**HIST 1120**

**READING LOG #6**

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In this week’s reading, we read about slavery in Canada, and the laws regarding slavery. All slaves in these readings were black peoples, who were owned by superior white peoples. I thought that these readings were very interesting and it was very terrible how poorly some of these slaves were treated by their owners. Sophia Burthen Pooley was born into slavery and sold with her sister, to an aboriginal chief. After the chief catches his wife being abusive to the girl, the chief than states that he has “adopted her as one of the family” and is unhappy with the state in which the wife had treated Sophia. This is very interesting because it proves that some owners of slaves were not exactly good people, but they had respect towards the slaves. They still made Sophia do slave work but also treated her and her sister as if they were a part of the family. Henry Lewis was a slave who escaped his owner and then asks to sell himself, to himself. The reason for Henrys departure is once again, the slave owner’s wife. This time he states she has “vexed me to so high a degree that it was far beyond the power of man to support it is true”. I am curious to know the result of this inquiry, as the owner did not seem very keen on the runaway of Henry, and he even makes a post stating that nobody should harbor this runaway slave. Peggy and her family belonged to a slave owner whom was not satisfied with them because they had lied and resisted him. He attempted to sell them but was unable to do so. The readings state that this may have been on purpose, as a rebellion against their owner, to resist the slavery that they had faced. Dorinda Baker was owned by a man who had it put in his will that if he should die Dorinda and her family were to be set free. This is an impressive action to take, with regards to the time and how slavery was run at this time. The master even left money for the family and bought the freedom of other family members so that they could all be free peoples, if his death occurred. I was surprised by how much the slaves spoke of the wives of the owners so negatively, in other sources I had only ever heard of the male owners as being hard on the slaves, and the wives and children being understanding and inviting them as part of the family.

Sources:

1. Afua Cooper, “Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage Slavery in Upper Canada, 1793-1803,” *Ontario History,* Vol.99, Issue 1 (Spring 2007), pp.5-17
2. “Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada” http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx