11:00 a.m.  Presentation Seven: Documenting the Transnational Reality of the Clark-Park-Whilby Roots in Jamaica, United States with a Burial in Egypt [Jordan Skeete], American Society of Freedmen’s Descendants Gold Medal Recipient

11:15 a.m.  USCTI Alumni Advisory Council’s Business Session and Presentation to Current Hartwick Students and USCTI Mini Conference Participants

12:15 p.m.  Lunch and Libation Ceremony of the Ancestors

2:00 p.m.  Lift Every Voice: The Freedom Journey of the Upper Susquehanna.

In celebration of the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., a history display will be held in the Celebration Room of the Shineman Chapel House. Rare items will be exhibited from the Pamela L & Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

4:00 p.m.  Free Time

5:00 p.m.  Dinner and Recognitions, Chesebro Room, Dewar Hall

8:00 pm.  Activity TBA, free time

A Local Tribute to the National Museum of African American History and Culture: The USCTI’s Student Mini-Conference and Display October 21-22, 2016

United States Colored Troops Institute Office of Intercultural Affairs Dewar 410, Hartwick College Oneonta, New York 13820
Office of Intercultural Affairs and Experiential Education for Harriet Tubman Mentors

On October 21 and 22, Hartwick College will welcome nearly 50 participants for the annual United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research (USCTI) Student Mini-Conference. The event will honor the National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC), which opened last month in Washington, DC.

The cornerstone of the conference will again be presentations of research by USCTI members who have documented evidence of a military ancestor who was enlisted during any of the conflicts between the Civil War and the Korean War. Further, these ancestors also have been confirmed to have a connection to the African-American Freedom Journey of the 1870s and 1880s. Representatives of these families will be presented the USCTI’s American Society of Freedmen Descendants (ASFD) Gold Medal.

“I am humbled by the growth of the USCTI Mini-Conference, particularly by the level of primary research that students are presenting about their respective family history, as well as local research,” said Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Hartwick College associate dean, director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs, and founding president of the USCTI. “We are also attracting older participants from multiple states who are serving as role models for our students.”

As part of a challenge by the NMAAHC for local organizations to host related events around the country through the remainder of the year, the USCTI will also feature an exhibit supporting the museum’s “Lift Every Voice” theme. The exhibit will highlight the Freedom Journey of early African Americans, including slaves, along the Susquehanna River, as well as prominent figures like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Other weekend highlights will include a presentation shedding new light on the local connection to the Underground Railroad.

“We knew that Oneonta and Otsego County were early, active participants in anti-slavery movement,” Matthews said. “But we have now officially identified an escaped slave, Rev. Alexander Hemsley, who made his way via the Underground Railroad to Otsego County in 1837. Prior to this discovery, we only had information of slaves reaching the area through the Underground Railroad in 1860.”

9:45 a.m. Presentation Three: Stories Behind the Faces: [Linda Williams Dorage], American Society of Freedmen Descendants Gold Medal Recipient.

Ms. Dorage explores the process of researching family history through her online blog: *Vintage Faces of the Catskills*. The blog, which started out as a display of old photographs, wound up being a very personal narrative, one that connects her family's history to that of generations of black Americans living in upstate New York during the 1800s. She reveals two Civil War ancestors. <vintagesfacesupstateny.blogspot.com>

10 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Presentation Four: Is it Possible that My White Ancestor was an Abolitionist? [Rachel Casler], American Society of Freedmen’s Descendants Gold Medal Recipient.

Ms. Casler, 2017, expands the research of her ancestors in Upstate New York and reveals her continuing research to document her connection to the anti-slavery Hamlin Clan. She also shares her family lineage to soldiers of the Civil War, World War I and World War II.

10:30 a.m. Presentation Five: Documenting My South Carolina Roots [Steven Smith], American Society of Freedmen’s Descendants Gold Medal Recipient.

Mr. Smith, 2019, documents his ancestry through the lineage of July Woods of the slavery era and verifies his great grandfather in the Army’s Quartermaster Corps during WWII.


