

1: Buxton, Iowa () | The Black Past: Remembered and Reclaimed

Water and coal were delivered by the coal company to the houses in town. The company had built cisterns at most of the houses, and there were a few wells, but most of the water was hauled in. This was quite a project, when it was considered that Buxton had 9, inhabitants at one time.

The unincorporated community was founded in 1881, developed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway as a coal mining company town to supply the railroad. It was a racially integrated community, in consisting of European immigrants and a majority- African American population, that was developed in the midst of southern Iowa coalfields. With changes in the industry and conversion of locomotives to electric or diesel operations in the early 20th century, mining declined here. A large fire in 1898 added to the exodus of population as well. By 1900 the community had lost all of its residents. The town site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Buxton came to Iowa in the mids as an agent for the Consolidation Coal Company. His son Ben succeeded him, and he was faced with a lack of workers, strikes, and the increased demand for workers from his competitors. Armstrong to the Southern United States to recruit African-American workers and white workers from nearby coal mines as strike breakers and cheap labor. As the mines in Muchakinock in adjacent Mahaska County started to decline, the railroad extended its line to Monroe County. Ben Buxton, who became president of Consolidation Coal, founded his namesake town in 1881. All the coal mined there was bought by the railroad, which resulted in steady work for the miners and relatively high wages. By that time Buxton grew to be the largest coal town west of the Mississippi River, and the largest unincorporated community in the United States. Even though Buxton had a mix of races and ethnic groups, there was no overt segregation and little racial or ethnic discrimination. Buxton was a company town. They built houses, schools, parks, a YMCA, and other establishments. A department store, the Monroe Mercantile Company, was established in 1881. It employed people until it burned down in 1898. The department store opened the same year as the post office. The residents developed a strong community, and African Americans made good lives for their families. It was a place served by African-American doctors and lawyers, as well as teachers. Several African-American citizens from Buxton rose to state and national prominence. Carter was the first black graduate from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He returned to Buxton in 1898 to become assistant chief surgeon for Consolidation Coal; he was promoted to chief surgeon in 1901. Woodson co-founded the Niagara Movement in 1898. Coal production reached its peak in 1901. African Americans had started to leave the town in 1901, and by 1905 European Americans were in the majority. By 1905 only about 100 people remained in Buxton. Most of the nearby mines were closed in the early 1900s because of decreased demand for coal to power locomotives. The same year the Buxton post office closed. Subsequently, most of the remaining buildings in the town were torn down, and much of the land is either forested or farmed. A few structures from the town remain as ruins.

2: Buxton, Iowa: A Coal Mining Town Built On Inclusion And Equality - LOST BUXTON

The Consolidation Coal Company opened a new mining camp in Buxton, Monroe County. The founding of Buxton in led to a "great exodus" of workers and their families, leaving Muchakinock nearly vacant by

Construction from Piedmont westward was begun about April 20, , and completed to Thomas on November 1, . Circa , the Western Maryland employed between and workers at Thomas. The railroad erected an elaborate depot at Thomas in . Coal Mines In prospectors employed by H. The Thomas mine later known as No. Davis and Brother bought the Thomas mine and reopened the mine. That same year, that same company and Hon. Elkins formed a partnership for the purpose of opening the Davis coal at a point about a mile south of Thomas, at what later became known as Coketon, WV. In September, the mine known as Davis mine No. In , the company enlarged its operations and build two coke ovens and began experimenting with producing coke. In , Davis Bros. Additional coal lands were leased and consolidation was made with several other coal companies operating along the West Virginia Central Railway. Circa , the company owned , acres of coal lands and had an output of 8, tons of coal per day. Circa , mines No. Coke "larry" cars used to transport coal to the coke ovens are visible in the photo. Lumber Mills Circa , the firm of Dubois and Bond Brothers of Maryland operated a lumber mill located just one mile west of Thomas, and another lumber plant located just north of town along the Western Maryland Railway. The mill west of the town was the larger of the two. A tram railway about two miles long connected the plant with the Western Maryland Railway. Saw mill located just north of Thomas, ca. Saw mill located just west of Thomas, ca. Sources "Thomas, West Virginia: History, Progress and Development", compiled by T. Tucker County", by I.

