

Chatham, Ontario, 1861 Census Worksheet

This document is a page from the 1861 census of the town of Chatham, Ontario, Canada, which is about 40 miles east of Detroit, Michigan.

1. Look at columns 3 and 13 to identify the African Americans who settled in this Canadian town. Where were these people born? What does their place of birth suggest about them?

2. How many African American families are listed on this page? (use columns 1, 7-10)

3. Columns 2 and 23-26 list their occupations and tell you something about their education. What kinds of work were they doing? Do you think they might have had some independence in their work? Were the younger people (column 7) in school, or working at jobs?

4. Look closely at the photograph of a Black family in Chatham from this time. What words would you use to describe them?

5. After answering questions 1-4, write a short paragraph describing this group of African Americans living in Chatham in 1861.

