



National Park Service
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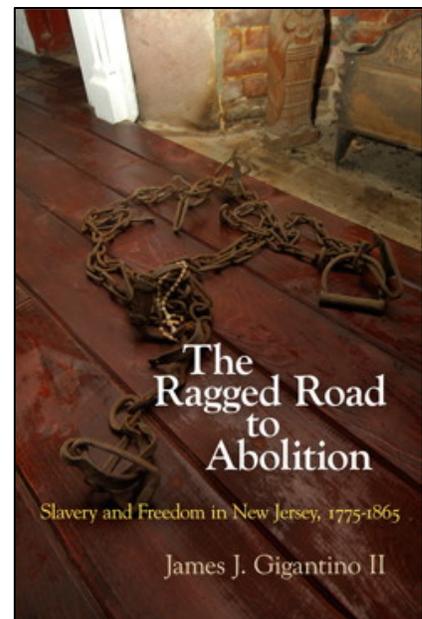
**Rethinking Slavery's Slow Death in New Jersey:
Author James Gigantino to Speak on *The Ragged Road to Abolition:
Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865*
Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm**

Morristown, NJ – In honor of Black History Month, the National Park Service welcomes Dr. James Gigantino to discuss his new book *The Ragged Road to Abolition: Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865*.

The talk will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 28, 2015 in the park's Washington's Headquarters Museum, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, New Jersey. Admission to the program is free. Book sales and signing will follow the program.

Contrary to popular perception, slavery persisted in the North well into the nineteenth century. This was especially the case in New Jersey, the last northern state to pass an abolition statute, in 1804. Because of the nature of the law, which freed children born to enslaved mothers only after they had served their mother's master for more than two decades, slavery continued in New Jersey through the Civil War.

Abolition in New Jersey during the American Revolution was a contested battle. New Jersey's gradual abolition law kept at least a quarter of the state's black population in some degree of bondage until the 1830s. This realization therefore shatters the perceived easy dichotomies between free states and slave states at the onset of the Civil War as well as challenges our understanding of the impact of the American Revolution on the North.



James Gigantino is an Assistant Professor of History and an affiliated faculty member in African & African American Studies at the University of Arkansas. He is the author of *The Ragged Road to Abolition: Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) and editor of the forthcoming *The American Revolution in New Jersey: Where the Battlefield Meets the Home Front* (Rutgers University Press, 2015) and *Slavery and Secession in Arkansas: A Documentary History*. In 2011, he was awarded a residential research fellowship by the David Library of the American Revolution to complete research on *The Ragged Road to Abolition*.

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