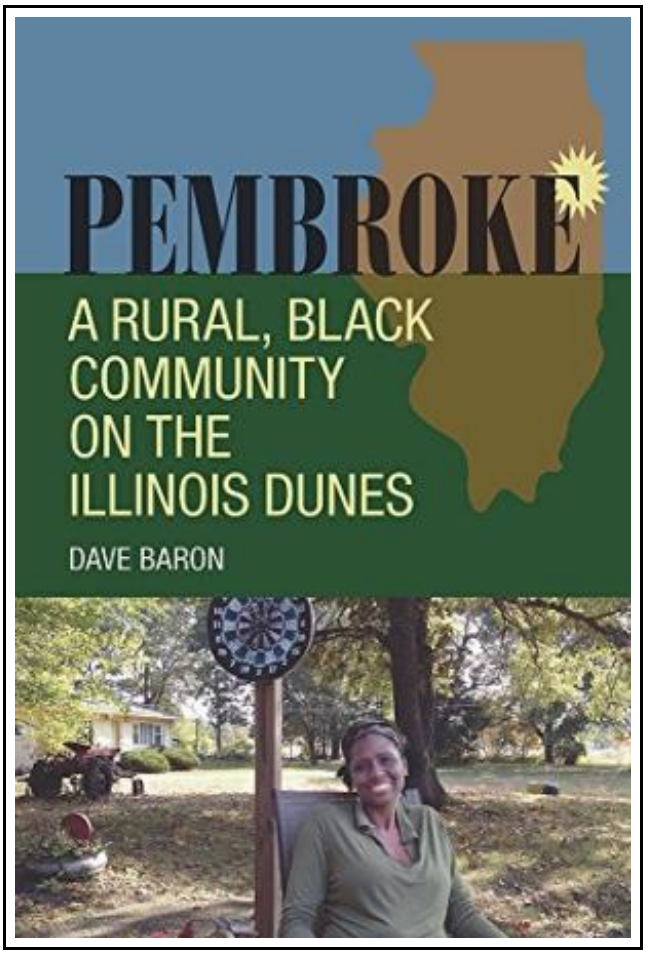
Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes (Paperback)



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Reviews

This is the finest publication we have read through right up until now. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. Its been written in an remarkably easy way in fact it is only after i finished reading through this book by which basically altered me, affect the way i think.
(Dr. Gabriella Hayes)

PEMBROKE: A RURAL, BLACK COMMUNITY ON THE ILLINOIS DUNES (PAPERBACK)

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Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Pembroke Township, one of the largest rural, black communities north of the Mason-Dixon Line, sits in an isolated corner of Kankakee County, Illinois, sixty-five miles south of Chicago. With a population of about two thousand, it is also one of the poorest places in the nation. Many black farmers from the South came to this area during the Great Migration; finding Chicago to be overcrowded and inhospitable, they were able to buy land in the township at low prices. The poor soil made it nearly impossible to establish profitable farms, however, and economic prosperity has eluded the region ever since. Pembroke: A Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes chronicles the history of this inimitable township and shows the author s personal transformation through his experiences with Pembroke and its people. A native of nearby Kankakee, author Dave Baron first traveled to Pembroke on a church service trip at age fifteen and saw real poverty firsthand, but he also discovered a community possessing grace and purpose. Baron begins each chapter with a personal narrative from his initial trip to Pembroke. He covers the early history of the area, explaining how the unique black oak savanna ecosystem was created and describing early residents, including Potawatomi tribes and white fur traders. He introduces readers to Pap and Mary Tetter, Pembroke s first black residents, who-according to local lore-assisted fugitives on the Underground Railroad; details the town s wild years, when taverns offered liquor, drugs, and prostitution; discusses the many churches of Pembroke and the nearby high school where, in spite of sometimes strained relations, Pembroke s black students have learned alongside white students of a neighboring community since well before Brown...

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