

12 YEARS A WIDOW

Anne Hampton Northup

Tuesday March 19, 2024

5PM

Join historian CONNOR WILLIAMS at the Westport Library for a lecture and discussion. Solomon Northup's dozen years surviving slavery is a tragic but increasingly well-known story. A free man from the Adirondacks and upstate New York, he was kidnapped in 1841, enslaved, and suffered a dozen years as human property before getting word of his captivity to allies in New York. The film based on his autobiography, *12 Years A Slave*, won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Yet less told is the story of his wife Anne, who spent those same dozen years surviving society. She maintained her family despite living in a land that granted her virtually no rights or representation. How does one exist, labor, and progress in a place where both sex and race counted against them? And how can her story help us understand women's history, African American history, and United States history more broadly?

On March 19, American historian (and Adirondack resident) Connor Williams will speak on Anne Northup's life and times, explore how her story aligns with other black feminists of her age, and encourage further discussions about race and gender in America's past.



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