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Reality of Black History Brought Home Through Vintage Photography

Rosemary McKittrick brings history to life in her weekly LiveAuctionTalk.com columns. Visit the site. Sign up for a free weekly subscription.

/24-7PressRelease/ - SANTA FE, NM, May 09, 2008 -- For 200 years the chains of slavery bound Black Americans. Like cattle, they were reduced to property.

In some states it was illegal to teach them to read and write. They could not leave their plantations without a pass, could not own property and could not complain about the beatings.

The slave trade was good for business and breaking the chains was no easy task.

"You ain't, none of you, going to feel real free till you shake the dust of the Old Plantation off your feet and go to a new place where you can live out of sight of the great house," announced one newly emancipated slave.

As a test of freedom, another freed slave walked away from his Louisiana plantation just to see if he would be stopped without a pass. Once slavery ended, the strongest reason for leaving was lost family members.

Ex-slaves jammed dusty southern roads searching for loved ones.

One man walked 600 miles looking for the wife and kids he lost when he was sold away. Another woman found her husband 20 years later in a refugee camp after the war.

What we know today about the era of slavery and the Abolitionists comes to us through letters, books, broadsides, photos; and documents left behind. Each provides a pulse on the social history of the times. Each is highly prized by collectors.

On Feb 21, Swann Auction Galleries, New York, featured a selection of Abolitionist materials in its Printed & Manuscript African-Americana sale.

A rare image, carte-de-visite photograph of Black soldiers standing next to recently freed slaves on wash day in front of farmhouse sold for \$3,360.

Read the entire article at www.LiveAuctionTalk.com

RSS: www.liveauctiontalk.com/rss/lat.rss

LiveAuctionTalk.com is devoted to the rare, weird and wonderful objects people love to collect.

- One of the largest "Live" auction information databases on the Internet.
- Over 700 articles including photographs are currently FREE to website visitors.
- FREE weekly subscription.

Rosemary has provided auction coverage and analysis on thousands-and-thousands of antiques and collectibles sold since the column started 16-years ago. She includes auction sale results to give readers a feel for what their treasures are worth because the power of auctions is simple.

When the bidding stops and the hammer falls, the value of an item is set. The buyer, not the seller, sets the price, and this simple distinction cuts through all the chitchat about what art, antiques and collectibles are really worth. The emphasis is on today's values, not yesterday's wishful thinking.

Each week another new article is posted featuring a particular area of collecting.

- Every article showcases an auction item and how it fits into the big picture.
- A compelling, historical context is provided for the treasures people collect.
- Collecting tips are offered.
- Current "prices realized" are listed.

Rosemary is the co-author of The Official Price Guide to Fine Art published by Random House and received her training in the trenches working as a professional appraiser and weekly columnist.

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