

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY INSTITUTE TO HOST AUTHOR L. LLOYD STEWART FOR LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

*The Mysterious Black Migration 1800-1820: The Van Vranken Family and other
“Free” Families of African Descent in Washington County,*
Sunday, October 6 at 2PM

ALBANY, NY- The Albany Institute of History and Art will host local historian and author, L. Lloyd Stewart for a lecture about his book *The Mysterious Black Migration 1800-1820: The Van Vranken Family and Other “Free” Families of African Descent in Washington County* on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 2PM. Stewart will discuss his extensively researched and documented new book and relate the little known story of the mass migration of African Americans to Washington County during the early nineteenth century. After Stewart’s lecture, he will be available to answer questions and sign copies of his book. This lecture and book signing is organized by the Museum Shop at the Albany Institute of History & Art and is free with museum admission.

The Mysterious Black Migration focuses on the geopolitical and economic conditions that instigated the migration of thousands of “free” African Americans from various New York State counties and New England states to Washington County during a period when New York State was still inextricably engaged in the holocaust of human enslavement. This previously “unrecorded” migration transpired while New York State was beginning to alter its highly profitable economic system from an enslavement-based economy to a more capitalistic system of production in order to more successfully compete in the “New World” economy. This

transition and migration was a major contributor to New York State's early Industrial Revolution. The impact of this "de-valued history" and its absence from the historical record of New York State has distorted the recollection, remembrance and contribution of people of African descent in New York State's economic development. *The Mysterious Black Migration* was published in 2013 by Xlibris Publishing Co.

L. Lloyd Stewart is an Albany author and *The Mysterious Black Migration* is his most recent publication. It is a continuing byproduct of genealogical research begun by the author in 2000. It is the second in a series of books relating to his family's and other African Americans' experiences in early New York. His first book, *A Far Cry from Freedom: Gradual Abolition (1799-1827) New York State's Crime Against Humanity*, was published in 2006 by AuthorHouse Publishing Co.

The lecture and book signing will be held at the Albany Institute of History & Art, located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. It is free with museum admission and no reservations are required. A limited number of copies of *The Mysterious Black Migration* will be available for purchase at the Museum Shop.

The Albany Institute is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursdays until 8PM, and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and some holidays. Admission is FREE for Albany Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of lectures, outstanding educational and family programming, and special events, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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