

Racial Justice Team Walking Tour - August 28

Linda Cooper, Racial Justice Team

Vermont's African American Heritage Trail beckons...

Your FUUSB Racial Justice Team takes you to Hinesburg to learn about the Black Farmers of 1790-1890:

Saturday, August 28, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Spaces are limited: Register with Linda Cooper, flatlanderalso@gmail.com or (802) 922-7554.

Leave from the FUUSB parking lot at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or meet the group by the Black Settlers Historic Marker on Lincoln Hill Road in Hinesburg. Carpools are at your discretion; please wear a mask while sharing a car with others. We will review the route before we depart. Bring snacks and water for yourself.

From 1795 to 1865 an African American farming community thrived on Lincoln Hill in what we now know as Hinesburg. The first settlers at the bottom of the road in 1798, from Massachusetts, were Samuel Peters, Hannah Lensemen and husband Prince Peters. Prince served in Captain Silas Pierce's MA Line (8th Com 3rd MA Regiment) for three years during the American Revolution. Samuel Peters volunteered at the Battle of Plattsburgh during the War of 1812.

Violet and Shubael Clark, from Connecticut, arrived at the top of the hill in 1795. Their farm grew to 175 acres, spilling over into Huntington, and one son owned 100 acres nearby. The original settlers expanded to five related families just before the Civil War; many are buried in an abandoned (and vandalized) cemetery at the top of the hill.

We will go for a walk along Lincoln Hill (on a road, not through the woods) with historian Elise Guyette to see where the farms were, learn what their lives in Hinesburg were like, and see some of the remnants of the cemetery.

FUUSB will pay for our speaker. I will pass a hat to reimburse FUUSB. Please plan accordingly.

Elise Guyette is author of *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburg, 1790-1890*, University of Vermont Press, 2010.