



The Underground Railroad and American Identities

Learn the Past, Be the Present, Create the Future®

A Fresh Interpretation of an Old Story

The 15th Public History Conference on the Underground Railroad Movement and Its Relevance for Us Today

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday — April 15 - 17, 2016

Organized by: **Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.**



Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.

Underground Railroad History Project seeks to acknowledge the Underground Railroad movement in our region, our state, and our nation, to raise awareness about and stimulate interest in this little-recognized part of our history, to understand it in its historic context, to encourage the recognition of its inspiring historic figures and the activities in which they engaged, to preserve that history, emphasizing the participation of African American abolitionists, and to relate that history to us today.

www.UndergroundRailroadHistory.org - (518) 432-4432



*URHP Conferences
are part of the
National Park
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Program*

Please copy and distribute widely - On-line registration available at www.UndergroundRailroadHistory.org

Conference Co-Sponsors



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Conference Events Schedule at a Glance

Friday, April 15, 2016 - 8:30am-3:00pm and 7:00pm-8:00pm

Educators Workshop - Racism in America: Where Do We Go From Here? (*St. John's Episcopal Church - 146 First St., Troy*)
Alan, Singer, PhD, Professor of Secondary Education, and Director of Social Studies Education, Hofstra University, and April Francis, Social Studies educator in Uniondale Union Free School District and member of the Hofstra University research team that developed *New York State and Slavery: Complicity and Resistance* curriculum guide.

Opening Address - No Place for Confederate Symbols: The Flag Must Come Down! (*Bush Memorial, Russell Sage Coll.*)
Scaling the South Carolina statehouse flag pole to remove the Confederate flag, a symbol of untouchable and invincible white supremacy, Bree Newsome provides a powerful witness for us today to be inspired by and build on the legacy left to us by those who came before us. Grounded in the belief that individuals and groups united in action can create a better world, she calls us to *Learn the Past, Be the Present, and Create the Future®* together.

Saturday, April 16, 2016 - 8:30am-7:00pm

Workshops, Vendors, Exhibits, and more -

8:30am --- Registration Opens (*Buchman Pavilion, Russell Sage College - 65 First St., Troy*)

8:45am --- Pre-conference program & buffet breakfast

9:45am --- Welcome and Keynote

Keynote: The Underground Railroad in Colonial and Revolutionary NY: Redefining the Passage to Freedom -
Graham Russell Gao Hodges, PhD, is the George Dorland Langdon, Jr. Professor of History & Africana Studies, Colgate University

10:45am --- Breakout Session 1

12:20pm --- Cultural Performance

12:45pm --- Lunch, Vendors, Exhibits, Conversation (*Lunch at St. John's Episcopal Church - 146 First St., Troy*)

2:15pm --- Breakout Session 2

3:30pm --- Breakout Session 3

4:45pm --- Litany of Remembrance

5:30pm --- Art Exhibit and Reception (*Rensselaer County Historical Society - 57 Second St., Troy*)

Sunday, April 17, 2016 - 1:00pm-4:00pm

African-American-Dutch Heritage Tour - Mapping the History of Slavery and African Heritage in the Hudson River Valley - Capital Region bus tour begins and ends at The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence – 194 Livingston Avenue, Albany, NY 12210

Friday, April 15, 2016

Educators' Workshop - 8:30am-3:00pm

Racism in America: Where Do We Go From Here?

Guest Facilitators: Alan Singer, PhD, Hofstra University, and April Francis, Lawrence Road Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Uniondale, NY

Ferguson, Missouri; Staten Island, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; North Charleston, South Carolina; McKinney, Texas and the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Why does racism continue in America 150 years after the end of slavery in the United States and more than fifty years after the March on Washington? We need to consider the question asked by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1967, "Where do we go from here?"

This is an interactive workshop geared for the needs of educators, but open to anyone interested in the topic.



Alan Singer, PhD, Professor of Secondary Education, and Director of Social Studies Education, Hofstra University, is a former New York City high school social studies teacher and is editor of *Social Science Docket*. He is the author of *Education Flashpoints* (Routledge, 2014), *Teaching to Learn, Learning to Teach* (Routledge, 2014), *Teaching Global History* (Routledge, 2011), *New York and Slavery: Time to Teach the Truth* (SUNY Press, 2008), *Social Studies for Secondary Schools* (Routledge, 3rd edition, 2008), and editor of a 268-page secondary school curriculum guide, *New York and Slavery: Complicity and Resistance*.



