

### The Slave Catcher's Woman

Georgia bounty hunter Coswell Tims lives with his wife Cynthia and a kennel of well-trained and trusty bloodhounds. A lawman of sorts, he makes an honest respectable living tracking fugitives. Returning home one day after a chase, he finds his home ransacked, his dogs killed, his loyal house servant brutally beaten and his woman, the true love of his life, is missing -- abducted, taken, kidnapped. Coswell must now employ all of his skills and experience to track down the perpetrator and rescue Cynthia.

#### A Review by Hugh T. Harrington

Every once in a long while a book comes along that stands out from the crowd due to its distinctive nature. *The Slave Catcher's Woman* is one of these.

The reader is immediately transported back in time to the antebellum South where cotton, slaves...and slave catchers, are the norm. The people and events depicted are very real as is the language. One gets swept up in the delightful colloquialisms and flow of speech.

The story itself at first repels. Modern man does not care to confront the realities of life where humans escaping bondage, fleeing for their lives, are tracked down by men with shotguns, whips and bloodhounds. However, the hero of the novel, Coswell Tims, is not Simon Legree. He finds himself in the business of tracking but does not seek pleasure in another's pain. With raw racism abundant around him he provides the reader with a fresh outlook. The slave catcher comments on the institution of slavery, duplicity of mankind, love and life from an objective point of view. His homespun philosophy grows on the reader, as Tims would say, like moss.

The action scenes are real and compelling. The history is real. However, the book will be remembered for what it says about race, humanity and the good that is within people. It truly is one of the most remarkable books ever penned. I highly recommend it.

Jim Littlefield has taught history in Connecticut schools for 47 years. In addition he writes a monthly history column entitled, "History Matters," which captures the importance history has played over the years in family life. Jim and his wife, Georgia Lee, have restored two homes from the pre-Civil War period, each with an accompanying blacksmith shop where Jim has worked at the trade. He is a member of the Connecticut Blacksmithing Guild.

The Littlefields participate in Civil War reenactments where Jim has portrayed a blacksmith and a disabled Civil War veteran. Most of his presentations now center on Coswell Tims, who inspired the writing of *The Slave Catcher's Woman*.

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