

## Buxton: Work and Racial Equality in a Coal Mining Community, 1987

### Excerpt 1: Table 3.2, p. 73

Annual Income of Selected Workers, Buxton, 1914

Occupational Group	Worker and Wage
Professional and semiprofessional	Physician, \$3000; lawyer, \$1600; dentist, \$1200; secretary of YMCA, \$1100; minister, \$980; teacher, \$490
Business	Merchant, \$1060; restaurateur, \$1000; manager of telephone company, \$900; store clerk, \$700
Artisan	Blacksmith, \$925; carpenter, \$712; shoemaker, \$632
Coal production	Top boss, \$1500; mine engineer, \$960; mule driver, \$900; miner, \$499
Transportation and communication	Railroad worker, \$1162; mail carrier, \$1000; telegraph operator, \$700; section hand, \$400
Service work	Cook, \$675; barber, \$355; midwife, \$250
Laborer	Machinist, \$795; teamster, \$603; day laborer, \$462; laundress, \$375; domestic, \$201
Agriculture	Farmer, \$900; farmhand, \$260

Source: Iowa, Census of Iowa, 1915, Manuscript Population Schedules for Bluff Creek Township, Monroe County. Note: Where categories included more than one worker, the reported income figures were averaged.

## **Excerpt 2: p. 190**

Two years after experiencing long layoffs and a sizeable loss of population, Buxton suffered another economic setback in the form of several fires. In October 1916 fire destroyed B.F. Cooper's drugstore in Coopertown. Without either a water supply or fire extinguishers, local residents were unable to put out the blaze until it had burned down more than half of Coopertown's\* businesses. Buildings destroyed included the Buxton Hotel (Buxton's major hotel), the Cooper Drug Store, a grocery store, the Masonic Hall and several other lodge halls, the Buxton Cigar Factory, the Granberry Tailor Shop, and an amusement hall. The fire also burned several private residences. In total, local residents estimated the loss to be around \$14,000, and because of an inadequate water supply, business people had been able to insure their businesses for only one-sixth of their total value. Buxton also experienced two fires in 1917 that together destroyed a grocery store, a dance hall, a garage, a bakery, and a private residence.

\*Coopertown was a suburb/neighborhood of Buxton.