April Francis has been teaching Social Studies within the Uniondale, NY School District for over ten years. She served on the NYS Teacher Collaborative Council (TCC) on reviewing and piloting the Social Studies Toolkit project. She recently was highlighted in the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), *Social Education Journal*, as a 'model teacher'. April has worked with numerous cooperating teachers from various NY Universities, and has presented an array of professional development workshops. She served on the Hofstra University research team, with Dr. Alan Singer, that developed the "New York State and Slavery: Complicity and Resistance" curriculum guide. She is a member of the New York State Council for the Social Studies (NYSCSS), for which she serves as the Cultural Education Committee Chair.

Workshop will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 146 First St., Troy, NY 12180

Registration 8:30am - 9:00am - Morning Refreshments, Lunch, and Afternoon Refreshments are included

Attendance certificates will be available for teachers needing verification of attendance

Professional Development & In-Service Credit will be available through Esteves School of Education of The Sage Colleges

Opening Address - 7:00pm-8:00pm



No Place for Confederate Symbols: The Flag Must Come Down!

- a conversation with Bree Newsome -

Guest Speaker: Bree Newsome, human rights activist

Bree Newsome provides a powerful witness in relation to issues of racial injustice and shares a message of unity, organization and community. Her groundedness in her community and history provides a refreshing approach to the challenges of the problems of today. She brings a deep sense of social justice, commitment to collaboration between the races, a fresh view of history and a passion for direct non-violent action to press the cause of social justice.



Bree Newsome is a staunch advocate for human rights and social justice. Newsome was arrested June 27, 2015 for scaling the flagpole outside the Columbia, SC statehouse and removing the confederate flag. She continues to work on a variety of fronts as a civil rights advocate. She is a youth organizer in North Carolina, serving in the capacity of Western Field Organizer for the youth-led organization Ignite NC. As well, she is a writer, director, producer, singer, songwriter, consultant, and speaker. More information is available at www.breenewsome.com.

Opening Address will be held in Bush Memorial, Russell Sage College, 65 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Pre-conference Program and Breakfast Buffet - 8:45am-9:30am



Hutchinson's (Contemporary) Cousins

Paul Stewart, Scholar in Residence at Russell Sage College, Public Historian,
and Co-founder of Underground Railroad History Project
with Ruth Kastner, Michelle Fon Ann Lee, Heather Hewitt, and Deborah Spence

Based on the Hutchinson Family Singers, a 19th century singing group that sang at anti-slavery rallies and meetings, the Hutchinson's (Contemporary) Cousins bring anti-slavery songs to the annual conference breakfast for the listening enjoyment of conference goers!

Program and Breakfast will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 146 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

Welcome and Keynote - 9:45am-10:30am



The Underground Railroad in Colonial and Revolutionary NY: Redefining the Passage to Freedom

Graham Russell Gao Hodges, PhD, Colgate University

The history of the Underground Railroad is undergoing substantial revision in recent years. New studies by Eric Foner, David Smith, Keith Griffler, Matthew Clavin, Cheryl LaRoche, and Graham Hodges have redefined the geography of the Underground Railroad. This talk extends the temporal dimensions of the UGRR backwards into colonial and revolutionary New York. Doing so greatly enlarges the scope and impact of the UGRR by incorporating interracialism and armed conflict. The intended result will be to transform the UGRR into the major flow of North American History.

Graham Russell Gao Hodges is the George Dorland Langdon, Jr. Professor of History and Africana Studies at Colgate University. He is the author of many books including *David Ruggles: A Radical Black Abolitionist and the Underground Railroad in New York City* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010). He has directed five National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars for Schoolteachers on Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad, and will direct his sixth in 2016.

