

# THE BOHEE BROTHERS

James (1844-1897) George (1857-1930), "Indiantown", NB



## MUSICIANS

The Bohee Brothers, James Douglass and George, were respected banjoists in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. James was a self-taught musician, and could not read printed music. In 1879, the Bohees moved from New Brunswick to the United States and worked for a touring minstrel show. In 1881, their troupe went to London to perform, where the brothers remained to create their own business, the "Bohee Brothers Coloured Minstrel Company". When not on tour, they made their living as performers, promoters, composers and music teachers. The brothers taught private banjo lessons to many middle and upper-class Victorians of the time, including then Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII. They were amongst the earliest Black musicians to have recorded their music, some of which survives in British archives. Following James' death, George continued to perform, teach and record music. An obituary for James in 1897 described the duo as "the best banjoists in the world."