

Thornton and Lucie Blackburn

Title: Thornton and Lucie (Ruthie) Blackburn

Subtitle: Historical Inquiry

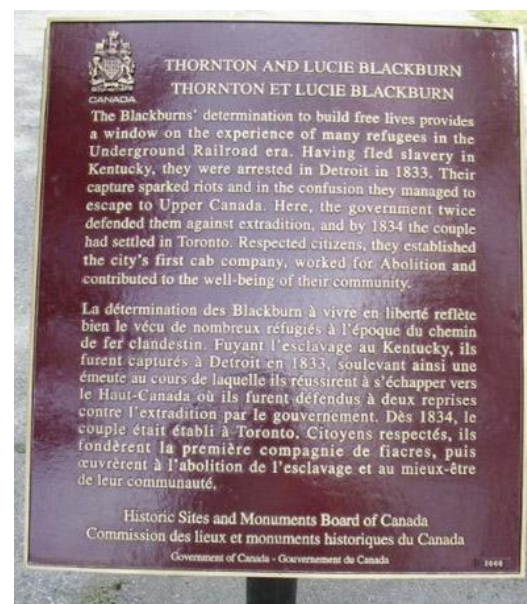
Duration: 3-5 classes

Best Courses Fit: Grade 11 Law, Grade 12 Law, History, English

Central Historical Question: Who or what caused the Blackburn Riots?

Background Knowledge

On July 3, 1831, Thornton and Ruthie Blackburn made a bold and courageous escape from slavery in Kentucky. Dressed finely with forged documents stating that they were free persons of color, the couple made their way to the city of Detroit where they enjoyed living as free persons. However, two years later, they were arrested and tried as fugitive slaves. They were sentenced to be returned to a lifetime of slavery in Kentucky because the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 ensured that fugitive slaves apprehended north of the Ohio River would be returned to their owners. The Black community of Detroit was outraged and threatened to burn the city to the ground. People from Upper Canada and rural Michigan arrived in Detroit to join the protest, carrying guns, clubs, knives, and swords. While the well-respected couple were jailed, men and women from Detroit met and carried out a carefully planned rescue. This went down in Detroit history as “The Blackburn Riots of 1833” and the first racial riots in Detroit. The rescue was a success and the Blackburns ended up on Canadian soil where a landmark extradition case would take place.



Source: <http://dighist.digitalscholarship.utoronto.ca/islandora/object/dighist%3A148>

Source : https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1869

Document A: An Inventory of Gideon Brown's Assets

Background Knowledge

In 1829, Thornton Blackburn's owner, Gideon Brown, died. Thornton was 17 at the time. He was then hired out to help support Brown's widow and children.

*an inventory & appraisement of the estate
of G. Gideon Brown dec'd made at
his late residence this 9th of June 1829*

Negro man Thornton	\$400 00
Do Do	3 50
Negro woman named Jenny	2 75
do do do Elizabeth	3 00
do do do Rose	1 25
do do do Malinda	2 50
do do do Serena	1 75
One brown horse Tom	45
One brown horse	80
One mare & colt	55
One 2 year old colt	50
One Apple white cow & calf	8 00
do Pinkle do	8 00
One white face cow	6 00
One little black cow	6 00
do heifer ^{cut} 1 year old	2 50
do do do	2 50
2 Sows & Pigs	8 00
11 Shoats	3 50
One Wagon & hind gear	55 00
One Carriage & harness	1 00
One small Saddle	2 50
One Old side Saddle	2 50
do do mans Saddle	4 50
1 Old bridle & martingale	2 00

The first item listed is:

Negro man Thornton.....
\$400.00

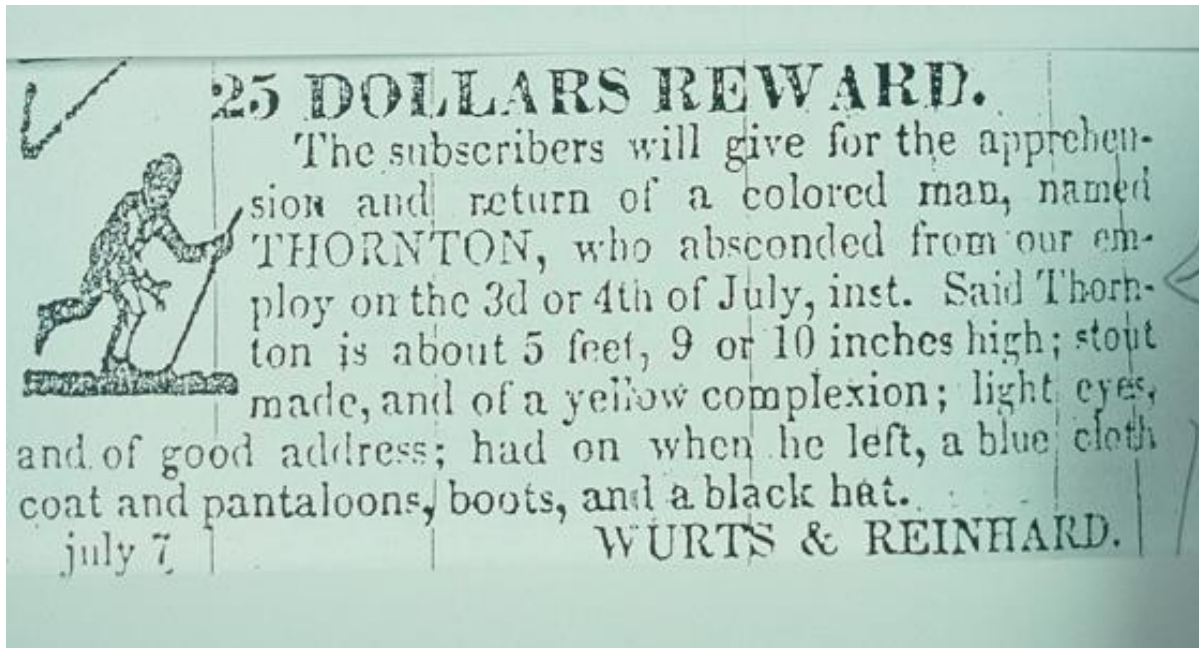
Document B: Slave Notice

25 DOLLARS REWARD

The subscribers will give for the apprehension and return of a colored man, named THORNTON, who absconded from our employ on the 3d or 4th of July, inst. Said Thornton is about 5 feet, 9 or 10 inches high; stout made, or a yellow complexion; light eyes, and of good address; had on when he left, a blue cloth coat and pantaloons, boots, and a black hat.

July 7

WURTS & REINHARD.



VOCABULARY

absconded - escaped

Source: *Fugitive Slave Notice for Thornton*, Louisville Public Advertiser, July 7, 1831. Appeared in Karolyn Smardz Frost, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2007).

Document C: Testimony of the Sheriff's Deputy

Background Knowledge

In mid-June of 1833, the Blackburns were arrested as fugitive slaves. The Black community of Detroit rushed to the courthouse. Also, people from rural Michigan came to watch the proceedings, including some fugitive slaves. The balcony of the courthouse was packed. Members of the Black community threatened to burn Detroit to the ground unless the Blackburns were set free.

The Blackburns were not able to provide documents declaring them free persons of color, so they were sentenced to be returned to slavery. They were held in separate cells in the city jail to await their voyage back to Kentucky.

The decision enraged the Black community.

The sheriff's deputy, Alexander McArthur, later testified:

“There were assembled around the said jail a large number of blacks and mulattoes armed with sticks, clubs, knives, pistols, swords, and other unlawful weapons avowing with loud threats their determination to rescue the said Prisoner Thornton Blackburn then in the custody of the said John M. Wilson, Sheriff. The Sheriff...endeavored reasoning with them to persuade them to disperse, but without effect, they telling him that they expected some of them would be killed but that they were determined to rescue the prisoner at all hazards.”

Background Knowledge

The outraged Black community sprang into action. Members met and organized

Document(s) D: News Articles

On Sunday evening, the 16th of June, the woman escaped from jail and reached Canada, by the **ingenuity** of one of her female friends, who gained an admission to the prison, and effected a change of clothes, by which means, she passed out without being recognized. On Monday afternoon, when it was expected that the man, Thornton, would be taken from the jail to the steamboat, a large number of black people assembled. When the carriage which was to convey him to the boat, drove up to the jail, the crowd drew nearer, and one of the number, with a large club, placed himself on the steps, and as soon as the High Sheriff opened the jail door and passed out, Thornton presented a pistol, and at the same time the Sheriff received a blow in the face and one on the head, which brought him to the ground. While falling, Mr. Wilson discharged his pistol and wounded one of the mob. The whole party of negroes then rushed forward, and before the citizens of the town could come to the aid of the Sheriff and his party, they carried Thornton, and succeeded in bearing him off and effecting his escape to Canada. Thornton and his wife were subsequently taken and committed to jail in Sandwich, to await the demand of the authorities of the United States.