3: Walk into Buxton's Coal Mining Past - Yes Really! | Explore Buxton

A book "The Coal Mines of Buxton" by A F Roberts and J T Leach gives a more detailed description of the history and layout of the mines. The Goyt mine closed in while the House Coal workings moved steadily southwards to the Staffordshire border, with a drift tunnel at Cisterns Clough.

The earliest settlers mined coal among the hills of south central Iowa. They used coal to heat their homes and cook their food in areas where timber was not available. Not until did the industry of coal mining begin to rapidly grow in Iowa. By that time the major Iowa railroads reached from the Mississippi River in the east to the Missouri River in the west. The railroads leased land in coal producing areas and operated mines which produced coal for the use of the railroads. These were the largest and most productive mines in the state. Iowa coal mining grew rapidly from to The graph, "Coal Production in Iowa, - , " shows the decline of coal production after Mining declined for several reasons. The railroads began buying coal from other states such as Illinois and Kentucky. As a result, the mining industry in Iowa was thrown into competition with the national markets. In addition, Iowans began looking to other energy sources for home use such as electricity, natural gas and fuel oil. Census of Iowa, , p. Coal deposits could be found in much of central Iowa. Throughout the mining area were dozens of coal camps which provided housing for the coal mining families. What was life like in a coal camp? Usually a coal camp had several hundred small homes, a company store, a tavern or pool hall, and a school. Most coal companies required that miners shop only at the company store which sold everything from "cradles to coffins. Because the average coal mine lasted only ten years, little care was given to the appearance of these camps. Coal mining camp houses about Location unknown One of the best remembered and most unusual coal camps was located in Monroe County in southern Iowa. Buxton, as it was called, was a thriving coal community during the early s. At first the camp was located at what was called Muchakinock about five miles south of Oskaloosa in, Mahaska County. For at least two years mining was good in this area. But then in labor troubles began. The workers went on strike. In black workers recruited from the south were hired as strike breakers. In a few years the mines of Muchakinock were nearly exhausted. The community moved south where they began to build the town of Buxton. It was named after J. Buxton, the superintendent of the Consolidation Coal Company. Buxton was a thriving community for at least twenty years. By the mines began to run out of coal. By the last mine was closed. Buxton soon became a ghost town like the many other mining camps dotting central Iowa. Buxton was unique because of the highly developed community with many businesses and public buildings. At its height, Buxton had black doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers, undertakers and pharmacists. It had the largest industrial Y. Buxton was also unique because of the long life it had in comparison with other mining camps. The community had its beginnings at Muchankinock in the s and lasted until the late s. London provides much interesting information about Buxton in her account, As I Remember. What was it like inside a coal mine? The best way to answer that question would be to visit a mine. Since that may not be possible, the following diagrams and materials may be helpful. Figure 1 shows a comparison of these methods. Where the coal deposit lay horizontal and was visible from a hillside, entry could be made directly into the coal deposit. This was called a drift mine. Where the coal deposit lay not more than a hundred feet from the surface of the ground, a sloping tunnel could be cut to the coal. This was called a slope mine. Where the coal deposit was close to the surface and the layers above could be easily removed, a strip mine was set up. When the deposit was so deep that a slope would be difficult to construct, a vertical shaft was sunk down to the coal deposit. From there horizontal tunnels were cut into the deposit forming a room and pillar mine. Top view plan of a room and pillar mine. Explorations in Iowa History Project.

4: Sorry, this content is not available in your region.

In their excellent book, 'The Coal mines of Buxton' Alan Roberts and John Leach make the claim that the mining country around Buxton had some of the harshest and toughest working conditions in the country.

