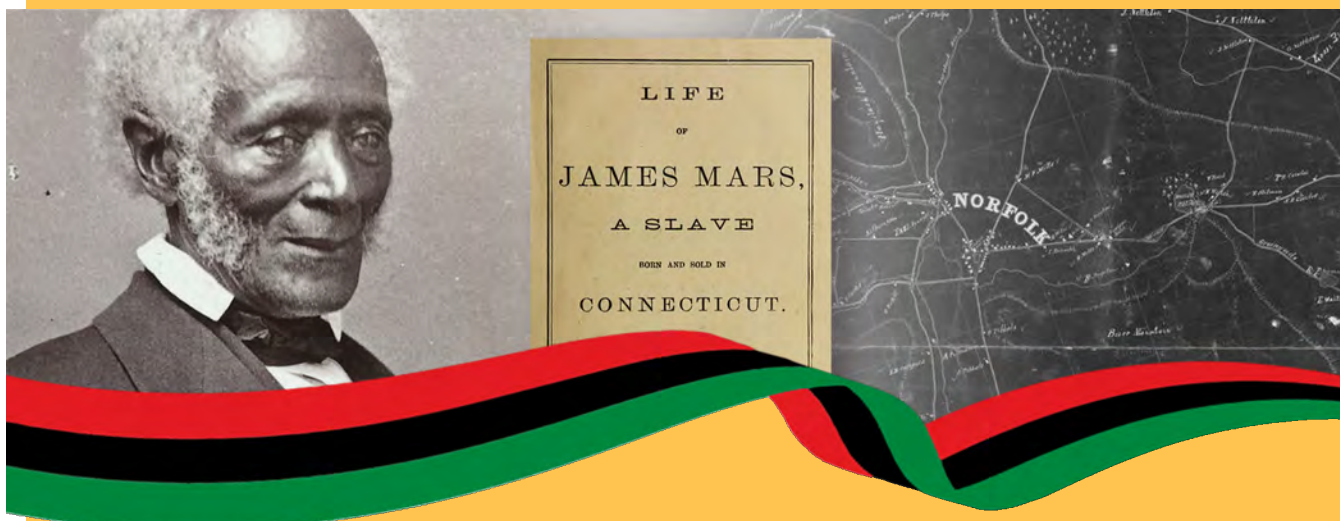


Discovering Amistad and Connecticut's Old State House present



# In His Footsteps: A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of James Mars

Friday, May 1, 2026. | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Connecticut's Old State House | 800 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Discovering Amistad invites you to join us in celebrating the life and legacy of an “unsung” American hero – **James Mars**. Through his own words from his published memoir, and the lived accounts of his descendants, we will explore and elevate the narrative of a man who defined the struggle for true liberty. Born in 1790, James Mars lived the paradox of American freedom – sold as a slave in a state that claimed to be “The Land of Steady Habits.”



**Keynote address by James Mars Descendent Rev. Dr. Shelley D. Best**  
Rev. Dr. Best is the founder of Creative Disruptor® and CEO of TubmanWalker, where she builds creative ecosystems that empower leaders and communities to thrive. A visionary leader and Yale Divinity School graduate, she brings over two decades of executive leadership, including her tenure as CEO of the Conference of Churches. She is the author of *Creative Disruption: How Artists and Innovators Build Influence, Drive Change, and Shape the Future*.

Suggested donation \$10. Register here: <https://da-james-mars.eventbrite.com>

For additional information, contact [info@discoveringamistad.org](mailto:info@discoveringamistad.org)



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