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Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790-1890

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New Book

Discovering Black Vermont:

African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790-1890

By Elise A. Guyette

University of Vermont Press, Paperback

232 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1584657606, 2010.

Description from the Publisher:

An impressive work of historical recovery, *Discovering Black Vermont* tells the story of three generations of free blacks trying to build a life and community in northern Vermont in the years following statehood. By piecing together fragments of the history of free blacks in Vermont -- tax and estate records, journals, diaries, and the like -- the author recovers what is essentially a lost world, establishing a framework for using primary sources to document a forgotten past. The book is an invaluable resource for those conducting local history research and will serve as inspiration for high school and college students and their teachers. "Although Vermont was the first state to outlaw adult slavery in its Constitution, in 1777, racism still lurked in the Green Mountains. In delving into the lives of family members, Guyette didn't have anything as simple as a diary to work with. Instead, she had to rely on the experiences of other black Vermonters, as well as grand lists and pension and probate records, to get a feel for their lives. Other African-Americans in Vermont suffered vandalism, slander and lawsuits from their neighbors. The Clarks and the other Hinesburg families probably were not immune from such strife. Guyette believes that their story is integral to understanding Vermont today." -- Times Argus.

