

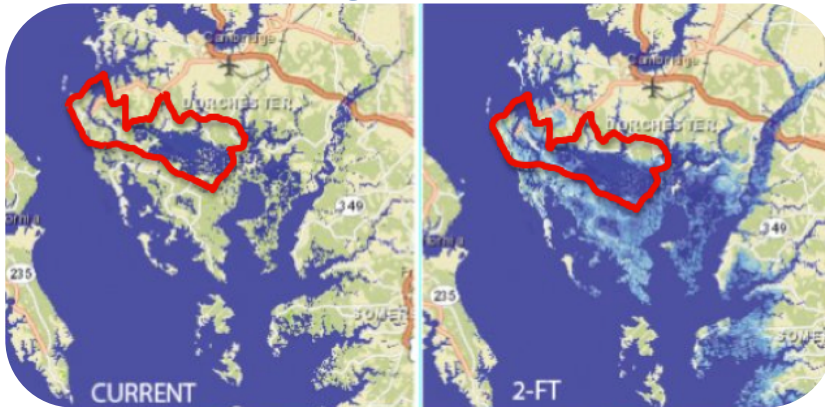


UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREE PRESS®

Independent reporting on today's Underground Railroad

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Submerged: Global Warming Begins to Threaten Underground Railroad Sites



Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: The Harriet Tubman National Monument

While some aspects of climate change are still under debate, others including melting ice and rising sea levels are now conclusively confirmed with hard data. It is getting harder to see how melted ice is flooding the oceans without global warming.

Sea levels have been rising since the last ice age peaked 20,000 years ago when the oceans were on the average 460 feet below where they are now exposing significant shallows that connected many of today's islands and left peninsulas larger than they are today. Since 1870, sea levels have risen nine inches or about four inches per century. But since the mid-twentieth century, the rise has accelerated to a foot per century which is already having an encroaching effect on low-lying lands. Cities like Bangkok, Dhaka, Amsterdam and Norfolk,

Virginia, are already dealing with intruding water with only worse to come. By 2100, scientists anticipate sea levels will rise 3.7 feet to 5.7 feet.

Also threatened are low-lying historical and cultural sites worldwide including important Underground Railroad sites in the United States. Among these are Maryland's Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument and Virginia's Fort Monroe.

The Monument comprises eighteen square miles of wetland on Maryland's Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay around the area where Harriet Tubman grew up and from which she escaped. The Monument was created by presidential order by President Obama in 2013. As the dual

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Yes, oceans really are rising from glacier and ice shelf melt, and are edging their way toward Underground Railroad sites.

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Be enlightened by a prize-winning husband-and-wife team as you glide down the Mississippi River.

1



Their quite famous great-aunt and third-great-grandfather made history side by side in the 1850s.

2



Their new book and interactive Internet map put the New York Underground Railroad at your fingertips.

2



Author Ezra Aharone offers a fresh perspective on the African American legacy.

3



As *Underground Railroad Free Press* and others go to bat for it, an African American museum is saved.

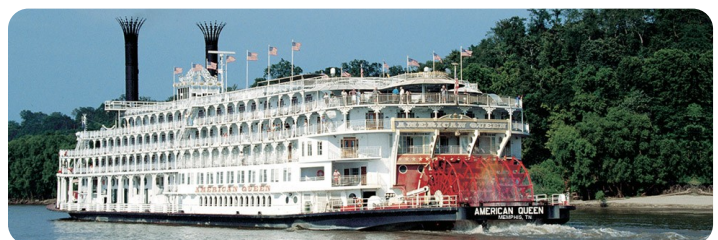
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Princes In Mississippi River Paddlewheeler History Tour

Free Press Prize Judge Bryan Prince and his wife Shannon will lecture on the Underground Railroad and African-Canadian history aboard *The American Queen*, a Mississippi River paddlewheeler next year.

He is an award-winning author on the history of slavery, the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. She serves as Curator of the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum and as Chair of the National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario, Canada. The couple received the 2011 Free Press Prize for the Advancement of

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The Mississippi River Paddlewheeler *The American Queen*

Harriet Tubman and John Brown Descendants Pay a Visit

At the 22nd annual Peterboro, New York Civil War Weekend last month, descendants of two of the most illustrious of Underground Railroad figures spoke on their famous ancestors.

