

Slavery and Freedom in Athens, Georgia, 1860-1866

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SLAVERY was a harsh-sounding word; but in Athens, Georgia, servitude was not as harsh as the word sounded, and, indeed, in Georgia as a whole, this lot of the colored man varied from hard labor to virtual freedom from it. Some of the laws relating to slavery were severe on their face; others guaranteed the slave protection against cruel punishment. In either case, the law might often, and did, operate as a dead letter, depending for enforcement on the attitude of the master or the sentiment in the community.