

Forging Freedom: Conference Papers In Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. What is a common misconception about Canadian history as compared with its American counterpart?
2. Who was the first-known enslaved African on record in Canada and what date was his arrival?
3. In what year was slavery given legal foundation?
4. Who was Marie-Joseph Angélique and what became of her?
5. Which enslaved African Canadian in Nova Scotia sued her master for wrongful ownership?
6. What was the Fugitive Offenders Act of 1833 and which case was the first to be tried under this legislation?
7. Who was at the centre of the Niagara Riots of 1837 and what became of him?
8. Why were Canadian officials criticized in British government circles in the Nelson Hackett case?
9. How was the John Anderson case finally decided?
10. What modern-day public policy, according to author Smardz Frost, is echoed in the handling of the fugitive slave extradition cases outlined in her paper?
11. According to author Kate Clifford Larson, what were the circumstances surrounding Harriet Tubman's first rescue mission?
12. When and why did Tubman settle in St. Catharines, Canada West (Ontario)?
13. According to Larson, how many people did Harriet Tubman help to escape from slavery, either directly or indirectly?
14. What was one of Harriet's proudest achievements?
15. Who was John Freeman Walls?
16. What does Bryan Walls refer to as the first great freedom movement in the Americas?
17. How is Bryan Walls carrying out the legacy of his great great grandfather?
18. How did Fred Landon contribute to the story of African Canadians?

ESSAY QUESTIONS (500-750 words)

1. One of the myths used by slave owners to justify slavery was that Blacks were happy being slaves. We now know that enslaved people resisted their status in a variety of ways. Discuss this resistance as it relates to the courts, including examples from the conference papers.
2. In “stealing themselves” and running, enslaved people broke the law. Discuss the various methods used and routes taken to evade slave catchers and the authorities, using examples of enslaved Africans in Canada and the United States.
3. Choose one person and write a biography of him/her. What qualities, circumstances and events make this someone of historic interest?