

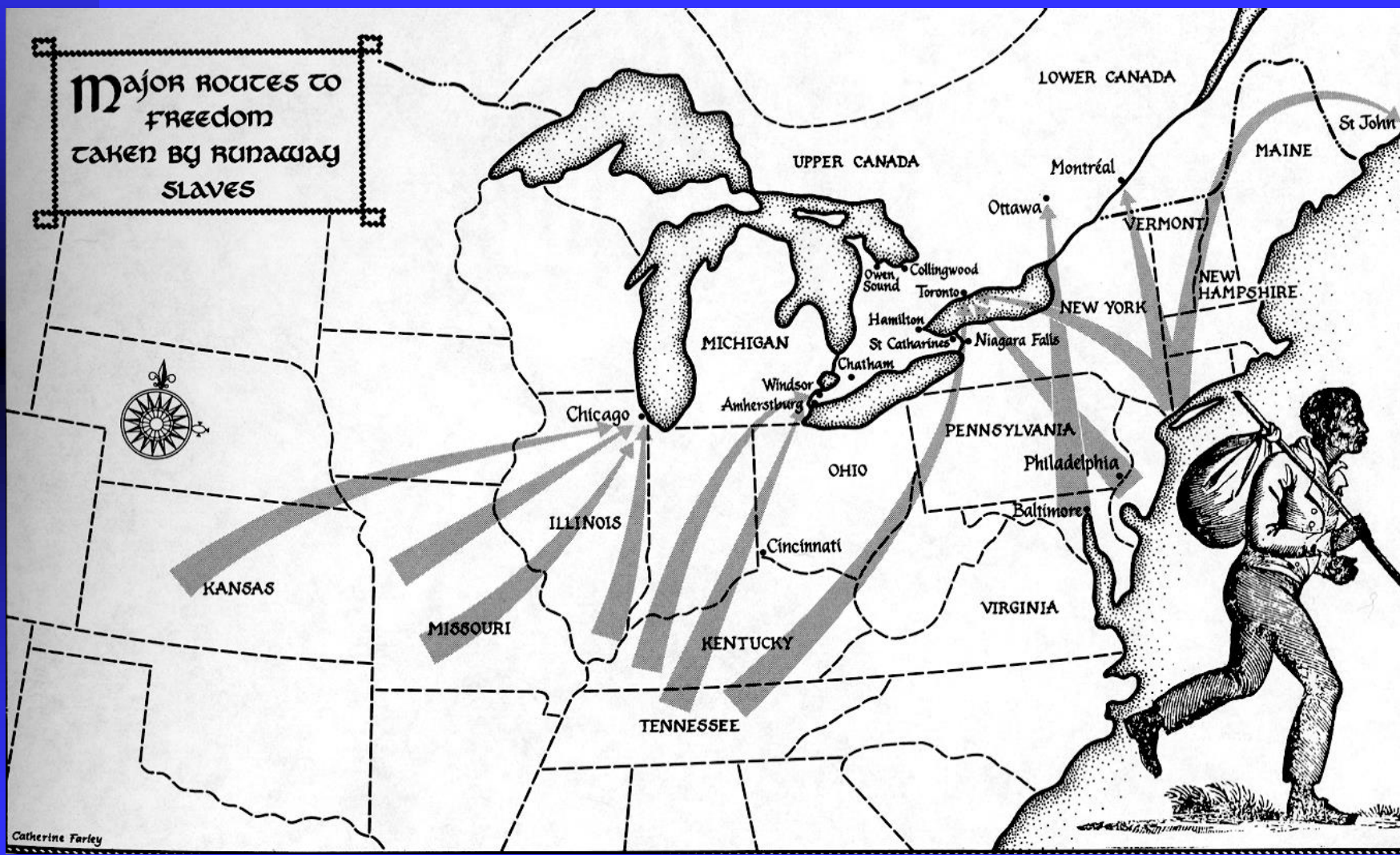


Presents

# The Buxton Settlement



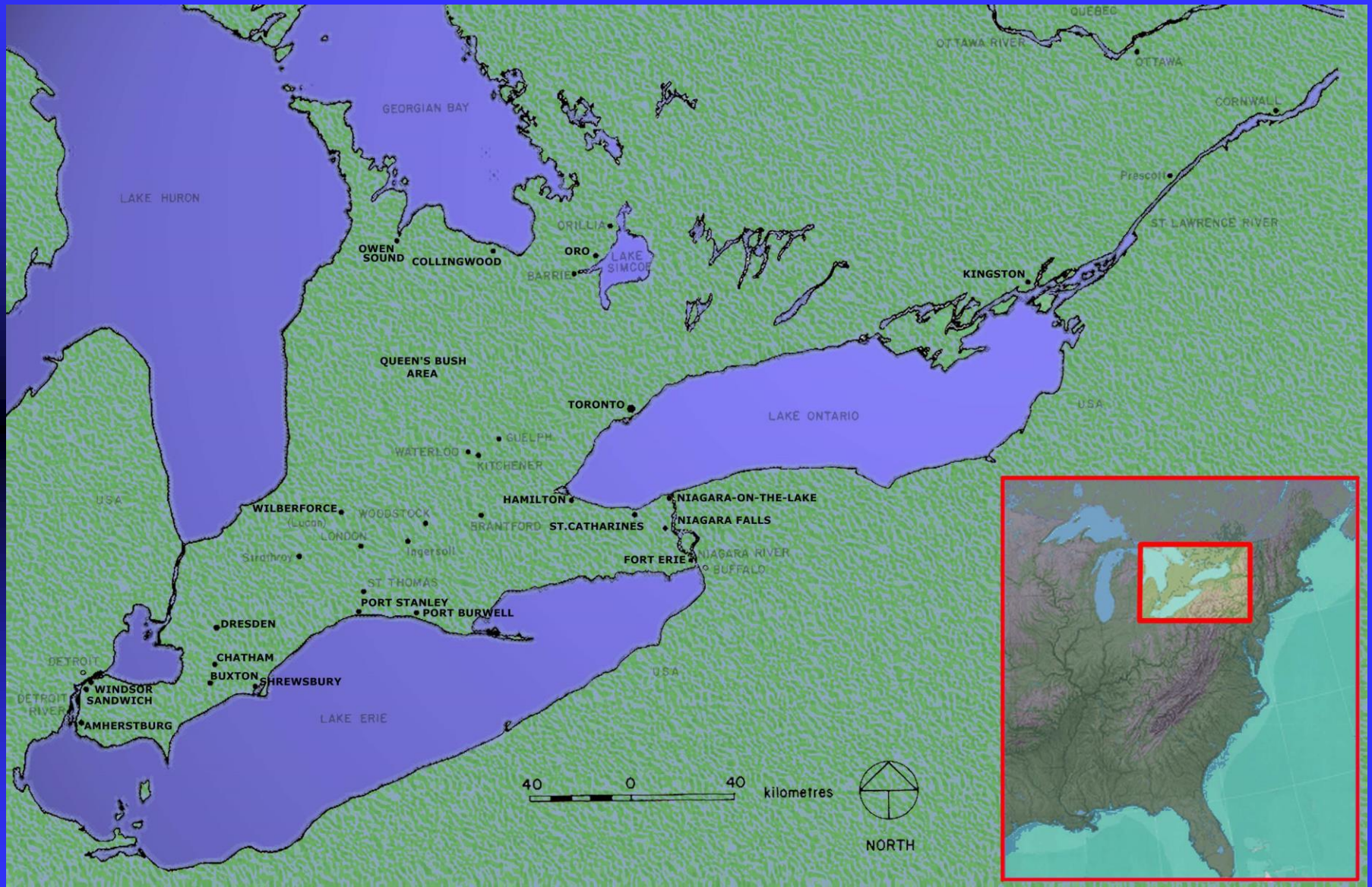
**Major Routes to Freedom  
Taken by Runaway  
Slaves**





