

Calvin Fairbank To Be Inducted to Abolition Hall of Fame

Rev. Calvin Cornelius Fairbank will be inducted to the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum in Peterboro NY on Saturday, October 22, 2022. The Fairbank Family in America, with its headquarters in Dedham MA, nominated their ancestor. Fairbank was born November 3, 1816 in Pike NY. Calvin began his academic studies at Seminary in Lima NY. He became a licensed preacher in 1840, and was ordained an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1842. He graduated from Oberlin College OH in 1844. Fairbank was a staunch abolitionist, not only speaking out against slavery, but actively working to free as many enslaved people as he could. In his words:

Forty-seven slaves I guided toward the North Star, in violation of the state codes of Kentucky and Virginia. I piloted them through the forests, mostly by night, - girls fair and white, dressed as ladies; men and boys, as gentlemen or servants - men in women's clothes, and women in men's clothes; on horseback, in buggies, in carriages, common wagons, in and under loads of hay, straw, old furniture, boxes and bags; crossed the Jordan of the slave, swimming, or wading chin deep, or in boats, or skiffs, on rafts, and often on a pine log. And I never allowed one to be recaptured. For aiding these slaves to escape from their bondage, I was twice imprisoned, - in all seventeen years and four months; and received... thirty-five thousand, one hundred and five stripes from a leather strap...

At 2:30 pm on Saturday, October 22, for the afternoon Abolition Symposia, Lynn Fairbank, great-great-granddaughter of Calvin Fairbank, will present *Rev. Calvin Fairbank – How He “Fought the Good Fight” to Prepare “The Way”*. Born in New Jersey, Lynn has spent the majority of her life in CN and MA with brief stints in OH and The Netherlands. She attended Boston University, graduated with a BA in History from Ohio University, and received a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH in 1979. The remainder of her professional career has been spent in hospitals and medical practices in the Boston area. In June 2020, she retired from Boston Medical Center, and now spends her time at her c.1813 home. She has also been active for years in the Dedham Historical Society, the Historic District Commission for the Town of Dedham, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

At 12 pm on Saturday, October 22, Justin Schlesinger, the great, great, great grandson of Calvin Fairbank, will present *The Old House Under the Elms-The Fairbank House*. Born in Dedham, MA, Schlesinger has spent most of his life in the Bay State, with a brief stint in CN and in VA for his undergraduate in Business Administration and Marketing. Justin's professional career has centered around both retail management and commercial furniture project management. Besides music, Justin's largest passion has been history, beginning with his involvement in the Fairbank House Museum. With Justin's mother, Lynn Fairbank, being heavily involved with the Fairbank museum, he volunteered throughout his childhood in many capacities. In 2011, Justin joined the Board of Directors at the Fairbank House and in 2015, became the Vice President of the organization. Justin currently lives on the Fairbank Museum property.

At 7 pm Saturday night the official inductions and the unveiling of Hall of Fame banners for Fairbank, Robert Everett, and Stephen Myers will take place. The National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 5255 Pleasant Valley Road, Peterboro NY 13134. The Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark is located at 5304 Oxbow Road, Peterboro NY 13134 and its exterior exhibits are open dawn to dusk. The public is encouraged to participate in any or all of the induction activities. Sponsorships of a banner to support an inductee are due August 1. Registration for the weekend events and the 19th C. Dinner are due September 1st. Registration forms, descriptions of Induction Weekend Activities, and updated information are available at www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org, nahofm1835@gmail.com, 315-684-3262.



Calvin Fairbank by artist Melissa Moshetti 2020