

# 1840's Buxton Scrapbook

## KENT COUNTY SELECTED AS SITE FOR SETTLEMENT FOR FUGITIVE SLAVES

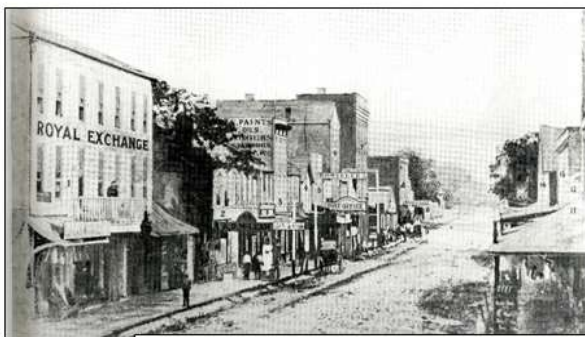
*Kent County was selected as the site for the proposed Elgin Settlement for the improvement of Negroes.* A tract of Crown Land was purchased by the Elgin Association, the deed was recorded on October 22, 1849. The Elgin Association will become incorporated by an Act of Parliament.

## BUXTON MISSION FOUNDED

The Buxton Mission is founded on November 29, 1849, with the arrival of fifteen former slaves in the company of Reverend William King! The mission name honoured Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton who laboured to get an emancipation act passed through the British Parliament.

## BUXTON WELCOMES NEW SETTLERS

- 1848, The Dyke Family (Mariah & her children Elbert, Harriet, Mary & Jennie) who settled on Concession 7 Lot 12
- 1849, The Watts Family (Charles & Nancy) who settled on Concession 13 Lot 2
- 1849, The Riley Family (Isaac & Catherine) meet King at the White's farm
- 1849, The Doo Family (Green & Abigail) settled in Elgin Settlement on Centre Road between the 8th and 10th Concessions
- 1849, Frances Prince brought her children Edward, Sylvester, and Elizabeth to Elgin Settlement
- The fifteen former slaves—Eliza, Amelia, Mollie, Sarah, Isaiah Phares, Harriet, Solomon, Jacob King, Talbert King, Peter King, Fanny, Benjamin Phares, Robert Phares, Stephen Phares, and Emeline Phares



1854 Chatham—Royal Exchange Hotel.

## IT HAPPENED IN CANADA WEST

- 1846, Lord Elgin is appointed Governor General of Upper Canada.
- 1848, Canada West became a responsible government wherein members had to be elected and appointed by Governor General to Assembly.
- 1849, April 25-30: The Parliament buildings in Montreal are burned down in a Tory riot and the capitol is move to Bytown, later renamed Ottawa.
- 1849 the term "County" succeeded the term "District" as the division for municipal and judicial purposes in Canada West.

## CHATHAM OPPOSITION TO THE ELGIN SETTLEMENT

In 1849, Edwin Larwill organized a petition campaign to prevent the Elgin Settlement project. Petitions were sent to the Provincial Parliament, Governor, Presbyterian Synod, and Crown Commissioner.

A town meeting was called for August 18, in Chatham and held at the Royal Exchange Hotel barn. Despite threats to his life, Rev. King attended and at the onset of the meeting asked Magistrate Young, to state the purpose for the meeting. The answer was to prevent the proposed Elgin Settlement. King then questioned whether Negroes had the right to purchase property and the response was that they did. King declared, that as the purpose for the meeting was to perform an illegal act—the meeting was not valid. Larwill tried to stir up the crowd stating 'this Yankee' had no right to speak. King went to the balcony and answered, "I have come 200 miles to attend this meeting and you cannot put me down. Besides I am from Londonderry and Londonderry never did surrender." King earned the respect of those in attendance through his explanation of the settlement and calm decorum. However, the meeting resulted in the creation of a "Committee of Vigilance" to prevent the settlement.

George Brown's Toronto Globe contained articles (August 25 and September 13, 1849) that reported on the Chatham meeting and refuted claims made by Larwill that citizens of the Western District did not want the settlement by posting the names of 106 prominent citizens that approved and supported it.

**1840 population of Chatham 759**

**MEANWHILE ACROSS THE BORDER SMALL STRIDES ARE MADE...** In 1848, Harvard University adopted the admission policy to admit any man (black or white) who could pass the entrance examinations announced by Harvard President Edward Everett.

# 1850's Buxton Scrapbook

## EARLY BUXTON INDUSTRIAL GROWTH !

- 1851 (Fall), **Buxton brickyard** and kiln established by the knowledge and labour of two former slaves; 300,000 bricks produce in the first year.
- 1852, March 27: **Canada Mill & Mercantile Co.** was formed to establish a sawmill, gristmill, and general store. Wm. Abbott and Henry Thomas volunteered to raise the capital among prominent Negroes in Toronto and Buffalo, NY. The venture was enormously successful, raising the necessary \$3,000 in just a few months. Within the year, the settlement had the saw and grist mill and general store.
- 1852, a settler named Alfred West built the **Temperance Hotel**, a 2 story brick building.
- 1852, a shoe store and carpenter shop were also established in Buxton Village.
- 1852, Rev. King petitioned for regular postal service in the Raleigh District and opened a Buxton post office when permission was granted.
- 1852, a **pearl ash factory** was built under the guidance of Mr. F. Gates from Delta, Ohio to manufacture fertilizer ("black salts") from lumber burnt to clear the land.
- 1852, a fugitive from Georgia introduced barrel making (coopersmith) production for export to Cincinnati and Buffalo, which was a money crop more profitable than lumber.



*Temperance Hotel*

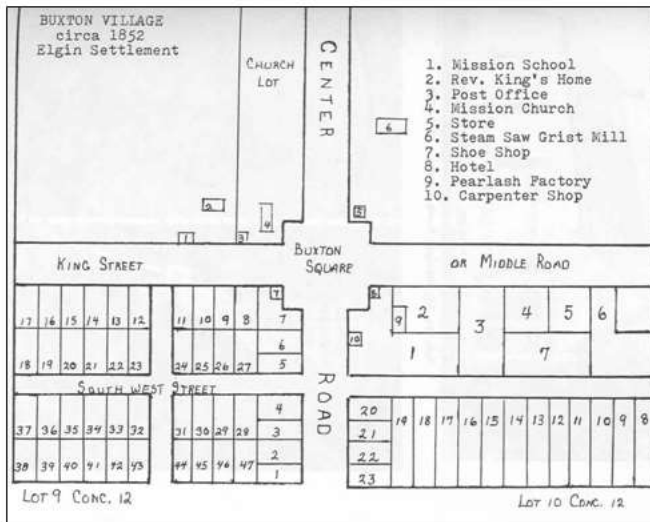
## BUXTON SOLVES TRANSPORTATION OBSTACLES

At a community meeting Buxton settlers voted to work together to clear the proposed Centre Road to ship their produce inexpensively — on Lake Erie. They organized teams and cut the road (Centre Road) from the 7th Concession past the 14th Concession to Lake Erie. The pearl ash from the elms alone was sufficient to cover the cost to build the road.

However, due to drainage problems, the road was difficult to traverse much of the year (mud). Therefore, the settlers petitioned Raleigh Township and obtained permission to build a tramway along the road. In 1854, the settlers organized into teams and in one month a track was laid from Buxton square to the Lake Erie cliff edges. The tramway permitted a team of oxen to haul huge cargos on wagon beds on the greased wooden rails.

