

What was the DAWN SETTLEMENT?

The Dawn Settlement was located near the town of Dresden. The settlement was built around the British American Institute school, later called the Dawn Institute. The school was built in 1842. This school offered a basic education—reading, writing, and arithmetic. As well, the institute taught basic house keeping and manual labour skills.

The Institute owned 300 acres and the settlers of the Dawn Settlement farmed another 1,500 acres. Settlers purchased their land for \$4 an acre. They grew tobacco, wheat, corn, and oats. The community grew to have its own grist and saw mills, a brick yard, and a rope walker (rope making). Lumber from the Dawn Settlement was exported to places as far away as England. The settlement grew to be a community of 500 to 700 people.



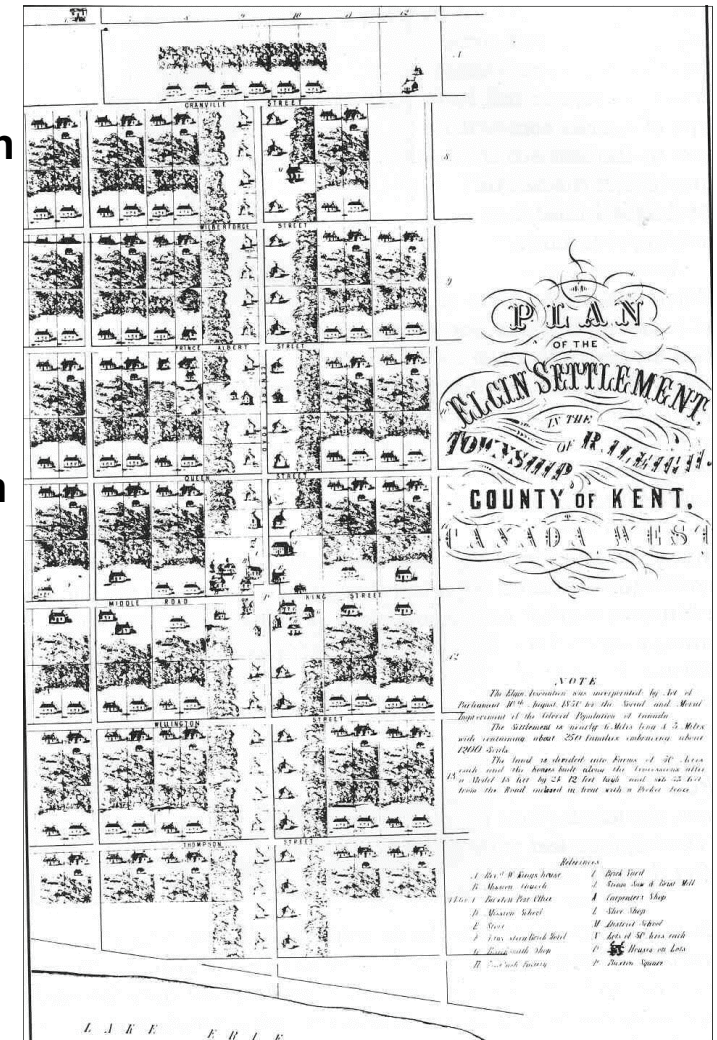
What was the **BUXTON SETTLEMENT?**

The Buxton Settlement opened in 1849, as the Elgin Settlement, about twelve miles from Chatham. Buxton was the largest Black settlement on 9,000 acres of land (six miles long and three miles wide). The settlement land was split into 50 acre farms and sold to settlers for \$2.50 an acre.

Education and religion were very important to the settlers. The first school to open in Buxton was the Mission School and was taught by qualified teachers. In 1856, six students of the Mission School graduated and were accepted in colleges in Toronto! By 1862, there were four schools operating in the settlement.

The first church in Buxton was the Mission Church, built by the Presbyterian Church. The population of Buxton grew and so did the need for more churches. Soon, three Baptist churches and an African Methodist Episcopal were built.

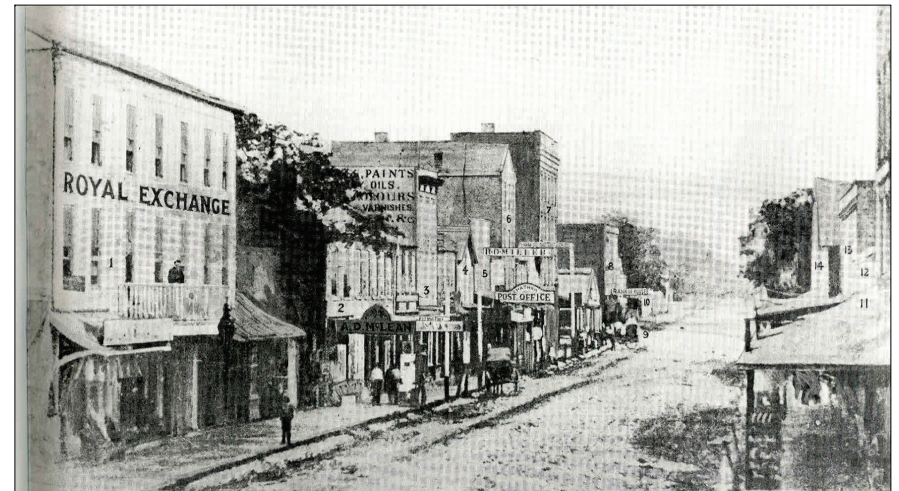
Many of the settlers who came to Buxton brought special skills and abilities. Buxton grew rapidly and by 1855, it had a shoe shop, country store, blacksmith, post office, carpenter shop, savings bank, brickyard, hotel, saw and grist mills. The settlement grew to a community of about 1,500 people.



What was in CHATHAM?

In 1789, much of the land where the city of Chatham is located today was purchased by an Oneida woman, Sally Aitse. She purchased the land from Chippewa Chiefs. Sally settled two farms with the help of her slaves. The early name for Chatham was “the Forks”. The government began granting lots of land in the Chatham area around 1800. Chatham was often the last stop for many slaves on their journey to freedom. Black settlers felt safe in this area, because of the distance to the American border. By 1830, the population of Chatham was approximately 300 people.

Chatham became a military outpost to control the traffic on the Thames river. In 1837 a row of military barracks (housing) were built and the Colored Troops were stationed in Chatham. During the early years these settlers started businesses, using the skills they had learned during their years in slavery, and many became successful business owners. Chatham became the headquarters for the “Provincial Freeman”, an anti-slavery newspaper published by Mary Ann Shadd. In 1850, Chatham was incorporated as a town. The population of Chatham had grown to about 3,000 people and it was reported to be 1,000 to 1,500 Black.



WHAT

Learn about what three different and unique locations had to offer.

What was the largest population of each community ?

POPULATION	200	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000
Buxton										
Chatham										
Dawn										

What would it cost to buy land ?

PROPERTY	BUXTON	CHATHAM	DAWN
\$2.50 acre			
MIN. PURCHASE 50 acres			
\$4.00 acre			