Upward of thirty who were engaged in the affair, had been committed to prison in Detroit, and several others have been taken in Canada. There seems to be little doubt that the movement of the blacks was encouraged, if not instigated by some of the white citizens of Detroit. We regret we cannot say much in favor of the editor of the Courier, who, if he does not justify, attempts to **palliate** the outrage. It is evident, he would have rejoiced in the escape of Thornton, by whatever means it could have been accomplished, had not the Sheriff been so violently assaulted. —Herald

By a **contrivance** that demonstrates that negroes are not **wholly** wanting of **shrewdness**, the female was rescued from jail on Sunday evening, and made her escape into Canada. One of her female companions obtained entrance into her room, and having exchanged clothes with her, suffered her to go, while she remained behind. She was not recognized by a deputy sheriff who stood near her.

But it is with sincere regret that we have to inform our readers of the **melancholy** scene that followed. There is but little doubt that a systematic organization existed among the negroes, and that a regular plan of operations was laid for the rescue of Thornton. Indeed, there was no **concealment** of the fact by the negroes themselves. They had uniformly given out that such was their intention, though but few believed it to be anything more than a **braggadocio** threat. We have been informed that individual blacks were scattered about on various parts of the common and near the jail for an hour or two previous to the time when the **affray** happened. When Mr. Wilson, the Sheriff, came out of the jail, a cart drove up, Wilson was attacked, and after a short struggle, in which he was injured, had discharged his pistol at a negro, Thornton was put into the cart, and driven off. By this time, about forty negroes were on the spot. The citizens in town caught the alarm and a general rush took place to the jail. The negroes having rescued their man made for the woods. They were followed by men on foot and on horseback, some armed with clubs, some with pistols, and others with guns. The cart was overtaken a mile or more, a little distance from Fort Gratiot turnpike; but the prisoner had escaped. Several of the blacks were taken to jail. As it was known they would make for the river, horsemen were **dispatched** up and down to prevent them. The prisoner it is presumed, made his escape into Canada. On Monday night, patrols were stationed in all parts of the city and up and down the river to intercept any that might attempt to cross. Since then, there has been a capturing of blacks, whether concerned or not in the supposed

Source: Excerpt adapted from *Trouble Among the Blacks*, The Liberator, Boston, Massachusetts, Jul 6, 1833. (republished from The Detroit Courier)

VOCABULARY

ingenuity – skill, cleverness

palliate – ease

contrivance – ruse, gimmick

wholly – completely

shrewdness – mental sharpness

melancholy – sad mood

concealment – keeping secret

braggadocio— bragging

affray – fight

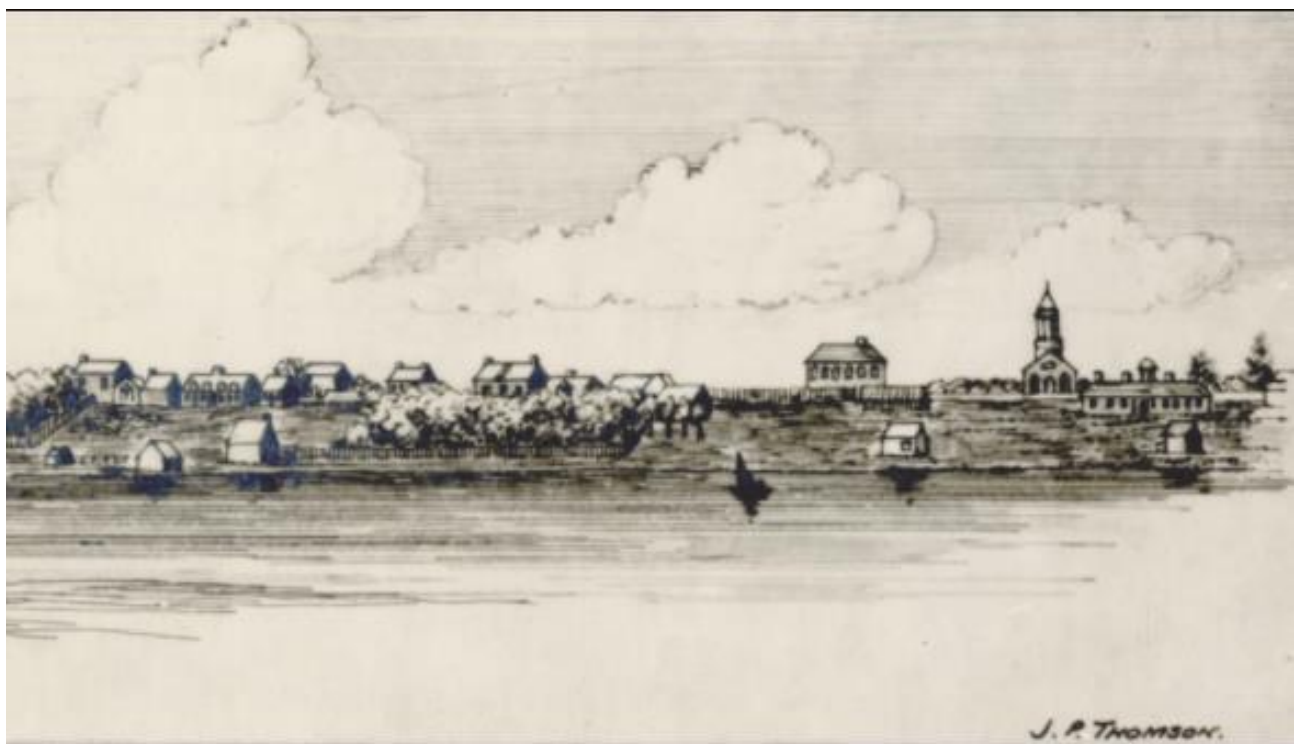
dispatched— sent for

*Source: Excerpt adapted from *The National Banner and Daily Advertiser*, Nashville, Tennessee, Jul 2, 1833.*

Document E: A Sketch of Sandwich, Upper Canada

Background Knowledge

Thornton and Lucie, along with others, made it to Canadian soil where they were again arrested and jailed at the Sandwich Gaol. The mayor of Detroit had sent a letter across the river requesting that the Blackburns be held while their formal extradition request was prepared.



Source: Pencil sketch of Sandwich, Upper Canada, drawn during the summer of 1833, probably while the Blackburns were incarcerated in the jail, which is the large building to the left of the church. Appeared in Karolyn Smardz Frost, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (Toronto, ON: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2007).

Retrieved from: <http://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka/exhibits/show/publichistory497/item/238>

Document F: The Petition of Thornton Blackburn

Background Knowledge

While the Blackburns were jailed at Sandwich, the acting governor of Michigan demanded their extradition on the grounds that the Blackburns had incited the riot and tried to kill the sheriff. Thornton Blackburn, unable to read or write, dictated his petition to a local minister, who passed it to the local elites. Many signed the petition. It was then forwarded to Lieutenant Governor Sir John Colborne who happened to be an abolitionist. This is the only document that survives in Thornton's own words.

Your Excellency's Petitioner...humbly prays that you will take his case and that of his unfortunate wife under your Merciful consideration. Were Your Petitioner convinced that, should he be sent to the other side of the River, he would be put upon his trial for any crime that might be charged against him, he would unwillingly have put Your Excellency to the trouble of perusing this tedious statement. But Your Petitioner is convinced that the object of the Party is to have him and his wife carried back to Hopeless Slavery, where complaints can neither be heard, nor grievances redressed.

VOCABULARY

perusing – looking over
tedious – boring
grievances – injustices

Source: Excerpt adapted from *The Petition of Thornton Blackburn on Behalf of Himself, and His Wife Ruth Blackburn, Both People of Color, at Present Confined in the Gaol of Sandwich, Western District*, June 22, 1833. Appeared in Karolyn Smardz Frost and Veta Smith Tucker, eds., *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance, and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderland* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 2016), 56.

Document G: Robert Simpson Jameson to Sir John Colborne

Background Knowledge

Robert Simpson Jameson was the Attorney General of Upper Canada. Sir John Colborne was the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. The Blackburns were set free from the Sandwich jail about July 22, 1833.

