



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT:

Carolyn McDaniel
cmcdaniel@hancockshakervillage.org
413.443.0188 x221

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, June 17, 2021 – Juneteenth, commemorating the day in 1865 when news of emancipation reached the enslaved people of Galveston TX, just became a federal holiday to observe the end of slavery in the United States. We recognize that the work toward achieving true equality and justice is ongoing, and in recognition of Juneteenth's significance, invite you view our exhibition online, [African American Shakers: In the Berkshires and Beyond](#) about the Shakers' view of equality.

The Shakers' view of equality has always extended to all races and sexes. Beginning in the eighteenth century, the Shakers welcomed many African Americans into their communities. The Shakers believed that all were equal in the eyes of God, and allowed anyone to join their communities, provided that they turned over their property and all material wealth once they committed to communal life. Communal living placed all Believers on the same plane, where property was owned by the collective group, and food and necessities were provided to all, as long as you lived a devoted, spiritual life.

Beginning July 3, the Village will offer an in-person talk on Black Shakers as part of its regular programming.