I sincerely apologize for this and have tried to correct my errors. If there are anymore concerns please feel free to contact me. The history of Buxton, Iowa, is unique for its times. Racial integration and harmony existed there at a time when racial tolerance was the exception and not the rule. Buxton coal mine number 18 lasted only 20 years, But its impact on Iowa and America remains through books, essays and historical accounts. It wanted Iowa coal to fuel its trains. After opening several coal mines in Iowa, J. The company needed strike breakers and cheap labor. The idea surfaced to recruit black workers from the South. CCC sent a team of agents including H. Armstrong to Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to recruit black workers and also hired workers from nearby coal mines like Muchakinock, Iowa. As the mines at Muchakinock were dying, the railroad ran a line into Monroe County and Ben Buxton founded the town in his name in Unlike other coal towns, the railroad purchased all the Buxton coalâ€”creating constant work at high wages. Buxton Booms By Buxton was thriving and became the largest coal mining town west of the Mississippi River. It also was the largest unincorporated city in the nation. The 1,, tons of coal produced that year made Monroe County the largest coal producer in Iowa. By CCC had built 2, homes which many residents enlarged. The thriving business and professional community was an opportunity for many blacks to start and own businesses. The company built schools, parks and other establishments. As an unincorporated city, Buxton had no city council, mayor or police. Two company security guards made up the "police force. In the Monroe Mercantile Company opened as the largest department store employing over Buxton citizens until it burned down in In addition to the black majority, Swedes and Australians were both sizable populations. The talk of the town was the Buxton Wonders baseball team who defeated opponents across Iowa. Good Times in Buxton As area mines increased production, CCC eventually employed 1, men who were paid in gold and silver for an average of five workdays a week. Expensive clothes and free spending were not uncommon. In mine No. Its workers received modern and heavy equipment allowing a hoisting record of 3, tons of coal in eight hours. Carter, and prominent attorneys, George H. Woodson and Samuel Joe Brown. Carter was the first black to graduate the University of Iowa Medical School. Woodson had co-founded the Niagra Movement in Woodson, along with Brown and three others, would found the National Bar Association in , an organization which allowed membership to any lawyer, "regardless of race, creed or sex.. By the time the black soldiers returned in , coal demand had decreased. Buxton had begun its decline. Blacks had begun leaving Buxton in Whites became the majority by After several huge fires destroyed parts of Buxton in , more residents began to leave. Its population was estimated at only by In CCC moved its headquarters to Haydock. It sold out to the Superior Coal Company in In Buxton mine No. The incredible journey of racial equity was over. Buxton remains a proud and unusual moment of Iowa history. Morris We would like to say thankyou to Nick and his Uncle Jim for allowing us the opportunity to investigate this historic town. We plan to go back again in the future during the day so that we can locate more of the foundations and landmarks that were once the city of Buxton. Following you will find pictures of the old town of buxton as well as those from our investigation. To watch videos taken at Buxton please click here and you will be taken to the video page. VIDEO You will find the pictures first then after wards there will be investigation notes from follow up visits to Buxton and the e. I will add these soon. In the meantime, enjoy reading about a once happening coal mining town and visit your nearest library. The first 24 pictures show photographs of Buxton during its time and Buxton now. There is nothing paranormal in these they are just to show what we were looking at. We have now been there twice and the rest of the pictures will show some of what we found. Investigation Notes On October 31st, four members of our team returned to visit Buxton. Although no photographs are available they did obtain a video showing our k2 meter going off. You can view that video on the Buxton Video page. We are a non-profit paranormal investigation team. July 31st revisit Wow what an awesome time. We had four members of our team present and a guest with us. Also with us was our 6yr old and 11 yr old because they wanted to see Buxton. We

arrived around 10pm and proceeded to make our way through the overgrowth to the remains of the old warehouse which by the way is as far we made it. The building has three rooms. Two investigators remained in one room while the rest of us proceeded into the middle room. No one went into the room where the apparition was seen from our first investigation. Shortly we had contact. Chris and Patrick in the first room were having their K2 meter light up light a Christmas light show. They were getting answers to questions left and right but on occasion they wondered if whoever it was was responding to our questions from the other room. Our K2 was not lighting up at all so the guys decided to try both meters in the room with them to see if there was any change but only one was lighting up. We wondered if something was wrong the the non-responsive meter but when we got it back in the middle room and the 11yr old held it it went off for her. All the time our 6yr old was asking questions right along with the rest of us. It seems as though almost everyone was touched in some way on their arm, leg, shoulder, or back. As we were starting to leave Patrick, myself Rae , our guest and the 6yr old were the last four in the first room and before you knew it both meters were going off. Usually one at a time but occasionally at the same time. We were able through simple questions to ascertain that it was a young boy, who likes the 6yr old and missed her once she left the room. Also that he wants us to come back during the day. He was very responsive and we all were very excited at the length of time that he was able to communicate with us. We plan to visit again during the day and try to make contact with him once more. The voice recorders unfortunately are still being reviewed but here is a picture for you to analyze. You can see the shadow of our 6yr old on the wall but within her shadow there is a face and what looks like a torso of a boy there. Then if you turn the picture sideways you can see how the light and shadows create a large face. [Click here to contact us.](#)

5: Consolidation Coal Company (Iowa) - Wikipedia

In , at a time when Jim Crow laws, segregation, and the Ku Klux Klan kept blacks and whites separated, residents in Buxton, Iowa—“a thriving coal mining town of 5, residents established by Consolidation Coal Company—“lived, worked, and went to school side by side.