Joyce Jones and her daughter Michele Galvin, relatives of Harriet Tubman, read from their 2013 book, *Beyond the Underground: Aunt Harriet, Moses of Her People*, on the sisterhood of Jones's grandmother and Tubman and the saga of seven generations of women related to Tubman. Jones, a retired journalist, has researched her great-aunt Harriet for thirty years. She and Galvin hail from Auburn, New

York, where Tubman settled after escaping slavery.

Alice Mecoy, a great-great-great-granddaughter of abolitionist John Brown, spoke on "Life after the Hanging of John Brown, a Family's Legacy," the history of Brown's wife and children after his 1859 hanging.

Mecoy's research has focused on the women in John Brown's life and a family genealogy of 4,000 names from Brown's father Owen down to the present.

The annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend is an educational fundraiser for the

Smithfield Community Association, a nonprofit organization that preserves and promotes history in the Town of Smithfield. The event is an all-volunteer effort funded by sponsorships. For more, visit civilwarweekend.sca-peterboro.org



Michele Galvin and Joyce Jones

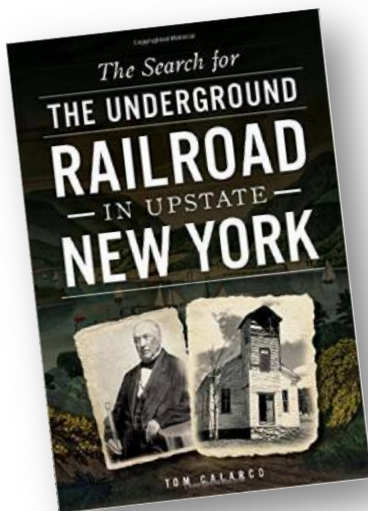


Alice Mecoy

Upstate New York Lengthens an Impressive Lead

Upstate New York, long in the lead in exploration of Underground Railroad history, has two additions in different media shedding new light on the geography, people and events of the Underground Railroad era there. Veteran Underground Railroad author Tom Calarco's latest book and Nicholas Gunner's online interactive map are informative additions. During the Underground Railroad era, there was no state more open in its activity than New York. The further north in the state, the truer this was. Because of this relative openness, much of the Underground Railroad activity in the state was recorded and preserved making present-day research of the area more productive than probably in any other part of the country. This has hugely facilitated the work of upstate Underground Railroad site and program managers, writers, researchers and now a geographer.

Calarco's Latest Underground Railroad Book Broadens Knowledge of the Upstate Region



Tom Calarco is author or editor of six books and over thirty articles on the Underground Railroad. He speaks widely at venues such as the National Parks Service's Network to Freedom, Albany's Underground Railroad Project of the Capital Region, and upstate New York's North Star Underground Railroad Project. He won the 2008 Free Press Prize for the Advancement of Knowledge for his work on the Underground Railroad from New York City to the Adirondacks.

The tireless Tom Calarco has added to his broadening bookshelf of Underground Railroad books his latest, *Search for the Underground Railroad In Upstate New York*,

a record of sites, routes, people and vignettes of "upstate" New York which, in the state's parlance means everything but New York City and Long Island.

In this largest state east of the Mississippi River, Calarco's book expands on his earlier prize-winning work on the Underground Railroad along the state's eastern edge. Calarco describes his new book as a first-person memoir on his research and the people he worked with to develop the Underground Railroad history of the eastern part of the state.

Dates and venues of Calarco's book signings may be obtained from The History Press at 843.577.5971, extension 227.

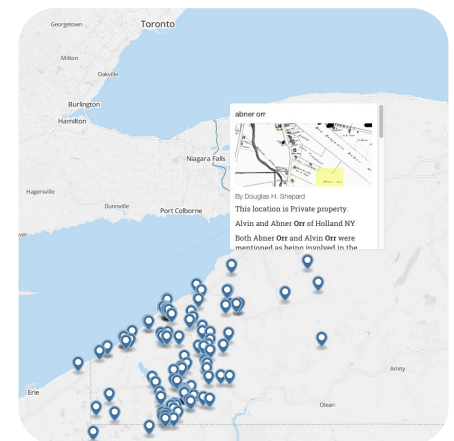
Calarco also wrote *The Underground Railroad Conductor*, *Abel Brown Abolitionist*, and compendia, *People of the Underground Railroad*, and *Places of the Underground Railroad*.

