

February Colloquium navigates the facts and myths surrounding America's first interracial activist movement

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Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland

For Immediate Release

All events are camera friendly, and principals will be available for interviews.

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Black History Month observed with Underground Railroad colloquium

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*Lancaster, PA (February 5, 2018) – LancasterHistory.org commemorates Black History Month by welcoming Dr. Spencer R. Crew as presenter for its February Regional History Colloquium: **Demystifying the Underground Railroad.***

The Underground Railroad (UGRR) was the first interracial activist movement in the United States. It brought together people of diverse backgrounds and from a variety of regions, including Pennsylvania, in defiance of the institution of slavery. There are many myths which surround its operation. However, it becomes less mysterious upon understanding how it operated, the dangers faced by participants, and its impact upon both the South and the North. As this talk examines the effectiveness of the Underground Railroad, it also will offer insights into its significance as a catalyst for the Civil War.

Dr. Spencer R. Crew is the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History at George Mason University. Before that, he served as President of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio and Director of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. He recently served as a guest curator for one of the permanent history exhibitions at

the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He has an AB from Brown University and a PH.D. from Rutgers University. His most recent publication is *Memories of the Enslaved: Voices from the Slave Narratives*, co-authored with Lonnie Bunch and Clement Price.

Before the lecture, at 3:30pm Assistant Curator Tori Pyle will lead a special tour of LancasterHistory.org's current exhibition: FREEDOM: "to secure the Blessings of Liberty," including artifacts not on display. The tour will focus on the theme of Race and Freedom and give context to the Regional History Colloquium. Advance tickets are required for the tour and can be purchased by visiting www.lancasterhistory.org or calling (717) 392-4633.

The Regional History Colloquium is a series of presentations hosted by LancasterHistory.org throughout the year. Presenters at the Colloquium are esteemed scholars and historians who have published works on historical issues relating to southeastern Pennsylvania and its wider borders.

The colloquium *Demystifying the Underground Railroad* will take place on Thursday, February 22 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory.org, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception will begin at 4pm, followed by the main presentation at 4:30pm. The lecture is free and open to the public. Reservations not required. Ample parking available on-site.

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Image of Dr. Spencer Crew

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