# WELCOME TO CANADA





A map showing four locations: Dresden, Chatham, Buxton, and Shrewsbury. Dresden is at the top left, Chatham is below it, Buxton is below Chatham, and Shrewsbury is to the right of Buxton. A black line separates the green land area from the blue water area. Each location is marked with a black dot.

**DRESDEN**

**CHATHAM**

**BUXTON**

**SHREWSBURY**



# Buxton

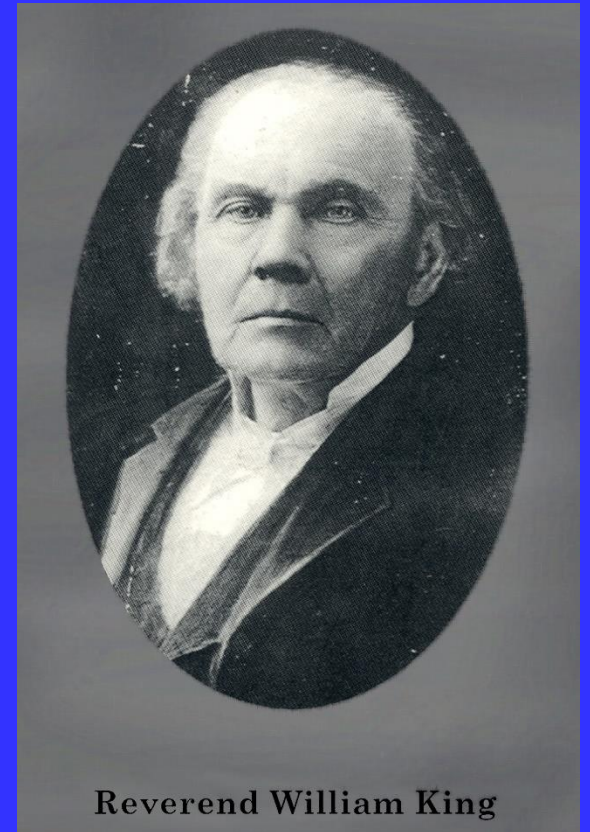
**Celebrating the Underground Railroad  
& Early Black Settlement In Canada**

The Buxton Liberty Bell rang with the “Harmonies of Liberty” at the arrival of each new fugitive from slavery.





The Elgin (Buxton) Settlement  
was founded in 1849 by  
Rev. William King.

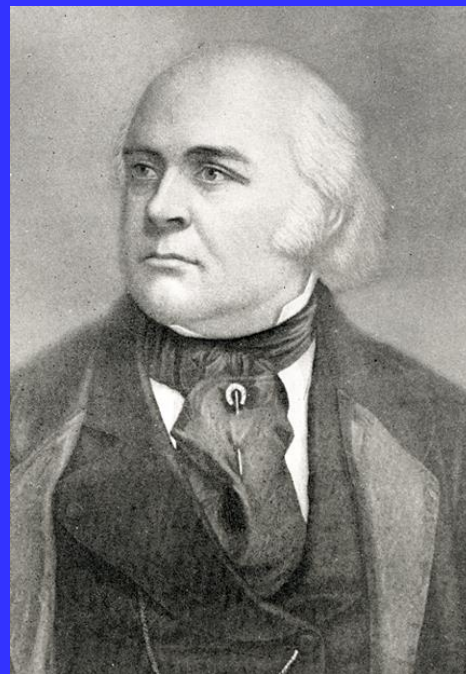


Reverend William King

The Settlement was to be a refuge for King's 15 former slaves and for other men, women, and children seeking freedom from the bonds of slavery.



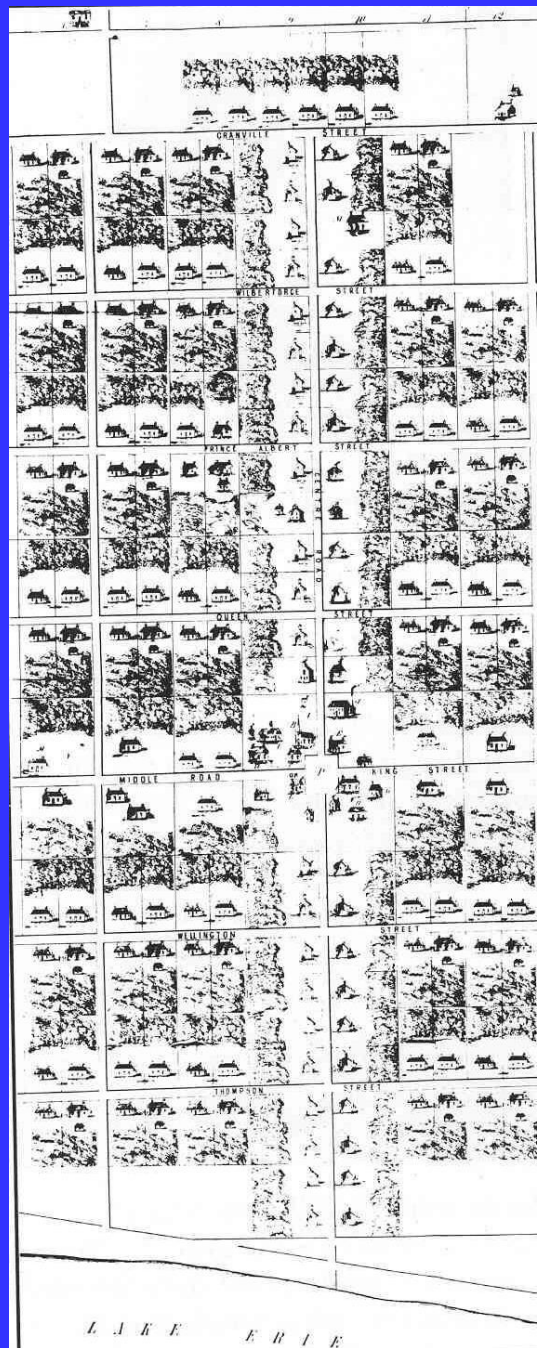
The Settlement was named to honour Lord Elgin who was the Governor of Upper Canada at the time of its founding.



