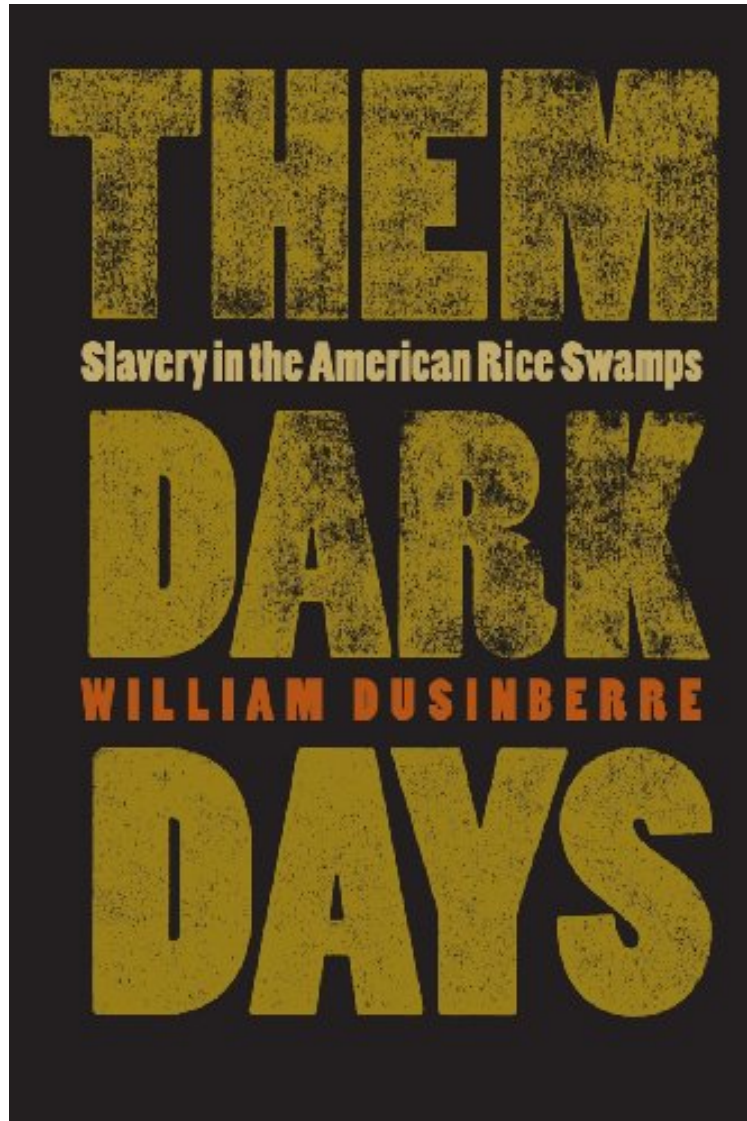


## Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps

*William Dusinberre*

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**William Dusinberre : Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Them Dark DaysBy Happy CustomerOutstanding read. Chocked full of historical data. Husband and son love it! We live in GA and are learning more about our home land. The truth prevails as do the injustices to other human beings.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!By

susan montgomeryExcellent book about a painful subject. It was recommended by Dr. Edna Fields-Black at the National Coming to the Table Gathering. Having visited the lowcountry a number of times, I wanted to learn more about the history of the area. This is the counter-story to the huge plantations and the famous planters. A much-needed perspective!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. FantasticBy B. WittAs a student of history (Ok - I'll grant you I have only a dilettante status) I must say this is a book that everyone should read. DusiBerre doesn't spare the grisly details and approaches the subject from a variety of angles. You'll get the view of the chanel house and from planters.All to better illuminate a ghastly system that put so many into the grinder.Powerful and well written. If you love the Palmetto State and history in general then I highly recommend this one.

Them Dark Days is a study of the callous, capitalistic nature of the vast rice plantations along the southeastern coast. It is essential reading for anyone whose view of slavery's horrors might be softened by the current historical emphasis on slave community and family and slave autonomy and empowerment.Looking at Gowrie and Butler Island plantations in Georgia and Chicora Wood in South Carolina, William DusiBerre considers a wide range of issues related to daily life and work there: health, economics, politics, dissidence, coercion, discipline, paternalism, and privilege. Based on overseers letters, slave testimonies, and plantation records, Them Dark Days offers a vivid reconstruction of slavery in action and casts a sharp new light on slave history.

One of the most ambitious and important studies on slavery to appear in recent years. (Journal of American History)[A] vast and multifaceted new interpretation of slavery. Among his most impressive achievements is that he draws from these all-too-familiar sources so much that is fresh, provocative, and fully worthy of our attention. . . . DusiBerre's arguments are compelling. (American Historical ) [This book] will, I believe, take its place among the most important studies of southern slavery we have and are likely to get. (Eugene D. Genovese African American ) William DusiBerre has restored a tragic dimension to slave studies, and has done so with a thoroughness and persuasiveness that no future student of slavery will be able to ignore. (Journal of Southwest Georgia History) DusiBerre certainly knows how to tell a good story. And if some of his material proves to be familiar to lowcountry scholars, these specialists will nevertheless appreciate his detective work in piecing together a coherent, moving account of the complex negotiations and struggles between tidewater slaves and their masters. (Journal of Southern History) The book provides a wealth of information on the antebellum lowcountry rice industry and the families that dominated it. (Agricultural History) There is no other book quite like Them Dark Days. . . . His scholarship is awesome. DusiBerre has a great deal to say that is fresh and exciting about slavery, and his writing style is always clear and often eloquent. . . . I found Them Dark Days both stimulating and enjoyable. (Charles Joyner Coastal Carolina College) The best local history of slavery published since Charles Joyner's Down by the Riverside . . . An important corrective to recent scholarship and adds new meaning to the neo-abolitionist interpretation. (History: s of New Books) From the Back Cover In this controversial, groundbreaking, and eloquently written book, William DusiBerre examines slavery in the rice swamps of the South Carolina and Georgia "low country". The antebellum rice kingdom's large plantations carried a political and social weight seldom recognized in later years. Focusing on three plantations and incorporating overseers' letters, slave testimonies, and numerous plantation sources, DusiBerre presents portraits of such fascinating individuals as the defiant slave carpenter Jack Savage and his master Charles Manigault, who exemplify the harsh realities of slavery. Them Dark Days offers a vivid reconstruction of slavery in action. Setting recent analyses of slave culture within a wider context of health, discipline, privilege, and psychology, the book casts a sharp new light on slave history. About the Author William DusiBerre is Reader Emeritus in American History at the University of Warwick. He is the author of "Henry Adams: The Myth of Failure" and "Civil War Issues in Philadelphia, 1856-1865."