



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Image: John Mills – Sylvia Lathrop grave. “Genealogist and Historian John Mills has extensively researched the Lathrop family of Norwich, CT. Here, John Mills sits next to the grave of Sylvia Lathrop, wife of Job.”

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Stories of Connecticut's Black Patriots

The lived experience of Black residents during the American Revolution

(Hartford, CT): The Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library invites the public to a presentation about the remarkable contributions of Connecticut’s Black residents during the American Revolution on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Historian John Mills will share Stories of Connecticut’s Black Patriots, based on extensive genealogical and historical research he has conducted.

In exploring the lived experience of Black residents during the American Revolution, Mills’ research led him to the Lathrop family of Norwich, CT, whose patriarch, Primus, was captured as a child from his home in Africa. While enslaved to Ebenezer Lathrop, Primus married a woman named Venus and together they had a son named Job. Job would go on to fight in the Revolutionary War, only to return and remain enslaved. Mills will share details about the Lathrop family’s journey for freedom and their long-lasting patriotic legacy. Mills’ research will be made into a new book, [The Narrative of Primus: A Lineage Woven into American History](#), available this year.

John Mills is a trained Genealogist, descendant of the enslaved and President of the Alex Breanne Corporation, a Connecticut-based non-profit. The Alex Breanne Corporation focuses on research, interrogation and presentation of lesser-known stories of the American enslaved. John unearths little known people, with intent to inject them into the landscape of the communities where they lived, worked or died. He then finds current-day descendants and gives them back their history.

John Mills' presentation, *Stories of Black Patriots*, will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 from 1-2:00 p.m. in the Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Admission is free and open to the public. Registration is requested: <https://forms.office.com/g/9x7DDphM0d>. The event will also be livestreamed on the CT State Library's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@CTStateLibrary>.

For more information, please contact the Museum of Connecticut History at museumofcthistory@ct.gov or (860) 757-6535. Directions and parking information are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/csl/about/hours-and-locations>.

This presentation is part of a Connecticut 250 series planned by the Connecticut State Library's Semiquincentennial Committee. In addition to advising on the Museum of Connecticut History's upcoming *Connecticut's Revolution* exhibit (opening in July 2026), the Committee has curated a selection of Revolutionary War resources from the Connecticut State Library's vast collection, available here: <https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/america250>.

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About the Connecticut State Library

The Connecticut State Library is an independent Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. Founded in 1854, it is home to the State Archives, Office of the Public Records Administrator, Museum of Connecticut History, the Division of Library Development and the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, and three reference departments (history and genealogy; law and legislation; and government information). Through these units, the agency provides a variety of archival, public records, museum, library, information, and administrative services to the employees and officials of all three branches of state government, libraries, students, teachers, researchers, town governments, and anyone seeking information within its collections. Visit the CT State Library at [CT State Library](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

About the Museum of Connecticut History

The Museum of Connecticut History, a unit of the Connecticut State Library, chronicles the growth of the state and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present. The mission of the museum is to connect the experience of residents and museum visitors to the artifacts, images, and documents of the past, increasing awareness of and pride in the state's political, military, and industrial history and building commitment to preserving and sharing its cultural heritage. The Museum of Connecticut History is located within the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court building, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is always free! Learn more at [Museum of Connecticut History](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)