

# ***Why settle in the **DAWN SETTLEMENT?*****

Many people who had been slaves in the United States settled in the Dawn Settlement. These people had never been free before, they were used to having masters give them orders. A slave had to do what the master told them do and live with what the masters gave them. Some masters were cruel and overworked their slaves. They didn't give their slaves enough food to eat or new clothes to wear. A master could even sell parents away from their children!

Slaves were uneducated—in many states it was against the law to teach a slave how to read! People who had been field slaves might not know much about house chores or people who knew how to cook might not know how to plant a garden. By settling in an area together, they could share their knowledge and help each other to learn to live in a free society. The Dawn Settlement was created to help former slaves learn the skills they would need to prosper in freedom.

## **1850's Businesses:**

**Saw Mill**

**Brickyard**

**Rope Spinner**



# **Why settle in the *BUXTON SETTLEMENT?***

Even after slaves reached freedom, they still lacked an education. Without an education former slaves would have to depend on others to explain what the laws were or what was in a purchase contract. Many schools wouldn't allow Black students to attend. As the Black population grew in cities, often separate schools were opened for Black students. However, the supplies and facilities usually weren't as good as those used in schools for White children.

In the Buxton Settlement the education offered in the Mission School was as good or better than the education available in White schools. Students at the Mission School had the opportunity to learn Greek, Algebra, Geometry, Music, and Latin to prepare them for college. Many of the settlers in Buxton, relocated from other settlements or cities so their children could attend school in Buxton. There were also night classes available to give adults a basic education (reading, writing, and arithmetic).

## **1850's Businesses:**

Shoe Shop	Post Office
Country Store	Carpenter Shop
Blacksmith	Temperance Hotel
Saw Mill	Savings Bank
Grist Mill	Potash Factory
Brickyard	Barrel Makers

**4 Schools (with qualified teachers)**

**5 Churches**



## **Why settle in CHATHAM?**

Not all slaves who came to the Canadian territories were able to escape with their families. Many slaves were forced to leave behind their parents, husband or wife, and children on journey to freedom. They reached Canadian soil grateful to be and alive, but worried and fearful for the wellbeing of those left behind. Many slaves reached freedom with nothing more than the clothes on their back. Their immediate priority was to find a job to support themselves and any family who came with them. Black children would not have attended classes with White children. They would have gone to a separate school, if they attended school at all.



Nor were all the Blacks who emigrated to the Canadian territories slaves or uneducated. Some came with the money to make a new start. By the 1850's amongst the growing Black population of Chatham, there were many Black business owners and many Blacks were employed in skilled trades in Chatham. People settled where they could support themselves and their families. For example, there might not have been enough business to support more than one or two blacksmiths in a settlement.

### **1861 Census of Black Businesses:**

<b>2 - Blacksmith</b>	<b>17 - Seamstress</b>	<b>2 - Minister</b>	<b>5 - Grocer</b>
<b>1 - Brick mason</b>	<b>1 - Gardener</b>	<b>5 - Plasterer</b>	<b>1 - Wagon Maker</b>
<b>1 - Milliner</b>	<b>1 - Gunsmith</b>	<b>1 - Tavern Keeper</b>	<b>1 - Butcher</b>
<b>1 - Cabinet Maker</b>	<b>13 - Carpenter</b>	<b>1 - Lawyer</b>	<b>2 - Watchmaker</b>
<b>4 - Barber</b>	<b>6 - Doctor</b>	<b>2 - Teacher</b>	<b>3 - Painter</b>