Buxton was once a thriving community, located in the southwest corner of Mahaska County. Today, there is little to be seen by a visitor except a few foundations of buildings which once stood where now there are weeds. The view appears to be looking in a southwestern direction. I lived there for a number of years. There was gambling, drinking, knife wielding and gun shooting, but most towns of the time had a certain degree of lawlessness. The social life of Buxton more than balanced the shady side. It was predominantly black, but cooperation between the races was good. Birger Sandzen Altar Painting. I never heard of any cases of purse-snatching or house robbery although the Buxton streets were poorly lit and in winter, were quite dark. I was employed in the mercantile store and had to go home on the dark streets, and I can honestly say I was never accosted or treated disrespectfully. Besides Buxton proper, there were other communities, such as East Swede Town, which consisted of about 35 buildings. The main feature of this small community was the Swedish Lutheran Church, which held its meeting in Swedish until World War I, when they changed to English. It was done in colors, and when the candles in the brass candelabra were lit, the painting came to life. The church was destroyed by fire after Buxton was abandoned. Building on the left side of the picture to the rear of the church was on the Blooms property. Church activities contributed much to the social life of the white youth of the community. Ice cream socials, coffee and cake socials, box suppers, mid-summer festivals and bazaars were held. If someone spent more than he had on hand at the time of the bazaar, he was given a full year to pay for it. They were located near each other, but were completely separate organizations. We were invited once to hear a small boy minister speak in the colored church, and a number accepted the invitation. We were treated with respect and enjoyed the talk very much. Hayestown was another adjoining community. It contained a number of homes owned by Mr. Many young people went to the studio to have pictures taken in glamorous poses. I still have some of mine taken over 60 years ago. Coopertown had two livery stables, one owned by George Ross and one by Joe Harris. Ross would drive a hack twice a day to Hamilton, no matter what the weather, to meet the train there. Classes were taught in Swedish until about A few young men had their own horses and buggies, but most rented them from stables. Coopertown also had a colored hotel which was later destroyed by fire, a grocery store run by two white men, and a colored doctor. It had been erroneously reported that whites and blacks held dances together. The dances were always racially segregated, and no one ever tried to crash them. Skating parties were also held in the building, but they, too, were always racially separate. The Lodge held dances for the white young people, too. Dance programs were provided and refreshments of sandwiches, potato salad, and soft drinks, but no hard liquor was sold. There were two tailor shops, one run by a colored tailor who made peg-topper trousers, which were a must for the well-dressed young gentleman. The only house left now in old Buxton was owned by Johnny Thomas, and is presently owned by the Carlsons, who live in it. The house was once part of the Thomas addition, a number of connected buildings owned by Johnny Thomas. The coal mines were some distance from the town, so the miners had to be transported to them on trains. It cost ten cents a month to ride the train. There were no lights in the railroad coached, but there was heat. Water and coal were delivered by the coal company to the houses in town. The company had built cisterns at most of the houses, and there were a few wells, but most of the water was hauled in. This was quite a project, when it was considered that Buxton had 9, inhabitants at one time. The picture was taken by W. The first team was made up of Negroes. They played many professional teams and won their fair share of the games. The second team was racially integrated. They also played some professional teams, were in great demand to play at places for miles around, and drew large crowds. Another place of amusement was the park, which boasted a year-round merry-go-round. If town young couples happened to be together at the carnival, one would promise to have their fortunes told by the gypsy fortune teller if the others would promise also. There were two colored bands, which were directed by brothers. They