Welcome and Keynote will be held in Bush Memorial, Russell Sage College, 65 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180

Breakout Session 1 - 10:45am-12:15pm

While some presentations are better suited to a particular age group, all workshops are open to all conference participants

The following designations are used to indicate age & interest appropriateness -

(A) adults, older students (MS+) middle school and high school (M) multiage, including young children with an adult

1.1) *Escape to the Promised Land: Freedom Seekers Adopting & Adapting to Life in Canada - Past to Present* (A)/(MS+)

Darryl Omar Freeman, PhD, California State University, Sacramento

Through an interactive format, explore with Dr. Freeman the evolution of experiences of Freedom Seekers who, initially welcomed by Canadian Native people and other citizens of Canada, found themselves impacted by a competitive paranoia and public policy that has impacted the Canadian African diaspora into today.

1.2) *Pivotal Events in the Long Struggle for Freedom* (A) Paul Murray, PhD, Siena College with Siena College Students

A panel of six First Year Seminar students will present projects they created to document pivotal events in the long struggle for equality. Student work is based on their research of a self-selected pivotal event in the struggle for equity and justice in the United States.

1.3) *The Effect a Slave Catcher and His Community Had on the Lives of African Americans Along the Mason Dixon Line* (A) (MS+) Milt Diggins, Independent Scholar, Historian, Author

Join with Milt Diggins in his investigation of slave catcher Thomas McCreary's effect on the lives of those whom he abducted and those who knew of his deeds. How did communities respond to the abduction of a Black neighbor? How did African Americans, antislavery and proslavery journalists, and abolitionists, view McCreary's reputation and its impact?

1.4) Interracial Efforts for Equity

a) The Significance of Community in UGRR Operations (A)(MS+) Norm K. Dann, PhD, Peterboro Resident, Member of The Cabinet of Freedom of the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum

During this workshop, Norm Dann will review the unique history of racially integrated Peterboro, NY during the Reform Era and offer a speculative view of this history's influence on continuing concerns for the achievement of human equality.

b) Quakers and the UGRR in Southwest Michigan (A)(MS+) Brenda & William Beadenkopf

Staunch Quaker abolitionists living in Cassopolis, Michigan formed an extremely successful, interracial Underground Railroad community in the midst of a nation that embraced the institution of slavery. While other interracial communities were driven or burned out, Cassopolis survives to this day. Hear the story about this anti-slavery community that defied the odds.

1.5) Transformative Ways to Preserve History

a) Untitled Love: A Graphic Novel Approach to Preserving History (A)(MS+) Marcus Kwame Anderson, Artist

Marcus Anderson will facilitate a conversation about the process of creating graphic novels, centering around the story *Untitled Love*, a tale that spans the time between the middle passage and present day.

b) Mapping Slavery Project and the Afro-Dutch Experience in the Hudson Valley (A)(MS+) Jennifer Tosch, Founder, Black Heritage Amsterdam Tours

Dutch colonial control in NYS was short lived, but its legacy was far reaching. Jennifer Tosch invites you to join with her in creating a future by exploring our shared past as you travel on a virtual tour that investigates New York's AfroDutch history and its relationship with us today.

1.6) Stories Needing to be Told

a) Caste, Kith and Kin: the Highgate Family - Black Abolitionists Among Fugitives and Freedmen (A)(MS+) John Sacca, PhD, The Esteves School of Education

The compelling story of the Highgate family is replete with plot twists, terrorism, work with the Freedmen's Bureau, and more. The context of the Highgates' story is found in the caste status imposed upon African Americans, their tight-knit community, and a remarkably strong and determined family. Hear a story from the past that inspires us today.

b) Alani - Stephen D. Allen: from Schenectady to Hawaii (A)(MS+) Donald Hyman, Professor, College of St. Rose

This interactive workshop will introduce you to the extraordinary Stephen D. Allen who escaped enslavement in Schenectady, NY and traveled the world as a sailor, made his way to Hawaii, and became a wealthy farmer and businessman. Learn about this man's inspirational success story!

Breakout Session 2 - 2:15pm-3:15pm

2.1) SharpMinds Competition (MS+)(A) Julia Holcomb, Schenectady High School Educator & competing high school teams

Who will be the winners in the first round? In a College Bowl style quiz show format, two pairs of teams, each composed of four high school students, will test their knowledge of the topics of slavery in the United States and Underground Railroad history. Test your own knowledge as questions are posed to the competitors. The two winning teams in this round will proceed to a final round during Breakout Session 3.

