Reading Log: Charivaris

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Many traditions were brought to Canada through settling countries like the French, and British. In the article “From Folkore to Revolution; Charivaris and Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837,” by Allan Greer, and the Section “Roughing it in the Bush” from the book (title) by, (author) they discuss the tradition of Charivaris. Greer wrote in his article it was known that “. . . the French of Canadian always directed charivaris at newly married couples only.”[[1]](#footnote-1) To remarry as a widower or widow with large age gaps or at all was seemed to be more for “money or out of mere sexual appetite,”[[2]](#footnote-2) was frowned upon. This idea “. . . stemmed from ancient catholic religions about remarriage.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

As written in the primary document “roughing it in the Bush”, “The charivari is a custom that the Canadians got from the French, in the Lower Province. . .”[[4]](#footnote-4) The writers view was against the idea of charivaris, as a British viewed them as, “a lawless infringement upon the natural rights of man.”[[5]](#footnote-5) This strong bias against the charivaris makes the document very one sided but also shows how the different cultures had conflicting opinions. Unlike the other article this document also focused on the racial aspect of the charivaris. A black man was attacked for marrying a white woman in one of these events and in the end was killed. Due to his racial background he was targeted and the author seemed unpleased with this situation.

Both articles touch on the French and British’s perspective of charivaris. The article shows the importance of charivaris to the French and how new cultural aspects to other countries can often be a shock.

Bibliography

Susanna Moodie and Carl Ballstadt, “*Centre for Editing Early Canadian Texts : Roughing it in the Bush or Life in Canada*,” (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014)

Allan Greer, “From Folkore to Revolution: Charivaris and the Lower Canadian rebellion o 1837”, *Social History Vol. 15, No. 1 (1990),*

1. Allan Greer, “From Folkore to Revolution: Charivaris and the Lower Canadian rebellion o 1837”, *Social History Vol. 15, No. 1 (1990),* 27 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid., 29. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid., 28. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Susanna Moodie and Carl Ballstadt, “*Centre for Editing Early Canadian Texts : Roughing it in the Bush or Life in Canada*,” (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014), 221 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid., 222. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)