However, it was more commonly known as “**Buxton**” to honour Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton – a British abolitionist and member of British parliament.



The land of the settlement consisted of 9,000 acres. The land was divided into 50 acre lots which were sold to the freedom seekers. After making a down payment, they were given 10 years to pay for their property.



**PLAN**  
 OF THE  
**ELGIN SETTLEMENT**  
 IN THE  
**TOWNSHIP OF R. J. H. H. H. H.**  
 COUNTY OF KENT,  
 CANADA WEST

**NOTE**

The Elgin Association was incorporated by Act of Parliament 47th August 1856 for the Social and Moral Improvement of the colored Population of Canada.

The Settlement is nearly 6 Miles long & 5 Miles wide containing about 250 families embracing about 1200 Souls.

The land is divided into Farms of 20 Acres each and the houses built along the townships after a Model is let by 24 feet high and set 25 feet from the Road enclosed in town with a brick fence.

- References*
- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Mr. W. Kings house      | L. Book Store            |
| B. Masons Warehouse        | M. Town Saw & Press Mill |
| C. Dr. Charles Post Office | N. Carpenter Shop        |
| D. Masons School           | O. Shoe Shop             |
| E. Store                   | P. District School       |
| F. First street Bank Hotel | Q. Lots of 50 Acres each |
| G. Blacksmith Shop         | R. Houses on Lots        |
| H. Coal and Lumber         | S. Market Square         |

Rev. King purchased an established farm at the centre of the settlement.

- His barn was used to house the first settlers until their own homes could be built.
- His home was used to hold church services and school classes until a suitable building could be erected.

# Rev. King's Home





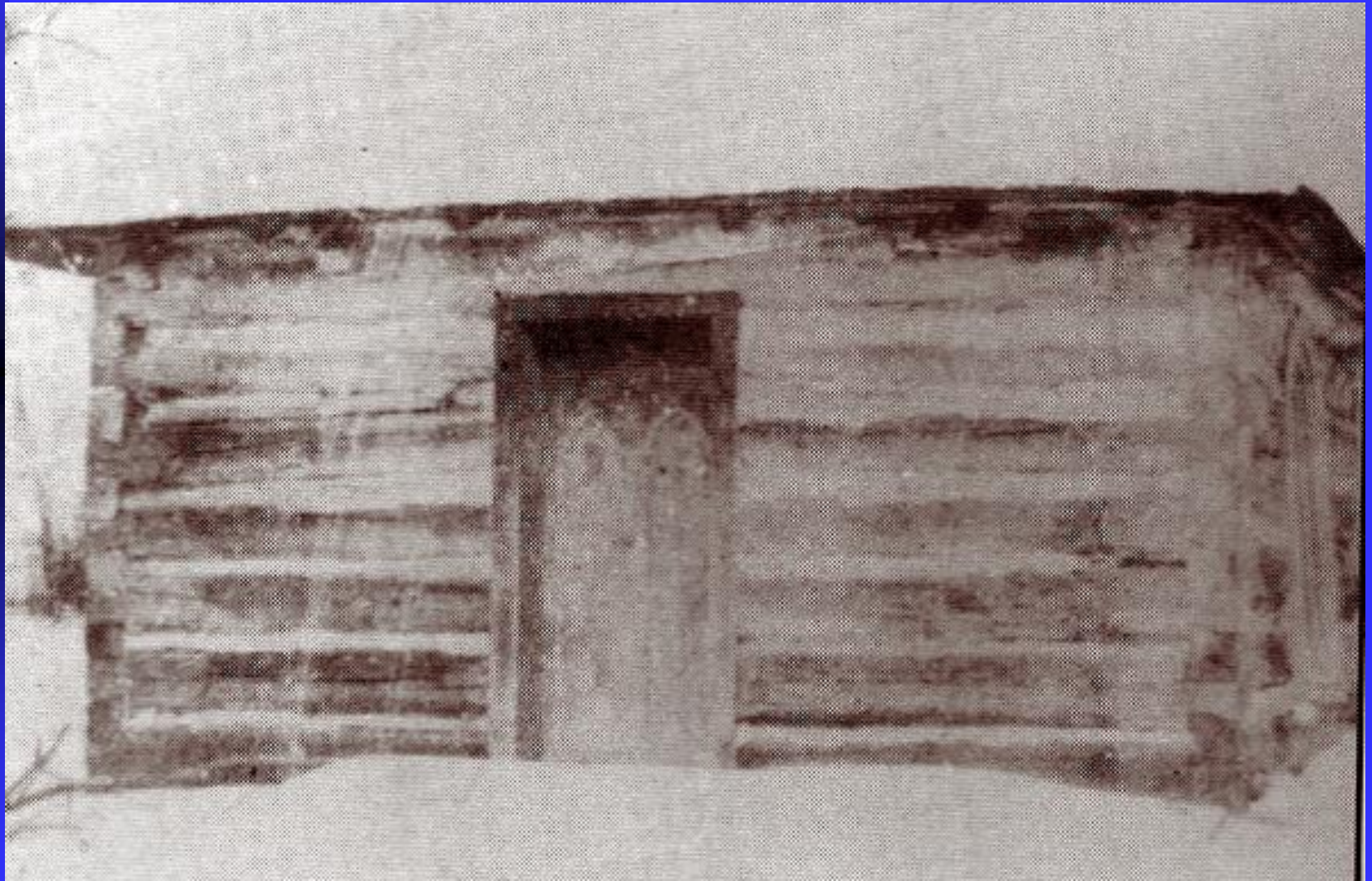
## *Buxton soon had:*

- A mission church
- A school
- A saw and grist mill
- A potash factory
- A brick yard
- A post office
- A tramway (to transport barrel staves and heavy lumber to the lake for shipping)

