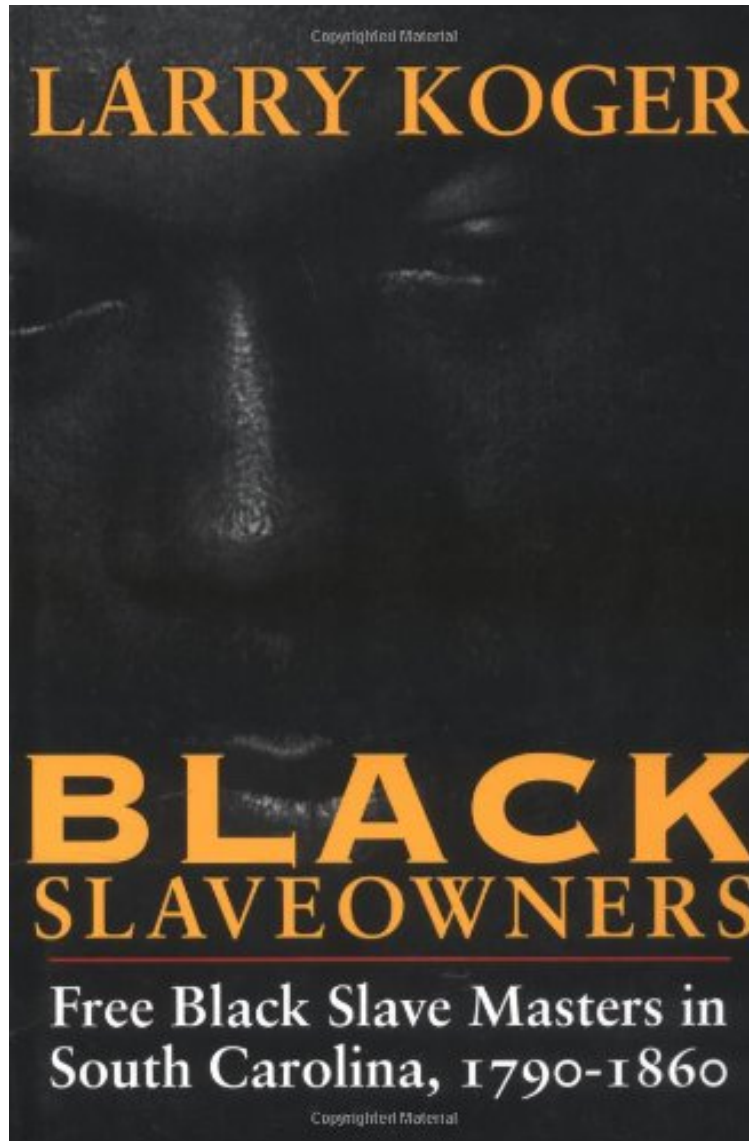


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Most Americans, both black and white, believe that slavery was a system exclusively maintained by whites to exploit blacks, but Larry Koger's authoritative study portrays the small yet significant role that African Americans played as masters in the peculiar institution. By profiling South Carolina's diverse population of African-American slaveowners, he demonstrates that free African-Americans embraced slavery as a viable economic system and that they like their white counterpart exploited the labor of slaves on their farms and in their businesses.

The subject is unique: free black slave masters in South Carolina from 1790-1860 are revealed in a study which tells how Afro-Americans played slave master roles in South Carolina. Free blacks embraced slavery as a viable economic system: census figures, tax returns, and newspaper ads contribute to details on how Afro-American masters participated in the caste system. -- Midwest Book About the Author Larry Koger holds an M.A. in history from Howard University and lives in Washington, D.C.