Ms. Anderson, 2017, shares her findings identifying by name her slave ancestor in Halifax, Virginia and tracing her Anderson line to her paternal granduncle’s enlistment in the Navy during World War II. She also shares the role of her maternal white great-grandfather of World War II.
Friday, Oct. 21, 2016

4 - 4:45 p.m. Registration, Office of Intercultural Affairs, 410 Dewar Hall

5:00 p.m. Dinner and Recognition of Founding Members, Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project: Family Researchers, Chesebro, Dewar Hall

6:00 p.m. Preliminary Conversation Regarding the Timeline for Presenters and mini-conference schedule

7:00 p.m. (Optional) TBA

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016

8:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast, Chesebro Room, Dewar Hall

9:00 a.m. Opening Session, Celebration Room, Shineman Chapel House

9:15 a.m. Presentation One: Oneonta and Otsego County’s Place in the Freedom Journey. [Harry Bradshaw Matthews]

Dean Matthews presents the chronological Anti-slavery and Underground Railroad events that verifies Freedom Journey connections to locales of the Upper Susquehanna River.

9:30 a.m. Presentation Two: The Value of Cemeteries in Family Research. [Darlene Colon]. USCTI V.P. & Senior Fellow of the American Society of Freedmen Descendants

Ms. Colon shares the importance of using cemetery records to identify and confirm family connections to ancestors of the 1800s.

Lift Every Voice: The Freedom Journey of the Upper Susquehanna explores the history of local communities along or near the Upper Susquehanna River, a waterway known for Underground Railroad activities. There are also other intriguing discoveries that expand the Freedom Journey from the Revolutionary War period through the Spanish American War.

Included in this booklet are a sampling of the findings compiled since 1993 by Matthews and student researchers of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project and the Buffalo Soldiers Remembrance Group at Hartwick College.

Pictured on Front Cover: “Mama Lucretia and children and her half-sister escaped from Virginia to Oneonta, New York in 1860. The image was commissioned by Harry Bradshaw Matthews.”
Research by Harry Bradshaw Matthews and the Harriet Tubman Mentors

Cooperstown

1799—"In Memory of Scipio, an aged Slave, a native of Africa who died March 27" and is buried in the cemetery at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown.

1815—Joseph “Joe Tom” Thomas Husbands, arrived from Barbadoes with his owner and family, only to be freed. He is buried in the cemetery at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown.

Burlington

1816—Cato Freedom, a Revolutionary War patriot and a man of African birth, relocated from Connecticut to Otsego County to establish a homestead in Burlington for his family. He is buried in Butternut Cemetery.
Middlefield

1819 — Dinah Ann Vincent, a woman of color, was baptized at the First Baptist Society in Middlefield. The document of evidence was provided by the current clerk of the Society, Dorothy Rathbun.

Courtesy: First Baptist Society, Middlefield, NY

Oneonta

1837 — (Rev.) Alexander Hemsley, after escaping from Queen Anne County, MD, settled in Evesham, NJ until 1836. A year later he fled for his life to Otsego County, NY. Here he reunited with his family before continuing his journey to St. Catharines, Canada West.

1838 — Colored American, a newspaper published in New York, identified Otsego County as a safe haven for escaped slaves.
Oneonta

1860—Mama Lucretia and her six children and half-sister escaped to Oneonta from Virginia.

Courtesy: The Matthews Collection

Otego

1864—Oscar Smith of the 26th USCT was residing in Otego at the time of his enlistment in the Union army.

Courtesy: The Matthews Collection


Steward, Austin. Twenty-Two Years A Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman. Rochester: Allings & Cory, 1861.


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**Unadilla**

1865—Private Samuel Jones, a Civil War soldier from California, relocated in 1865 to Unadilla. He is buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

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**Sidney**

1865—Private William Street, a Civil War soldier of the 26th USCT was discharged in 1865; he relocated to Sidney and is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.
Oneonta

1913—Tenth Cavalry of the famed Buffalo Soldiers held encampment in Neahwa Park, Oneonta. During the 100th anniversary of the encampment, a commemorative logo was prepared by Harry Bradshaw Matthews by utilizing the original logo of the Tenth Cavalry.

Hartwick College

1997-98—The United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College was established, with Harry Bradshaw Matthews as the founding president.