played for dances and skating parties. Their concerts were well-attended, since there was no television or radio then. A colored quartet was often heard, too, and it was very much in demand at fairs and other gatherings. The first time I ever heard a radio was in a room at the mercantile store where I worked. Between the squawks and squeaks we managed to hear a little music, but it was nothing like the wonderful music we hear today on radio and television. You had to try hard to hear anything above the moaning and groaning. Ice skating was a popular winter sport. There was a certain reservoir that was always used for skating. After the ice got to a certain thickness, it was cut into blocks and stored in ice houses to be used the next summer. We also had bobsled races. Hayrides were popular in the summer. The large YMCA had an auditorium, meeting rooms and gymnastic area. While the smaller YMCA contained a swimming pool. The YMCA was a three-story building with heat and electricity. The first floor was a gymnasium with pool tables, a boxing ring, and other equipment. The second floor was a theater, and since the YMCA was on the theater circuit, minstrel shows, like the Maharas and McCabe Minstrels, girlie shows, dramas, tear jerkers and professional boxing matches were held there. When silent movies began, they were shown in the YMCA theater. Two French women, the Langlois sisters, ran the movies. One would run the projector, and the other would provide the background music and sounds. Of course, one had to be an accomplished musician to give the sound of horses galloping one minute, and hearts and flowers music the next. We attended the movies as often as possible, and, though the reel would always break part way through the film, we thoroughly enjoyed it. A number of groups met there. An annex to the building was used for dances and skating parties. Buxton company store facing west. White Hotel is under construction in foreground. Original company store burned down in Aunt Hazel Nylander worked in the company store for 3 years along with over other employees. At the time the original store burned down in , aunt Hazel was working for her uncle John Price at his store in Eveland. A hog farm is now located where the Price store was located. The company mercantile store was truly remarkable for its time. It was built after the first store was destroyed by a fire. I lived at a camp called Eveland, which was three miles from the store, and I saw the flames of the fire in the first store from my home. The new store had a complete basement and a row of windows stretched across the front. A window decorator was employed to do nothing by decorate windows and set up floor displays throughout the store. The grocery department was quite different from modern grocery stores. The sugar and flour came in large sacks and butter, lard, vinegar, kraut and peanut butter came in large containers. All were measure out to the exact amount the customer required. Consolidation Coal Company mine They came in a large container, as most of the products did, and after tasting them, we predicted they would never be a success. A floor walker and a boy to open the front door were employed by the store. Most of the goods were sold on charge accounts, and all the business had to go through the main credit office, which was presided over by Mrs. I worked in the store for three years, and it was a marvelous experience. Both whites and blacks were employed and there was no friction, but there was no mingling activities outside the store and its business, either. Buxton had its own electricity supply which provided power for the store, YMCA, and some of the houses. It all so had its own telephone exchange.

6: Thomas, West Virginia - West Virginia (WV) Cyclopedia

In , Consolidation Coal Company established one of the most unique towns in Iowa: Buxton. Spanning 8, acres in Monroe County and 1, acres in Mahaska County, along with a population that grew to 5,, Buxton became the largest unincorporated town in Iowa.

