State Historical Society of Missouri Publishes New Online Interactive Map Exploring Juneteenth and Emancipation Day in Missouri

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“The Aug. 4 celebration of Emancipation Day in Missouri dates back to the Civil War era,” said Gary R. Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri. “Juneteenth celebrations in the Show-Me State are of more recent origins, dating to the 1970s,” he added.

Available online, *Emancipation Day in the Missouri Ozarks* takes viewers on a trip through counties that dot the Missouri Ozarks while detailing the origins and history of emancipation and the celebrations of Black Missourians after their fight for freedom. The interactive map can be viewed for free at https://shsmo.org/learn/emancipation-day-ozarks

“Our interactive map documents the evolution of emancipation gatherings in Missouri,” said Sean Rost, oral historian and project lead. “We hope people will engage with this map, not only to understand the origins of the federal holiday of Juneteenth but also how Missourians have commemorated emancipation throughout the Ozarks.”

The online interactive is the first of many projects to be released by the State Historical Society of Missouri that explore African American Heritage in the Ozarks, an initiative supported by an American Rescue Plan Act grant awarded to the Society through the National Endowment for the Humanities and Missouri Humanities.

The public can learn more about Emancipation Day in Missouri with the talk *Celebrating Freedom in Missouri: From Emancipation Day to Juneteenth*, presented by Gary R. Kremer at a Juneteenth celebration event Sunday, June 19. The talk begins at 3 p.m. at Brown’s Chapel in Arrow Rock and is presented in collaboration with Friends of Arrow Rock, the Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Missouri River Bird Observatory and the Study Circle in Arrow Rock on Racism (SCARR).

To explore more resources on African American history in Missouri, visit the Society’s research guide at https://shsmo.org/research/guides/african-american

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