



Below is an annotated bibliography of books that address the history of the struggle for freedom in antebellum New York. At the end, we are listing an article by our colleagues at the Bowne House in Queens, that we thought would be particularly interesting to quilters. As we move forward with the Oh, Freedom! Call for Quilts, we will periodically list on our website additional articles and books that speak to this important history.

<https://mhahp.vassarspaces.net/>

Armstead, Myra B. Young. ***Mighty Change, Tall Within***. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003) A series of essays which address the identity and changes in status of African Americans in the Hudson Valley from the late colonial period to the present period.

Debra Bruno. ***A Hudson Valley Reckoning: Discovering the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in My Dutch American Family***. (Ithaca and London: Three Hills, Cornell University Press, 2024) A personal journey into the author's ancestry and the hidden history of slave holding that she uncovers.

Gellman, David N. ***Emancipating New York; The Politics of Slavery and Freedom 1777-1827***. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006). The definitive account of the political movement to abolish slavery in New York State.

Godine, Amy. ***The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier***. (Cornell, 2023) A chronicle of an important and little-known story of Black pioneers in the Adirondacks, their quest for voting rights, and the involvement of Gerrit Smith, a wealthy abolitionist. John Brown moved his family to Timbucktoo, a new Black community in the Adirondacks, in support of these efforts.

Gronningsater, Sarah, L. H. ***The Rising Generation***. Centers the Black men, women and children who grew up immediately before and during the period of abolition in New York and the leading roles they took in expanding free Blacks' economic, political and social roles.

Groth, Michael E. ***Slavery and Freedom in the Mid-Hudson Valley***. (Albany: State University Press of New York, 2017) A thorough overview of the history of slavery and antislavery in Dutchess County and the surrounding mid-Hudson Valley.

Hodges, Graham Russel Gao. ***David Ruggles: A Radical Black Abolitionist and the Underground Railroad in New York City***. A biography of one of the most important Black leaders of the abolitionist movement, David Ruggles founded the NY Committee of Vigilance and was a writer, bookstore owner, and advocate of the free produce movement. He upheld many forms of

resistance to slavery including civil disobedience and self-defense in support of the rights of the self-emancipated and the protection free Black people from kidnappers. Ruggles also mentored Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Samuel Ringgold Ward, all of whom played major roles in New York's abolition history.

Rosenblatt, Albert M. ***The Eight: The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom***. (State University of New York, Albany, 2023) A story of freedom that challenged existing laws and raised the issues of "higher" laws. It depended on the bravery of two young women, who with their families were brought to NYC by their enslavers enroute to Texas. Louis Napoleon, an influential Black leader of the Underground Railroad helped bring the case to court and then helped the families escape to Canada to ensure their safety.

Stessin-Cohn, Susan and Hurlburt-Biagini, Ashley, eds. ***In Defiance: Runaways from Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley 1735-1831***. (Catskill, NY: Black Dome Press. Second Edition, 2023). A list of almost nine-hundred notices for runaways from slavery (freedom seekers). Covers the counties from Rensselaer to Westchester and Albany to Rockland. Essential for understanding the nature of enslavement in the Hudson Valley.

Hidden Voices: How Women's Needlecraft Contributed to the Abolitionist and Free School Movements, Ellen M. Spindler, *Bowne House Collection Volunteer* with research assistance provided by Kate Lynch and Charlotte Jackson, *Bowne House Archivist*, <https://www.bownehouse.org/needlecraft>