When did people settle in the *DAWN SETTLEMENT?*

The Dawn Settlement opened in 1842 and had a very promising beginning. However, by 1849, they were $8,000.00 in debt, due to poor management. In 1850, the British Anti-Slavery Society sent their representative to help the Dawn Settlement. Unfortunately, the situation got worse. In the 1860's, the Board of Trustees for the Dawn Settlement began legal action against the administrator. In 1868, the Dawn Settlement closed and the property that belonged to the Dawn Institute was sold for over $30,000.00. The funds raised were used to build the Wilberforce Institute in Chatham.

When did people settle in the BUXTON SETTLEMENT?

The Buxton Settlement opened in 1849 and had a very promising beginning. In fact, settlers began arriving even before the settlement opened!

In 1852, several industries opened in Buxton, including the brickyard, lumber mill, grist mill, and potash (fertilizer) factory. These businesses not only made these goods more affordable, but created jobs within the settlement. As well, settlers were able to clear a section of land and turn the lumber into the cash needed to buy groceries or clothes. The railroad also offered employment opportunities.

The growth of the settlement continued steadily until after 1865, when the United States abolished slavery. After the American Civil War, many Buxton settlers returned to the United States to rebuild the war torn South as teachers, lawyers, and ministers, or to find loved ones who never came north. The Buxton Settlement closed in 1872, however many families remained on settlement land. The village plan of North Buxton was registered in 1874 and the community still remains to this day.

When did people settle in CHATHAM?

There has always been a Black population in Chatham, even as slaves in 1790. However, the census records show that during the 1850's the Black population doubled. An obvious reason for the increase were the laws in the United States, those states that allowed slavery and the punishments for helping slaves to escape. Another reason was the distance Chatham is from the US border.

By the 1880's, the Black population in Chatham began to shrink. Many people left the area to find jobs in their chosen professions, because with the growing prejudice in Chatham many qualified Black people couldn't get jobs.

WHEN

When did people settle in the Buxton Settlement, in Chatham, or in the Dawn Settlement?

YEARS	1790	1800	1820	1840	1845	1850	1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880
Buxton												
Chatham												
Dawn												