

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827000003321
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Titolo	Freedom at risk : the kidnapping of free Blacks in America, 1780-1865 // Carol Wilson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lexington, Kentucky : , : The University Press of Kentucky, , 2009 ©1994
ISBN	0-8131-3351-3 0-8131-4979-7
Edizione	[Paperback edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (184 p.)
Disciplina	973/.0496073
Soggetti	African Americans - History - To 1863 Kidnapping - United States - History - 18th century Kidnapping - United States - History - 19th century African Americans - Legal status, laws, etc Slavery - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1. ""From Their Free Homes into Bondage"": The Abduction of Free Blacks into Slavery; 2. ""The Legitimate Offspring of Slavery"": Kidnappers Who Operated within the Law; 3. ""Leave No Stone Unturned"": Government Assistance to Free Blacks; 4. ""The Thought of Slavery Is Death to a Free Man"": Abolitionist Response to Kidnapping; 5. ""An Almost Sleepless Vigilance"": Black Resistance to Kidnapping; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Z
Sommario/riassunto	Kidnapping was perhaps the greatest fear of free blacks in pre-Civil War America. Though they may have descended from generations of free-born people or worked to purchase their freedom, free blacks were not able to enjoy the privileges and opportunities of white Americans. They lived with the constant threat of kidnapping and enslavement, against which they had little recourse. Most kidnapped free blacks were forcibly abducted, but other methods, such as luring victims with job offers or falsely claiming free people as fugitive slaves,

were used as well. Kidnapping of blacks was actually facil

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