

Onondaga Historical Association brings to life story of escaped slave William 'Jerry' Henry

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Ryan Hope Travis portrays escaped slave William "Jerry" Henry in Onondaga Historical Association's presentation of "Jerry's Rescue" at 7 p.m. Saturday at the OHA auditorium, 321 Montgomery St., Syracuse. Courtesy photo

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- [Onondaga Historical Association](#) has planned two presentations during Black History Month. "Jerry's Story" will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday at the OHA

auditorium, 321 Montgomery St., Syracuse. "Salt City Abolitionists" will be performed at 2 p.m. Feb. 16 in the OHA auditorium.

"Jerry's Story" follows the events of [William "Jerry" Henry](#) who escaped slavery and lived in Syracuse. In October 1851, he was arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law. He escaped temporarily before being recaptured. A crowd of reportedly 2,500 residents rescued him from jail. In 1990, a monument _ with the sculpted faces of Henry and two rescuers, the Rev. Jermain Loguen, a runaway slave himself, and the Rev. Samuel May _ was erected in Clinton Square near the site of the jail. Local actor Ryan Hope Travis portrays Henry in "Jerry's Rescue."

On Feb. 16, the story continues with "Salt City Abolitionists" presented as an interactive abolitionist meeting after the "Jerry" Rescue. It will include stories of [Jermaine and Caroline Loguen](#) and the [Rev. Samuel May](#).

Tickets are \$8, general, and \$6, OHA members, students and teachers. Reservations are recommended. Call the OHA at 428-1864. Tickets also will be sold at the door.