

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solomon Northup Day

The 15th annual **Solomon Northup Day: A Celebration of Freedom** will be held on Saturday, July 20th from noon to 4 pm at Filene Hall, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Solomon Northup Day was founded in 1999 by Renee Moore to honor and to bring awareness to the life of **Solomon Northup**, a freeborn Black man who was kidnapped into slavery in 1841 and who wrote a best selling book about his experiences, **Twelve Years A Slave**, in 1853. The first film on Mr. Northup's life was accomplished by noted photographer, Gordon Parks in 1984, starring actor Avery Brooks.

Solomon Northup Day has been recognized by the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Network to Freedom project, the Library of Congress' Local Legacies project as well as selected for inclusion with a traveling exhibition project by the Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

[See: http://www.nps.gov/subjects/ugrr/ntf_member/ntf_member_details.htm?SPFID=12413 & <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/NY/200003387.html>]

More than forty descendants of Solomon Northup and his wife, Ann Hampton Northup, will attend to present poetry and information about their family heritage. Northup's 5th generation granddaughter will play a violin solo in his honor.

Don Papson, founder of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association and the North Star Underground Railroad Museum in Ausable Chasm, NY will present new research on Mr. Northup's life. Paul Stewart of the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region will speak on American history and the times in which Mr. Northup lived. Tonya Hopkins, a culinary historian, will speak to the life of Ann Hampton Northup, who worked as a professional cook and caterer.

Northup's autobiography is being made into a full length feature film, **12 YEARS A SLAVE**, produced by Brad Pitt, directed by Steve McQueen and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Alfre Woodard and others now scheduled for release in October 2013. We are pleased to announce that there will be a special sneak preview of scenes from the film at this year's Solomon Northup Day.

Descendants will hear selections from the **audiobook by Frank Eakin and Lou Gossett, Jr.** and Lloyd Stewart will present excerpts from his latest book, **The Great Migration** as well as Classical guitarist, John Charles Cook and local fiddlers Frank Orsini and Dan Hubbs will perform. A reception with food and beverages will be part of the event. Solomon Northup Day is open to the public.

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