

Need a History Speaker?

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I am the author of *Solomon Northup: His Life Before and After Slavery*, a co-author of *Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave*, and author of *Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War*. Northup's story of being kidnapped and sold into slavery before the American Civil War was told in the Oscar-winning film, *12 Years A Slave*. As an expert on Northup, I appear in a bonus feature on the Blu-ray disc of the film. I have also researched others who were kidnapped and sold into slavery, as Northup was.

How to schedule a presentation

If you're interested in hiring me to do a talk, or otherwise want to communicate with me, e-mail me at fiske@solomonnorthup.com, or call 518-577-4997.

Topics I can present on:

Rescued from Slavery: The Story of Solomon Northup

Solomon Northup was a free black man living in New York State. In 1841 he was lured away from home and sold as a slave. For nearly twelve years, he was a slave in Louisiana. Finally he was able to get a message to friends in New York, and he returned home as a free man. After writing a book about his experiences (*Twelve Years a Slave*), he traveled around the Northeast giving speeches, and even helped fugitive slaves get to Canada thanks to his work on the Underground Railroad. This is a great Black History topic!

How Ann Northup (Wife of Solomon Northup) Overcame Adversity

Solomon Northup was lured into slavery in 1841, and was a slave in Louisiana for 12 years before being rescued. What impact did Northup's kidnapping have on his wife and family? In Solomon's absence, the Northup family became a one-income household. This presentation will describe how his wife, Ann, carried on and saw to the needs of their children. Information on her later life will also be given.

Kidnapped: Black New Yorkers Caught in the Slave Trade

Under slavery, it was not only the slaves who suffered. Free blacks were at risk of being kidnapped and sold as slaves. Once they were taken to a slave state, chances of their returning home were small. Several New Yorkers, from various parts of the state, were rescued from slavery, and their kidnapers were held accountable for their deeds. This presentation will tell their stories. Great Black History topic!

The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War

The film *12 Years a Slave* told of Solomon Northup's kidnapping and enslavement before the Civil War, but Northup's victimization was not an isolated incident. Economics and governmental actions made such crimes profitable, and many citizens, primarily free blacks, were victimized. This presentation will explain how kidnapers could operate with relative ease, and tell about several of the victims included in my book, *Solomon Northup's Kindred: The Kidnapping of Free Citizens before the Civil War*.