

The Weeping Time

In 1859, at the largest recorded slave auction in American history, more than 400 men, women, and children were sold by the Butler Plantation estates. This book is one of the first to analyze the operation of this auction and trace the lives of slaves before, during, and after their sale. Immersing herself in the personal papers of the Butlers, accounts from journalists who witnessed the auction, genealogical records, and oral histories, Anne C. Bailey weaves together a narrative that brings the auction to life. Demonstrating the resilience of African American families, she includes interviews from the living descendants of slaves sold on the auction block, showing how the memories of slavery have shaped people's lives today. Using the auction as the focal point, *The Weeping Time* is a compelling and nuanced narrative of one of the most pivotal eras in American history, and how its legacy persists today.

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The Weeping Time

*Memory and the Largest Slave Auction
in American History*

ANNE C. BAILEY

Binghamton University, State University of New York



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*To the memory of James Alan McPherson, writer
and descendant of Congressman Robert Smalls,
the Gullah Statesman, and my grandparents,
David and Sarah Ramsay.*

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