

Reading Log #8- Due November 08, 2016

Ashley Wanner

T00222712

Both readings (*Roughing it in the Bush* and *From Folklore to Revolution: Charivari and the Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837*) have one topic in common. This is something called charivari. Charivari almost seems like some strange sort of hazing for older folk about to marry younger or old marry old. It is a custom that Canadians picked up from the French. The folks who do this act, dress up and make lots of noise, annoying the one about to be wed until they decide to invite them in to entertain or give them money for the bar.

Roughing it speaks of what it is, acknowledging that it starts as a joke but goes into detail about horror stories that have occurred because of it. One instance talks about an Irish woman about to marry a black man and how it took a turn for the worst. "Some of the young men in the town joined in the frolic. They went so far as to enter the house, drag the poor nigger from his bed, and in spite of his shrieks for mercy, they hurried him out into the cold air-for it was winter- and almost naked as he was, rode him upon a rail, and so ill-treated him that he died under their hands. "(CITATION- Moodie, Ballstadt, *Roughing It In the Bush*, P. 224.)

Charivaris in Lower Canada also speaks of how odd of a ritual it is. It states that it is a "...mocking, carnivalesque tone of the proceedings, the nocturnal setting, the loud and raucous noise, the masks and costumes of the participants and the elaborate, insistently public street procession..." (Greer, *From Folklore to Revolution: Charivaris and the Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837*, P. 26).

Could this be how the idea and concept of a bachelor party came to be? As silly as that idea may be, that's what this sounds similar to. While bachelor parties are a bit tamer than harassing people into all hours of the night, they have lots of qualities in common. It's that's overall idea of sending someone off into a life long commitment.

Works Cited

Greer, Allen. ", *From Folklore to Revolution: Charivaris and the Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837.*" Taylor and Francis Group Volume 15, No. 1 January (1990): P. 25-43.

Moodie, S. and Carl Ballstadt. *Centre for Editing Early Canadian Texts : Roughing it in the Bush or Life in Canada*, McGill-Queens: University Press, May 2014