May 6, 2013
For Immediate Release

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INTERPRETING & TEACHING NORTHERN SLAVERY: MAY 10 & 11

A more complex view of slavery in the north and how it affected the Hudson Valley will be the focus of two presentations by James DeWolf Perry, executive director of The Tracing Center on Histories & Legacies of Slavery (www.TracingCenter.org). Both gatherings will include a 51-minute version of the PBS documentary Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North (www.TracingCenter.org/synopsis).

A workshop for those interested in interpreting or teaching about northern slavery--staff and volunteers from historic sites and museums, teachers, local historical societies, for instance--will be held Friday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz. In addition to Perry, participants will include A. J. Williams Myers, professor of Black Studies, SUNY New Paltz; Donna Dabney-Jeffress, a Red Hook school teacher; and Susan Stessin-Cohn, Historic Huguenot Street’s educator director and a K-12 curriculum writer. Registration is $25 and available at http://tinyurl.com/ceg2lak. More information is at http://tinyurl.com/czb4639.

Perry will also speak and lead a discussion about the film on Saturday, May 11, 5-6:30 p.m., at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring. Only 45 seats are available; tickets are $15. To purchase tickets and RSVP phone 845-265-4010 or email info@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Historic Huguenot Street, Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project, Putnam History Museum, Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, and Teaching the Hudson Valley are sponsoring the Tracing Center’s visit to our region. The Center creates greater awareness of the entire nation’s complicity in slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and promotes acknowledgment, dialogue, and active response to this history and its many legacies.

In Traces of the Trade filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and her nine cousins, including James DeWolf Perry, retrace the Triangle Trade coming face to face with the history and legacy of then north’s “hidden enterprise.” Perry was principal historical consultant on the film, which was nominated for an Emmy Award. He attended Columbia Law School and his graduate work at Harvard University included research on the transatlantic slave trade and its abolition.