



This work has been submitted to NECTAR, the  
**Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses and  
Research.**

<http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/4359/>

**Creator(s):** Watley, G.

**Title:** Book review: Slave Life in Virginia and Kentucky: A Narrative by Francis Fedric, Escaped Slave, C.L. Innes (ed.)

**Date:** 2012

**Originally published in:** BASA (Black and Asian Studies Association) Newsletter

**Place of publication:**

**Example citation:** Watley, G. (2012) Book review: Slave Life in Virginia and Kentucky: A Narrative by Francis Fedric, Escaped Slave, C.L. Innes (ed.). BASA (Black and Asian Studies Association) Newsletter. 62, pp. 31-32. 1469-2082.

**Version of item:** Author's final draft

The published version of this review is available online at  
<http://www.blackandasianstudies.org/newsletter/newsletter.html>

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).



Using a combination of edited slave narratives alongside critical scholarship, *Slave Life in Virginia and Kentucky: A Narrative by Francis Fedric, Escaped Slave*, ed. by C.L. Innes, simultaneously illustrates how an individual's African-American slave narrative changed over time whilst using extensive research to confirm an overwhelming majority of Francis Fedric's narrative. Also notable within this book is Innes' refuting of Henry Louis Gates' claim that Fedric's narrative was fictional rather than authentic.

Innes' introduction adds to this book by providing historical and cultural contexts to this compelling work. The narrative is compelling because it illustrates the depravity of slavery whilst providing the reader with enough detail to help understand the locations and people that Fedric encountered in his pre-emancipation life. Without such detail, Innes would not have been able to have conducted her own research into the authenticity of Fedric's narrative. The combination of Fedric's narrative alongside Innes' historical judiciousness makes this book a must read for those potential readers interested in authentic African-American slave narratives that are captivating whilst being very readable considering the cruelty Fedric recalls.

George Watley

22 March 2012