

Moving to Canada

The Jones family were real people who came to Canada West in 1852. We are going to go back in history and help the Jones family find the most suitable place in Canada West for them to settle. For us to do a good job helping the Jones' - we have to get to know them better! We have to get as many clues as we can from their history. You may find that tracing history can be tricky business.

Richard Jones was born a slave in Tennessee in 1803. He married Emily, who was born a slave in Kentucky in 1821. Not many records of slaves have survived.

A census is an official count of the population; Richard and Emily Jones appear in an 1850 Census in Vigo County, Indiana. We have just learned our first clue! Richard and Emily became free persons, because Indiana was a "free" state because it did not allow slavery. It is reasonable to suspect they were fugitive slaves. Although, we still do not know how or when they got to Indiana or even if they knew each other before they arrived. The census records list their children as John, Eliza, Philip, and James — all born in Indiana. Their oldest child John was born in 1842 - so, we know Richard and Emily were married and living in Indiana by 1842. Additional information included on the census is that Richard's property was valued at \$600.00 and that his profession is a "Labourer".

The United States had laws that punished people who tried to help slaves escape to freedom. In 1850, a law was passed that was very harsh and allowed masters to reclaim slaves in "free" states as their property! The laws did not allow Blacks to speak in their own defence in the courts—and to make matters worse; judges were paid more money to rule in favour of the masters! A judge was paid \$5 if he ruled a Black person was free and \$10 if he ruled the Black person was a slave.

Is there any wonder why so many Black persons came to Canada? Nowhere in the United States was safe, especially after 1850... We can imagine Richard and Emily decided to sell their property and pack up their prized possessions to move to Canada West. Here is where we will enter into history....

Let's sum up what we know about the Jones' situation:

1. Richard and Emily lived at least ten years in freedom, so they have had experience in making practical decisions. They have planned and cooked meals, bought clothing and supplies. They were even able to save enough money to buy property in Indiana! How much practical help will Richard and Emily need to learn to live in freedom?

-none -little-some -lots

2. Richard and Emily had property valued at \$600.00 in Indiana which they could sell. Would they have to find a job immediately to feed their family or could they afford to buy property in a settlement?

-immediate job -settlement

3. Did either Richard or Eliza have a skilled trade that would influence where they would settle?

-yes -no

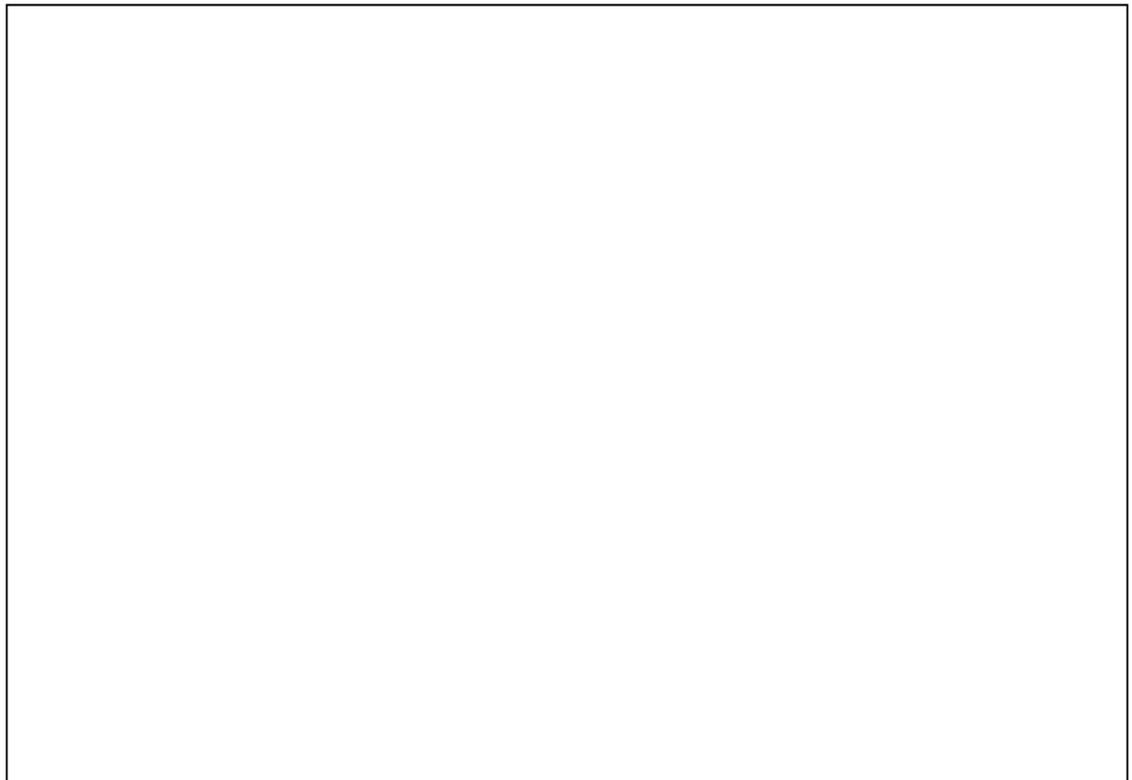
4. Richard and Emily have young children. Do you think that an education for John, Eliza, Philip, and James will be a priority for them?

-yes -maybe -no

Where should we settle?

Using the information you have learned through this study where will you suggest that your friends, Richard and Emily Jones, should settle?

Create an advertisement that shows your reasoning—with words or pictures, to give to the Jones'.



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Look at the US map (above): locate Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana. Consider where and how the Jones' might have traveled to Canada. Do you think they walked or drove a wagon?

On the North American map (right): draw the routes Richard and Emily may have taken to Indiana in **red** and a route for the family to take to Canada in **blue**. Below write how you think their journeys to freedom in Indiana was different from their journey to Canada?
