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978-1-009-44137-7 — The Slow Death of Slavery in Dutch New York
A Cultural, Economic, and Demographic History, 1700–1827
Michael J. Douma
Frontmatter
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THE SLOW DEATH OF SLAVERY IN DUTCH NEW YORK

Original and deeply researched, this book provides a new interpretation of Dutch American slavery which challenges many of the traditional assumptions about slavery in New York. With an emphasis on demography and economics, Michael J. Douma shows that slavery in eighteenth-century New York was mostly rural, heavily Dutch, and generally profitable through the cultivation of wheat. Slavery in Dutch New York ultimately died a political death in the nineteenth century, while resistance from enslaved persons, and a gradual turn against slavery in society and in the courts, encouraged its destruction. This important study will reshape the historiography of slavery in the American North.

MICHAEL J. DOUMA is Associate Professor at the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University. He is also the director of the Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics. An interdisciplinary historian, his particular focuses include nineteenth-century US history, the Dutch world, historical methods, and historical philosophy and methodology.

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This is one of the most methodologically innovative studies on the history of slavery in America. In seven brilliantly researched chapters, Douma analyzes the size of Dutch New York slavery, the importance of wheat production, prices of enslaved workers, and the pathway to emancipation. Its conclusions make important corrections to previous studies.

Jeroen Dewulf, University of California, Berkeley

A remarkably insightful analysis of slavery in Dutch New York. Focusing on the demographic history of the enslaved, Douma's research dispels many myths, including the thesis that slavery under the Dutch was somehow "mild." This much-needed antidote will be indispensable to historians of slavery and Dutch New York alike.

Jaap Jacobs, author of *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America*

With meticulous research and compelling analysis, Michael Douma boldly places New York's Dutch communities at the center of slavery in the North. This book challenges long-held assumptions about slavery in New York and unveils the enduring legacy of the Dutch language within enslaved communities.

Nicole S. Maskiell, author of *Bound by Bondage*

Brilliantly researched, well-written, and fascinating, Michael Douma tells a new story about slavery in the North. It is a must read for anyone interested in the history of New York.

Shane White, author of *Prince of Darkness: The Untold Story of Jeremiah G. Hamilton, Wall Street's First Black Millionaire*

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction	i
1 The Size, Extent, and Nature of Dutch New York Slavery	20
2 The Rural Dutch Slave–Wheat Complex	52
3 The Price of Slaves in New York and New Jersey, 1700–1830	88
4 Dutch-Speaking Runaway Slaves in New York and New Jersey	115
5 Sold South? Emancipation by the Numbers in Dutch New York	140
6 Dutch Resistance to Emancipation and the Negotiations to End Slavery in New York	174
7 Making Sense of the Mild Thesis and the End of Dutch New York Slavery	208
<i>Appendices</i>	224
<i>Works Cited</i>	229
<i>Index</i>	252

Figures

1.1	Total black population (free and enslaved) and slave population in New York Colony/State, 1689–1830.	page 22
1.2	New York City enslaved population as a percent of the statewide number of enslaved persons.	22
1.3	New York City total black population and slave population, 1703–1830.	25
1.4	Long Island and Staten Island black and slave population, 1703–1830.	26
1.5	Hudson Valley total black and slave population, 1703–1830.	26
1.6	New York State black population, free and slave combined, 1703–1830.	27
1.7	1755 slave census, Dutch versus English.	28
1.8	An early use of the Dutch word <i>baas</i> (boss) at the Schuyler estate from the <i>Occom</i> journal, 1786.	37
2.1	Two versions of a painting of the James Ryder van Brunt Homestead.	53
2.2	Eighteenth-century payments made in “schepels” of wheat, Ulster County.	62
2.3	The salary of Minister Weeksteen paid in wheat in Kingston, New York.	63
2.4	Wheat prices per bushel and flour prices per barrel, in New York City, 1735–1820, in dollars (with conversions from pounds).	80
2.5	US annual exports of wheat (in bushels) and flour (in barrels), 1791–1816.	81
2.6	A painting titled “Mrs. Schuyler Burning Her Wheat Fields on the Approach of the British” by Emanuel Leutze.	86
3.1	Values of enslaved persons by age, relative to quadratic fit.	110
3.2	Actual versus regression estimated prices of enslaved persons.	111
4.1	Dutch language abilities among runaways by decade.	125

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
4.2 Dutch-speaking runaway slaves by region and decade.	128
4.3 An advertisement for a runaway slave named Harre, by Philip Schuyler, 1768.	138
5.1 Percent decline of slaves relative to total population by county, 1800–1820.	141
5.2 A glass photograph of Rosanna Vosburgh of Albany, New York.	154
5.3 An image of a formerly enslaved man, John Wynkoop, 1888.	156
5.4 Demographic table of deaths among black people in New York, 1821–1826.	169
7.1 “Ghost Tallies” in the 1830 national census for New York.	218
7.2 More false entries in the 1830 census.	219
7.3 Jeffre Johnson, former slave of the Rapalje family, <i>Brooklyn Daily Eagle</i> , April 20, 1890.	222
A.1 Ratio of the price of a barrel of flour to a bushel of wheat, on the New York City market, 1735–1829.	225
A.2 Estimated percent of New York slaves who were not born in New York, 1700–1800.	228

Tables

3.1	Estimated values of enslaved persons in New York and New Jersey by sex and age.	<i>page</i> 101
3.2	Estimated values of enslaved persons, controlling for time and location.	102
3.3	Estimated values of enslaved persons, without controlling for time and location.	102
3.4	Estimated values of enslaved persons, Manhattan, New York State, and New Jersey.	103
3.5	Estimated values of enslaved persons, complete values by time and location.	108
4.1	Minimum reported Dutch-speaking slave advertisements in New York, average per year (by decade).	133
5.1	New York State census figures, free blacks and enslaved, 1790–1820 (adjusted).	158
5.2	New York State census figures, blacks, 1790–1830 (adjusted).	160
5.3	New York State census figures, free blacks and slaves (adjusted by estimated undercount).	161
5.4	Effects of estimated death rates on total number of New York slaves manumitted or sold South, 1800–1820.	162
5.5	Estimated number of enslaved persons by county (with adjustments), 1800–1820.	164
5.6	Estimated black population of six-county area, with applied death rates, 1810–1820.	164
5.7	Six-county slave population rate of decline and numbers missing from 1800 to 1820.	165
5.8	Gender ratios of New York City free blacks and slaves, 1806–1830.	168
5.9	New York City black population (free and enslaved, by sex, 1806–1830) in city, state, and federal censuses.	170

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