**1853  
Great  
Western  
Railway  
comes to  
Chatham!**

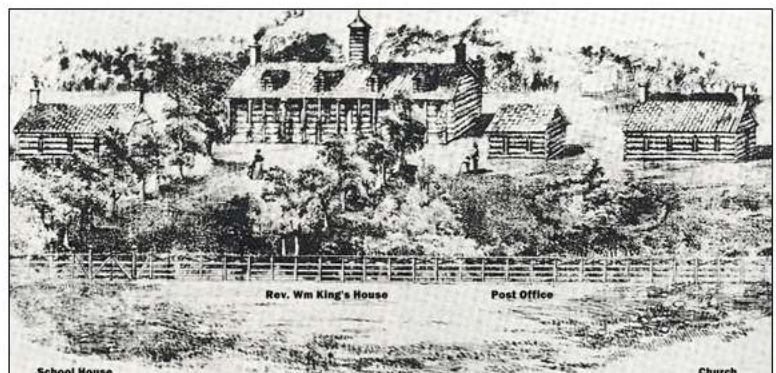
**In 1855,  
Chatham  
incorporates as a town.**



**In 1855, Chatham Collegiate Institute was built and the dedication service was performed by Reverend William King.**



**John Rennie** was hired by Rev. King to teach at the Mission School (SS #7), when he was a student of Knox College.



**BUXTON EDUCATIONAL ADVANCES**

- 1850, the Buxton Mission school was built in April (SS #7)
- 1854, Abraham Shadd builds a school on his property 'Shadd School' (Lot 3 Concession A)
- 1856 SS #6 new frame building
- 1856, Superintendent Report also records SS #6 'separate school' in operation with SS #6 public school

**BUXTON SCHOOLS STUDENT REGISTRATION**

1850- 109 scholars	1855- 153 scholars
1851- 149 scholars	1856- 223 scholars
1852- 132 scholars	1857- 225 scholars
1853- 221 scholars	1858- 198 scholars
1854- 157 scholars	1859- 172 scholars

**EDUCATION IS A BUXTON PRIORITY**

In February 1855, the Buxton residents insisted on contributing toward the educational costs of the settlement. The Superintendent Reports indicate this in the School Section #7 assessment records:

- 1855 Ratebill imposed \$30, voluntarily subscribed by parents \$145**
- 1856 Ratebill imposed \$24, voluntarily subscribed by parents \$175**
- 1857 Ratebill imposed \$24, voluntarily subscribed by parents \$86**



**Anderson Ruffin Abbott**, upon his graduation in 1861 of the Toronto School of Medicine.

**James Rapier**



**John Riley**

**BUXTON'S RICHEST HARVEST**

**~ HER CHILDREN ~**

In 1856, six students who had graduated from the Mission School were prepared to write the entrance examinations for Knox College, Toronto University. All six young men were accepted (Alfred Lafferty, Jerome Riley, John Riley, James Rapier, Richard Johnson, and Anderson Abbott) and graduated from Knox College with honours.

The Liberty Bell of Buxton is inscribed: **"Presented to Rev. Wm. King, by the coloured Inhabitants of Pittsburgh, for his Academy in Raleigh, C.W."**  
The bell rang daily at 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. in accordance with the accompanying letter **"remember your brethren who are in bonds; and let your prayers ascend to God, that He may, in His own good time, break every yoke and let the oppressed go free..."**



**NEW ARRIVALS TO BUXTON INCLUDE:**

- 1850, George Chase purchased settlement land on Lot 10, Concession 8
- 1850, George & Mary Hatter settled on Concession 12
- 1850's, brothers Samuel & Talbot Jones (assisted by William Still on the UGRR) settled on Lot 6, Concession 12
- 1851, Ervin & Mary Ann (Foster) Steele from Philadelphia
- 1851, the Toyer's came from Maryland
- 1852, William & Eliza Parker (of the Christiana Resistance) were reunited safely in Buxton
- 1852, Abraham Johnston married Clarissa Bristow they settled Lot 10, Concession 13
- 1852, Ezekiel & Louisa Cooper from Maryland
- 1853, (Abraham) Shadd families settled to the north east and west of Elgin Settlement
- 1853, George & Elizabeth (Shadd) Shreve settled on the lowlands of Concession 51856, the VanVrankens and Brown Families from Ohio

**A GREAT LOSS FOR BUXTON**

In 1859, the ringing of the mission bell awakened and warned the settlement of a fire in their midst. As residents rushed from their homes to investigate, they saw a tower of flames in the night sky near the Town Square — the pearl ash factory was ablaze! Men quickly armed with pails and sped through the bush to reach the fire with hopes of putting the fire out —or at the very least to contain it. Unfortunately, the pearl ash factory could not be saved and a source of income was lost to the community.

**1852 - The novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriett Beecher Stowe is published. In 1856, she publishes "Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp" which is highly acclaimed as her greatest work.**

**1858 - Law was legislated stating government accounts must be recorded in dollars. A new Canadian decimal currency replaces British pounds and shillings.**



John Travis Family

1859 Canada West has legislated a new law allowing married women to own property, very similar to a law in New York State.

### JOHN BROWN VISITS BUXTON

Famous abolitionist John Brown and his sons made several visits to the Kent County area, most notably in the spring of 1858 when he held his secret Chatham Convention. Initially, Rev. Walter Toyer of Buxton offered Brown the use of his church (British Methodist Episcopal in Chatham) for Brown to hold meetings, however when Rev. Toyer heard Brown's plans to overthrow the U.S. government he withdrew his support and 'warned his flock to have nothing to do with Brown's plans "in case they ended this life before a firing squad."'

While in the area Brown is known to have visited George Hatter of the Elgin Settlement, Josiah Henson in the Dawn Settlement, Harriet Tubman and Isaac Shadd of the *Provincial Freeman* in Chatham. Brown found one man in Buxton "roughing it in the bush" who strongly supported his cause and Brown stated 'that he would have to go a long way to find his equal, made plans to give financial support to his wife... and join Brown's cause'.

In 1859, the raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, occurred and ended badly for John Brown who was hanged for treason. Despite the outcome, the implications of John Brown's raid raised the consciousness of the north to the evils of slavery. Although Rev. King wasn't a Brown supporter he concluded that his martyrdom was "one of the brightest pages" in American history. Due to confusion on the date for the raid, Osborne Perry Anderson (from Chatham) was the only Canadian present and the only survivor. Assisted by Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Osborne Anderson published his account of the raid.

### BUXTON POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Edwin Larwill had become the Member of Parliament representing Kent County. Even though Elgin Settlement had proved its merit and value to the surrounding community, he continued to oppose their efforts.

Requirements for citizenship (naturalization) in Canada West were: three years in Canada, property owner, and twenty one years of age. In 1856—when Larwill came up for re-election – Buxton was ready! THREE HUNDRED Buxton men marched all the way from Elgin Settlement into Chatham to vote for Archibald McKellar, thus assisting in the defeat of Edwin Larwill.

The men of Buxton marched into Canadian Black History and the ripples of their political activism would be felt in the U.S. Congress. By responsibly exercising the right to vote they provided the argument and example to create the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving Blacks the right to vote.

Houses began to upgrade—particularly with a local brick factory, as seen in the Watt's home formerly located at Concession 13, Lot 2.



### U.S. FREE NEGROES IN JEOPARDY

In 1850, U.S. President Fillmore signed the controversial *Fugitive Slave Bill* making fugitive slaves subject to federal jurisdiction. Slaves are denied both the right to testify in their defense and a trial by jury. This law gave southern owners the right to reclaim runaway slaves in *any* part of the country, those found guilty of assisting escapees were subject to a fine and imprisonment. The act was upheld by the 1857 Supreme Court decision in the case of Dred Scott.

In 1851, William and Eliza Parker residing in Christiana, Pennsylvania, were involved in the UGRR system. When sheltering runaways, slave-catchers arrived at their home and a fight ensued. Gorsuch, a slave owner, was killed and his son wounded. William Parker, Abraham Johnston, and Alexander Pinkney escaped and made it to Buxton. Eliza and many others were caught and charged with treason. They were successfully defended by Thaddeus Stevens and Eliza reunited with William in Buxton.

# 1860's Buxton Scrapbook

A.W. Shadd, Civil War Veteran



SS #13 School

1861, US Civil War erupted with the southern secession from the Union of the United States and formation of the 'Confederation of Southern States'.

1863, Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation to rescind the 1857 Dred Scott Decision and clarify Union intentions.

## NEW SCHOOLS OPEN IN BUXTON

In 1861, SS #13 School was built and opened in 1862. The first recorded teacher is James Rapier (former Buxton student and Knox College Graduate) who taught 76 students for eleven months, at the annual salary of \$216.00.

To accommodate the continual need for facilities to educate the ever increasing number of children in the settlement, Abraham Shadd built the SS #4 School on his property, which was commonly referred to as the 'Shadd School'. By 1867, SS #4 is included on the Superintendents Report and funds are allocated to it. The report also lists A.W. Shadd as teacher, who taught 71 pupils for the annual salary of \$300.00.

### BUXTON SCHOOLS

#### STUDENT REGISTRATION

1860- 209 scholars	1865- 305 scholars
1861- 131 scholars	1866- 342 scholars
1862- 298 scholars	1867- 342 scholars
1863- 288 scholars	1868- 326 scholars
1864- 303 scholars	1869- 357 scholars

## PRESIDENT LINCOLN SEEKS TO BE EDUCATED BY CANADIAN NEGROES

President Lincoln established an Enquiry Commission to learn about the Negroes seeking refuge in Canada, so that plans could be made for the day when 4,000,000 American slaves would be free. Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe visited Canada to prepare the report. Although, Dr. Howe was opposed to segregated colonies he commented quite favourably on Buxton:

*"There are signs of industry and thrift and comfort, everywhere; signs of intemperance, of idleness, of want, nowhere. There is no tavern and no grogery, but there is a chapel and a school-house... Most interesting of all are the inhabitants. Twenty years ago, most of them were slaves who owned nothing, not even their children. Now they own themselves, they own their houses and farms, and they have their wives and children about them. They are enfranchised citizens with a government which protects their rights. They have the great essentials of human happiness, 'something to love, something to do, and something to hope for' and if they are not happy, it is their fault."*

The Freedmen's Enquiry Commissions report was instrumental in legislating the following U.S. Constitutional Amendments:

13th—Abolition of Slavery

14th—Right to Due Process and Equal Protection

15th—Rights not to be denied by race

## BUXTON'S CIVIL WAR PARTICIPATION

When the Civil War began Blacks were not allowed to fight in the Union Army. In fact, there were occasions when Union generals ordered slaves to be freed in areas where battles were won and the President rescinded their orders. On August 12, 1863 Rev. King had received word that Captain Ward opened a recruiting office for the First Michigan Colored Infantry and called a meeting to share the news with the settlers of Buxton. The man who had urged against a "lawless, desperate act" when John Brown visited Chatham, now gave a recruitment speech. "Those who would be free must strike the blow", he said—The Union Army was finally accepting Black soldiers! He cautioned that each man should make provisions for his family and his farm. That very night forty men stepped forward to sign up, thirty others needed time to make arrangements for their families.

The first group of men left for Detroit just two days later and were a welcome addition to the First Michigan, as they had trained in fundamentals of drill as the Twenty-Fourth Kent Regiment of the Militia. Solomon King was made a recruiting sergeant while the First Michigans were being mustered.

The First Michigan fought in eleven major battles in North Carolina, Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia before the war ended in late 1865 with a victory for the Union Army.



Buxton Reenactment

In 1865, shortly after being reelected, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April while watching the play 'American Cousins' (a British comedy) at Ford Theatre, in Washington D.C.. As a result his plans for Southern Reconstruction, were never instituted. Andrew Johnson who assumed the Presidency, pardoned plantation owners and restored their land to them. President A. Johnson was impeached.

**EXODUS OF BUXTON**



Upon hearing rumours of large tracts of land available through Reconstruction efforts in the south, Rev. King was approached by prominent Canadian Black leaders to investigate and assist in creating a New Buxton in the US south. The news King gathered in a trip to Washington, D.C. was discouraging, the general unrest of the south was not conducive to such an ambitious undertaking. However, King charged them with a mission, "those now educated in the settlement could go and give instruction to their brethren in ignorance...they could go as individuals and make themselves useful."

Within five years Buxton had sent SEVEN HUNDRED educated young men and women South as educational, agricultural, political, medical, and religious missionaries. Among them were several who rose to national prominence—Dr. Anderson Abbott and Dr. Jerome Riley who founded the original Freedmen's Hospital, James Rapier was elected to the House of Representatives (Congress) for the state of Alabama, Rev. Thomas Stringer founded thirty five AME churches and several Masonic lodges, and John Riley was preacher for a large congregation in Kentucky.

The Prince Hall Freemasons of Buxton erect The Mount Carmel #10 Lodge Hall in 1868, on Lot 10, Concession 8.

**TRAGEDY STRIKES**

In 1865, Richard and America "Mary" Groce survived a house fire, but suffered the loss of their four children—Robert (age 9), Mary (age 8), E.A. (age 4) and J.R. (age 2).

In March 1866, the family of John and Mary Cronan were heartbroken by the loss of Samuel J. (age 11), Ida M. (age 10), and Martha (age 9) to the typhoid fever. The children will be deeply missed by their nine surviving siblings.



Joshua & Mary Ann Emmanuel who assisted with the building of the BME Church of North Buxton (still in use).

**QUEEN VICTORIA GIVES ROYAL ASSENT**

Approval for the proposed Confederation to preserve the northern portion of the continent from the United States was granted on March 29, 1867. The British Parliament passed the "British North America Act" without debate and Queen Victoria issued her royal assent. The new DOMINION OF CANADA was composed of four provinces: Ontario (formerly Canada West), Quebec (formerly Canada East), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The BNA Act took effect July 1, 1867.

**FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| G. A. Adams    | H. R. Langvin   |
| G. Brown       | A. A. MacDonald |
| A. Campbell    | J. A. MacDonald |
| G. -E. Cartier | J. McGill       |
| E. B. Chandler | W. McDougall    |
| G. Coles       | T. D'Arcy McGee |
| R. B. Dickey   | E. Palmer       |
| A.T. Galt      | W. H. Pope      |
| J. Gray        | W. H. Steeves   |
| J. H. Gray     | S. L. Tilley    |
| W. A. Henry    | C. Tipper       |
| J. M. Johnson  |                 |



Charity (Richardson) Jones, sister of William Richardson who died in Alabama, 1864, fighting in the Civil War. Charity married Samuel Jones in Buxton, where they raised many children.

John A. MacDonald is the first Canadian Prime Minister, 1867.

**THE DRAMA OF RED RIVER COLONY**

The decade closes with Louis Riel, Metis leader, heading a provisional government established in the Red River Colony, Rupert's Land, on Dec. 27, 1869. This action is a legitimate response for the local community's need for responsible government and halts the appointment of a governor to a territory annexed to Canada to provide it.

The U.S. government showed growing interest in the affairs of the colony and even passed a motion in Congress to present an offer to annex the territory to the U.S.. Several Hudson Bay Company officials supported U.S. ownership, as did some Louis Riel's advisors. Powerful elements, including railway capitalists, found U.S. annexation favourable.

