



The Indomitable George Washington Fields: From Slave to Attorney

By Kevin M Clermont

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This book relates the fortuitous discovery of a significant historical figure: George Washington Fields (1854-1932). Fields was known to have entered with the first law class of Cornell University and earned his LL.B. degree there in 1890. But his back story before college was unknown, and hence the significance of his life after graduation was unappreciated. It turns out, although the university s records were previously silent on this, that Fields not only was the new law school s first African-American graduate, but also was in the first graduating group of African Americans from Cornell University as a whole. Even more distinctively, he was the only ex-slave ever to graduate from that august university. Fields significance is not so locally confined, however. Born into slavery in Hanover County, Virginia, he started at the bottom. But he, along with his remarkable family, made a historic escape to Hampton at the height of the Civil War. He next worked to support the family, and still pursued an education at the storied Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. Later...

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