

Old Age and American Slavery

Old Age and American Slavery explores how antebellum southerners, Black and white, adapted to, resisted, or failed to overcome changes associated with old age, both real and imagined. Slavery was a system of economic exploitation and a contested site of personal domination, both of which were affected by concerns with age. In examining how individuals, families, and communities felt about the aging process and dealt with elders, David Stefan Doddington emphasizes the complex social relations that developed in a slave society. In connecting old age to the arguments of Black activists, abolitionists, enslavers, and their propagandists, the book reveals how representations of old age, and experiences of aging, spoke to wider struggles relating to mastery, paternalism, resistance, and survival in slavery. The book asks us to rethink long-standing narratives relating to networks of solidarity in the American South and it illuminates the violent and exploitative nature of American slavery.

David Stefan Doddington is Senior Lecturer in American History at Cardiff University. He is the author of *Contesting Slave Masculinity in the American South*.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-009-12308-2 — Old Age and American Slavery
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009123082

DOI: 10.1017/9781009127974

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 place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2024

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Doddington, David Stefan, 1986– author.

TITLE: Old age and American slavery / David Stefan Doddington, Cardiff University.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |

Series: Cambridge Studies on the American South | Includes bibliographical references
 and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2023015897 (print) | LCCN 2023015898 (ebook) | ISBN
 9781009123082 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009124256 (hardback) | ISBN
 9781009127974 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Enslaved older people – United States – Social conditions. |
 Slaveholders – United States – Social conditions. | Older people – United States – Social
 conditions. | Slavery – United States – History. | United States – Race relations – History.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC E443 .D634 2024 (print) | LCC E443 (ebook) | DDC 306.3/
 620973–dc23/eng/20230425

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023015897>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023015898>

ISBN 978-1-009-12308-2 Hardback

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*Catrin, Idris, ac Anwen. Chi yw'r peth gorau sydd erioed wedi
digwydd i mi.*

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Acknowledgments

I wanted to acknowledge the horrific global impact of COVID-19, but could not do justice to the enormity of it all. New parenthood in a pandemic, and losing precious time with loved ones, has been difficult, but my experiences are minor with the suffering of so many. I simply express my deepest condolences to all those who lost family and loved ones in this pandemic.

* * *

The research for this book was completed with a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship awarded for 2018–19, and I am truly grateful for the support this provided. Work using the *Slavery and the Law* database was undertaken in 2019 following an award from the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Middelburg, Netherlands, and I appreciate Damian Alan Pargas's guidance here (as well as his generosity with beer and *bitterballen*). I was also fortunate to receive the Founders' Award from the British Association of American Studies in 2018, which funded research abroad and for which I express sincere thanks.

Cardiff University's History Department houses outstanding scholars and, more importantly, generous friends. I want to thank, particularly, Emily Cock, Matthew Grant (honorary Cardiffian), Rachel Herrmann, Bronach Kane, James Ryan, and Stephanie Ward for feedback on this work. Mark Williams heard me bang on about this book at such length – and gave such helpful commentary throughout – that he deserves particular praise. I genuinely don't know if I could have written this book without Lloyd Bowen. The workshop he delivered on writing – and the use of the

“power hour” – was transformative. I have had one year of research leave since completing my PhD in 2013, but Lloyd’s workshop, and his continuous support afterwards, gave me the confidence to write this book despite my teaching and administrative load. Keir Waddington gave far too much of his already-pressed-upon time to help me with reviewing the manuscript, and I am immensely (and selfishly) grateful to him for doing so and for his nuanced observations throughout. Pints of Rev. James with Bill Jones and Stephanie Ward were a balm through trying times, and my plan to simply not accept Bill’s retirement has worked quite nicely. Tracey Loughran has once again proven herself the most incredibly generous scholar and friend, not only with editing support but also in thinking through the wider significance of this project. Her guidance is invaluable and I owe her big-time. In various formats, I have received support on this research, and I would like to thank Aviva Ben-Ur, Maria Cannon, Corinne T. Field, Jeff Forret, Rebecca Fraser, David Hitchcock, Gad Heuman, David Lewis, Andrea Livesey, Tim Lockley, Rosie Narayan, Damian Alan Pargas, Lydia Plath, Thomas Strong, Emily West, Nick Witham, and Fay Yarbrough. I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers and editorial teams at *Slavery & Abolition*, *Journal of Global Slavery*, and *Journal of Southern History*.

Research was conducted in archives across the South and I am indebted to historians, archivists, and librarians at these institutions. Particular thanks go to Mark M. Smith and Matt D. Childs at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, for drinks, lunch, and research seminars that proved stimulating and productive. Connie Schultz is a legend of the BrANCH research community and her house-share arrangement was hugely appreciated for this trip. In Mississippi, Clinton Bagley and Carter Burns were the very definition of Southern hospitality and I am enormously grateful for the effort they put in to showing me around, helping with research, and keeping me well entertained. I am also indebted to Cambridge University Press, with Mark M. Smith and Peter Coclanis’s enthusiasm for this project providing great encouragement throughout these difficult years. Cecelia A. Cancellaro and Victoria Phillips have been wonderful editors, and their guidance and astute suggestions, along with those of the anonymous readers, have only improved the book. Bharathan Sankar and Laheba Alam have provided outstanding support with production, and I am very grateful for their excellent work. Helen B. Cooper’s copy-editing has been superb and her keen eye has both improved the prose and caught many an error. Any that remain are my own.

Acknowledgments

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Finally, I want to express my thanks to my family. My parents are so incredibly loving and kind, and I could not wish for a more supportive safety net back home, even if mostly via Zoom these past few years. The McStewington/Doddos mean the world to me, even if the ever-expanding cast list makes Christmas unaffordable. Catrin Doddington is simply the most wonderful partner; she is loving, generous, intelligent, and kind, and I'm the luckiest man alive to be able to share a life with her. My two children, Idris and Anwen, were born during the course of writing this book and, sleepless nights notwithstanding, nothing has made me happier. I always wanted to be a dad but nothing could have prepared me for the sheer intensity of the love I feel for them, and the joy (terror/tiredness) that parenthood brings. Every night before bed Idris asks "what was your favorite part of the day" and demands I provide three options. He claims to be getting sick of my repetitive answer of "playing with you two," but it is the truth. This book is for Catrin, Idris, ac Anwen: *Chi yw'r peth gorau sydd erioed wedi digwydd i mi.*

* * *

Some arguments used in this book have appeared in article form elsewhere. I am extremely grateful to *Journal of Southern History*, *Slavery & Abolition*, and *Journal of Global Slavery* for allowing me to republish them here. See David Stefan Doddington, "Old Age, Mastery, and Resistance in American Slavery," *Journal of Southern History*, 88.1 (2022), 111–44; "Age, Resistance, and Solidarity in US Slave Communities," *Slavery & Abolition*, 42.4 (2022), 710–32; "'Old Fellows': Age, Identity, and Solidarity in Slave Communities of the Antebellum South," *Journal of Global Slavery* 3.3 (2018), 286–312.