# The Buxton Mission



# Buxton's First Post Office



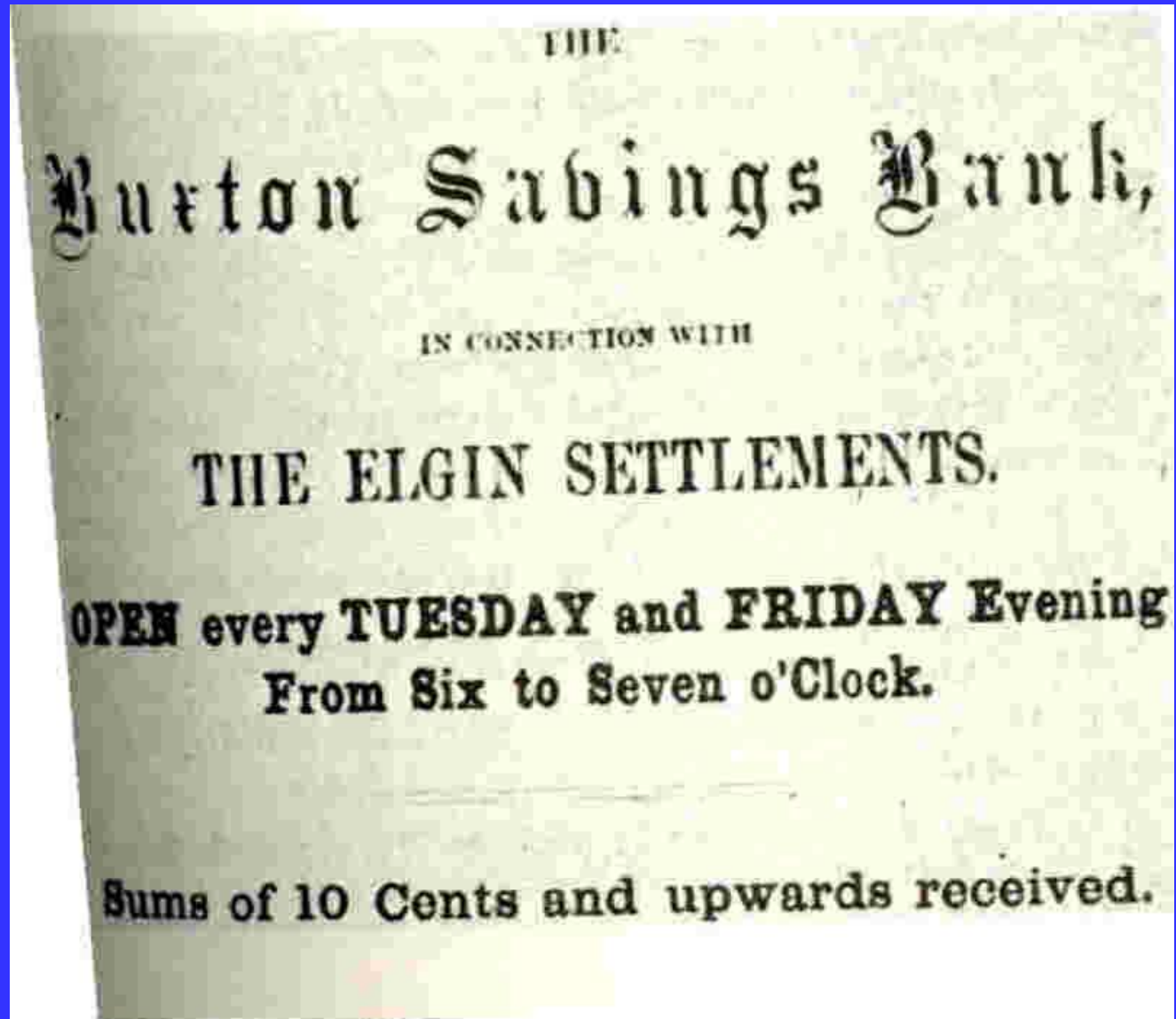
Added soon to the settlement were:

- A shoe shop
- A carpenter shop
- A blacksmith shop
- A savings bank
- A temperance hotel

# Buxton's Temperance Hotel



# Passbook from the Buxton Savings Bank



*Rev. King knew that to be successful the settlers needed:*

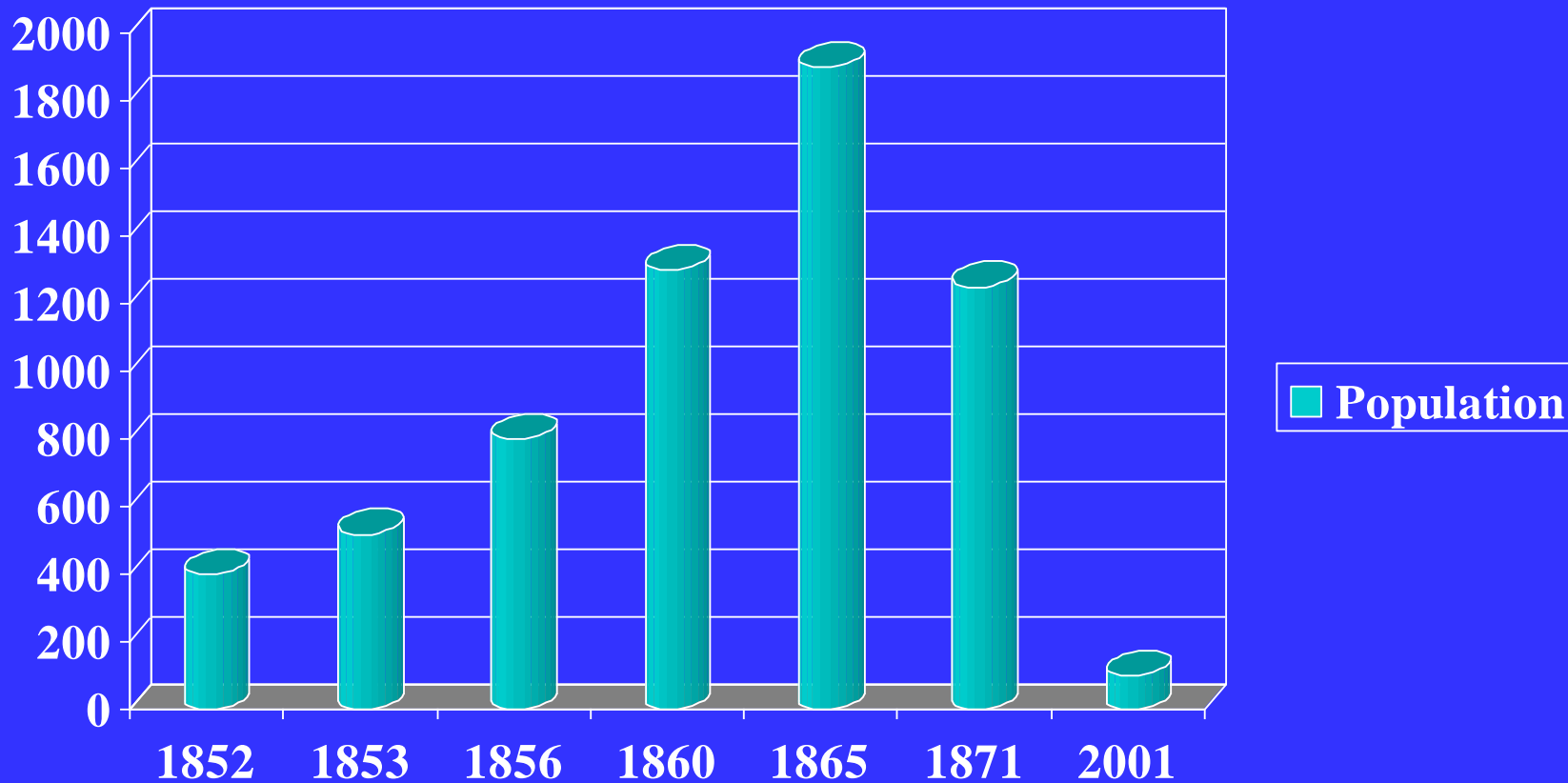
- Self Reliance
- Education
- Religion
- Moral and Family Values