Tom Calarco's research avoids the harmful practice of featuring only the small fraction of Underground Railroad sites fortunate enough to have documentation. Research performed by *Free Press* and independently by Professor Judith Wellman at the State University of New York has shown that only about four percent of

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An Entire New York County Gets Mapped

Nicholas Gunner of the State University of New York at Fredonia has authored an interactive online map of Underground Railroad and antislavery sites in Chautauqua County, New York. Clicking on any of the scores of the map's sites opens that site's commentary popup, many of which come with a map or illustration.



After moderator approval, users may edit the map or a site's information online or by smart phone.

Gunner says that the site and map are being continually updated. Next up are current events, news and a site listing. Visit <http://bit.ly/1otAX1i> to learn more.

The “Democratic” Origin and Evolution of Racism

By Ezra Aharone

This article appears in the author's forthcoming book *The Sovereign Psyche*. Ezra Aharone is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Delaware State University and author of *Sovereign Evolution: Manifest Destiny from Civil Rights to Sovereign Rights and Pawned Sovereignty: Sharp-ened Black Perspectives on Americanization, Africa, War and Reparations*. Reprinted with permission.



Ezra Aharone

Einstein reasoned, you “cannot alter a condition with the same mindset that created it in the first place.” In other words, solutions require thinking that transcends the mindset which caused and/or contributes to undesirable conditions. Using this premise to examine racism in America, the question becomes: To what origin is modern racism anchored and how can existing bounds of thought be transcended for new national discourse to redress the causes and conditions?

First, some honest but controversial realities must be recognized since racism did not emerge unexplainably. Racism in America originated from democracy in America. But America finds this offensive since it makes America’s character appear no different than “undemocratic” people that America “won’t negotiate with” today. To deflect this onus, America maintains the flawed notion that the impact of slavery and segregation is inconsequential, that 50 years of desegregation somehow nullifies four centuries of dehumanization.

This popularizes the misbelief that racism is no longer structural nor intrinsic to society, but rather attitudinal and limited to “random” outbursts from “fringe” individuals like Donald Sterling whose proposed punishment involves forcing him to profit from selling the Clippers (with 12 of 14 players being Black) for \$2 billion.

Modern racism is an extension of 1619 slavery, conjoined to profiteering. Despite the grandeur, July 4, 1776 is when racism was not only normalized in democracy, but also camouflaged through flowery language in America’s founding documents. This has furnished American democracy with a velvet-glove exterior that encases the racism of its interior. Hence, no other contemporary people in a “democracy” have undergone more systemic racism longer than African Americans and, although slavery is immoral, it wasn’t quite “immoral enough” to discredit anyone from making Mt. Rushmore.

To be fair, upon ridding themselves from what they deemed British tyranny, the founders could have genuinely become extraordinary by simply honoring their “creed of equality.” But rather than condemn slavery, they used their sovereign powers to enforce slavery. This helped incubate a fixed ideo-political environment for “guilt-free racism” to saturate society inter-generationally, whereby reparations are still dismissed as near-laughable.

Based on “military necessity” emancipation occurred in 1865 but without proper conciliatory or compensatory measures. Democracy thereafter produced 99 more years of systemic racism that encompassed: reconstruction failures, sharecropping peonage, Black Codes, convict leasing, thousands of uninvestigated lynchings, medical experiments at Ivy League universities, and Lincoln’s Thirteenth Amendment that abolished slavery, yet provided wiggle-room for slavery to exist “as a punishment for crime.”

Moreover, the Thirteenth Amendment insultingly comprises only forty-three words. Think about it: how can two and a half centuries of institutionalized slavery and racism be earnestly amended in merely forty-three words? Paula Deen used more words to apologize for saying the N-word, and Imus for saying “nappy-headed hoes.”

Racism has also evolved over time, whereas racist norms once entailed having your wife “borrowed” for the night, or being lynched to the delight of mobs for “being too big for your britches,” or being prohibited from drinking “white water” while policemen cannonball-

blast you with white fire-hydrant water. Today however, Obama is president, Oprah is a billionaire, Dr. King has a holiday, Jay Z’s partnership with Barney’s remains intact, Denny’s serves Black people, and the Clippers have a symbolic interim Black CEO.

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News Squibs

Tubman Museum Survives

With *Free Press* backing, Macon, Georgia's Tubman African American Museum, threatened by a 100-percent cut in City funding, rallied nationwide support, reducing the cut from \$250,000 to \$25,000. The Museum's Nicole Thurston says, "We continue working hard to raise awareness about our programs and services, and to find new members and donors to make up the difference and push ahead."