Not until the late s did the industry of coal mining begin to rapidly grow in Iowa. By that time the major Iowa railroads reached from the Mississippi River in the east to the Missouri River in the west. The railroads leased land in coal producing areas and operated mines which produced coal for the use of the railroads. These were the largest and most productive mines in the state. Coal mining along Muchakinock creek dates back to , when local blacksmiths mined coal from exposures along the creek. By , there were small drift mines all along Muchakinock Creek down to Eddyville where the creek flows into the Des Moines River. By , Consolidation Coal Company had employees, and in , it was purchased by the Chicago and North Western Railway in order to produce a local source of coal for their use. The company originally operated at Muchakinock in Mahaska County, Iowa, until the coal resources of that area were largely exhausted. In , the company purchased 10, acres in southern Mahaska County and northern Monroe County, Iowa. The company built the town of Buxton in Northern Monroe County, and moved its headquarters there. In , coal was being mined from the McCready bank, a site along Bear Creek four miles west of Ottumwa. In , Brown and Godfrey opened a drift mine four miles northwest of town. By , Brown and Godfrey employed men and had an annual production of 77, tons. In , the Phillips Coal and Mining Company opened a mine two miles northwest of town. In subsequent years, they opened 5 more shafts in the Phillips and Rutledge neighborhoods, just north of Ottumwa. The Phillips number 5 shaft was feet deep, with a horse power steam hoist. In , the Phillips Fuel Company produced over , tons of coal, ranking among the top 24 coal producers in the state. Coal mining was so important to the local economy that, from to , the Coal Palace was erected in Ottumwa as an exhibition center. Iowa coal mining grew rapidly from to . Coal deposits could be found in much of central Iowa. In the late s, Rippey and Angus, 4 miles to the south east, were the centers of coal mining in Greene County. The Keystone Coal Company opened three mines in Angus between and ; the last of these was worked out by . Between and , the Standard Mine also operated in the region. Keystone opened new mines south of Rippey into the 20th century, where they were joined by the Snake Creek Coal company and the Buckeye coal company. One of the best remembered and most unusual coal camps was located in Monroe County in southern Iowa. Buxton was a thriving coal community during the early s. At first the camp was located at what was called Muchakinock about five miles south of Oskaloosa in, Mahaska County. For at least two years mining progressed in this area. But then in labor troubles began. The workers went on strike. In black workers recruited from the south were hired as strike breakers. In a few years the mines of Muchakinock were nearly exhausted. The community moved south where they began to build the town of Buxton. It was named after J. Buxton, the superintendent of the Consolidation Coal Company. Buxton was a thriving community for at least twenty years. By the mines began to run out of coal. By the last mine was closed. Buxton soon became a ghost town like the many other mining camps dotting central Iowa. Buxton was unique because of the highly developed community with many businesses and public buildings. At its height, Buxton had black doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers, undertakers and pharmacists. It had the largest industrial Y. Buxton was also unique because of the long life it had in comparison with other mining camps. The community had its beginnings at Muchankinock in the s and lasted until the late s. IA Consideration Mine No.

7: Coal mining in Buxton guided walk - Buxton Civic Association

Listen The former black coal mining town of Buxton, Illinois was a thriving and booming coal company town that lasted from The country was amidst the industrial revolution boom times and demand for coal was strong.

Muchakinock[edit] The town name was also spelled Muchachinock [6] and, more rarely, Muchikinock. By , small drift mines were developed all along Muchakinock Creek down to Eddyville , where the creek flows into the Des Moines River. By , Consolidation Coal Company had employees, and in , it was purchased by the Chicago and North Western Railway to secure a regional source for its fuel. The Muchachinock US post office operated from to , with an official name change to Muchakinock in Shumate hired "lots of crowds" of "colored men" from Virginia. Whole families arrived with each "crowd". By October 6, Shumate had brought in six "crowds". The "third crowd" filled one railroad passenger car. In years to come, the company attributed much of its wealth to their labor. The coal company acted as banker to this society. Both mines worked the same 6-foot-thick 1. On May 30, large bodies of armed strikers, from to men, were congregating in Mahaska County, apparently intent on forcing the nearby mining camp of Evans to strike as the first stage of an attack on Muchakinock. In the end, no shots were fired. The "colored" Baptist church in town was led by Rev. Cooper was noted as one of only two "colored" pharmacists in the state. The founding of Buxton in led to a "great exodus" of workers and their families, leaving Muchakinock nearly vacant by Today, acid mine drainage and red piles of shale are all that remain of the mines along Muchakinock Creek. The camp was named by B. Buxton after his father, John E. Buxton, [25] who had managed the mines at Muchakinock. The company created a planned community that was developed along a regular grid pattern. It hired architect Frank E. After a strike by white miners, the company recruited additional black workers from mining areas in the South. The hoists could lift 4 cars to the surface in a minute, each carrying up to 1. Electric haulage was used in the mines, using a combination of third-rail, trolley wire, and rack-and-pinion haulage. By , Consolidation had opened Mine No. Local immediately became the largest union local in Iowa, in any trade. In the words of one commentator, "Mr. On the contrary he has built up an autocracy and he is the autocrat, albeit a benevolent one. Washington , educator and president of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, described justice in Buxton as being "administered in a rather summary frontier fashion" that reminded him "of the methods formerly employed in some of the frontier towns farther west. In , the town covered approximately one square mile, with about houses, typically with 5 or 6 rooms each. Everything was owned by the coal company. As in Muchakinock, African Americans held many leadership roles in the integrated town. The US postmaster, superintendent of schools, most of the teachers, two justices of the peace, two constables, and two deputy sheriffs were all African American. One of the civil engineers working for the mining company was African American. He came to Buxton as assistant physician to the Buxton Mining Colony. He also served as company surgeon to the mining company and to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. No case of assault by a black man on a white woman has ever been heard of in Buxton. Both races go to school together; both work in the same mines, clerk in the same stores, and live side by side. Washington wrote of Buxton as "a colony of some four or five thousand Colored people It was still the largest town in the country with a majority-black population. In addition, it was the "largest unincorporated city in the nation and the largest coal town west of the Mississippi River. The company ran commuter trains to ferry the men to the mines. But there was competition for the company store. Buxton was unusual for its more than 40 independent businesses that operated in town, including a hotel, grocery, general store, meat market, lumber yard, barber shops, tailor and butcher, and clothing stores. In , Consolidation Mine No. Competitive coal was being marketed by overseas locations. The remains of Mine No. As a result, the population shifted and Buxton declined markedly in the s; its last mine closed in The town site was the subject of an archaeological survey in the s, which investigated the economic and social aspects of material culture of African Americans in Iowa. The company town is notable as a former "black utopia.