In order to achieve this,  
strictly enforced conditions  
were set down for settlement  
at Buxton.



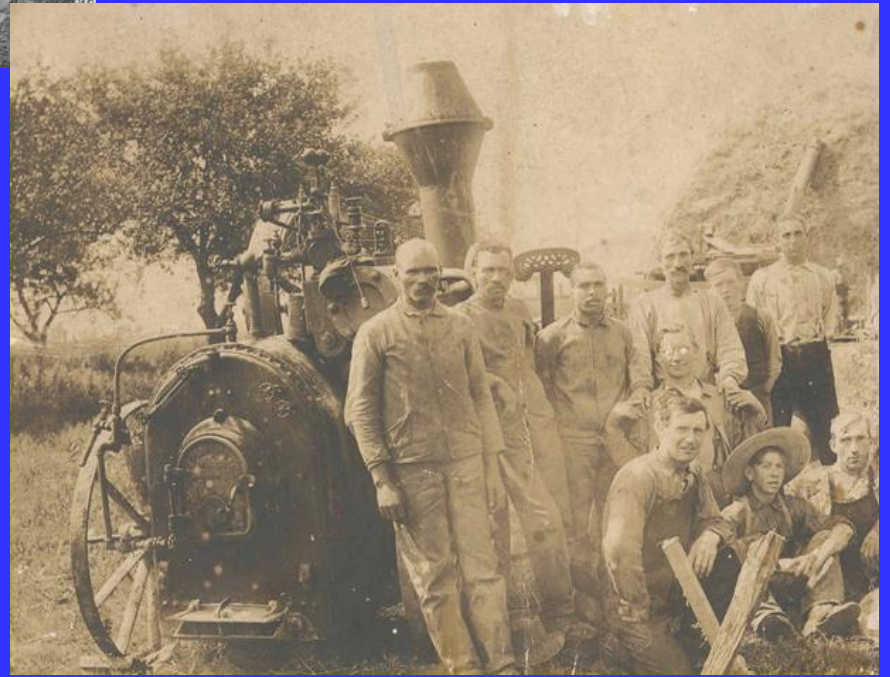
- All land was reserved for Black inhabitants
- Land must be purchased, not rented or sharecropped
- For ten years the land could only be resold to Blacks
- Settlers must meet minimum standards for their homes
- Settlers must clear roads and cut ditches in front of their property

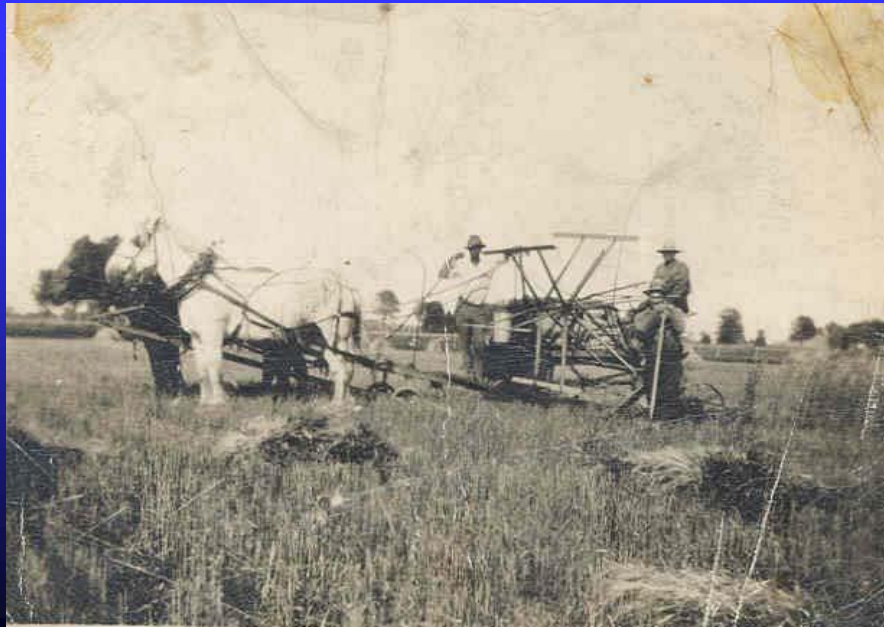
Buxton's population increased steadily until the time of the Civil War when it began to decline.



Buxton's economy was built on agriculture. Clearing and draining the land was a daunting task for the settlers.







A few of the descendants of the original settlement continue to farm in the Buxton area today.





A railroad built through the Buxton settlement allowed the settlers an opportunity for employment away from their farms.

This assisted them in paying for their property, and many were fully paid for before the ten year term was completed.

A second railroad built at the northern end of the settlement provided the people of Buxton with:

- A railway station
- Passenger service to other local and distant areas
- A grain mill
- Freight service for their crops and animals to be shipped



# The Buxton Railway Station



# The old grain mill



Many of the men of Buxton continued to find employment with the railroad.



Many families left their farms and purchased small lots at the northern end of the settlement near the railroad. This created the village of North Buxton with churches, a school, and businesses. North Buxton soon became the heart of the settlement.



This store, post office and gas station formerly in North Buxton, was known as “Papa Prince’s Pleasure Parlour”.

Garrison Shadd's store closed in the 1960's.



Ira Shadd's General Store served as the last Buxton Post Office.



