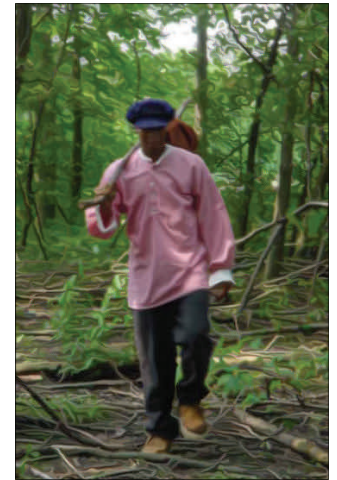


Who Settled in the **DAWN SETTLEMENT?**

Many of the people who settled in the Dawn Settlement were former slaves. It was very hard and dangerous for a slave to escape. Slaves didn't know the land, they weren't allowed to see maps or even talk about travel routes. A dark skinned person traveling alone was instantly suspected to be a runaway. Slaves caught trying to escape were severely punished. The Dawn Settlement had 500—700 settlers at its peak.

The most famous settler of the Dawn Settlement was Josiah Henson, nicknamed Uncle Tom from the main character in the book "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Josiah Henson was born a slave on June 15, 1789 in Maryland. Josiah began his dangerous journey to freedom in 1829 with his wife and four children. He crossed the Niagara River into Upper Canada in 1830. Josiah started his life in Canada working as a farm labourer and a preacher. In 1834, Josiah rented farm land from the government. In 1841, with financial help, Josiah Henson had purchased 200 acres in Dawn Township to start a community for fugitives from slavery.

James Brown was born a slave in Virginia and earned the money to buy his freedom as a bricklayer. James was very involved in the abolitionist movement. While in Kentucky, James was arrested and charged with helping a slave to escape. Eventually he was found innocent and moved to the Dawn Settlement where he became a trustee of the British American Institute.



Who Settled in the BUXTON SETTLEMENT?

The Buxton Settlement was started by Rev. William King, who had inherited slaves in Louisiana. William never believed that slavery was right, but it was against the law in many southern states to free slaves. William brought his fifteen slaves north to Ohio, where his brother lived and freed them. While the fifteen former slaves were in Ohio, they learned many useful skills to survive in the harsh northern climate (like canning food or building cabins). William traveled to Canada West where he got support to start a Black settlement from the Presbyterian Church and the Canadian government. He purchased a homestead in the settlement lands.

In November of 1849, William and the fifteen slaves arrived at the farm he bought and were met by several families who were ready to settle in Buxton! Rev. King writes about Catherine and Isaac Riley camping with their children in his barn while they waited for him to arrive. The Riley's became Rev. King's neighbours. John and Jerome Riley grew up to have successful careers, as a minister and doctor, because the excellent education they received in the Mission School prepared them to go on to college.

Many fugitive slaves came to Buxton and the 'Liberty Bell' (pictured above) rang for each new person to arrive safely from slavery! Although, many Blacks who were never slaves came to settle in Buxton, too, so did people who had settled in other areas of the Canadian territories. The majority of people who settled in Buxton wanted their children to receive a good education.



Who Settled in CHATHAM?



Among the earliest settlers of Chatham were the slaves of Sally Aulsebrook. By the 1800's several Black settlers are recorded to have lived along the north side of the Thames. Many of these settlers had been slaves and made the dangerous journey to freedom. Slaves caught trying to escape were severely punished.

Many former slaves settled in Chatham and started businesses, using skills they learned from their experience as slaves, and became successful business owners. Henry and Annie Weaver had been slaves in the south, and they began in Chatham as a butcher and cook. The Weavers worked to open a meat smoke house and boarding house. Henry was eventually elected an Alderman in Chatham. James Monroe Jones was born a slave and his father purchased his freedom when he was a child. He learned the blacksmith trade from his father before coming to Chatham in 1849. James became a famous gun maker and was called "Gunsmith" Jones.

Chatham attracted many other accomplished Blacks, because of the Canadian laws and the business opportunities in the growing Black community. In 1856, Dr. Martin Delany relocated to Chatham from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Delany led an expedition to Africa with the hope of ending the exportation of slaves. Chatham was the home of the '*Provincial Freeman*' for several years, an anti-slavery newspaper published by Mary Ann Shadd. Despite the prejudice that existed in Chatham, it became known as the "Black man's Paris".



WHO

Using the **A Day in an Early African-Canadian Settlement** CD finish the graph below. Learn about the people who started and settled in these communities. Consider the variety of people who settled in each area.

<i>Who settled in</i>	<i>Buxton</i>	<i>Chatham</i>	<i>Dawn</i>
People who wanted to live near others who understood what it felt like to have been a slave.			
People who were well educated.			
People who chose to make a living farming.			
People who had escaped from slavery.			
People who were Black.			
People who were professional or skilled in a trade (doctors, lawyers, teachers, carpenters, masons).			
People who needed an immediate job.			
People who had purchased their freedom from slavery.			
People who wanted their children to have a good education.			
People who needed to learn how to live in freedom.			
People who wanted to live near neighbours.			
People who wanted legal protection.			
People who were ready to start a fresh life.			