



## **Description**

### **"Great Leaders of Rochester Reform: Abolitionism, Women's Rights, And Religious Revivalism"**

**November 24-26, 2017**

**Frederick Douglass and Gerrit Smith--Abolitionism, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and  
Susan B. Anthony--Women's Rights, and Charles Finney--Religious Revivalism**

Rochester New York was at the center of a great reform movement of American morals and institutions during the nineteenth century. Among these were abolitionism, women's rights, and religious revivalism. Seeking to influence America's political culture from outside the official channels of power, the leaders of these intertwined movements tirelessly agitated for a new dispensation in national morals and politics. Reform itself became an American institution as societies sprung up to encourage morality and transform daily life. The Rochester area offers a circuit of sites and documents of this transformation of American cultural and political life. Frederick Douglass and his patron Gerrit Smith helped lead the abolition movement from Rochester and Utica. Nearby Seneca Falls saw the birth of the international women's rights movement in 1848 led by Elizabeth Cady and Stanton Susan B. Anthony from Rochester. Charles Grandison Finney set fire to the Second Great Awakening by evangelizing along the super highway of the era: The Erie Canal. Character has always been a hallmark of statesmanship, but few realize how the modern, American concept of character was profoundly influenced by antebellum reform of the 1830s. Beginning with the Rochester Revival of 1830-31, America would be held to a revolutionary standard that recognized the moral agency of all human beings. This democratic dogma extended the principle of equality to include women, slaves, and children. America has never been the same. The Center is proud to offer a teacher institute that connects all these related movements and places them in the context of modern statesmanship. Our symposium will involve a seminar discussion of primary sources guided by experts in the field. The aforementioned reform leaders will be considered in terms of their character, the ends they stood for, the means they employed, their historical context, and their influence on the American regime both yesterday and today. The seminar culminates with a historic tour of nearby Seneca Falls National Women's Rights Museum. A detailed schedule and reading materials will be supplied after we hear from you. Professional development certificates will be provided only to those who attend all sessions.