The Buxton Railway Station is no longer in use, but is being restored and used by a local business.





*Education at Buxton was superior and many free Blacks from the United States came to Buxton for the educational opportunities offered there.*

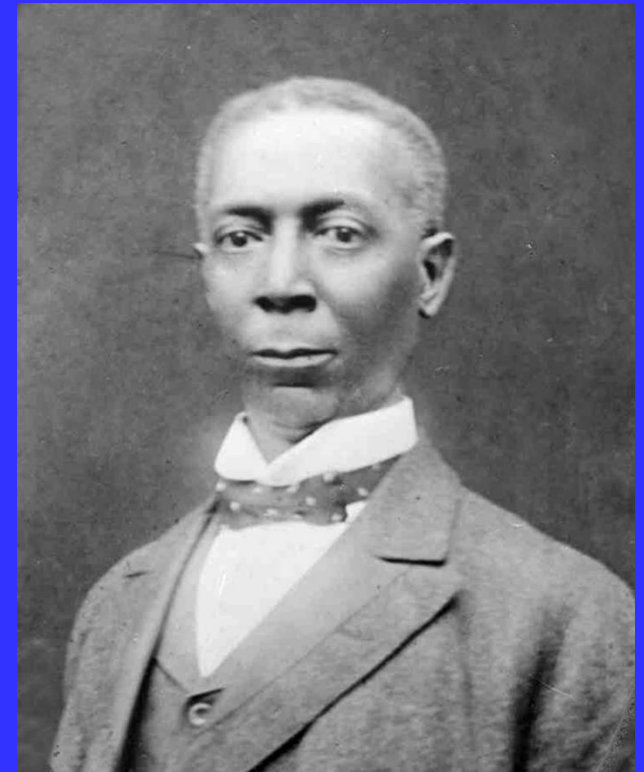
The first six graduates of the mission school went on to Knox and Trinity Colleges in Toronto.

- *James Rapier—Teacher, U. S. Congressman*
- *John Riley – Minister, Missionary*
- *Jerome Riley – Doctor*
- *Alfred Lafferty – Lawyer*
- *Richard Johnson- Medical Missionary in Africa*
- *Anderson Abbott- Doctor*



James Rapier was the first teacher at S.S.13 in Buxton. He later returned to the south where he was elected to the U.S. Congress from Alabama.

John Riley became a minister and had charges in Canada West and in several cities in the United States. He later received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the State of Kentucky University of Louisville.



Anderson Abbott served as surgeon during the Civil War, and was a guest of Abraham Lincoln at a Levee at the White House. He returned to Canada where he practiced medicine in Chatham and Toronto.



S.S. # 13 Raleigh was built at the northern end of the settlement in 1861.



Students at Buxton School - 1910

S.S.# 13 – The Buxton school closed in 1968. It was designated a historical building.



The school has been restored and will be used once again as a classroom, to educate students and visitors about the Buxton Settlement and the UGRR.





The Buxton Mission which included both a church and a school was supported by the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. King was appointed by the Presbyterian Synod as minister to the Mission.

In 1858, St. Andrews  
Presbyterian Church was built to  
replace the Mission Church.



The Buxton Liberty Bell, a gift from the colored inhabitants of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was hung in the new St. Andrews Church. Records indicate the bell was rung each morning and evening as a reminder of those who were still in bondage and everytime a fugitive reached safety in Buxton. The bell continues to ring out on Sunday mornings from the steeple of St. Andrews, which is now a United Church.

# Buxton Liberty Bell



With generous support from the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship, the Buxton Historical Society had a replica of the Buxton Liberty Bell cast in 2007.

# St. Andrews United Church, South Buxton



Many of the new freedmen, however, preferred the more familiar worship services of the Baptist and Methodist faiths. Within a few years there were several Baptist churches in Buxton.

First Baptist  
Church of North  
Buxton was built  
in 1873, when the  
congregations of  
several Baptist  
churches  
amalgamated.

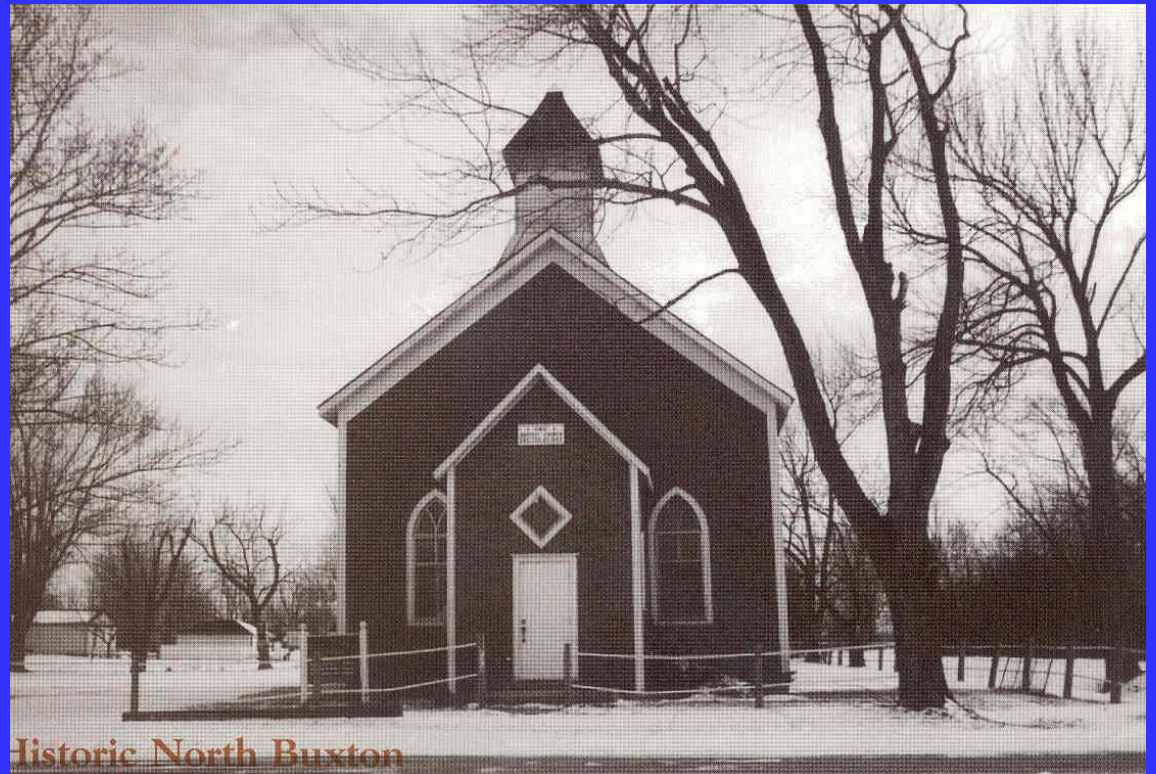


First Baptist Church served the community until May 2000.