The American Society of Freedmen Descendants (ASFD) was established as the sister lineage organization of the USCT Institute during 1998. Sylvia Cooke Martin was the founding president. Today, the ASFD is administered by the USCT Institute.

The Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project was established in 2007 as the student chapter of the USCT Institute to engage undergraduate students in experiential education and primary research. It is today joined by the Buffalo Soldiers Remembrance Group, with both units involved with personal family research.


Giddings, Joshua R. *The Exiles of Florida*. Columbus, OH: Follett, Foster & Co., 1858. (2)


Guthrie, James M. *Camp-Fires of the Afro-American or the Colored Man as a Patriot*. Cincinnati: W.H. Ferguson Co., 1899.


Henson, Josiah. *Father Henson's Story of His Own Life: Truth Stranger than Fiction with introduction by Mrs. H.B. Stowe*. Cleveland: John P. Jewett and Co., 1858.

Isaac Newton Arnold; Born: Nov. 30, 1815, Hartwick, NY; educated at the Hartwick Seminary & Academy; Underground Railroad supporter; lawyer; Congressman; Resolutions led to the 13th Amendment
Baptism of the Eunuch by Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn in 1626. (Reproduction oil painting, 24” wide X 36” long in black frame)


Douglass, Frederick. *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. Cleveland: George M. Rewell & Co., 1885.


The Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics

Thirty-Five Rare Books and Historic Personalities


The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

*Portrait of Juan de Pareja* (b. 1606—d. 1670) – oil painting by Diego Rodriguez de Silva Velazquez, b. 1599 Seville, Spain—d. 1660 Madrid, Spain. (Reproduction 20” wide X 24” long in black frame)

Lincoln, Abraham, (b. 1809 in Hodgenville, Kentucky, d. 1865), painting by George P.A. Healey in 1869 (b. 1813 in Boston, d. 1894). (He began the President’s painting in 1864.)
The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

Grant, Ulysses Simpson (b. 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio, d. 1885) (oil painting 24” wide 36” long in black frame)

Reproduction Painting

The Connoisseurs Arabs Portraits with Art Work, oil painting by Karoly Brocky, Hungarian painter (b. 1807, Temesvár, d. 1855, London) (Reproduction 36” wide X 24” long in black frame)
The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

*A Palace Guard*, an oil painting in 1892 by Austrian painter Ludwig Deutsch, 1855-1935. (Reproduction 20” wide 36” long in black frame)

The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

*Douglass, Frederick* (b. 1818 near town of Easton, Maryland, d. 1895). (Reproduction oil painting 20” wide X 24” long in a black frame)
Reproduction Painting

_Negro Life at the South aka Old Kentucky Home_ by Eastman Johnson (b. 1824 in Maine, d. 1906), oil painting 1859. (Reproduction 30” wide 30” long in black frame)

Reproduction Painting

_Christophe, Henri_ (b. 1767 on island of Grenada, d. 1820), Emperor of Haiti, oil painting in 1816 by Richard Evans (b. 1784 born in England, d. 1871). (Reproduction 20” wide X 24” wide in black frame)
The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

Washington, George, Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Leutze (b. 1816 in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, d. 1868), oil painting in 1851. (Reproduction 50” wide X 38” long in black frame)

Reproduction Painting

A Ride for Liberty, painting by Eastman Johnson in 1862 (b. 1824 in Maine, d. 1906). (Reproduction 24” wide X 20” long in black frame)
The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

*Brown, John* (b. 1800 in Torrington, Connecticut, d. 1859), painting by Ole Peter Hansen Balling (b. 1823 in Oslo, Norway, d. 1906). (Reproduction 20” wide X 24” long in black frame)

The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

*Scott, Dred* (b. 1799 in Southampton County, Virginia, d. 1858) painting by Louis Schultze. He was commissioned by "a group of Negro citizens" and presented to the Missouri Historical Society in 1882 (Reproduction 20” wide X 24” long in black frame)
The Pamela L. and Harry Bradshaw Matthews Collection

Reproduction Painting

Truth, Sojourner (b. Rifton, New York, d. 1883), oil painting by unknown artist. (Reproduction 20” X 24” wide in black frame)

Tubman, Harriet (b. Dorchester County, Maryland, d. 1913). (Color poster 20” wide X 24” long)