

AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE SOURLANDS

In the context of American history, we need to make room for stories long neglected. Stories of the enslaved populations of central New Jersey have come to light through the research of Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills in their book, *If These Stones Could Talk*. Through lecture and discussion, I will provide an historical overview, beginning with the transatlantic slave trade to the American colonies and introduce the slave statutes of colonial New Jersey. We will be using primary resources and archival images to learn about federal and state laws that governed every aspect of the enslaved persons life from the Colonial period through the Civil War and Reconstruction to Jim Crow laws and the Civil Rights Movements. By reading our text together, and discussing both historic legislation and current social, economic and political issues related to the impact of slavery, we should have a lively discussion about the lives of the enslaved populations in Central New Jersey and the continuing impact on people of color today.

If These Stones Could Talk is available from Labyrinth Books (Princeton), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and ebook format, Nook Book and Kindle store. Weekly assignments to prepare for class discussions will include chapters from the text, videos, and a variety of websites posted in the student Dropbox.

LEADER: Pat Payne's family origins are in the Sourland Mountains of Central NJ with the homestead adjacent to the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum in Skillman. She earned her library degree at Rutgers University and served as an educator and librarian at three universities, retiring as Dean of Libraries at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

LOCATION: Zoom

MONDAYS: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 8 weeks beginning February 28 through April 18

MAXIMUM: 25