



# **The Kidnapped and the Ransomed: The Narrative of Peter and Vina Still after Forty Years of Slavery**

*Kate E. R. Pickard*



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Originally published in 1856, *The Kidnapped and the Ransomed* is the personal recollection of Peter Still, a black slave. He was stolen as a child from his home in New Jersey, yoked to servitude for more than forty years in Kentucky and Alabama, and finally freed with the help of a pair of Jewish brothers. It is the only nineteenth-century slave narrative to show the participation of the Jews in the antislavery movement before the Civil War.

The reader follows Still through a succession of brutal masters, a clandestine courtship, marriage involving separation, births and deaths, the formation of a daring plan for freedom, and harrowing action. No stage drama could be as wrenching as this true rendering of a slave's experience in America. Kate E. R. Pickard was in contact with Still while she taught at the Female Seminary in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Maxwell Whiteman was the archival and historical consultant for the Union League of Philadelphia and coauthor, with Edwin Wolf II, of *The History of the Jews of Philadelphia from Colonial Times to the Age of Jackson*. The original introduction by Rev. Samuel J. May, an abolitionist, has been retained.



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