

## Redemption Songs Suing For Freedom Before Dred Scott

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*Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott*, Lea VanderVelde's deeply researched and fascinating discussion of freedom suits filed in St. Louis, Missouri, in the nineteenth century, suggests that enslaved people's attempts in this area to use law to gain their freedom were more common than historians and legal scholars have imagined. In the kind of moment historians dream of, VanderVelde, while doing research on Harriet Scott (the wife of the famous Dred Scott) happened upon ...

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### **Redemption Songs - Lea VanderVelde - Oxford University Press**

*Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott*. Book Reviews. Alfred L. Brophy, *Slaves as Plaintiffs* Michigan Law Review. Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard Law School. Margaret M. Russell, California Lawyer. Martha S. Jones, University of Michigan. More data on the St. Louis Freedom Suits. Many of the litigants in the freedom suits were family ...

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## **Redemption songs : suing for freedom before Dred Scott**

On the final page of Redemption Songs, the author refers to the law permitting slaves to sue for their freedom as a "remarkable Missouri statute" (210). Yet every state in the Upper South as well as some in the Lower South, including Louisiana, passed similar statutes that permitted African Americans to sue for their freedom under certain circumstances.

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