**HIST 1120**

**Reading Log #3**

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 This week’s readings were talking about the role of the women in New France, and their journeys they go through in their lives. These times that are discussed were very different then the way that women are able to live their lives in present time. One thing that is an extreme difference is the amount of freedom that women were offered, opposed to the amount that women are handed in this time. This also was an issue for men, they had much more freedom then women but still were pressured into deciding things that they were not prepared for. For example, in the E-Journal “A Fille du Roi’s Passage” is states that “If these men, mostly coureurs de bois, were not married within fifteen days after the arrival of the vessels carrying the filles du roi, they would be deprived of the right to trade, hunt, or fish. And the privileges of church and community would be withheld from them.” With this being said, I think that the pressure being put onto these men and women was ridiculous. This was of course, a marriage that did not contain the love factor, and that can make a relationship between two people very difficult. These women also had to go through a lot, just to get to Canada. “A Fille du Roi’s Passage” also says that “The shipboard diet, a daily ration of five hundred grams of hard-tack biscuits, cheese, and smoke-cured meats, was totally lacking in fresh vegetables. If one of you became ill, there was no treatment. Those of you who died were sewn up in sailcloth, weighed down by a cannonball, and simply dropped into the sea, while the captain recited a funeral oration.”

This itself, is enough to make women who are considering making the immigration, change their minds. I found it very interesting that the women talked about in “The Nagging Wife” were able to let their husbands leave them and go West, towards these women. These are both articles that have women stated just as being property, and that their only reasoning for being married is to cook, clean and provide children to their husband.

Citation

1. Jan Noel, “Nagging Wife’ Revisited: Women and the Fur Trade in New France,” French Colonial History, Vol.7 (2006), pp. 45-60
2. Adrienne Leduc, “A Fille du Roi’s Passage,” Beaver Vol. 81, Issue 1 (Feb/Mar 2001), p.20