The provisional government under the guidance of Riel, drafted the List of Rights which demanded full status of a province as a condition for accepting annexation into the Dominion of Canada.

1865—the sport of new 'football' was first played in Montreal between some English officers and McGill students. (In 1874, McGill students introduced the game to US, when they invited to Harvard students to play.)

# 1870's Buxton Scrapbook

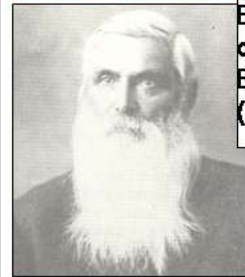


## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Canadian Southern Railroad was built through Settlement, dividing the north end of Buxton in 1872. This coming of the railway provided easier transportation outside the community and regular daily mail deliveries to the post office. More importantly, the railway meant jobs—building the station, laying track, and maintaining the rails. Millard Hatchett became the first coloured foreman, as listed on the County Assessment Rolls of 1877.



Confederation continues as Manitoba enters in 1870, followed in 1871 by British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island joined in 1873.



Elbert Dyke (left) opened the first North Buxton post office (below) in 1875.



## NORTH BUXTON IS BORN !

The hamlet of North Buxton was developed in 1874, with a portion of Enos and Sarah Johnson's land facing the Center Road on Lots 9 and 10. The first streets were Elliott and Johnson running east to west, and Clinton Street running north to south. At the north end of Clinton Street, was North Buxton's first park. By 1876, the little community was ready for an addition and following streets were added: Dyke Avenue, Garrel, Sarah, and Elizabeth. Sarah was assisted by Elbert Dyke after Enos died in 1875.

In 1875 North Buxton established a local constable to police the hamlet. The first constable was Issac Williams, who had built a hotel and tavern (in the days of the settlement liquor wasn't allowed) to accommodate travelers.

The little village began to attract a variety of Black and White people. The Assessment Rolls between 1871-1888 list newcomers as teachers, station agents, merchants, telegraph operators, and more. 1879 Franklin Hatter settled in Buxton

Alexander Graham Bell placed the first 'long distance' (from Brantford to Paris, Ontario) phone call on August 10, 1876.

**Senneth (Burns) Hooper**, married William Hooper and had five children with him at the Elgin Settlement—Samuel, James, Julia Ann, Wilhemine, and William.



## 1873 North West Mounted Police formed.

## CANADA'S LAST SLAVE IS DEAD

Jan. 17, 1871 **John Baker**, CANADA'S last ex-slave died in Cornwall, Ontario. He was born in Quebec. His mother was brought to Canada by the Gray family in 1776. When Solicitor General Isaac Day (master) died in 1804, the Baker family was freed and inherited land and money. Baker enlisted in the military and served in Canada and with the British at Waterloo.

Denmark was the first was the first European country to abolish slavery. Canada was the first North American country to legislate against slavery in 1793 (the second western country) and the institution of slavery was fully abolished by 1833.

In 1873, the **Elgin Association dissolved having completed its mission**. Rev. King continued to reside in Buxton until 1887. (The King home—right)



In 1876, Frederick Douglass was the speaker for the unveiling of the **Freedmen's Monument to Lincoln** in Washington, D.C. In his address Douglass said, "*viewed from the genuine abolition ground, Mr. Lincoln seemed tardy, cold, dull and different; however, measuring him by the sentiment of his country, he was swift, zealous, radical, and determined.*"

# 1880's Buxton Scrapbook



## SPIRITUALITY REMAINS A BUXTON CORNERSTONE...

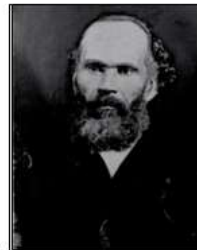
Designated in the will of Enos Johnson was land for the site of a Baptist Church in North Buxton, if First Baptist and Second Baptist churches joined together to form one congregation. The cornerstone was laid May 28, 1883 for the new church.

## TYPHUS BACK IN BUXTON

In 1882, fourteen lives are taken by the typhoid fever. The last outbreak occurred in 1870, when John and Mary Cronan lost another two children to the virus.



**Nancy Anne (Firscht) Watts** born in 1837 and died in 1887. She was from Pennsylvania. She married Charles Henry Watts. They settled on Concession 13, Lot 2. They had ten children together.



**Abraham Doras Shadd** died in 1882. He was a prominent figure in the Abolitionist movement before coming to Canada and elected to the Raleigh Township Council after settling in Buxton.

## RACIAL HOSTILITIES GROWING IN RALEIGH AND THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA

As the institution of slavery was no longer an issue, the plight of Black persons as a minority fell upon unsympathetic ears—especially when they were competing for jobs during difficult economic times. After the Civil War, many of the refugees returned to the U.S. but many Black residents chose to remain and continue building the lives they had started. Another reason to stay in Canada was the formation of the Ku Klux Klan to suppress Black advancement, despite the growing suspicion and hostilities.



Buxton loses a valuable member of the community with the death of **George Hatter** in 1888.



**Isaac and Catherine Riley** moved to Nebraska in 1880.

**Frances Ann Cooper**

**1886- the first transcontinental passenger train arrived in Port Moody, B.C., just 139 hours after leaving Montreal, Que.—4,670 kilometres away on the *Canadian Pacific Railway*.**



## TROUBLE IN THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Louis Riel returned from his exile in the U.S., at the insistence of the Metis in the North West Territories to negotiate with the Canadian government on their behalf. In a speech Riel said he doesn't condone violence. A petition was sent to Ottawa on Dec. 16, 1884 with their demands that provinces be created in the Northwest, better treatment for the Indians, and economic issues that concerned White settlers.

On March 18, 1885 the Metis established a provisional government and declared their independence from Canada. The Metis sent runners to Indian tribes in the territories requesting their military assistance. The Canadian militia is immobilized.

The North West Rebellion began in Duck Creek on March 26, 1886. Several skirmishes and battles were held including: Frog Lake, Battleford, Batoche, Frenchman Butte, and Loon Lake. July 1885, Chief Big Bear surrendered and the rebellion reaches its conclusion.

August 1, 1885 a jury finds Louis Riel guilty of high treason and sentences him to death. In Regina, on Nov. 16 Louis Riel was hanged. Riel becomes a martyr and a demonstration is held in Montreal where thousands protested his execution.

## CANADIAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

March 30, 1885 a bill was passed to preserve and restore the land around Niagara Falls with a provincial park.

In 1888, Canadian conservation consciousness is raised. Sea creatures facing extinction are seals, humpback whales, and salmon. Mammals facing extinction are buffalos, bighorn antelopes, and beavers. Birds facing extinction are whooping crane, Artic curlew, and passenger pigeons.



# 1890's Buxton Scrapbook

## THE GUNFIGHT AT BUXTON LEADS TO MAJOR LEGAL REFORMS

Prior to January of 1893, George and Hannah Freeman were providing for a thirteen year old white girl who had been abandoned by her mother. The girl gave birth to a child shortly thereafter.

In January, Constable Alex MacDonald from Dover, drives a sled to the Freeman home with a friend, lured George outside and beat him up—threatening to tar and feather him. The following day, Constable MacDonald seeks assistance from the Chatham police, Officer Peter Dezelia and off-duty officer Robert Rankin, accompanied him to the Freeman homestead (there was conflicting evidence whether a warrant had been issued). George still unaware that the men who previously attacked him were police officers, runs to his father's house warning "murders".

Meanwhile, George's brothers William Henry and Alexander returned home from work at the mill. The Freeman men warn the officers to stay away and come no closer—shots are fired by both parties. The Freeman brothers are wounded by the gunfire: George on the hand, William Henry in the side, and Alexander in the shoulder. Robert Rankin tackles William Henry (after he had been shot) and Alexander went to his aid. Robert Rankin was killed.

Both Dezelia and MacDonald ran from the homestead and telegraphed Chatham Police Chief Young for help. A posse was dispatched from Chatham to the Freeman homestead. They arrested all the Freeman family, except George, whom they could not find. George surrendered himself to Constable John Travis, of North Buxton.

The stories circulated in the *Chatham Daily Planet* newspaper create a racial hotbed and the Mounties are called in to prevent violence. Charges against Jeremiah (father), Celia (mother), and Jesse (cousin) are dropped. The remaining Freeman's: George, William Henry, Alexander and cousin Lemuel, are moved to London.

During the trial Dr. Sampson of Blenheim testified on behalf of the Freeman's stating, "an exceptional family as to industry, honesty, and sobriety". Victims of circumstances, the Freeman brothers were found guilty of manslaughter for the death of Robert Rankin and sentenced to life imprisonment at Kingston Penitentiary.

**July 1, 1893, a law guaranteeing the rights of the individual to defend themselves against the invasion of their home, the right to self defense and retain liberty "even to taking the life of an assailant" was passed.**

**Canadian James Naismith, graduate of McGill University, invents an indoor game to fill the void between baseball and football seasons in 1891—BASKETBALL.**



1895, SS #4 'Shadd' School

1893—(Toronto) Ontario legislature passed an act for the *Prevention of Cruelty to, and Better Protection of, Children*. Under the law judges may remove abused children from parents or guardians and place them in the care of the Children's Aid Society (founded by John Joseph Kelso in 1888).

## CANADA MOURNS DEATH OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

Known as the great architect of Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald died on June 6, 1891 peacefully in his Ontario home. The first Prime Minister of Canada was devoted to his country.

## MARY ANN SHADD DIES

On June 5, 1893 first female newspaper publisher in North American, Mary Ann Shadd Cary died in Washington, D.C.. In 1851, Mrs. Shadd-Cary moved to Canada West where she opened a school for children of refugees before she published the *Provincial Freeman* abolitionist newspaper. In 1868, she moved to Washington, D.C. and was a school principle for three schools. She graduated from Howard University with a law degree and passed the bar exam in 1882.



## A MIGHTY MAN HAS FALLEN

Rev. William King, the founder of the Elgin Settlement, died peacefully in his Chatham home on

Jan. 5, 1895. True to the Christian principles he lived by, he was eulogized in the Chatham newspaper, "One of the truly great men of the age...whose name will go down to the ages as one who loved his fellow man."



# 1900's Buxton Scrapbook

## BUXTON AGRICULTURE

Several men owned threshing machines such as **William Shadd, Flavius Shadd, and Prince Chase**. They employed other Buxton men and they made their way from farm to farm threshing wheat, oats, buckwheat, and rye.



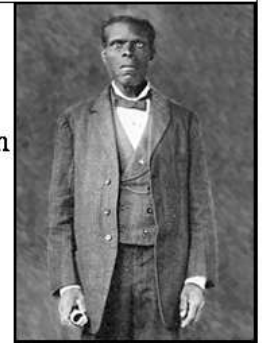
Buxton men at work, Prince Chase (left).



**A.D. Shadd Homestead**, which sadly burned down in 1914.

## BUXTON EDUCATION

**Abel Cockfield** (pictured right) moved to Buxton from Buxton—British Guiana in South America and he taught in many schools in Kent County, including SS #13. Abel “walked proud” and “talked proud” (per son Ernest Cockfield of Detroit), with great expectations for his pupils.



A **secondary school education** was a luxury that not all families could afford. Scholars would have had to take the daily train to Charing Cross and on to Chatham by streetcar—unless they were fortunate enough to have an extra horse and buggy to spare or board in town (usually with relatives).



1900's **Alfred & Eunice Shadd** Family

## THE PORTER REPORT

G. C. Porter (a university student) visited Buxton to ‘prove’ that Blacks were mentally inferior to Whites. After speaking to a small minority of the population including: teachers, a woman who moved to Buxton after the Elgin Settlement closed and a male ex-slave who wasn’t educated at the Settlement—Porter concluded that the Buxton ‘experiment’ had failed. This caused anger and embarrassment for the people of Buxton.



**Andrew & Annie Johnston**, son of Clarissa Bristow who escaped while her mistress was visiting in Detroit. She was guided to the Elgin Settlement, where she met Abraham Johnston who had been involved in the Christiana Resistance with William Parker. Clarissa and Abraham married and had twelve children together.

1903, Henry Ford (inventor of the assembly line) starts his third business—the **Ford Motor Company**.



In 1905, **Chatham, Wallaceburg and Lake Erie Railway** established an electric railway line; popularly referred to as “Come Walking and Leave Early” due to scheduling delays. In 1908, C.W. & L.E. Railway completed the route to Erie Beach (pictured above).

# 1910's Buxton Scrapbook

## EDUCATION IN BUXTON



In 1911, *Mr. Arthur Alexander* began teaching in Buxton at the SS #4 School and stayed until 1913, when he transferred to teach at the SS #13 School. He taught there for the next three years.

It is interesting to note, that his future wife Ethel Shreve had attended the SS #4 School when she was a girl. The above picture, taken in 1912, shows Mr. Alexander at the London Normal School. In 1915, the SS #13 North Buxton School was given a facelift with new siding and the addition of a porch.



In 1916, Russian revolutionaries overthrow the monarchy and the USSR is born.

In 1910, *Jack Johnson* becomes the first Negro heavyweight champion of the world.



*Florine Watts* (right) with her sister *Mabel*.



To *Sir Sam Hughes*  
*Minister of Militia and Defense, Ottawa*

Nov. 6, 1914

Dear Sir:  
*The colored people of Canada want to know why they are not allowed to enlist in the Canadian militia. I am informed that several who have applied for enlistment in the Canadian expeditionary forces have been refused for no other apparent reason than their color, as they were physically and mentally fit. Thank you in advance for any information that you can and will give me in regards to this matter. I remain yours respectfully, for King & Country,*  
*Arthur Alexander,*  
*North Buxton, Ontario*

The original copy of this letter, which addresses military racial policies, is in the Public Archives of Canada, a copy can be seen in the Buxton Museum and as well the response he received from Sir Sam Hughes.

## BUXTON WWI VETERANS

<b>Burriss, Roy</b>	<b>*Robbins, Edward</b>
<b>Black, Arnold</b>	<b>Robbins, Enoch</b>
<b>Black, Charles</b>	<b>*Robbins, Thomas</b>
<b>Black, Sidney</b>	<b>Robinson, Charles F.</b>
<b>Crosby, Robert Sr.</b>	<b>Shreve, George</b>
<b>Jackson, Thomas</b>	<b>Shreve, Ken</b>
<b>Lightfoot, Cecil</b>	<b>Travis, Charles</b>
<b>Lightfoot, Edwin</b>	<b>Travis, Harvey</b>
<b>Parker, Fred</b>	<b>Watts, Charles</b>
<b>Prince, Sidney</b>	

*\*killed in action*



1914-1918—*World War I*. Pictured above are 1918 Canadian troops. The financial cost of WWI was \$337,980,579,560,000.

## BUXTON SOCIETY CONTINUES TO EVOLVE WITH NEW GROUPS

- 1914, *The Farmers Club* is formed to buy farm materials more economically (coal, fertilizer, seeds, fence posts).
- 1915, *The Literary Society* is formed to provide intellectual stimulation and improvement in the community. Meetings were held weekly with debates and published in their Literary Gazette paper.
- 1916, the *Sunshine Club* was formed as a young women's club at the B.M.E. church.

1911—3,400 people in Edmonton, Alberta signed a petition asking for a ban on future Black settlement.



*George B. Shreve* was the Postmaster in Buxton from 1886-1910, he also had a grocery store. He was 57 yrs. old when he joined the army to fight in WWI.

1912 the *Titanic* hit an iceberg and sank off the coast of Newfoundland. Canadian *Charles M. Hays*, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, was a passenger who lost his life.

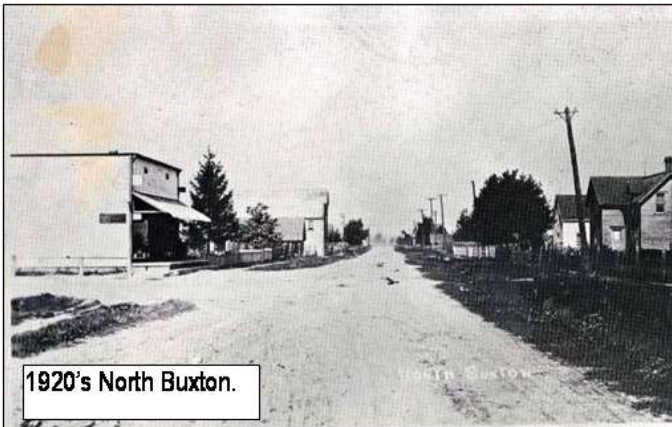
# 1920's Buxton Scrapbook

## BASEBALL IN BUXTON

Baseball has always been popular in Buxton. In the mid 1920's a *girls softball team* won local championships in Kent County and when local boys challenged them to a game, the girls rose to the occasion and the boys were quite embarrassed! The *Buxton Girl's Softball Team*, wore homemade uniforms and played with bats made from pick handles due to tight finances.



In 1929 the *stock market crashes*, fortunes are lost instantly—this is the start of the *Great Depression*.



1920's North Buxton.



1924, Alpheus Prince opened an ice cream shop called '*Papa Prince's Pleasure Parlour*', which becomes a favourite for all the local children!

## A CELEBRATION WORTH COMING HOME FOR

After attending a Home Coming celebration at the Puce Baptist Church in 1924, Minnie Robbins brought the suggestion forward at a Sunshine Club meeting. The Sunshine Club sought approval and support from the B.M.E. to host *the first Buxton Homecoming*.

The Sunday sermon was delivered by Rev. Samuel Drake. The whole church pitched in to make the venture a success—food was prepared and brought in to cook, the baseball diamonds were spruced up, and water carried in by the pail.

## AN EDUCATION TRADITION CONTINUES

In 1920, *Mr. Arthur Alexander* returned to the position of the head master for the SS #13 North Buxton School, where he remained until 1954! He taught two generations of students from most families living in Buxton.

In 1925, the school was divided into Junior and Senior classrooms. Classes were designated into sections rather than grades—Primer, Junior and Senior (which covered subjects through grade 10).



1927, SS #13 Class Picture.

## UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Created by Marcus Garvey the headquarters was moved to Harlem, New York in 1916. A subsidiary organization was founded in Canada in 1916, called The West Indies Trading Association of Canada. Although the West Indies Trading Association helped to organize several worthy societies, it stressed racial purity. Garvey was deported from the U.S. in 1927 charged with mail fraud. In 1928, Garvey was deported from Canada.

Lillian Shreve seeking employment in New York, was hired to work for the U.N.I.A. secretarial pool and soon became Garvey's personal secretary. Lillian, daughter of George B. Shreve and Lucinda (Brooks) Shreve of Buxton, born with a congenital defect affecting her legs, was encouraged to complete her education and be self-reliant. She never

Lillian Shreve



made any comment on Garvey's activities, when she returned home to Buxton in 1924.

1923, the 'New Negro' parade led by Marcus Garvey.



*International Harvester Company*, 1921, opened a plant in Chatham, ONT.

1926—Barrie, ONT. *Klu Klux Klan* members found guilty of blowing up a church causing much damage.

# 1930's Buxton Scrapbook

## SURVIVING THE DEPRESSION BUXTON STYLE

North Buxton like the rest of North America faced economic difficulties. Many of the Buxtonites working abroad, lost their jobs and returned home. The agriculture of Buxton provided food on the tables and neighbours shared their bounty.

The community spirit ever present in Buxton, lightened some of the Depression gloom. In 1930, young people of the community created the *Dramatic Club* to provide entertainment and recreation. Initially, the club presented plays and held dances in the South Buxton hall. Several bands were formed during these years. In 1935, enough money had been raised to build the Dramatic Club Hall in North Buxton.

As foreclosures were on the horizon with no relief in sight, many local farmers met and decided to send a delegate to Ottawa. Flavius Shadd agreed to be their representative and traveled to Ottawa to explain their situation and learn if any assistance was available for farmers. Many lost their farms.

The B.M.E. Church continued to grow and in the 1930's added a hall to its facilities. The former Methodist Trinity Church, located on Drake Road, was purchased and moved by Mr. Timbers with the use of a tractor and team of horses. The church hall was used to prepare and serve meals.



1935 SS #13 class pictures



SS #13-student  
*Eileen Prince*



1936, US New Deal programs introduce socialism concepts within capitalist government.

**Nov. 2, 1930 The 'Tunnel' running under the water of the Detroit River connecting Windsor and Detroit opened.**

## THE PRELUDE TO WAR

World tensions increase in 1936 with the alliance created by Germany, Italy and Japan. The new allies are openly building their militaries. In response, Great Britain and France are doing the same. Canada increased the military budget after radical cuts were made to it in 1932.

An anti-fascist street demonstration was held in Toronto to protest the a local meeting of 2,500 fascists who preached anti-Semitic politics in July 1938. A Berlin newspaper which ran the story, commented that Canada has no right to criticize German Jewish policies when native Indians are treated so badly on reservations in Canada.

Canadian immigration policies were restricted in the early 1930's to reduce additional overburdening of society. In June 1939, the *St. Louis* ocean liner filled with displaced and dispossessed German Jews (400 were children) sought refuge in Canada—after being rejected in Cuba, Argentina, US, Uruguay, Panama, and Paraguay—they were denied. **WAR DECLARED—Canada joins Britain Sept. 10, 1939.**

## NEW JUNIOR TEACHER HIRED BUXTON

Verlyn Ladd was hired in 1939 to teacher under the direction of Mr. Alexander for the SS # 13 Buxton North School.



1936 **Jesse Owens** born to an Alabama sharecropper wins **FOUR GOLD MEDALS** in the Olympics held in Berlin (long jump, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, & 400 meter relay). Owens, as living proof that the "Aryan race" was not superior, was snubbed by Hitler.

**In 1930 the *Chatham, Wallaceburg & Lake Erie Railway* closed.**

# 1940's Buxton Scrapbook

## THE BUXTON COMMUNITY CLUB

The members of two boys ball teams and a girls team organized in June 1941 to create the Community Club. Their primary focus was to purchase new baseball equipment, which they accomplished through fund raising dances at the Dramatic Club Hall.



**Ira Shadd**

In 1945, the C.C. was reorganized with a constitution and membership dues of fifty cents a month, with Ira Shadd as president. They provided weekly social evenings for the community including debates and spelling matches. The first purchases of the 'new' club was a phonograph, and microphone with speakers for the Dramatic Club Hall.



**Jackie Robinson** broke the colour barrier in baseball and played with the New York Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.



1948, SS#13 school class picture.



**Tom & Julia Prince**—50th Anniversary!

Garrison Shadd's store, North Buxton



## NORTH BUXTON RATEPAYERS

### AGREE TO SUPPORT MERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

North Buxton residents were approached to learn if they would be interested in sending their High School children to Merlin (who had acquired two school buses in 1946) if a new High School were built. As present Buxton youth attending high school were primarily enrolled in Chatham and had to be transported daily or boarded in town with relatives— North Buxton agreed. The new High School in Merlin opened on Dec. 19, 1949 with four classrooms and a gymnasium.

## BUXTON WORLD WAR II HEROES

**Arthur Alexander Jr.** and **Lester Brown** were members of the famed Queen's Own Rifles, who fought on the beaches of Normandy (France) on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. Both men were wounded in the days of heavy fighting that ensued and remarkably both men recovered to live civilian lives.

### OTHER HEROES

Alexander, Philip  
Alexander, Ronald  
Boucquez, Maurice  
\*Brooks, Lawrence  
Brown Melvin  
Crosby, Robert Jr.  
Enos, James  
Freeman, Clayton  
Freeman, Clinton  
Jackson, Louis

Jackson, Robert  
Lewis, Thurlow  
Morris, Alpheus  
Perry, Lloyd  
Raymont, Frank  
Rhue, Carl  
Rhue, Howard  
\*Rhue, Shirley  
Robbins, James L.  
Robbins, William A.

Rolls, Allison  
Shadd, Alfred  
Shreve, Edgar  
Shreve, Esmond  
Shreve, Leroy  
Travis, Wellington  
Travis, Verbal  
Watts, Lorrian

\*died in action

## SOUTH BUXTON CAIRN

A cairn was erected in 1949 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Buxton Settlement. The dedication was held on May 7, 1950 and unveiled by Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Philip Shadd at the St. Andrew's United Church.



# 1950's Buxton Scrapbook

## EVOLUTIONS IN HOMECOMING

The Sunshine Club having sponsored nineteen Homecoming programs, decided they needed assistance. Therefore a delegate from the Sunshine Club was sent to the Community Club meeting of August 5, 1953 and offer them the opportunity to take over the Monday events—baseball, booth, games and gate. Further the Sunshine Club proposed both groups would split the Monday proceeds – 50/50. The Community Club accepted and is 'helping' to this day!

During this time the first Labour Day Book was created. It all started as a little brainstorm of Ira Shadd, unbeknownst to the Community Club, he contacted advertisers and printers. He then presented the club with the finished product and gave them a new source of fund raising. The proceeds that first year were spent purchasing wooden folding chairs for the Dramatic Club Hall.

## THE NORTH BUXTON MAPLE LEAFS MARCHING ON

With the goal of a community band, music classes were organized in 1952. By January 1955, Ira Shadd saw his dream realized with creation of the North Buxton Maple Leaf Band. For many families the financial burden of raising a band member was difficult. Ira helped with the problem by learning the to play each instrument himself and shared the basics with young members free of charge. He set up a music class in his store for this very purpose.

The North Buxton Maple Leaf Band played ten engagements in the first year including leading the Windsor Esther Day Parade, for the Eastern Star. The community of Buxton supported the band with fund raisers and by forming the Band Parents Association to assist with transportation to engagements.

A few highlights of the band include: an invitation to play in 1963 for Queen Elizabeth II during her visit, winning the Windsor Dominion Day trophy for best band in 1962, and participating in Chatham's Fergie Jenkins Homecoming Parade in 1967.

Ira Shadd was named the Kent County Man of the Year in 1958 by Chatham, Ridgetown, and Wallaceburg for his work with the band and youth.



**The North Buxton Maple Leaf Band in the Homecoming Parade**

In 1954 Arthur Alexander Sr. retired and Verlyn Ladd was promoted to his position. Miss Ladd retired in 1958. Both teachers touched the lives of their students and were deeply respected by the community.

1953, the Dramatic Club offered to share hall use with the Community Club, provided they paid the utility bills and kept the facilities clean.

## 1950's Buxton Homecoming Queens

1956.-Shirley Boyd  
1957.-Sharon Shadd  
1958.-Shirley Wright  
1959.-MaryLou Redding

The girls ended this tradition in 1974, there were in total 19 Homecoming Queens.



## BUXTON PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL UNITY ASSOCIATION

The National Unity Association was organized for the purpose of creating better understanding of all races to build better relationships between races. Included in the early membership were Ira Shadd, Arthur Alexander Sr., and Philip Shadd. As a result many of the first meetings were hosted in North Buxton.

Issues that concerned the association were terminology, accommodation, and employment. This group was an early prelude to the Civil Rights movement and contributed greatly to equality in Canada. *The Fair Employment Practices Act* and Bill #149, *The Fair Accommodations Act* were both passed in Ontario in 1954, in great part due to their efforts.

When a Dresden restaurant refused service, violating the law, members of the National Unity Association were asked to investigate. Mr. and Mrs. Philip Shadd and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robbins participated as a test case, they visited the restaurant in question and were denied service, which assisted in building evidence for a law suit. Philip Shadd joined Hugh Burnett (President of the National Unity Association) for an interview with Prime Minister St. Laurent, in Ottawa. Many law suits and confrontations occurred in Canada, before these laws were put into common practice for all people.



**Philip Shadd**

# 1960's Buxton Scrapbook

## POLITICS IN BUXTON—

### 1965 A VERY BUSY YEAR

- In 1965, Garrison Shadd ran for the office of Raleigh Township Councilor and was elected.
- In 1965, Edward Robbins was nominated to be the President of the Chatham Jaycees and was elected.
- In 1965, Earl Prince was elected to Raleigh Township School Board.

Although not a son of Buxton, Lincoln Alexander, a lawyer in Hamilton, was elected to the office of MP for the Conservative Party. Alexander was the first Black MP in Canadian history.

**The Maple Leaf becomes the official flag of Canada in 1964.**

## THE FOUNDING OF BUXTON REMEMBERED

August 1, 1965 a historical plaque was unveiled by Mr. Arthur Alexander Sr. in a ceremony at the St. Andrew's United Church, South Buxton. The plaque is inscribed with a brief historical outline of the Buxton Settlement. Erected by Department of Tourism and Information.



After 106 years of service, the SS #13 School closed in December 1968. The Museum Board purchased SS #13 from the School Board for \$300.

**In 1967—  
Race riots  
erupted in  
many US  
cities, the  
National  
Guard are  
called in.**

## BUXTON PRESERVES HER PAST FOR HER FUTURE WITH A MUSEUM

The museum in North Buxton didn't just happen... The planning began in 1964 when a delegation, headed by Earl Prince, attended a Raleigh Township Council meeting to learn about Provincial and Federal grants.

At a Community Club meeting the people of Buxton agreed unanimously to purchase seven acres adjacent to SS #13 from William Newby for the sum of \$2,100. The funds were raised that night! The Maple Leaf Band offered \$1,000; the Dramatic Club donated \$500; the Community Club pledged \$400 and playground equipment; the Flamingos (teen club) gave \$100—only short by \$100, then ten men each pulled \$10 from their wallets... *the proposed museum had land to be built on.*

Centennial grants were calculated by municipality, Raleigh qualified for \$4,500 which was raised entirely by North Buxton and matched by both Federal and Provincial grants.

Now, *the proposed museum had funds to be built!*

By the 1967 Homecoming the museum was

ready for the grand opening. The ball diamond was laid out and marked with bleachers built and painted, the park fence erected, sidewalks



completed with shrubs and flowers planted, AND the Museum built with a few artifacts on display! Another first for Buxton—the first museum dedicated to preserving documents and artifacts of a Black Settlement.