The building is now owned and maintained by the Buxton Historical Society, and is used to exhibit artifacts from the religious life of the Buxton Settlement.



Historic North Buxton

The African Methodist Church was founded early in the settlement, but was changed to the British Methodist to reflect the loyalty of the people to the British crown.

# The British Methodist Church North Buxton



This church continues to serve the community and is now known as the North Buxton Community Church.



# The early homes of Buxton were built to minimum standards. They had to:

- Be set back 33 feet from the road
- Be at least 24 feet by 18 feet with a roof at least 12 feet high
- Be divided into a minimum of 4 rooms
- Have a piazza extending across the side facing the concession road
- Have a picket fence, with a house garden that must include flowers

*This home built by one of the early settlers is the last remaining log cabin from the settlement.*

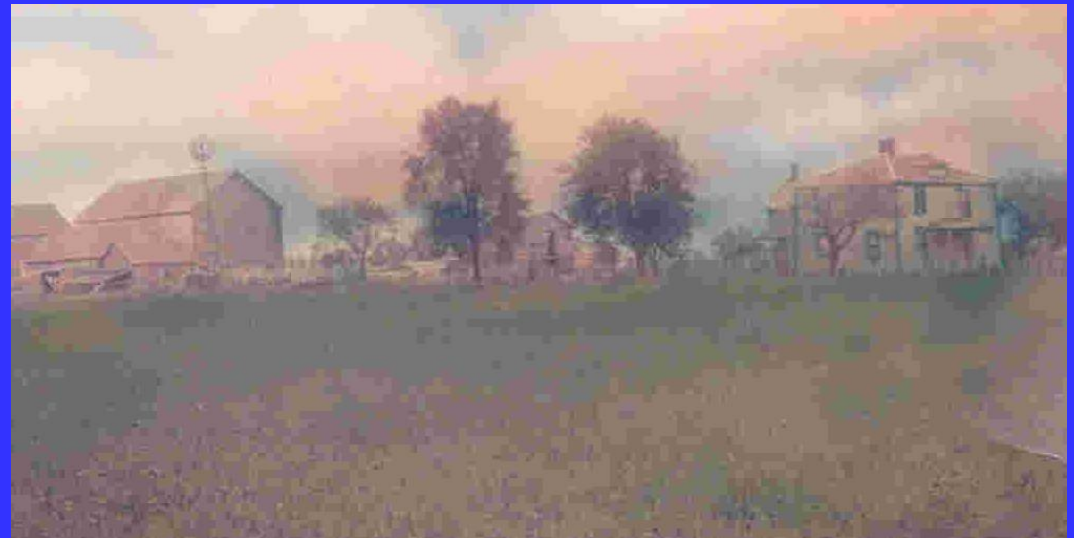


Pictures taken on its original site at the Tenth Concession.

In 2005-06, the cabin built by Henry Colbert in 1852, was moved to the museum site and restored with generous assistance from Human Resources Skills & Development Canada and Ontario Trillium Foundation.



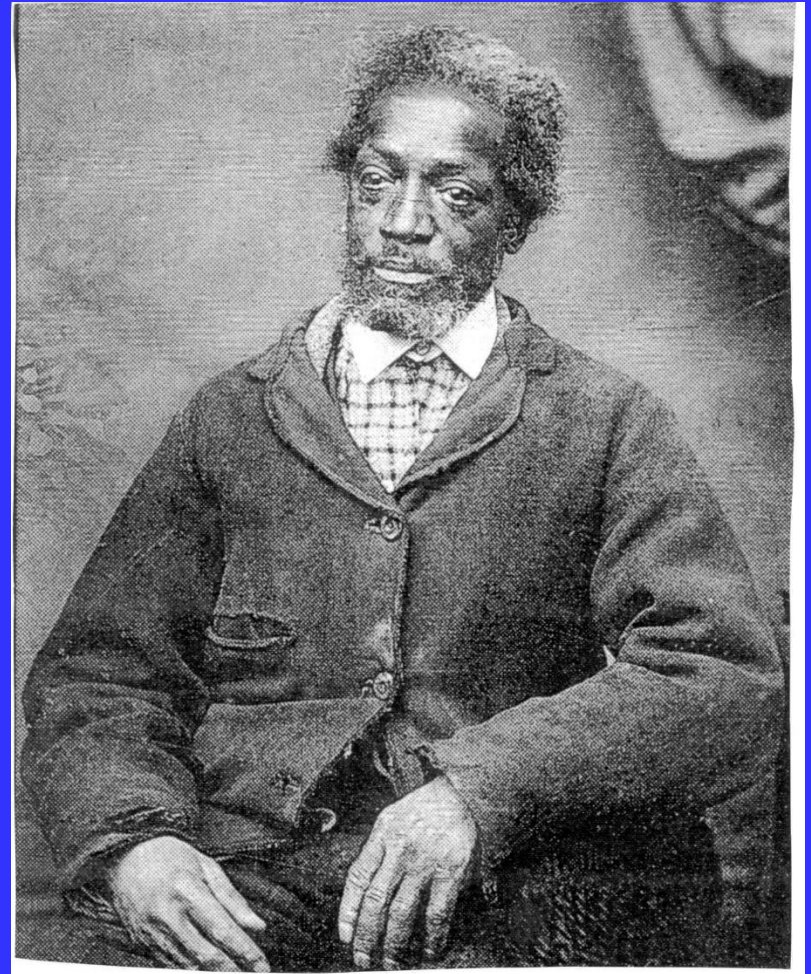
Many early homes surpassed the minimum standards for the settlement.



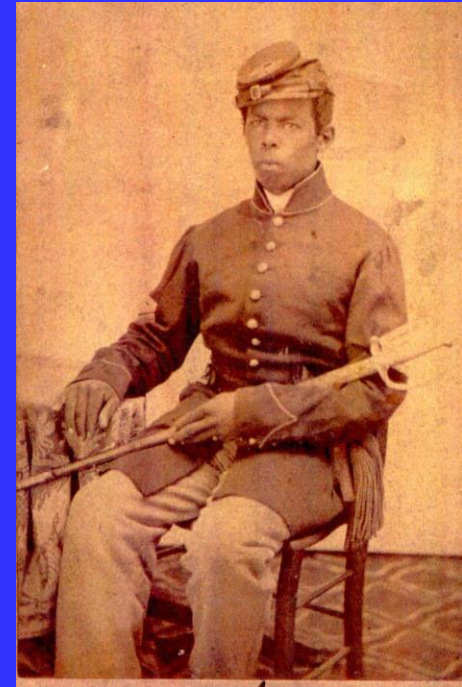


Isaac Riley, with his family, was one of the first settlers in Buxton.