Sir, I take the liberty of reminding you that in consequence of the decision of the Governor in Council that the law did not warrant His Excellency in complying with the requisition of the Acting Governor of Michigan for the restoration of Thornton and other fugitives committed to custody at Sandwich, it becomes necessary to apprise the Sheriff, that such an order has been made and that it is against their being delivered up.

VOCABULARY

restoration – returning

apprise – inform

Source: Excerpt adapted from Robert Simpson Jameson to Lieutenant Colonel Rowan, Secretary to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, July 16, 1833, Correspondence of the Civil Secretary, Upper Canada Sundries, Vol. 130 (July 1833), RG 5A1, Library and Archives Canada. Appeared in Karolyn Smardz Frost, I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad (Toronto: Thomas Allen, 2007), 224.

Document A

Sourcing
What type of source is it?
Why was this source produced?
Is this a reliable source? Why or why not?
What does Gideon Brown tell us about himself through his will?

Contextualization

List details that might indicate Thornton's social status.

What does this document reveal about the status of enslaved people?

Close Reading

How did this affect you as you read this document?

Document B

Sourcing
What type of source is it?
Why was it produced?
How many days after Thornton's escape was this document produced?
What about this source makes it good evidence about the agency of Thornton?

Contextualization

Who might Wurts & Reinhard be? Why do you think that?

How does this slave notice help contribute to a greater understanding of the conditions enslaved Blacks faced?

Why might Thornton have escaped on the 3rd or 4th of July?

Corroboration

What are the similarities between Document A and Document B?

Close Reading

What does the reader learn about Thornton?

What attitudes and values are reflected in the advertisement?

Document C

Sourcing

What about this source makes it good evidence?

Contextualization

Based on the testimony, describe the state of affairs in Detroit. Find 3 examples from the text to support your answer.

Close Reading

What is the main message of this testimony?

Document(s) D

Using the two articles, create a timeline for the events that took place on Sunday and Monday.

Day/Time	Event

Explain what information both articles support.

Document(s) D

Source	What information from the article demonstrates that effective leadership was an important factor to the success of the Blackburn rescue?	What information from the article demonstrates that careful planning and organization was an important factor to the success of the Blackburn rescue?	What information from the article demonstrates the collaborative resistance to slavery that took place on both sides of the Detroit River?
<i>The National Banner and Daily Advertiser,</i> Nashville, Tennessee, July 2, 1833	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>
<i>The Liberator,</i> Boston, Massachusetts, July 6, 1833	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>

Document E

Why is this image historically significant?
What historical event is connected to the image?

According to SHEG, an image is historically significant if it:

- was important or influential at the time an event occurred
- had lasting effects on people and/or society
- was a moment of change or transition in history,
- was representative of broader trends or changes in society

Source: <https://sheg.stanford.edu/>

Document F

Sourcing
What is the purpose of this document?
Who is the intended audience of this document? How might that influence the tone and overall content?
Why might Thornton have lied or exaggerated?
Why wouldn't Thornton have lied or exaggerated?
Contextualization
Why would Thornton Blackburn have been fearful to cross the Detroit River?
Because Thornton Blackburn was illiterate, his words were dictated to someone else. How might this context have influenced the content of the petition?

Corroboration

How does information in Document F support or extend information in Document B?

Close Reading

What does this document reveal about slavery?

Did Thornton Blackburn have faith in Michigan's justice system? Provide evidence.

How does the author feel about being sent back across the Detroit River? How does the phrase "*hopeless slavery, where complaints can neither be heard, nor grievances redressed*" capture his feelings?

Document G

Sourcing
What about this source makes it good evidence about Canada's status as a safe haven for refugees from slavery?
Who wrote this document?
What was the purpose of this document?
Contextualization
Why would the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Colborne, refuse to send the Blackburns and the other fugitives back to the United States?
Corroboration
How does information in Document G support or extend information in the articles in Document D?
Close Reading
According to this document, what was the final decision of the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada?

Essay Planner

Question: Who or what caused the Blackburn Riots of 1833? Complete the essay planner and then write the final draft. You must include evidence from at least three of the documents.

What do I believe?