8: Buxton Iowa | Coal Mining Camp Family History

By Buxton was thriving and became the largest coal mining town west of the Mississippi River. It also was the largest unincorporated city in the nation. By Buxton's citizens consisted of 2, blacks and 1, whites.

Buxton has been described as "an example of the superimposition of the urban-industrial pattern on the rural countryside and the subsequent shifts that occur as regional economic exploitive systems change. Buxton was an active town until about 1890, when the CCC opened camps closer to its new mines. It had become the largest unincorporated city in the nation and the largest coal town west of the Mississippi River. The coal markets had changed after World War I, and the workers dispersed to other locales and cities across the country. It recruited Southern black workers as strike breakers, most of whom came from mining regions of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, and retained them. Those working at Muchakinock and Buxton were given equal pay to white workers and lived in integrated communities. Due to its regional and national significance, the townsite of Buxton was surveyed for archeological resources and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Muchakinock The town name was also spelled Muchachinock[6] and, more rarely, Muchikinock. By 1890, small drift mines were developed all along Muchakinock Creek down to Eddyville, where the creek flows into the Des Moines River. By 1890, Consolidation Coal Company had employees, and in 1891, it was purchased by the Chicago and North Western Railway to secure a regional source for its fuel. The Muchachinock US post office operated from 1890 to 1895, with an official name change to Muchakinock in 1895. Shumate hired "lots of crowds" of "colored men" from Virginia. Whole families arrived with each "crowd". By October 6, Shumate had brought in six "crowds". The "third crowd" filled one railroad passenger car. In years to come, the company attributed much of its wealth to their labor. The coal company acted as banker to this society. Both mines worked the same 6-foot-thick 1. On May 30, large bodies of armed strikers, from 1890 to 1891, were congregating in Mahaska County, apparently intent on forcing the nearby mining camp of Evans to strike as the first stage of an attack on Muchakinock. In the end, no shots were fired. The "colored" Baptist church in town was led by Rev. Cooper was noted as one of only two "colored" pharmacists in the state. The founding of Buxton in 1890 led to a "great exodus" of workers and their families, leaving Muchakinock nearly vacant by 1895. Today, acid mine drainage and red piles of shale are all that remain of the mines along Muchakinock Creek. The camp was named by B. Buxton after his father, John E. Buxton,[25] who had managed the mines at Muchakinock. The company created a planned community that was developed along a regular grid pattern. It hired architect Frank E. After a strike by white miners, the company recruited additional black workers from mining areas in the South. The hoists could lift 4 cars to the surface in a minute, each carrying up to 1. Electric haulage was used in the mines, using a combination of third-rail, trolley wire, and rack-and-pinion haulage. By 1895, Consolidation had opened Mine No. Local immediately became the largest union local in Iowa, in any trade. In the words of one commentator, "Mr. On the contrary he has built up an autocracy and he is the autocrat, albeit a benevolent one. Washington, educator and president of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, described justice in Buxton as being "administered in a rather summary frontier fashion" that reminded him "of the methods formerly employed in some of the frontier towns farther west. In 1895, the town covered approximately one square mile, with about 100 houses, typically with 5 or 6 rooms each. Everything was owned by the coal company. As in Muchakinock, African Americans held many leadership roles in the integrated town. The US postmaster, superintendent of schools, most of the teachers, two justices of the peace, two constables, and two deputy sheriffs were all African American. One of the civil engineers working for the mining company was African American. He came to Buxton as assistant physician to the Buxton Mining Colony. He also served as company surgeon to the mining company and to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. No case of assault by a black man on a white woman has ever been heard of in Buxton. Both races go to school together; both work in the same mines, clerk in the same stores, and live side by side. Washington wrote of Buxton as "a colony of some four or five thousand Colored people It was still the largest town in the country with a majority-black population. In addition, it was the "largest unincorporated city in the nation and the largest coal town west of the Mississippi River. The company ran commuter trains to ferry the men to the mines. But there was

