

Conclusion

By Erin Brubacher for Heritage Mississauga

At first glance, Peel County (now the Region of Peel) seems to have very little early black history. However upon closer inspection, there were many vibrant individuals who made their mark on our communities; Samuel Carter's ability to band the community together; the Ross family's successful farm; Benedict Duncan and his tales of slavery. There are many more individuals and families not mentioned in details here, such as the Barton's who made their home in Chinguacousy; the Stewart of Caledon who lost their son to a fever in 1871; Benjamin and Hannah Workman who lived in Port Credit for most of their lives. There is little information on these people, and one can only imagine the wealth of stories that have been lost with the passage of time. It seems likely that there would have been at least twice as many black residents here than we have been able to find record of. It was all too easy for people to get lost in the shuffle. It only took one neglectful census recorder for a name to be lost to the records of time. Next time you are walking in Port Credit, or passing the intersection at Cawthra and Dundas, stop to remember these forgotten individuals who came from backgrounds filled with such strife. Our community owes remembrance to these citizens who left behind all that they knew in hopes of finding a better life and made our community their home, even if for a short time.