2.2) History Mystery - play it again! (M) Young Abolitionists, Facilitators

This online game, able to be played by individuals and teams, challenges Underground Railroad history knowledge and powers of deduction. Can you, or you and your teammates, find all the answers to complete the ten questions in the Detective Notebook, then properly unscramble the selected letters so as to find the keys that are held by Rev. James Beulah and unlock the mystery?

2.3) The Response of the Residents of West Nottingham Township, PA, to the Kidnapping of the Parker Sisters - Then and Now (A)(MS+) Milt Diggins, Independent Scholar, Historian, Author

In December 1851, in West Nottingham Township, PA, teenager Rachel Parker was confronted with her kidnapping by famed kidnapper Thomas McCreary. Afraid of being taken to the slave market in Baltimore, where she would be out of reach of Township abolitionists, her fate hung in the balance. What was the outcome, and how is it related to this PA community today?

2.4) The Trial of Horatio Hough (M) Stephen Farina, PhD, Clarkson University

A farmer and resolute abolitionist in rural upstate New York, Horatio Hough defied the status quo of his church, his community, and a nation under slavery in 1840's America. Explore Horatio Hough's story as portrayed in a 40 minute video that documents the search for Hough's story, the remnants of its physical evidence, and its meaning for the present day community.

2.5) *The Tale of Two Counties: Westchester and Dutchess Counties, NY in Pursuit of Freedom* (A) Edythe Ann Quinn, PhD, Hartwick College, and Members of the Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project

Neighboring counties in the lower Hudson Valley of NYS are on opposite sides of the abolition issue. How did this play out in the antebellum period, and what are its effects today?

2.6) *Teaching Uncle Tom's Cabin with the C3 Social Studies Framework* (A)(MS+) April Francis, Educator, Lawrence Road Middle School

College, Career, and Civic Life are the three C's that inform Social Studies curriculum decisions in NYS. Whether a parent, a student, an educator, or a concerned citizen, join with April Francis to interact with and learn from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in new, enriching ways that can be brought into any educational setting.

2.7) *The NYS Manumission Law of 1817: By Which All Slaves Were Not Freed on July 4, 1827 - Time to Tell the Truth* (A)(MS+) Pamela L. Poulin, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Professor Emerita

This interactive workshop will investigate the realities of the NYS Manumission Law of 1817 in relationship to Sojourner Truth's life experiences. Come prepared to listen, sing, discuss, and be enriched.

Breakout Session 3 - 3:30pm-4:30pm

3.1) *SharpMinds - Final Round* (MS+)(A) Julia Holcomb, Schenectady High School Educator & competing high school teams
Join in the final round of this high school competition as the first round winning teams compete for the Grand Winner title.

3.2) *African Drumming: the Million Women Drummers, Albany Branch* (M) Marsha Lazarus & Albany Chapter Members
You are invited to join these students of African Drumming to have fun, learn three basic Djembe techniques, and learn several West African rhythms. Included will be a short discussion of Congo Square, a neighborhood in New Orleans, which is famous for the history of African American music. Experience the power of the drum!

3.3) *"Of the Dawn of Freedom" - the problem of the color line* (A) MaryNell Morgan, PhD, Empire State College
In his second essay in *The Souls of Black Folks*, Dr. DuBois presents a study of "...the period of history from 1861-1872 as it relates to the American Negro." He begins and ends this essay with "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line." In between, he explains the reasons behind the War Between the States; the Contraband; and the Freedmen's Bureau. Join MaryNell Morgan in an investigation of this essay and its relevance for us today.

3.4) *Lott Cary and His Forgotten Legacy of African-American Freedom* (A)(MS+) Eric M. Washington, PhD, Calvin College
Born into enslavement in Charles City County, VA ca. 1780, Cary was able to purchase his freedom in 1813. Believing that, to be truly free citizens, African Americans needed to emigrate to Africa, Cary became an advocate of colonization. Through an interactive format, engage with the historic documents that articulate Cary's beliefs. How did his beliefs compare with those who opposed colonization? What is the relationship of Cary's beliefs with us today?

