



CONTACT:
Rachel Gary
Communications Manager
860-695-6352
rgary@hplct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historian Anne Farrow Debuts New Book Examining Connecticut Connection to Slavery with Oct. 9 Launch Party and Reading



HARTFORD, Connecticut (September 22, 2014) – Independent historian and writer Anne Farrow will launch her new book *The Logbooks: Connecticut's Slave Ships and Human Memory* with a party and reading at the Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library on Thursday, October 9.

Published this week by Wesleyan University Press, *The Logbooks* is the account of a series of slave ships' logs linking New London and West Africa during the mid-18th century, and which Farrow followed to Sierra Leone when she was a magazine writer at *The Hartford Courant*. The book is also an exploration of how history and human memory are formed and then, often, destroyed by time. In a book that has been described as "heart-breaking, revealing and redemptive," and which links the slave trade to the aristocrats of colonial-era Connecticut, Farrow combines a journey into the world of the slave trade between Connecticut and West Africa with the destruction of her mother's memory and subsequently her life. At the core of both stories are issues of memory and its importance, a lost history and a lost life.

A journalist in New England for 30 years, much of that time at *The Courant*, Farrow was a lead writer on the *The Courant's* prize-winning investigations into slavery in Connecticut, and the co-author of the book *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*, published by Ballantine Books in 2005. *Complicity* was praised by *The Boston Globe* as "history at its best," and by *The Washington Post* as "tough-minded" and revelatory of slavery in the North.

The Oct. 9 event, which is presented in partnership with the Connecticut State Library, where the slave ship logbooks have been held in the library's collections since 1920, begins with a wine and cheese reception at 5:30, and will be followed by an author talk and book signing at 6 p.m.

All are welcome, and the event is free. The Hartford History Center is located at the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street, Hartford. For more information, please visit hplct.org.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](http://hplct.org)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

###