competition for the company store. Buxton was unusual for its more than 40 independent businesses that operated in town, including a hotel, grocery, general store, meat market, lumber yard, barber shops, tailor and butcher, and clothing stores. In 1900, Consolidation Mine No. 10 was opened. Competitive coal was being marketed by overseas locations. The remains of Mine No. 10. As a result, the population shifted and Buxton declined markedly in the 1920s; its last mine closed in 1930. The town site was the subject of an archaeological survey in the 1970s, which investigated the economic and social aspects of material culture of African Americans in Iowa. The company town is notable as a former "black utopia. No Roads Lead to Buxton", n. Contested Election Case "J".

9: Buxton Historic Townsite - Wikipedia

The Buxton Historic Townsite is a historical site located east of Lovilia, Iowa, United States in rural Monroe County. The unincorporated community was founded in , developed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway as a coal mining company town to supply the railroad.

Racial integration and harmony existed there at a time when racial tolerance was the exception and not the rule. Buxton Coal Mine No. But its impact on Iowa and America remains through books, essays and historical accounts. It wanted Iowa coal to fuel its trains. After opening several coal mines in Iowa, J. The company needed strike breakers and cheap labor. The idea surfaced to recruit black workers from the South. CCC sent a team of agents including H. Armstrong to Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to recruit black workers and also hired workers from nearby coal mines like Muchakinock, Iowa. As the mines at Muchakinock were dying, the railroad ran a line into Monroe County and Ben Buxton founded the town in his name in Unlike other coal towns, the railroad purchased all the Buxton coalâ€”creating constant work at high wages. Buxton Booms By Buxton was thriving and became the largest coal mining town west of the Mississippi River. It also was the largest unincorporated city in the nation. The 1,, tons of coal produced that year made Monroe County the largest coal producer in Iowa. By CCC had built 2, homes which many residents enlarged. The thriving business and professional community was an opportunity for many blacks to start and own businesses. The company built schools, parks and other establishments. As an unincorporated city, Buxton had no city council, mayor or police. Two company security guards made up the "police force. In the Monroe Mercantile Company opened as the largest department store employing over Buxton citizens until it burned down in In addition to the black majority, Swedes and Australians were both sizable populations. The talk of the town was the Buxton Wonders baseball team who defeated opponents across Iowa. Good Times in Buxton As area mines increased production, CCC eventually employed 1, men who were paid in gold and silver for an average of five workdays a week. Expensive clothes and free spending were not uncommon. In mine No. Its workers received modern and heavy equipment allowing a hoisting record of 3, tons of coal in eight hours. Carter, and prominent attorneys, George H. Woodson and Samuel Joe Brown. Carter was the first black to graduate the University of Iowa Medical School. Woodson had co-founded the Niagra Movement in Woodson, along with Brown and three others, would found the National Bar Association in , an organization which allowed membership to any lawyer, "regardless of race, creed or sex.. By the time the black soldiers returned in , coal demand had decreased. Buxton had begun its decline. Blacks had begun leaving Buxton in Whites became the majority by After several huge fires destroyed parts of Buxton in , more residents began to leave. Its population was estimated at only by In CCC moved its headquarters to Haydock. It sold out to the Superior Coal Company in In Buxton Mine No. The incredible journey of racial equity was over. Buxton remains a proud and unusual moment of Iowa history. Written for Iowa Pathways by Robert V.

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