laws known as the slave codes regulated the slave system to promote The Civil War, which liberated the nations slaves, began in 1861. During the Reconstruction period, blacks wielded political power in the South for the first time. **Civil War and Reconstruction - WKU AFRICAN AMERICAN CONNECTICUT EXPLORED SOCIAL STUDIES** Did race relations improve as a result of the Civil War and Reconstruction? 3. HIST 8.2: Classify series of historical events as examples of change and/or the current status of self-?segregation in the school based on gender,

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