Following the Civil War, he relocated to Nebraska.



In 1863, when Blacks were allowed to join the war to end slavery, as many as 70 Buxton men joined the Union Army.



Following the war many people from Buxton returned to the warmer climate of the south to search for their newly freed relatives.

Others with valued skills and education, went south to help with the reconstruction efforts, as teachers, doctors, lawyers, ministers and legislators.

Hattie Rhue, a talented musician who had been educated at the Mission school went to Kentucky to teach. She later returned to Buxton where she lived out her life teaching and composing music.



Many families remained in Buxton. Their descendants are now scattered across North America, with some still living in Buxton.



Some families continue to own and live on the land purchased by their ancestors at the beginning of the Buxton Settlement. These families value the stories of their ancestors and how they came to Buxton.

Abraham Johnston came to the settlement as a fugitive following his involvement in the Christiana Resistance in Pennsylvania, in which a southern slave owner was shot and killed in the attempt to retrieve his runaway slave. His wife Clarissa Bristoe arrived at Buxton alone as a runaway from Louisiana at the age of twelve. The Johnston's purchased a farm in the Buxton Settlement in 1853. Their farm remains in the Johnston family.



The Johnston family continue to live in Buxton.





In 1924 a “Homecoming” reunion was held . A church service and a picnic under the old pear tree brought back many former residents of Buxton, for a reunion with family and friends who had remained.

This tradition continues to the present.

All Roads Lead to Our  
**SIXTH ANNUAL HOME  
COMMING**

---

At the B. M. E. Church

**NORTH BUXTON**

SUNDAY SEPT. 1st.  
Special Services Sunday, preaching by local Pastor and  
Rev. J. Browning. Platform service by prominent speakers

---

**Monday Sept. 2nd.**  
Base Ball Game at 3.30 p. m.  
DETROIT vs WALPOLE ISLAND  
Sports including Suit Case race. Foot race, Tug of War etc  
Monday Evening Splendid Musical Program Talent from  
Detroit, Windsor, Chatham and Home folk.  
Admission - 25c and 15c  
Tables ready for an up-to-date dinner at Parsonage  
Sunday and Monday. Meals 40 cents.


---

Auspices of Church Auxiliaries  
Wm. Harrison, Pastor      Mrs. Reginald Robbins, Chairlady

*Taylor's  
all stars of*

**NORTH BUXTON**  
77th Annual  
*Homecoming 2001*  
Celebrating...

77th NORTH BUXTON HOMECOMING 2001  
FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



HONOURING OUR CIVIL WAR VETERANS

*Labour Day Weekend*  
August 31 - September 3, 2001

Buxton's Homecoming is attended by thousands from across North America.

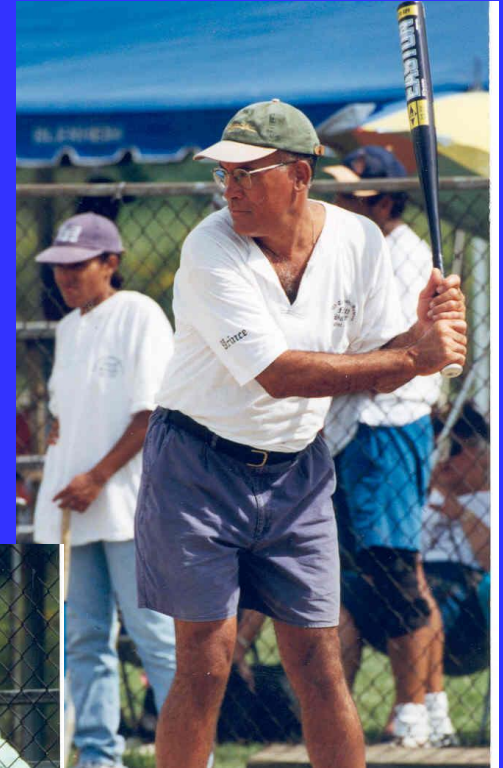


Today Homecoming has evolved into a four day celebration held on Labour Day Weekend.

It includes a History & Genealogy Conference,



# A Family Feud Baseball Tournament ,



# A Dance,



Sept 99  
F5 13



# Special Church Services,



# A Historical Reenactment,



# A Parade,



# Baseball games and other activities on the park.



In 1967, a museum was built in North Buxton to commemorate the Buxton Settlement.



The Buxton Museum welcomes thousands of visitors annually, from across Canada and the United States.



Sept 99  
F17 16



# Exhibits and programs in the museum tell the story of the Underground Railroad and the Buxton Settlement.



In 1999, the Buxton Settlement celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.





It was also designated a National Historic Site.



Sept 99  
7 10



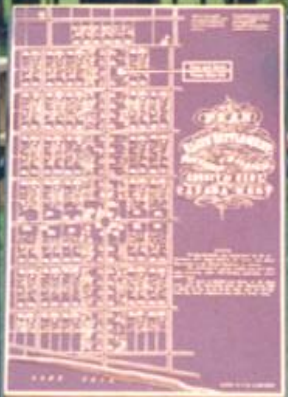
**THE BUXTON SETTLEMENT  
L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DE BUXTON**

From the shores of Lake Erie to the ancient mountains, from 1783 to the present day, the story of the settlement of Buxton is a story of struggle and triumph. From the first settlement of the Underground Railroad in 1840, Buxton's history is a story of courage and sacrifice. It is a story of a community that has overcome adversity and built a legacy of freedom and justice.

The settlement of Buxton was the result of the efforts of many brave men and women who sought refuge from slavery and oppression. They found a place where they could live in freedom and build a new life for themselves and their families. The settlement of Buxton is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the strength of community.

The settlement of Buxton is a place of history and heritage. It is a place where the past meets the present and where the future is being built. The settlement of Buxton is a place where the values of freedom, justice, and equality are being lived and taught to the next generation.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada  
Commission des Sites et Monuments Historiques du Canada



**You are invited to make the  
“Journey To Buxton”**

Share our pride in  
our heritage...



# Our joy in family...



# Foundation in tradition...



And our hopes for the future.



*“Buxton is certainly a very interesting place. ...Twenty years ago, most of them were slaves, who owned nothing, not even their children. Now they have their wives and their children about them. They have the great essentials for human happiness; something to love, something to do, and Something to hope for.”*

*-Samuel Gridley Howe, Boston 1864*

