

Reading Log #6
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History 1120
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1. Slavery in Canada is an interesting topic. It played a greater role in early Canadian society than most people realize. Afua Cooper's article "Acts of Resistance" focused mainly on the slaves' effort to resist their treatment and rise above the brutal reality they faced. It also contained some detailed accounts of real situations that occurred between slaves and their oppressors. The website "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada" concentrated on interesting individuals in the realm of Canada's slavery history. It simplified some of the stories found in Cooper's article. These articles both held detailed knowledge about slavery in Canada.

2. Slaves in Canada never accepted the status that was imposed on them by their owners. Cooper is very focused on that point; "enslaved Africans never saw themselves as chattel. It was a status imposed on them by their owners and White society as a whole."¹ The action of resistance ultimately led to the abolishment of slave trade in 1807. The stories of Sophia Burthen Pooley, Henry Lewis, Peggy, and Dorinda Baker, all give fascinating insight into the world of slavery. The most attention-grabbing story however was the one of Henry Lewis. Lewis fled from his master and then wrote a letter to them, requesting that he could buy his freedom; "...induce me to make you an offer of purchasing myself."² This seems to be a bizarre turn of events, but again, these acts of resistance are the actions that led to the abolishment of slavery.

3. These articles both possessed a tremendous amount of information that may not be common knowledge in Canada. The question however, is how some of the stories were recorded. It seems that most slaves wouldn't have been deemed "noteworthy" in those times and it makes readers wonder why these stories were logged in the history of Canada.

1. Afua Cooper, "Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage Slavery in Upper Canada, 1793-1803," *Ontario History* 99(2007): 7.

2. "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada." *Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services*. Accessed Oct. 16, 2016. <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx>