

**No. R-237. House concurrent resolution honoring Elise A. Guyette on the publication of *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790–1890*.**

(H.C.R.188)

Offered by: Representatives Lippert of Hinesburg, Ellis of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, historians have largely neglected to study the post-statehood Vermont African American farming community, and

Whereas, in her recent book *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790–1890* (University of Vermont Press), University of Vermont College of Education and Social Science lecturer Elise A. Guyette comprehensively examines this topic in an informative narration, and

Whereas, the book follows her 2007 University of Vermont doctoral dissertation in education, *The Story of Lincoln Hill, 1790–1870, from the dustbin of history into the classroom*, in which she detailed “the economic, spiritual, military, social and political lives,” of the black farm families who resided in the Lincoln Hill area of Hinesburg and neighboring Huntington, and

Whereas, Elise Guyette drew on “ethnographic, archeological, and historical methodologies” in her dissertation research, in combination with primary sources including land records, vital statistics, grand lists, court records, and cemeteries, to understand the internal dynamics of the Lincoln Hill African American farming community and how it interacted with the larger white population in whose midst it resided, and

Whereas, in the dissertation and later the book, she reports on how these racially divergent black and white communities in the Lincoln Hill area “created their own principles for living in the new postrevolutionary world” that accommodated “cross-racial friendships and collective support in their farming economy,” and

Whereas, in *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790–1890*, Elise Guyette extends this fascinating and untold story to 1890, and

Whereas, the book’s chapters tackle such topics as *The Myth of a Slave-Free White North, Civic Life in Hinesburgh, Economic Expansion and Black Voting Rights, Prejudice and Religion in Hinesburgh and Huntington* and profile several African American families in the context of the Civil War, and

Whereas, reviewers and historians have praised the book as an important contribution to the published historiography of Vermont, and

Whereas, as a result of Elise Guyette’s historical research and personal efforts, a state historical marker has been placed at the base of Lincoln Hill commemorating the Hinesburgh African American farming community, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Elise Guyette on the publication of *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, Vermont, 1790–1890*, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Elise Guyette and to the Hinesburg and Huntington historical societies.