3.5) *Disability and Slavery in the Antebellum South* (A) Ellen Wertlieb, PhD, Schenectady County Community College
Explore the treatment of those who were enslaved and lived with disabilities in light of such key mediators as economics, social-political factors, and scientific racism. Case examples that highlight attitudes and treatment are taken from slave narratives, antebellum period documents, as well as contemporary research articles and books.

3.6) *Abolitionists, Freedom Seekers and the Coming of the Civil War: Why Some Social Movements Precipitate Change* (MS+)(A) Alan Singer, PhD, Hofstra University

Between 1831 and 1850, when William Lloyd Garrison issued his challenge to slavery in the South and to northern complicity in *The Liberator*, the abolitionist movement was on the political margins in the United States. Then, from 1851 until 1859 its challenge to slavery shook the country, precipitating Civil War and emancipation. What caused the change?

3.7) *Navigating Freedom: Waterways of the Underground Railroad - the Dismal Swamp, Tidewater Virginia and Coastal North Carolina* (MS+)(A) Renee Elizabeth Neely, Archivist and Independent Scholar, Brown University

Desirous of thought provoking discussion in order to develop this topic, Renee Neely will present her in-progress archival studies about the Great Dismal Swamp as a pathway to freedom through labor, escape, and refuge as seen in the life of Captain Moses Grandy (ca. 1790-ca. 1840). Join in the conversation and contribute to further exploration of this under-documented subject.

Professional Development and In-Service Credit will be available through Esteves School of Education of The Sage Colleges

Litany of Remembrance - 4:45pm-5:00pm

Join with us in honoring the courage and fortitude of those who escaped their enslavement as we remember their names, their stories, their voices. Join with us in honoring the courage and fortitude of those whose lives ended in bondage but whose spirits live on in our remembrance.

Litany of Remembrance will be held in Bush Memorial at Russell Sage College, 65 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

Art Exhibit, Reception, and Raffle - 5:30pm-7:00pm

In Diversity is Richness: the Strength, Faith, and Hope of a People



Marcus Kwame Anderson -

“I love to create art of various kinds. Much of my art is a representation of the beauty and diversity of the African Diaspora. I believe that the arts can be a powerful vehicle for change and I often incorporate social commentary into my work. One of my goals is to spark thought and conversation. I have a lot to say and art is my favorite form of communication.”



Daesha Devón Harris - “The thought of “home” has always been a comfort and an inspiration to me; the concept, the people, the places, and especially the history. Through my artwork I strive to promote a sincere understanding of the contemporary and historic contributions of people of color, highlighting the belief that “there is no single Black America, but a multitude of diversity and richness.” With insight, compassion and protectiveness I endeavor to capture the “life” that continues to evolve amidst struggle and success. And with ardent respect for a profound past, I challenge the viewer to consider the complexity of issues facing communities of color. Influenced by the unique dynamic that is specific to the changing seasons of my East coast home, I use the people and/or places of my extended community to illustrate the strength, faith and hope of a people.”

Art Exhibit, Reception, and Raffle will be held at Rensselaer County Historical Society, 57 Second Street, Troy, NY 12180

Sunday, April 17, 2016

African-American-Dutch Heritage Tour - Mapping the History of Slavery & African Heritage in the Hudson River Valley



Capital Region Bus Tour - 1:00pm-4:00pm

Whether you are a descendant of a formerly enslaved person, an educator, a visitor, or just someone interested in the topic, this tour is for everyone wanting to learn more about the contributions of the AfroDutch residents who made the Hudson River Valley their home under Dutch colonial rule. This tour, led by Jennifer Tosch, founder of Black Heritage Amsterdam Tours, will focus on the Capital Region.

Mapping Slavery was initiated at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in 2013. *The Amsterdam Slavery Heritage Guide* was published in 2014, and includes researched information relating to several cities in the Netherlands. The Mapping Slavery project has been expanded to include AfroDutch heritage in New York’s Hudson River Valley. Be among the first to participate in this enriching experience.



The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence

***Bus tour begins and ends at The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence
194 Livingston Avenue, Albany, NY 12210***

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