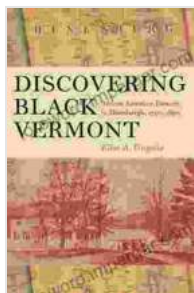


Discovering the Unsung Heroes of Black Vermont: African American Farmers of Hinesburgh, 1790-1890



Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Vermont, a chapter of American history often overlooked unfolds in the town of Hinesburgh. In the late 18th and

19th centuries, this quiet community became home to a thriving population of African Americans, many of whom were farmers.



Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, 1790-1890 by Elise A. Guyette

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 15852 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 281 pages



Their story, long hidden in the annals of time, has recently been brought to light in the groundbreaking book "Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers In Hinesburgh 1790-1890." Through meticulous research and poignant storytelling, author and historian Samuel B. Hand unveils the fascinating lives of these forgotten pioneers.

A Journey of Resilience

The African Americans who settled in Hinesburgh faced adversity at every turn. They arrived as slaves, many fleeing from the oppressive plantations of the South. After emancipation, they encountered discrimination and prejudice, but they refused to be deterred.

With unwavering determination, they carved out a life for themselves in this new land. They cleared forests, built homes, and established farms. They worked tirelessly to overcome poverty and establish a sense of community.



A typical farmstead in Hinesburgh during the 19th century. Credit: Vermont Historical Society

A Legacy of Agriculture

Farming was central to the lives of African Americans in Hinesburgh. They raised a variety of crops, including corn, wheat, and potatoes. They also kept livestock, such as cows, pigs, and sheep.

Their agricultural practices were highly successful. They employed innovative techniques, such as crop rotation and soil conservation. They also established a network of agricultural cooperatives, which helped to pool resources and support each other.

The African American farmers of Hinesburgh made a significant contribution to the local economy. Their products were sold at markets throughout the region, and they played a vital role in feeding the growing population of Vermont.

Social and Cultural Life

Beyond their work on the farm, the African Americans of Hinesburgh created a rich social and cultural life. They established churches, schools, and social organizations.

They also held community events, such as barn dances and quilting bees. These gatherings provided opportunities for fellowship and recreation, and they helped to strengthen the bonds within the community.



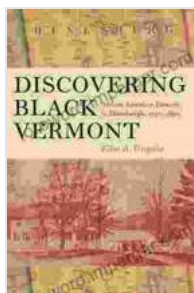
A Legacy Ignored

Despite their contributions, the story of the African American farmers of Hinesburgh has largely been ignored by historians. Their struggles and achievements have been overshadowed by the dominant narrative of white settlement in Vermont.

"Discovering Black Vermont" seeks to rectify this oversight. By shedding light on this hidden history, it challenges the traditional understanding of Vermont's past and reveals the true diversity of its people.

The book is a testament to the resilience, determination, and community spirit of the African Americans who settled in Hinesburgh. It is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, people can create a life of purpose and fulfillment.

As we strive to build a more inclusive and equitable society, the legacy of the African American farmers of Hinesburgh serves as an inspiration. Their story teaches us the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of all communities, no matter how small or marginalized they may be.



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