Why do I believe it? (3 reasons)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Introduction Paragraph

Hook:

Background Information:

Thesis statement:

Body Paragraph #1	Body Paragraph #2	Body Paragraph #3
<p>Topic sentence:</p> <p>Detail #1:</p> <p>Detail #2:</p> <p>Detail #3:</p> <p>Conclusion sentence:</p>	<p>Topic sentence:</p> <p>Detail #1:</p> <p>Detail #2:</p> <p>Detail #3:</p> <p>Conclusion sentence:</p>	<p>Topic sentence:</p> <p>Detail #1:</p> <p>Detail #2:</p> <p>Detail #3:</p> <p>Conclusion sentence:</p>

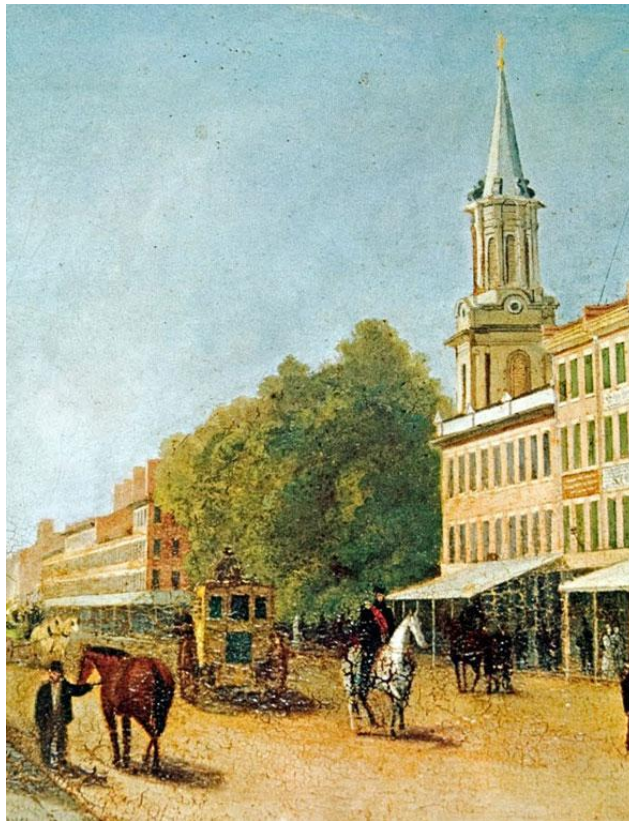
Conclusion Paragraph

Restate your thesis statement differently:

Final thought for the reader:

Life in Canada

Like other refugees who crossed the Detroit River into Canada, the Blackburns remained near the border and settled in Amherstburg. Not long after, they relocated to Toronto and began the city's first taxi business. The couple dedicated their lives to assisting other refugees from slavery. Just four years after the Blackburn Riots of 1833, Thornton courageously and secretly crossed the border, took the Underground Railroad in reverse, and rescued his dear mother, from whom he had been sold at just three years of age. He brought his mother back to Toronto so that she could live and die as a free woman.



Source:

https://www.blogto.com/city/2012/06/the_fascinating_story_of_torontos_first_cab_company/

“The Blackburn Riots of 1833 engendered the first major extradition case between British North America and the United States over a fugitive slave, and the only one in which the freedom of a woman—Lucie Blackburn—was in dispute. Its deliberation resulted in the core of public and legal policy regarding refugee reception that for more than 180 years has been foundational to Canadian extradition law. Canada still does not return accused criminals to jurisdictions where extreme punishments such as execution or torture will be their ultimate fate. The reception of the Blackburns in Upper Canada in 1833 set a precedent that still protects freedom-seekers to this day.

The highly-choreographed rescue of the Blackburns demonstrate the early flowering of transnational African American-African Canadian antislavery resistance that forged networks of freedom along the Detroit River.”

Source: Excerpt adapted from Karolyn Smardz Frost and Veta Tucker, eds., *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, resistance, and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderland* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 2016), 57-58.

Document C – The National Banner and Daily Advertiser

LOUISVILLE, June 27 — On the 17th instant, a serious affray took place at Detroit, in the attempt to rescue a fugitive slave from the hands of an officer. — The circumstances connected with it, as we learn from the Detroit papers, and from verbal information, are briefly, the following:

Some time since, a colored man belonging to Mrs. Brown, and a woman belonging to Mr McKnight, of this city, run off and reached Detroit. On being apprized of their residence there, two gentlemen of this city, left here two or three weeks since, for Detroit, for the purpose of claiming and arresting them, under the provisions of the laws of the United States, in relation to runaway slaves. Proper proof of ownership having been made, they were arrested and committed to prison. As soon as this fact was known, considerable excitement was produced among the negroes at Detroit, many of whom are fugitives from this State and Tennessee, and a plan, as it afterwards appeared, was laid to rescue them.

