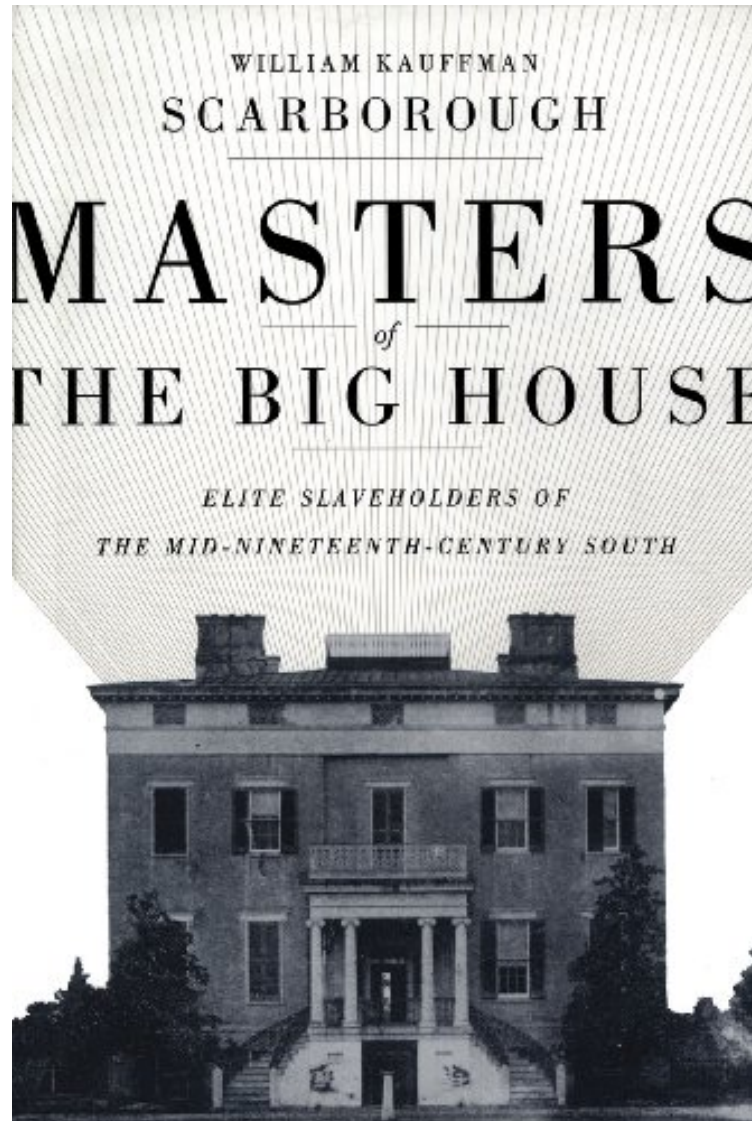


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Masters of the Big House: Elite Slaveholders of the Mid-Nineteenth-Century South

William Kauffman Scarborough

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William Kauffman Scarborough : Masters of the Big House: Elite Slaveholders of the Mid-Nineteenth-Century South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of the Big House: Elite Slaveholders of the Mid-Nineteenth-Century South:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A MasterpieceBy Thomas W. RobinsonI can only echo the sentiments of the previous reviewer. Professor Scarborough has written a very interesting, highly researched and detailed work. Still, though, the book is written very clearly and reads very well. I had to read this book in one week in

order to review it for a class and was able to do so despite its length (and the fact I'm a slow reader) because of how interesting and well written it is. Although some may wonder what we could learn from another book on slaveholders, surprisingly, Scarborough is one of the first to look solely at elite slaveholders. Furthermore, he uncovers many things that even the PhD professor in Southern history who taught my class didn't know--many of the slaveholders, and their families, were well educated, had ties to the North (often sending their children to be educated in the North), traveled extensively, were more cultured and worldly than previous thought, and many were opposed to secession. This is just an inkling of the things uncovered in this work. Scarborough has wisely broken the chapters up by topic and that makes the book more understandable and easier to digest. If you have any interest in Southern history, especially of the antebellum era, pick this up. It is well worth the read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read!By KrisiThis is a thick book with small font I had to purchase it because this type of book is raw and tells you the secrets of what really happens in "The Big House". I would recommend buying this book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcellent!

William Kauffman Scarborough has produced a work of incomparable scope and depth, offering the challenge to see afresh one of the most powerful groups in American history -- the wealthiest southern planters who owned 250 or more slaves in the census years of 1850 and 1860. The identification and tabulation in every slaveholding state of these lords of economic, social, and political influence reveals a highly learned class of men who set the tone for southern society while also involving themselves in the wider world of capitalism. Scarborough examines the demographics of elite families, the educational philosophy and religiosity of the nabobs, gender relations in the Big House, slave management methods, responses to secession, and adjustment to the travails of Reconstruction and an alien postwar world.

About the Author?