

Mrs. Dred Scott: A Life on Slavery's Frontier, by Lea VanderVelde. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. xiv, 480 pp. Maps, illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$99.00 hardcover; \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Kristen Anderson is assistant professor of history at Webster University in St. Louis. Her dissertation (University of Iowa, 2009) was "German Americans, African Americans, and the Construction of Racial Identity in St. Louis, 1850-1870."

In *Mrs. Dred Scott: A Life on Slavery's Frontier*, Lea VanderVelde examines the life of Harriet Scott, the lesser-known wife and co-litigant of Dred Scott. Many Americans are familiar with the outcome of Dred Scott's lawsuit, but few are aware that his wife also sued for her freedom. Rather than focusing solely on the Scotts' courtroom battles, however, VanderVelde attempts to reconstruct the entirety of Harriet Scott's life, with the goal of advancing our understanding not only of freedom suits but of the experience of slavery on the frontier more broadly.

This is a challenging task, given the paucity of records from enslaved people generally and the small numbers of enslaved people on the frontier. VanderVelde meets this challenge by meticulously examining the available records of those who owned or hired Harriet or Dred, as well as those who lived in the same places as they did, to reconstruct the world in which they lived. By taking this anthropological approach to writing biography, she can make well-supported assumptions about the kinds of work Harriet would have done, where she would have lived, and the kinds of relationships she would have had with others. VanderVelde is drawing on some new source material, in the form of the letters and diaries of Lawrence Taliaferro, Harriet's owner when she first came to the frontier. The significance of these documents for understanding the Scotts' lives had been overlooked by previous historians, much as Harriet herself had been.

VanderVelde begins her account with Harriet's arrival on the frontier as a 14-year-old girl in 1835. She accompanied her master when he traveled west from Pennsylvania to take up the position of Indian agent to the Dakota. Harriet thus came of age in a multiracial frontier environment, in which Native Americans, white soldiers, and black slaves or servants lived in close proximity to one another. It was while she was living in the West that she met and married Dred Scott. Their time living north of the Missouri Compromise line would become the basis for both of their claims to freedom, since Harriet's master unfortunately did not directly state an intention to free her when he "gave" her to Dred as a wife before leaving the region himself.

VanderVelde continues her use of thick description to reconstruct the Scotts' lives after they moved to St. Louis, building a detailed picture of white-black relationships in that community, including the role slavery played in the city's social and economic life and the impact living in a slave state had on the free black population. Her coverage of the Scotts' multiyear legal battle for their freedom is similarly detailed. She examines the ways both Harriet's and Dred's cases were constructed and the consequences of the court's decision to ultimately lump the two cases together. The typical nineteenth-century subsuming of a wife's identity under her husband's not only hid Harriet's story from the eyes of historians, but also changed the terms of the case itself. In some ways, Harriet had the stronger claim to freedom, and a victory for her would have had the added benefit of freeing their two daughters. VanderVelde also places Harriet's and Dred's suits in the context of the other freedom suits filed in Missouri during that era. Harriet and Dred's case appears to be fairly typical and only achieved such notoriety because of the political situation surrounding slavery on the national level at the time the case went to trial.

The density of information in this volume would likely not suit it to an undergraduate audience. However, the work should have broad appeal beyond its most obvious audience of scholars interested in freedom suits or frontier slavery. As a result of VanderVelde's extensive research into life in frontier forts, the book is also a rich source of information for those interested in relationships between whites, African Americans, and Native Americans on the frontier and in the settlement of the upper Midwest more generally. The level of detail regarding day-to-day life in frontier forts and white-Indian relationships in the area is particularly impressive. VanderVelde's work is an important contribution to our understanding of slavery in an understudied region of the country.

Triumph and Tragedy: The Story of the 35th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War, by Lee Miller. Iowa City: Camp Pope Publishing, 2012. ix, 143 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, roster, index. \$12.00 paper.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a lecturer in the department of history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of several books on Iowa and the Civil War, including *From Blue Mills to Columbia: Cedar Falls and the Civil War* (1993).

Lee Miller wrote this book to honor the soldiers from Muscatine, Iowa, who served in the 35th Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. During the war, 242 of them died, either from battlefield wounds or