On Sunday evening, the 16th, the woman escaped from jail and reached Canada, by the ingenuity of one of her female friends, who gained an admission to the prison, and effected a change of clothes, by which means, she passed out without being recognized. 'After this, the movement of the negroes,' says the Free Press, indicated a spirit of desperation and audacity incompatible with the due enforcement of the laws by ordinary means,' and on Monday afternoon, when it was expected that the man, who passed by the name of Thornton,

would be taken from the jail to the steamboat, a large number of black people assembled on the commons. When the carriage which was to convey him to the boat, drove up to the jail, the crowd drew nearer, and one of the number, with a large club, placed himself on the steps, and as soon as Mr Watson, the High Sheriff, opened the jail door and passed out, Thornton presented a pistol, and at the same time the Sheriff received a blow in the face and one on the head, which brought him to the ground. Whilst in the act of falling, Mr Wilson discharged his pistol and wounded one of the mob. The whole party of negroes then rushed forward, and before the citizens of the town could come to the aid of the Sheriff and his party, they carried Thornton, and succeeded in bearing him off and effecting his escape to Canada. Thornton and his wife were subsequently taken and committed to jail in Sandwich, to await the demand of the authorities of the United States.

We learn that when our informant left Detroit, no hopes were entertained of the recovery of the Sheriff. The negro who committed the assault, had not yet been identified—upwards of thirty who were engaged in the affair, had been committed to prison in Detroit, and several others have been taken in Canada. There seems to be little doubt that the movement of the blacks was encouraged, if not instigated by some of the white citizens of Detroit. The editors of the *Journal and Free Press* deserve praise, for the manner in which they have expressed themselves in relation to this matter; we regret we cannot say as much in favor of the editor of the *Courier*, who, if he does not justify, attempts to palliate the outrage. It is evident, he would have rejoiced in the escape of Thornton, by whatever means it could have been accomplished, had not the Sheriff been so violently assaulted.—*Herald*.

Document C – The Liberator

TROUBLE AMONG THE BLACKS.

We republish from the Detroit Courier, the following account. To the prefatory remarks of the Editor, we have nothing to add, except our most sincere advice to all our colored friends to render a strict obedience to the laws of the land. Let them be as distinguished for their good conduct as they are for their unjust treatment, and the day of their deliverance will draw near.

An unusual degree of excitement has prevailed among the black, and no less among the white population of our city since Friday last, growing out of a claim made to a couple of mulattoes, by the professed agent of a family in Kentucky. In common with the whole community, our sympathies have been enlisted; and whatever may be the abstract right given by the constitution and laws of our country to traffic in human flesh, we have found it a difficult task to divest ourselves wholly of those spontaneous prepossessions in favor of natural liberty which gain a foot-hold in the breast of most men on viewing and appreciating the necessary consequences of legalised slavery. We will therefore refrain from any expressions of feeling on the subject, and confine ourselves to the facts as they have come to our knowledge. The latter part of last week a gentleman from Kentucky in company, we believe, with an attorney, arrived in town, and laid claim to a colored man known by the different names of Thornton, Smith and Blackburn, and his wife, who is to all appearance a genuine Creole, and was born, as she says, in the West Indies. Thornton is a respectable, honest and industrious man, and considerably superior to the common class of negroes. In short he is the kind of person that had numerous friends, and few enemies, among those of his own color, and of course, whose arrest

would be most likely to cause disturbance. The moment, therefore, the object for which the agent had come was known, the blacks began to murmur. Another cause was traceable to the abortive attempt made a few years since to kidnap a number of negroes from this frontier. The recollection of this was a preparatory stimulus to action. They were consequently prepared to carry through almost any measure that might be prompted by lacerated feelings. The law of this land in regard to the surrender of fugitive slaves is imperative; its requisitions are plain and positive; and any justice of the peace, if satisfied with the evidence adduced, is bound by that law to do justice to the person setting up a righteous claim. Application was made to Judge Chipman, who, on the strength of the testimony before him saw fit to authorize the surrender of Thornton and his wife to the claimant from Kentucky. They were delivered over to the jailer for safe keeping until the agent could take them off. The blacks, on hearing this, and conceiving that a fair examination was not had, were loud in their dissatisfaction, and even went so far as to hazard threats of resistance to the laws.

