

Georgetown University Ph.D. candidate to discuss common misconceptions about northern slavery and gradual abolition.

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# LancasterHistory

## For Immediate Release

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

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## Special Black History Month lecture at LancasterHistory to examine the history of abolition and slavery in Lancaster County

*Georgetown University Ph.D. candidate to discuss common misconceptions about northern slavery and gradual abolition.*

*Lancaster, PA (February 6, 2020)* – On Thursday, February 27, 2020, Cory James Young will join LancasterHistory for a special Black History Month lecture on Pennsylvania's gradual emancipation and the common misconceptions on northern slavery.

In 1780, Pennsylvania became the first state to enact gradual emancipation. The statutes, while no doubt revolutionary, were deliberately limited in scope and aimed more at curtailing the expansion of slavery than eliminating it. As late as 1857, Lancaster newspapers still reported enslaved people living in Lancaster County. In his talk, Cory James Young will examine some common misconceptions about northern slavery and gradual abolition, as well as share the stories of several remarkable Pennsylvanians, black and white.

**Cory James Young** is a History Ph.D. candidate at Georgetown University. He received his M.A. at Georgetown and B.A. at SUNY Geneseo. His research interests include abolition, slavery, and migration in the northern United States. Young's dissertation, "For Life or Otherwise: Abolition and Slavery in South Central Pennsylvania, 1780-1847," examines how slaveholding and enslaved

residents of the Cumberland Valley refashioned bondage in response to gradual abolition laws. He also helped launch The Activist History Review and can be followed on Twitter @coryjamesyoung.

**Tickets:** The event "*A Slave for Life If I So Chuse*": *Abolition and Slavery in Lancaster County* will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2020 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception takes 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](http://www.lancasterhistory.org/lectures) to register online or call (717) 392-4633. Limited tickets still available. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to [info@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:info@lancasterhistory.org) or (717) 392-4633.

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