

# African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility

Monday, February 5, 2024; 6:30 pm

Presented by Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills

Please join us in a discussion with Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck, the authors of *African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility*. Through grit and determination, the founding Black families of Sourland Mountain and surrounding Central New Jersey put down roots, built homes, established churches and navigated their lives in an unforgiving world. Through extensive research and interviews authors Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills reveal stories of the families who shaped the region for generations.

Copies of their book, *African Americans of Central New Jersey*, will be available for sale, as well as signing!

Program is FREE and open to the public. Attend in person at the Hopewell Branch of the Mercer County Library, 245 Pennington–Titusville Rd., Pennington, NJ. Or join online via Zoom. Registration is REQUIRED for BOTH in-person and Zoom. See [HopewellValleyHistory.org](http://HopewellValleyHistory.org) for more information.



## Speakers:

Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills are the founders of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and co-authors of *If These Stones Could Talk*. They proudly received the Kirkus Book Review in October 2018 and in 2019 the

New Jersey Author's Award Non-Fiction Popular Works Category. In 2020, they partnered with the Museum of the American Revolution for an exhibition titled *When Women Lost the Vote*. In 2021, they received Doris C. Carpenter Award on behalf of Preservation New Jersey for their work on the March of America's Diverse Army through New Jersey and the Solomon Northup Family Award for uplifting the memory of enslaved people. Their new book, *African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility*, was released in July.

Co-sponsored by Hopewell Valley Historical Society, The Hopewell Museum and the Friends of the Hopewell Branch Library.



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## African Americans OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

A HISTORY OF HARMONY AND HOSTILITY

BEVERLY MILLS AND ELAINE BUCK



## DISCOVER A LEGACY OF STRUGGLE, STRENGTH AND COMMUNITY



Through grit and determination, the founding Black families of the Sourland Mountain region and surrounding Central New Jersey put down roots, built homes, established churches and navigated their lives in an unforgiving world. Tracing lineages to the colonial era, many of the families have origins obscured through time and distorted by race. Reverend Oliver Hart fled Charleston during the British invasion in the Revolutionary War along with a thirteen-year-old enslaved boy who became the patriarch of the local Truehart family. Frost Blackwell was the property of the local founding White Blackwell family, and upon receiving his freedom in 1819, he established the Black Blackwell family, an anchor of the community still today. The Bethel AME Church offered generations a healing balm to spirits too often broken and torn asunder. Through extensive research and interviews, authors Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills reveal stories that recognize the presence of the past and offers hope for a more understanding future.

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