Thornton and his wife they had ever looked upon and associated with, as free; and, free or not, they were by no means disposed to see them dragged off again into servitude. This accounts for the feeling which germinated on Friday and came to its maturity on Monday afternoon. By a contrivance that demonstrates that negroes are not wholly wanting in shrewdness, the female was rescued from jail on Sunday evening, and made her escape into Canada, where she is now. It seems that one of her female companions obtained entrance into her room, and having exchanged clothes with her, suffered her to go, while she remained behind. So effectual was the disguise that she was not recognized by a deputy sheriff who

stood near her when she passed. If the affair had ended here, or even if Thornton himself had escaped without any further occurrence, the whole would have passed off pleasantly enough. But it is with sincere regret that we have to inform our readers of the melancholy scene that followed. There is but little doubt that a systematic organization existed among the negroes, and that a regular plan of operations was laid for the rescue of Thornton. Indeed, there was no concealment of the fact by the negroes themselves. They had uniformly given out that such was their intention, though but few, if any of the citizens, believed it to be any thing more than impulse or a braggadocio threat. It turned out, however, too true. We have been informed that individual blacks were scattered about on various parts of the common and near the jail for an hour or two previous to the time when the affray happened. The prisoner, Thornton, was to be taken out in time to embark in the steamboat at four o'clock. About this time they had grown quite numerous, but still kept scattered. When Mr. Wilson, the Sheriff, accompanied, we believe, by Messrs. McArthur and Goodell, came out of the jail, a cart drove up, Wilson was attacked, and after a short struggle, in which he was dangerously, ~~if not mortally injured, and one of the deputies~~ had discharged his pistol at a negro, Thornton was put into the cart, and driven off. By this time it is supposed that upwards of forty negroes were on the spot. Who it was that wounded Wilson is not positively known; but the jailer thinks he can be identified at sight. The citizens in town now caught the alarm, and a

general rush took place to the jail. The negroes having rescued their man made for the woods in a body. They were followed by men on foot and on horseback, some armed with clubs, some with pistols, and others with guns. The cart was overtaken a mile or more, a little distance from Fort Gratiot turnpike; but the prisoner had escaped. The woods were scoured in all directions, and several of the blacks secured, and taken back to jail. Pistols were found on some. As it was known they would make for the river with a view of crossing to the Canada side, horsemen were despatched up and down to prevent them. By evening a good number had been caught, and it was ascertained that some had actually succeeded in getting over. One young negress was brought back as she was waving her handkerchief from a canoe. The prisoner it is presumed, made his escape into Canada. Thus was begun and carried through a plot that for ingenuity and daring has seldom been equalled—and that in broad day light. On Monday night patrols were stationed in all parts of the city, and up and down the river to intercept any that might attempt to cross. Since then, there has been a promiscuous capturing of blacks, whether concerned or not in the supposed conspiracy. How far this course can be justified our readers must determine. Suffice it to say that many, against whom nothing possible can be brought, and who, we are sure, are able to make out a perfect *alibi* at the time of the riot, are now in jail. At this time, (Tuesday) between twenty and thirty have been imprisoned. We are not for having crimes pass unpunished, nor ought those blacks, who were instrumental in the outrageous and barbarous assault upon Mr. Wilson, to be shielded from the consequences of such an uncalled for proceeding. We hope they will be ferreted out, and brought to punishment. But let not the innocent, because they are black, suffer with the guilty. Let not the excitement that exists operate to the injury of those who are now the more than injured.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.—We learn that Thornton and his wife have been re-taken, committed to Sandwich jail, and that their examination before the Justice on that side takes place to-day. Several other blacks have also been taken and confined in the same jail. A requisition, we presume, will be made on the Canada authorities to have them delivered up. A question will present itself; whether Thornton, if taken over as a fugitive from justice, and imprisoned in our jail on a criminal charge, is any longer liable to be carried off as a slave? At any rate, whether the law, if violated, had not a paramount right to that of the individual claimant?

☞ If it is a violation of the law of God to retain a human being as property, how can a Court be justified in giving up a runaway slave?