River Tour



Shannon and Bryan Prince

Knowledge and Canada's 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

On the tour of the lower Mississippi River, the Princes will present a lecture as part of the American Queen Steamboat Company's Authors and History program and be available to tour-goers each day to provide commentary and insight. Other lecturers will present on relevant topics of the tour itinerary.

The cruise will sail March 20 through 29, 2015, departing from Memphis, finishing at New Orleans, and includes excursions to plantations, museums, art galleries, Civil War sites, mansions and churches in Vicksburg, Natchez, Francisville, Baton Rouge, Plantation Road and New Orleans. Options include a Cajun swamp tour and a tour of Angola Prison.

Those interested in booking the tour may contact Expedia Cruise Ship Centers, 442A Dundas Street, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada (call 519.537.8333); or the American Queen Steamboat Company, 40 South Main Street, 21st Floor, Memphis, Tennessee, 38103 (call 888.749.5280).

The American Queen Steamboat Company also offers tours of the upper Mississippi River between Memphis and cities as far north as St. Paul, of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers, and of the Columbia and Snake Rivers in Washington state.

Network to Freedom Conference Underway Tomorrow In Detroit

If you are near the Motor City, it's not too late to drop in to the Downtown Doubletree Hotel for this year's theme, "I Resolved Never to Be Conquered" Women and the Underground Railroad." The annual conference runs from the 16th to Sunday, the 20th, and includes tours of local museums and Underground Railroad sites in Detroit and Canada.

Warming

map here shows, with the two-foot rise in sea level expected by 2050, most of the Monument will be underwater.

Fort Monroe National Monument, Virginia, near Hampton and Norfolk was where Union Major General Benjamin Butler in May of 1861 established the precedent during the Civil War that any enslaved person who made it to the fort would be considered as free and eligible to serve in the Union Army. Butler's Contraband Decision was adopted by President Lincoln and put into practice nationwide. With thousands of enslaved people immediately thus encouraged to flee toward Union units, the Contraband Decision bolstered Lincoln's hand in declaring the Emancipation Act. Many units of the newly chartered United States Colored Troops were mustered, compiled a distinguished record in the Civil War, and went far in bringing about Union victory.

The Norfolk-Hampton Roads-Virginia Beach area where the long Chesapeake Bay finally empties into the Atlantic lies just a few feet above high tide and is one of the areas of the United States most vulnerable to rising seas. The Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk's most prestigious art museum, sits behind a concrete sea wall that has held high tides for a century but no longer. These days, the highest of tides seep up through storm drains, puddle on the Museum's promenade and spread a half foot deep across the now closed street. The nearby Unitarian Church of Norfolk is for sale because of the same encroachment and unaffordable flood insurance.

In the eastern coastal and estuary lowlands are hundreds of historical and cultural treasures threatened more each year by rising seas. So far, Congress has refused to address rising seas or global warming.

Calarco

claimed Underground Railroad sites are documented, the remainder resting on accounts handed down orally by families, property owners and others.

Says Calarco, "The point is that the oral stories deserve respect until we have evidence that proves otherwise, for time and again in my research I found contemporary accounts that verified them."

He adds, "One of the major realizations of this new age of Underground Railroad historians is that the Underground Railroad was not so secret. It simply was illegal and people needed to keep a low profile or conceal their activities. This perception of secrecy is reinforced by the fact that few records of the Underground Railroad were written down and that some of the few who did destroyed their records because of the fear of retaliation."

Aharone

Racism now though is metaphorically like "death by a thousand cuts" from subtle but certain subordination and disparities in housing, healthcare, education, employment (firing/hiring/promotions/salary), wealth, profiling, arrests, incarcerations, etc. And even more problematic are the psycho-subliminal aspects of racism. Since the 1940s, the Clarks' Doll Experiment proves that Black children are socially engineered by age five to regard Black dolls and people as inferior, uglier, badder and dumber than White dolls or people.

This confirms the pathologies of what W.E.B. Dubois in 1903 termed "Double Consciousness" and Carter Woodson in 1933 termed "Mis-Education," which stagnates original Black development and world contributions. Such engineering also constricts the boundaries of thought that requires transcending to redress racism, as Einstein alluded.

In response, African Americans should aver to no longer allow the historiography of the Black experience to be politically tortured with skewed idealisms until it falsely confesses the sanitized versions of democracy that anchor the structural, attitudinal, psychological racism of today. This perhaps can initiate new national discourse on racism to snip other pseudo-democratic tenants and tentacles that tie to more centuries-old falsehoods that African Americans should also learn to unlearn.