

## **Rev. Robert Everett Inducted to Abolition Hall of Fame**

Rev. Robert Everett, will be inducted into the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum during Induction Weekend October 21-23, 2022 in Peterboro NY. Robert Everett (1791-1875) was a Welsh born American preacher who, at great personal sacrifice and risk, promoted both the anti-slavery and equality causes upon his arrival from Wales in 1823. He began preaching against slavery in Utica, NY at what is now the Plymouth Bethesda Church and later in the Remsen-Steuben area at Capel Ucha and Capel Penymynydd. He persevered in the cause despite physical attacks while preaching, injury to his horse, and the loss of his home by arson. Starting in 1840, he published a monthly newsletter, *Y Cenhadwr Americanaidd*, spreading the anti-slavery message to Welsh communities throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and India. He encouraged Welsh-American citizenship and support of the abolition movement through political action within the new Liberty and Republican parties. He came to believe in and encourage the notion that the Civil War was a moral crusade resulting in nearly exclusive participation in the Union cause by Welsh immigrants and their first- and second-generation descendants. Everett's writing aided in mobilizing European public opinion in support of the Union cause. Everett and his family were involved in the Underground Railroad. His sons attended the integrated Oneida Institute at Whitesboro NY. One son was with John Brown in Kansas. His daughters were teachers in integrated schools and after the war aided freed slaves. Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe considered him a strong voice in the abolitionist movement and allowed him to translate and publish their works into Welsh. Robert Everett believed and preached that "slaveholding was a sin and that a slave was a man for whom Christ, out Lord died." He is buried in Steuben Capel Ucha cemetery.

Everett's induction, along with the inductions of Calvin Fairbank and Stephen Myers, was postponed twice due to the corona virus. Rev. Everett was nominated by a group dedicated to his legacy: St. David's Society of Utica, Oneida County History Center, Remsen-Steuben Historical Society, Welsh North American Association, Professor E. Wyn James, and Ted Engle. The nominators will facilitate a *Musical Tribute to Rev. Robert Everett* with Welsh music and Everett poetry readings on Friday October 21 at 7 pm.

On Saturday morning October 22 at 10 o'clock there will be a guided tour of the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark. At 11 o'clock the Hall of Fame and Museum will open, followed at 12:30 by the Annual Meeting of Members of NAHOF.

The Abolition Symposia begins at 1:30 pm with a presentation on Everett, followed by the Calvin Fairbank inductee presentation at 2:30 pm, and Stephen Myers inductee presentation at 3:30 pm. Everett's symposium will be presented by Professor E. Wyn James and Jerry Hunter PhD by video.

E. Wyn James is a Professor in the School of Welsh at Cardiff University, where he specializes in Welsh literature of the modern period. His research focuses primarily on areas relating to religion, identity, folk culture, gender studies and book history. James is an authority on the hymn, the broadside ballad, and the literature of evangelicalism. Professor James was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge in 2004. In 2012 he was a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University and in 2013 he was a Research Fellow of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York. James is co-Director of the Cardiff Centre for Welsh American Studies, where he has a special research interest in the anti-slavery movement.

Jerry Hunter PhD studied at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Harvard University. He was a lecturer at Harvard University and Cardiff University before going to Bangor University in UK in 2003. The fields of his research are varied and he has published about Welsh-language literature – from the Middle Ages to contemporary literature. At present he is working on Welsh literature and hopes to build on the foundations outlined in a recent publication *The Red Sword, the Sickle and the Author's Revenge: Welsh Literature and Conflict in the Seventeenth Century*. Dr. Hunter has published five novels and a short novel for children. He has also presented and co-scripted three documentary series.

At 5 pm the Peterboro United Methodist Church will serve a 19<sup>th</sup> C. Antislavery Box Dinner planned early in the year to be prepared in case of corona virus spikes.

At 7 pm the nominators of the inductees will publicly nominate each inductee with seconds accepted from the banner sponsors. Upon voting approval from the audience, the Hall of Fame Banners will be unveiled for each new inductee.

Sunday morning October 23 at 7:30 am at the Canaltown Museum in Canastota, registration for the *Abolitionist Freedom Walk* will open. At 8:30 the landing of 104 delegates driven out of Utica October 21, 1835 for attempting to establish the New York State Antislavery Society will be reenacted and an interpretive sign in honor of those abolitionists will be unveiled. The Freedom Walk will commence at 9:00 with a 10:30 re-enactment and sign unveiling in Clockville to present the activities of the abolitionists along the way to Peterboro. This inaugural short walk will return to Canastota with plans for a complete 2023 nine mile walk all the way to Peterboro. At 1:00, back in Peterboro, a re-enactment and a sign describing the October 22, 1835 arrival of the NYS Antislavery Society delegates in Peterboro will be presented, and the public will be invited to the free reception directly following, to commemorate the 187<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. The Abolitionist Freedom Walk is supported by the Erie Canalway IMPACT! Grant Program. [www.AbolitionRoad.org](http://www.AbolitionRoad.org)

At 1:30 pm Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Stephen Myers' role in the Florence Farming and Lumber Community / Association located in Oneida County will be explained, and at 2:30 pm the descendants of Calvin Fairbank will describe the Fairbank Home and Museum in Connecticut.

The Abolition Hall of Fame Inductions are held on the weekend closest to the anniversary date of the inaugural meeting of the New York State Antislavery Society held in Peterboro October 22, 1835.

The public is encouraged to participate in any or all of the activities and to check the website for updates. Sponsorships of a banner to support an inductee are due September 1. Registration for the weekend events and the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Dinner are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration forms and updated information are available at [nahofm1835@gmail.com](mailto:nahofm1835@gmail.com), 315-684-3262 [www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org](http://www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org),

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.



Rev. Robert Everett to be inducted October 21 – 23, 2022 to the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum in Peterboro NY.



James, E. Wyn Nominator and presenter on Rev. Robert Everett for the Induction at the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum October 21-23.



Hunter, Jerry Nominator and presenter on Rev. Robert Everett for the Induction at the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum October 21-23.



Rev. Everett preached at the Capel Ucha church and is buried in that Steuben cemetery.



Rev. Robert Everett's gravestone at Steuben Capel Ucha cemetery.