

RELEASE DATE: February 3, 2020

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; Black (Male) Suffrage

Peterboro Heritage NY sites announce Black History programs for 2020 on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which was ratified February 3, 1870 stating *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,*

The first Peterboro Freedom Festival will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 1 – 7 p.m. on the grounds of the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark (GSENLH). Featured musicians are Arthur Flowers, Vance Gilbert, Reggie Harris, Patty Larkin, and Karen Savoca and Peter Heitzman.

The Gerrit Smith Estate was an Underground Railroad site and is on the national, state, and county Underground Railroad trails, was a site of a 19<sup>th</sup> C. school for black males, and was a place for black reformers such as Frederick Douglass, Henry Highland Garnet, Jermain Loguen, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Samuel Ringgold Ward to visit and/or live to receive support from abolitionist Gerrit Smith.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterboro Emancipation Day will be held at the Gerrit Smith Estate on Saturday, August 1, 2020. After the ten o'clock rituals of assembly, announcements, singing, photos, and updates, the annual processional will begin to the cemetery to lay wreaths on graves of African-Americans who had been enslaved. Along the way the procession will stop at the Peterboro Veterans' Memorial to recognize people of color who served their country. At 1:30 pm Susan Goodier PhD, SUNY Oneonta, will share her research and publications on *Black Suffragists: Race in the Women's Movement*. At 2:30 John R. McKivigan PhD, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, and Frederick Douglass Institute, will present the *Influence of Peterboro on Frederick Douglass* and facilitate a discussion on the relevance of Douglass' ideals to modern day Events. At 3:30 Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs and the U.S. Pluralism Center at Hartwick College, will speak on the *United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research*. Following the afternoon programs, Gerrit Smith biographer Norman K. Dann PhD, will lead a Harriet Tubman walk around the Gerrit Smith Estate. A discussion on the movie HARRIET will be offered in the evening.

The keynote speaker for the Elizabeth Smith Miller Bloomer Tea on Saturday, September 26 at the Smithfield Community Center will be Leigh Fought PhD, Lemoyne College Department of History, speaking on her prize-winning book *Women in the World of Frederick Douglass*.

On September 27 the Smithfield Community Association will launch the Celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Smithfield Community Center, the location of the inaugural meeting of the New York State Antislavery Society in 1835. The building is also on the state Underground Railroad Trail.

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum will induct three 19<sup>th</sup> Century antislavery activists: Robert Everett, Calvin Fairbank, and Stephen Myers. All three abolitionists took great risks to fight against slavery. Myers of Albany was a black activist who organized publications, conventions, campaigns, and military recruitments. He and his wife Harriet operated a busy Underground Railroad site.

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum will host the annual Watch Night with a commemoration of the *Emancipation Proclamation* issued by President Lincoln January 1, 1863.

The Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm from June 6 to August 30, 2020. The National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1-5 pm from May 23 to August 20, 2020. Both sites are also open for special events and group tours by reservation.

For information and updates: 315-280-8828, [info@gerritsmith.org](mailto:info@gerritsmith.org), [nahofm1835@gmail.com](mailto:nahofm1835@gmail.com), [www.PeterboroNY.org](http://www.PeterboroNY.org), [nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org](http://nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org)



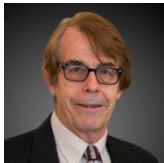
The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterboro Emancipation Day will be held at the Gerrit Smith Estate on Saturday, August 1, 2020. An Underground Railroad exhibit at the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark in Peterboro with visitors at the 2019 Emancipation Day.



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