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Allensworth, The Freedom Colony: A California African American Township (Second Edition)

Alice C. Royal, Mickey Ellinger, Scott Braley, Photographs by Scott Braley, Foreword by Lonnie G. Bunch III

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In 1908, an escaped slave turned army officer named Colonel Allen Allensworth founded a small town in California's Central Valley where African Americans could thrive. Over the next decade some three hundred Black pioneers established a self-sufficient farming community with its own school, church, businesses, and municipal government. Although the community only flourished for a handful of years, it nonetheless became a symbol of the possibility of a fairer America in the era of Jim Crow.

In words and photographs, *Allensworth, the Freedom Colony* tells the story of this town from its beginnings to the creation of Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. The voices of former Allensworth residents are prominently featured throughout a narrative expertly woven by Alice C. Royal—one of the last people to be born in the community—and writer/photographer team Mickey Ellinger and Scott Braley. This updated edition features a publisher's note from Malcolm Margolin.

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