

READING LOG #6

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Today, owning a person to complete any task you wish them to complete is unheard of. This is thanks to the many men and women who had to fight for their freedom to end the cruel market of slavery. Slavery began in the mid 1650's and lasted for nearly 200 years in Canada. The "Acts of Resistance" article and the provided website gave a lot of insight on how the slavery was abolished. Thanks to Chole Cooley, stiffer legislation concerning slavery was put into place. Within the website there were many stories of slaves in Upper Canada such as Dorinda Barker and Sophia Burthen Pooley, who had to live this inhumane life style.

Chloe Cooley was a black slave in Queenstown that was sold and forced to move to an new owner's house in March of 1793.¹ As she was loading on the boat, a man named Peter Martin noticed her screams and violent resistance to the move. Peter, who was an ex slave then reported to Lieutenant Governor, John Simcoe.² From that moment on, John wanted slavery in Canada abolished, and on July 9, 1793 an act was approved and passed that prevented further introduction of slaves into Canada.³ Meaning, that there would be no new slaves in Canada allowed. Without Chloe's resistance, the slave trade could have lasted for many more decades.

Dorinda Baker was a mother of three as well as a slave for Robert Gray. After her death, her children became property of Robert until there were 25 years old. But before he passed away, he left money and property for Dorindas children.⁴ This proved that even though they were hired as slaves, the owners really appreciated the work they did and it didn't go unnoticed. Sophia Burthen Pooley also had an interesting story. She was owned by a Mohawk named Joseph Brant and lived on the reserve with his family and himself. Sophia would get to go out and enjoy hunting with the Brant children.⁵ Being with the Brant family for years, she still got to enjoy a few childhood experiences with children her own age. These first hand stories allowed to few the life of a slave from the inside. Although, most of the times it wasn't a great live and there was a lot of sorrow and abuse that came with being a slave, there are a few stories out there that shows the good in life that slaves got to experience.

Thankfully slavery was abolished in 1833. Chloe Cooley and many others had a huge impact of the abolition of slavery. The study of Black Canadian slaves has made a huge impact on the history of Canada.

¹ Archives of Ontario, "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada", <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx> .

² Archives of Ontario, "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada", <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx> .

³ Archives of Ontario, "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada", <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx> .

⁴ Archives of Ontario, "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada", http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/dorinda_baker.aspx

⁵ Archives of Ontario, "Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada", http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/sophia_pooley.aspx