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DANIEL MEADERS UPDATES *KIDNAPPERS IN PHILADELPHIA* WITH EIGHT MORE ISAAC HOPPER TALES

(CHERRY HILL, NJ) (12 December 2009)—Historian Daniel E. Meaders has updated his well-known work, *Kidnappers in Philadelphia: Isaac Hopper's Tales of Oppression, 1780-1843*. These tales have provided critical insight into United States history, by documenting black people's resistance to and escape from slavery and 18th and 19th century abolitionist movements. In the second edition, Meaders has included the seventy-nine compiled narratives from the first edition, a revised preface, and eight new items: 'The Life of Cooper' and seven newly discovered slave narratives published by Isaac Hopper in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* between June and September 1840. A comprehensive general index that supplement's the index of planters was also added.

Meaders found that "Hopper published seven narratives in the *Anti-Slavery Standard*: 'Zeke,' 'A Slaveholder Defeated,' 'Content and Happy,' 'William Coachman,' 'Michael Blake,' 'Colonel Ridgely' and 'An Interesting Case of Escape.' These ... pre-Tales of Oppression set the stage for the *Anti-Slavery Standard* to publish his seventy-nine Tales of Oppression in serial form between 1840 and 1842. These narratives tell what it meant to be a chattel in America, basically solving what Professor John Blassingame said in his *Slave Testimony* that 'The fundamental problem confronting anyone interested in studying black views of bondage is that the slave had few opportunities to tell what it meant to be a chattel.'"

Meaders is an associate professor at William Paterson University in New Jersey, where he has served for seventeen years. He earned his doctorate at Yale University. He is also the author (compiler) of *Advertisements For Runaway Slaves In Virginia, 1801-1820*, *Dead or Alive: Fugitive Slaves and White Indentured Servants before 1830*, and *Eighteenth-century White Slaves: Fugitive Notices*.

Published by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLP), *Kidnappers in Philadelphia: Isaac Hopper's Tales of Oppression, 1780-1843 (Second Edition)* is the first release in the series, Studies in African American and African Canadian History and Culture. It is available in two editions: ISBN 978-0-9818939-5-2, hardcover with jacket, US \$80; ISBN 978-0-9818939-6-9, softcover, US \$40. To get a 35% discount on the hardcover edition or a 40% discount on the softcover edition, buy copies from AHLP's online store at <http://ahlpub.com/mm5/merchant.mvc>. The work is also available online at Amazon.com, bn.com (Barnes and Noble), and other retailers. For more information or to request review copies, contact AHLP at 856-773-0694 ext. 206 or on the Web at http://ahlpub.com/Contact_Us.html.

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