READING LOG: Afua Cooper, “Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage Slavery in Upper Canada, 1793-1803,” *Ontario History*, Vol. 99 No. 1 (2007), pp. 5.

*And*

“Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada,” *Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services,* accessed 16 October, 2016.

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History 1120-01: An Introduction to Canadian History

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Afua Cooper’s article on resistance to slavery in Upper Canada is backed up by the story of Chloe Cooley, and how her small acts of resistance led to the eventual abolishment of slavery in Upper Canada, changing history forever. The article focuses on the different kinds of resistance and their collective affects on slavery laws and the treatment of slaves. Slave Chloe Cooley’s brave act to scream after being sold to a slave master in New York caught the attention of black war veteran, Peter Martin.[[1]](#footnote-1) Martin was so bothered by this cry for help that he was moved to bring the issue of slavery to the government. His battle was aided by Governor Simcoe, who was a well-known war veteran for Britain in the Revolutionary War. The two conjointly fought for the laws allowing slave owners to do anything they pleased to their slaves to be abolished, and they eventually had their way under a series of rebellions. Once the abolition act passed, word was spread to American slaves of a newfound freedom, thus beginning the Underground Railroad.[[2]](#footnote-2) Cooper notes the irony in this, because “Canada[‘s reputation as a refuge via the railroad] came about because of the brutalization and selling [Chloe Cooley].”[[3]](#footnote-3)

This article can be backed up by the website of Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, under “Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada.”[[4]](#footnote-4) The website page talks about the people involved in the story of Chloe Cooley, giving a background of each person to clarify any questions regarding those involved. Although it took ten seemingly long years, these efforts to help release Black slaves in Upper Canada made for a major improvement in the equality of races; a battle we as a society still face today.

1. Afua Cooper, “Acts Of Resistance: Black Men And Women Engage Slavery In Upper Canada, 1793-1803,” Ontario History, Vol. 99 No. 1 (2007), pp. 16-17. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Afua Cooper, “Acts Of Resistance: Black Men And Women Engage Slavery In Upper Canada, 1793-1803,” Ontario History, Vol. 99 No. 1 (2007), p. 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada,” Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/slavery/index.aspx>. Accessed 16 October, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)