1963- Nov. 22 **President John Fitzgerald Kennedy**, 35th President of the United States, was assassinated—the world mourns.



In 1964, **Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.** won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in racial integration. King was inspired by Mahatma Ghandi of India and advocated non-violent peace demonstrations, such as sit-ins, to resist discrimination and oppression. In 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee—the world mourns. Pictured left, King at the Lincoln Freedman's Memorial, where he delivered the "I have a dream" speech.



# 1970's Buxton Scrapbook

## BUXTON MOVES FORWARD

### FINDING TREASURES IN THE PAST

The 'Shreve Home' built by George and Elizabeth (Shadd) Shreve was located on the 5th Concession. When the house was built in 1850's it far exceeded the minimum settlement requirements. However, due to the ravages of time, by the 1970's it was no longer safe.

Property owners Ed and Maxine Robbins made the decision to build a new house and dismantled the old 'Shreve Home'. When they were in the process of tearing down the old house—the past literally spoke to them! They found copies of the *Provincial Freeman* insulating walls and letters Mary Ann Shadd wrote to her sister Elizabeth. Copies of the articles found at the site were donated to the Buxton Museum, where they are treasured as links to a bygone era.



**Shreve Home (top), Robbin's Home (below)  
Located on the 5th Concession—Buxton**



**In 1972 Team Canada returns from Moscow with a hero's welcome for winning a four game series—they are the first professional Canadian born team to play the Soviets.**

Harriet S. Dyke



### EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

- 1972 **Ira Shadd** was the recipient of the Prince Hall Freedom Fighters Award in the Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Michigan and Ontario Jurisdictions.
- 1976 **Arthur Alexander Sr.** was recognized for his teaching excellence with the Fred Bartlett Award.
- 1978 **Philip Shadd** received a Certificate of Merit from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, for his dedication to equality for all peoples.

### THE FIRST RESEARCH GRANT

In 1972 the museum was approved to research settlement history, and a beginning was made with a draft of homesteads, original settlers, and tapes made from interviews with elderly residents. Later in the decade, the "Second Look" and "Last Look" research projects were completed.

**1974- French becomes the only official language of Quebec and teaching English is severely restricted.**

### 1976 BUXTON CENTENNIAL

As a result of the research completed in the museum, it was learned that the final plan for the Buxton village had been filed in 1876. Therefore, the Centennial Community Club and B.M.E. Church planned their Homecoming programs accordingly.

Descendants of George and Elizabeth (Shadd) Shreve donated a red maple tree to be planted in front of the museum. Each 'old' family provided a representative to cast a shovel of dirt into the hole.



**Centennial Float commemorating original North Buxton families (above) and celebrations of the faith in Buxton (below).**



**Judge orders desegregation of the Boston, Massachusetts schools, in 1974.**



# 1990's Buxton Scrapbook



1992—Historical re-enactments become a part of the Homecoming tradition.

## INCREASED ATTENDANCE AT THE BUXTON MUSEUM

1994 saw an increase of 120 *tours* in the museum. One factor for the raise was the recognition of the Ministry of Transport of the African Canadian Heritage Tour with signs posted on the 401 highway earlier in the year. Trailblazer signs were also erected to direct visitors to specific locations of interest—such as the Elgin Settlement.

Also, the African-American Heritage Tours company with their tour of “The Black Canadian Experience” assisted by publicizing major magazines, news broadcasts, and televised interviews. This publicity helped the Buxton Museum to be recognized throughout Ontario and in much of the United States.

October 1997—The Buxton Museum Website was designed by Board member Dwayne Newby and in the first year hosted 8,692 visitors. It has won prestigious awards from the “History Television” and “The History Channel Online”.

Fall 1998—A new hall for the B.M.E. Church is built by the Buxton community.

## FEBRUARY 1999—THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED BUXTON AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE!



Needless to say the 1999 Homecoming Celebration was particularly jubilant—as it was also the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Elgin

Settlement and the 75th anniversary of the Homecoming Celebrations!

On Friday, a Genealogy Conference was featured with several prominent historical authorities in the program. The Family Feud Baseball Tournament was held Saturday with teams composed of descendants from an original settler. A dance was hosted in the evening at the W.I.S.H. Centre. Sunday, worship services were provided by the both the Baptist and B.M.E. churches. In the evening, the community re-enacted the 1857 Feast (originally attended by 1,000 guests) with a head table, entertainment, and speeches (pictured below). Monday started with the Parade (pictured right), the unveiling of the new plaques (pictured above), car show, Civil War encampment provided

by the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops re-enactors, author book signings, carnival rides, and souvenir tables.



## KENT COUNTY

### AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

The Kent County Agricultural Hall of Fame was established to recognize the outstanding contributions individuals have made to the industry and community of agriculture. Inductees of 1990 included: *Rev. William King* for “developing an agricultural community recognized for its excellence across Canada”, *Mr. Stanley Prince* for his efforts to establish the Farmers Club (1914, 1950) which was an early co-op for the Buxton farmers, and *Mrs. Dolores Shadd* for her dedication and work on behalf of the Farmer’s Union.

May 1998—“The Many Roads to Buxton” video is made to educate viewers on the rich heritage of the Buxton community and also sold as a fund raiser.

# 2000's Buxton Scrapbook

**Mr. Archibald Prince is inducted into the Kent County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his contributions to the Farmer's Union and Farmers Club (co-op).**

## SOMETHING TO HOPE FOR

The Buxton Museum was invited to provide an exhibit for the Royal Ontario Museum in February 2004. The museum board made creating new displays a priority. As a result, "Something to Hope For" and "Breaking the Chains—Commemorating the Journey" were researched, designed, and produced. The exhibit "Something to Hope For" was on display in the R.O.M. for several months where it increased the awareness of the distinct cultural heritage of Buxton before returning home.

## WELCOME ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM

In 2002, the "Henderson cabin" was donated by Robert & Marjorie Pratt and Ethel Henderson. This cabin is the only remaining cabin that was built by the freedom seekers who sought refuge in Buxton in the 1850's. The cabin was located on Lot 12, 10th Concession and moved to museum grounds in August 2004 for historical interpretation and preservation.



**2004—The B.M.E. Church withdrew from conference and changed its name to the North Buxton Community Church.**



## RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY!

The SS #13 Buxton School had a major restoration in 2002—inside and out! With assistance from the Human Resources Development Canada, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, North Buxton Community Club, and the Ontario Provincial government the school was restored and furnished to the 1914 era. In 2004, a project to begin production of authentic school house programs for students visiting on field trips was undertaken.



## HOMECOMING ATTRACTIONS

The **102nd U.S. Colored Troops Re-enactors** continue to pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by this detachment of Union soldiers, where so many men of Buxton enlisted and served. The Re-enactors participate in many North Buxton Homecoming celebrations during the 2000's. Their contribution to the celebrations are appreciated and attract Civil War enthusiasts to visit North Buxton where they have the opportunity to learn the rich history of the community.



## BUXTON AUTHORS PUBLISHED IN THE 2000'S:

- Joyce Middleton, "Something to Hope For"
- Bryan Prince, "I Came as a Stranger"

**Rev. Douglass Birse and Mrs. Carol Birse** celebrated their 15th anniversary serving the congregation of the E. A. Richardson B.M.E. Church and community of Buxton in 2001.



## CHANGING TIMES IN BUXTON

On May 21, 2000, the **First Baptist Church** of North Buxton held the 117th anniversary and final service. The church properties were given to the care of the Buxton Museum for their preservation. (Pictured right is a view of a church service in the 1950's.)

