



UNLOCKING THE SECRETS

Sunday, Aug. 10, Peru Free Library

PERU, NY -- August 1, 2014 -- Uncovering the facts about a secret effort to help thousands of people escape the terror of slavery was no easy task. Tom Calarco explains how he unlocked the secrets of the North Country, on Sunday, August 10, at the Peru Free Library, 5 p.m.

Because of its clandestine nature, much of the history of the Underground Railroad remains shrouded in secrecy—so much so that some historians have even doubted its importance. After decades of research, Tom Calarco recounts his experiences compiling evidence to give credence to the legend's oral history in upstate New York.

Calarco's appearance is sponsored by the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association, which continues to expand awareness of this important story through the North Star Underground Railroad Museum in Ausable Chasm.

Calarco will be discussing his new book, "The Search for the Underground Railroad in Upstate New York." He has published more than 30 articles, spoken at national conferences, and authored the acclaimed "The Underground Railroad in the Adirondack Region."

As the Civil War loomed and politicians from the North and South debated the fate of slavery, brave New Yorkers risked their lives to help fugitive slaves escape bondage. Whites and blacks alike worked together on the Underground Railroad, using ingenious methods of communication and tactics to stay ahead of the slave master and bounty hunter. Especially after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, conscientious residents doubled their efforts to help runaways reach Canada. Join Calarco on this voyage of discovery of one of the noblest endeavors in American history.

The program is free and open to the public. The Peru Free Library is at 3024 Main St., Rt. 22. For more information, call 518-834-5180, or visit www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com.

Calarco has also teamed up with North Star Museum founder Don Papson on a related book to be published later this fall, "Secret Lives of the Underground Railroad in NYC: Sydney Howard Gay, Louis Napoleon, and the *Record of Fugitives*."

-30-

Media contact:

Peter Slocum, 518-708-5607. pslocum47@gmail.com

North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association