



## Traveling Exhibit "Journey to the North; New York's Freedom Trail"



*Exhibit Opening - Friday, February 2, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM*

*(First Friday Gallery Night)*

*at The History Center in Tompkins County*

*401 East State / East MLK Street, Suite 100 Ithaca, NY 14850*

For more information, contact:  
Community@TheHistoryCenter.net  
The History Center in Tompkins County

February 1, 2017

ITHACA – In conjunction with Black History Month, The History Center has brought a traveling exhibit "Journey to the North; New York's Freedom Trail." After its opening on Friday, February 2, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the exhibit will be open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, through the end of March, 2018.

"Journey to the North" is a six-panel traveling exhibit about the Underground Railroad. This exhibit uses the story of one fictitious character to convey the real events experienced by many freedom seekers (escaped slaves) during their journey to freedom. Much of the narrative is told from the point of view of Sarah, a fifteen - year old fictional escaped slave. As visitors read the text they are challenged to imagine themselves in her situation and faced with her decisions.

This exhibition was developed for the New York State Historical Association by the Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies. Generous support for the exhibition came from the New York Council for the Humanities and Heritage New York. This exhibit is owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The idea to bring this Underground Railroad Exhibit here was seeded during a conversation among Leslyn McBean-Claiborne (Greater Ithaca Activities Center), Rod Howe (The History Center) and Nydia Blas (Southside Community Center) as they met to discuss Black History Month collaboration opportunities. Financial support for this opportunity was provided by the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, Friends Center for Racial Justice and the First Baptist Church of Ithaca.

#### **About The History Center in Tompkins County**

The History Center in Tompkins County helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future. In order to accomplish this mission:

- we preserve and encourage access to The History Center's unique collections;
- seek out the diverse needs and interests of our community;
- design learning experiences and provide services that respond to those needs;
- create opportunities for people to learn about themselves and their place in the world;
- and provide a neutral environment for public discussions that bring historical perspective to current issues.

**For more information, including hours and contact info, please visit**  
[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)