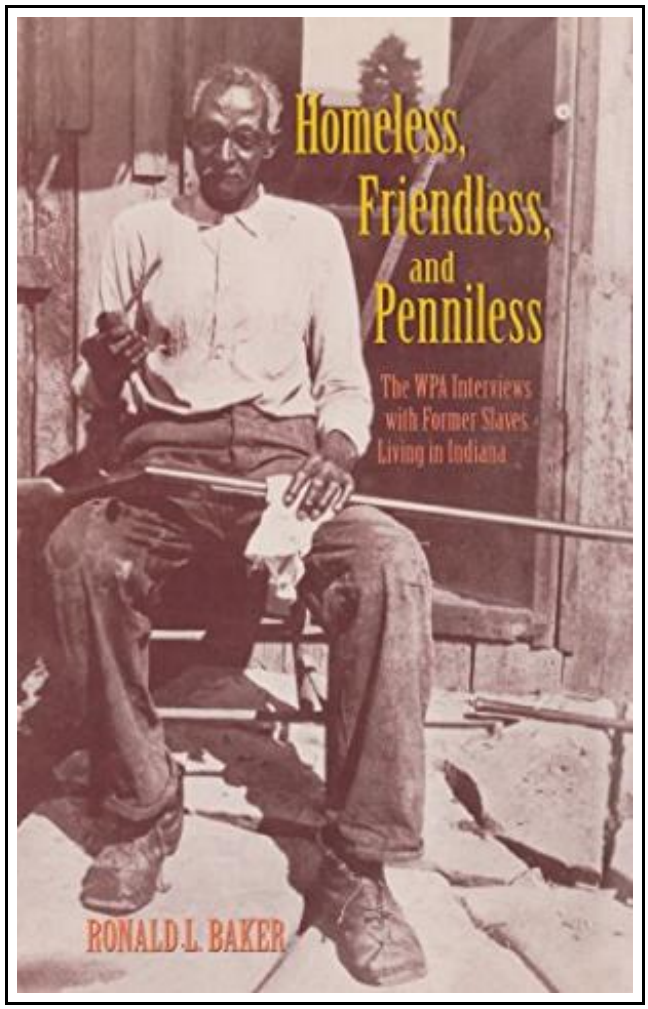
Homeless, Friendless, and Penniless: The Wpa Interviews with Former Slaves Living in Indiana



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(Fabian Kuhlman II)

HOMELESS, FRIENDLESS, AND PENNILESS: THE WPA INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER SLAVES LIVING IN INDIANA

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Indiana University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Homeless, Friendless, and Penniless: The Wpa Interviews with Former Slaves Living in Indiana, Ronald L. Baker, "Homeless, Friendless, and Penniless" is based on a collection of interviews with former slaves who lived in Indiana in the late 1930s. The interviews were conducted as part of Indiana's contribution to a federal project undertaken in seventeen states during the Great Depression. Over a three-year period, former slaves and, in some cases, descendants of former slaves, shared their memories with fieldworkers of the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939. As a result of this early fieldwork in folklore and oral history, today we have an invaluable record of the lives and thoughts of former slaves who moved to Indiana after the Civil War and made significant contributions to the evolving patchwork of Hoosier culture. The Indiana interviews are especially notable because they were collected from freed slaves living in a state that was free during the Civil War. Most of the other former slaves interviewed for the national project still lived in the South, very close to where they were held in bondage. The Indiana slave narratives provide a glimpse of slavery from the memories of those who experienced it and thus preserve insiders' views of an unfortunate chapter in American history. Though the former slaves represented in the Indiana collection lived in Indiana at the time of the interviews, they were, of course, held in slavery in other states; therefore, the interviews reveal a variety of experiences of African Americans enslaved not in a single state but in eleven different states from the Carolinas to Louisiana, though most of them were slaves in Kentucky. The interviews deal with life and work on...

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