

Author and journalist Jim Remsen to present book "Embattled Freedom" at March free lecture

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

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Lecture to shed light on racial politics and social codes endured by fugitive slaves in PA

Author and journalist Jim Remsen to present book "Embattled Freedom" at March free lecture

Lancaster, PA (February 20, 2019) – On Thursday, March 7, 2019, Jim Remsen will join LancasterHistory to tell a uniquely regional story of bravery, perseverance, and freedom.

Rural Northeastern Pennsylvania was a bucolic farming region in the 1800s—but political tensions churned below the surface. When a group of fugitive slaves settled in the Underground Railroad village of Waverly, near Scranton, before the Civil War, they encountered a mix of support from abolitionists and animosity from white supremacists. Once the war came, 13 of Waverly's black fathers and sons returned south, into the bowels of slavery, to fight for the Union. *Embattled Freedom* lifts these 13 remarkable lives out of the shadows, while also shedding light on the racial politics and social codes they and their people endured in the divided North. The men had found a safe haven in Waverly, but like other people of color in the 1800s and early 1900s, their freedom was uneasy, their battle for respect never-ending.

Jim Remsen is a journalist and author of two prior books, *The Intermarriage Handbook* (HarperCollins, 1988) and *Visions of Teaoga* (Sunbury, 2014). Since retiring as Religion Editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Jim has pursued his keen interest in history, with a

focus on underappreciated aspects of our nation's local histories. Being a native of Waverly, Pa., he is pleased to be bringing his hometown's remarkable African American and Underground Railroad history and heritage to light.

About The Event: The Regional History Colloquium is a series of lectures and presentations hosted by LancasterHistory throughout the year. Presenters at the Colloquium are historians and scholars who are in the midst of a work-in-progress or who have recently completed a publication. Topics focus on historical issues relating to southeastern Pennsylvania and its wider borders.

Tickets: The event *Embattled Freedom* will take place on Thursday, March 7, 2019 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception and book signing take place at 4pm, followed by the main presentation at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. Due to the popularity of the Regional History Colloquium series, **advance registration is required to guarantee a seat at the presentation**. Visit www.lancasterhistory.org/lectures to register online or call (717) 392-4633. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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