



City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Solomon Northup was born a free person in the year 1807 in Schroon, New York, now Minerva, New York, and lived for many years in Saratoga Springs, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1841 Solomon Northup was recruited by two men to work as a musician in the circus and made a trip to Washington, D.C. to begin his work as a fiddler; and

WHEREAS, Upon his arrival in Washington, Solomon Northup was sold to slave trader James H. Birch by the name of Platt Hamilton, conveyed to Richmond, Virginia and then delivered by ship to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was sold by trader Theophilus Freeman to William P. Ford; and

WHEREAS, Solomon Northup would spend the next twelve years in slavery in the Bayou Boeuf plantation region of Central Louisiana's Red River Valley; and

WHEREAS, In 1852 then Governor of New York Washington Hunt utilizing Governor Seward's 1840 statute made Henry B. Northup an agent of the State of New York sending Henry to Louisiana with documentation supporting Solomon Northup's status as a free New Yorker; and

WHEREAS, Upon arrival in Louisiana on January 1, 1853 Henry B. Northup hired John P. Waddill, Esquire in search of Solomon Northup; following months of search and legal battle, Solomon Northup's freedom was once again legally obtained in Marksville, Louisiana on January 4, 1853; and

WHEREAS, Solomon Northup returned to the State of New York on January 22, 1853 where he was reunited with his family and together with local writer and lawyer David Wilson, he penned his memoir "Twelve Years a Slave"; and

WHEREAS, "Twelve Years a Slave" was first published by the Auburn, NY publishing company of Derby & Miller once located at 107 Genesee Street on July 15, 1853, and the book becoming a best-seller with more than 25,000 copies sold in its first year and nearly 30,000 copies published in its first four years.

NOW THEREFORE, I, James N Giannettino, Jr., Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and Citizens of Auburn, on the 171st anniversary of the day that Solomon Northup re-obtained his freedom do hereby proclaim January 4, 2024 as,

Solomon Northup Freedom Day

in the City of Auburn, and encourage all Citizens to observe this day by recognizing this unique story and its significant contribution to our status as History's Hometown.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Fourth day of January 2024.

James N. Giannettino, Jr., Mayor
City of Auburn, New York