

# Hall honors bravery in troubled times

## National Abolition Hall of Fame inducts three members this month.

The following was submitted by Dorothy H. Willsey, on behalf of the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum.

**A**bby Kelley Foster, Jermain Wesley Loguen and George Gavin Ritchie — this year's inductees to the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum — will be honored during commemoration ceremonies Oct. 19 to 21 in Madison and Onondaga counties.

The commemoration weekend opens at 3 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Women's Studies Center at Colgate University with a

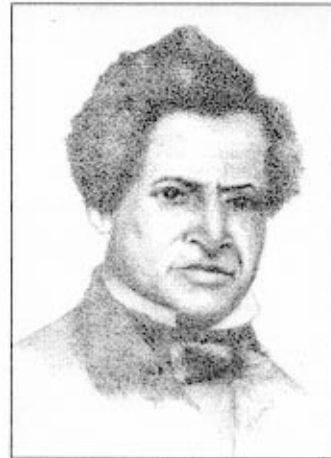
panel presentation on Foster. The panel will be facilitated by Judith Wellman. At 7 p.m., performers from Milford will present an anti-slavery concert, "Songs and Stories of the Hutchinson Family Singers."

**Foster (1811-1887)** was a Quaker and radical social reformer from the 1830s through the 1870s in her home state of Massachusetts and through the Anti-Slavery Society of New York. She was an active speaker before mixed gender and mixed race audiences. Some male abolitionists criticized her methods. Her response in 1849 was, "I rejoice to be identified with the despised people of color. If they are to be despised, so ought their advocates to be."

At 10 a.m. Oct. 20, an ex-



**THIS YEAR'S** National Abolition Hall of Fame inductees are (from left) Abby Kelley Foster, Jermain Wesley Loguen and George Gavin Ritchie. The Hall of Fame commissioned Joseph Flores, of Rochester, to do the men's portraits. Foster was drawn by Mark Ahrens.



hibit on **Ritchie (1820-1853)**, arranged by Colgate Library Special Collections, opens at the Case Library.

According to the Abolition Hall website, Ritchie, editor of the first student newspaper at Madison University (now Colgate University), was expelled for publishing his editorial, "Equal Suffrage and the Religious Press," which criticized the voters and churches of New York state for not supporting equal suffrage for black men in the election of 1846. The faculty of Madison not only expelled him from the seminary — thwarting his efforts to obtain his degree in his chosen field as a minister of the Baptist church — but made every effort to deny him any

legitimate role in the church. Staying in Hamilton, he published the *Hamilton Student*, which was the voice of abolition and reform in Central New York.

Kate Clifford Larson keynotes a buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Hall of Presidents at Colgate. Larson will speak on Harriet Tubman and upcoming events in 2013 for the Tubman centennial. The Upstate Institute Abolition Symposia begins at 1 p.m. in Golden Auditorium at Colgate. Programs on Foster, Loguen and Ritchie will be presented during the afternoon symposia.

At 4:45 p.m. Oct. 20, Robert Weible, state historian of New York and chief curator of the New York State Museum, will present the keynote "An Irrepressible Conflict: New York State in the Civil War," at the annual dinner catered by the Colgate Inn.

There will be living portrayals and dramatic presentations at 7 p.m., followed by an unveiling of honoree banners by family members, scholars and association representatives. The banners will hang in the Hall of Fame.

The Deli on the Green in Peterboro will open at 8 a.m. Oct. 21 for a special breakfast. Exhibits at the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum in Peterboro will open at 9 a.m. An exhibit on Loguen will open at 11 a.m. at the

Onondaga Historical Association in Syracuse. At 2 p.m., the OHA will conduct a walking tour of abolition sites in Syracuse. Space on the tour can be reserved by Oct. 16, by calling 428-1864.

**Loguen (1813-1872)** was born into slavery, the son of a white slave-owner and a slave in Tennessee. At age 21, he escaped via the Underground Railroad to the North, made his way to Canada and eventually settled in Syracuse, where he became an active abolitionist and a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

The programs are supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities and with funds from the New York Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant Program, a state agency, and the Cultural Resources Council, a regional arts council.

The public is invited to participate in all or parts of this annual event to learn of the important role that Central New York played in the ignition of the Civil War.

For more information, visit [nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org](http://nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org), email [nahofm1835@gmail.com](mailto:nahofm1835@gmail.com) or call 366-8101 or 684-3262.

Reservations for lunch, dinner and conference packages are due by Wednesday at [mercantile.gerritsmith.org](http://mercantile.gerritsmith.org) or to National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, 5255 Pleasant Valley Road, Peterboro 13035.