

Zoe L. Jackson

2020 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award Recipient

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada extends congratulations to Zoe L. Jackson of Fredericton, NB on receiving the 2020 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award. Zoe will be starting her Master of Arts program in History at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton campus (UNB) this September 2020. Zoe completed her Bachelor of Arts program (Honours in History) at UNB in 2019, receiving numerous university scholarships and departmental prizes and awards as well as appearing on the Dean's List from 2017 to 2019.

During her undergraduate degree, Zoe was involved in a range of academic and professional activities. She completed an Arts Internship (ARTS 3000) in 2016-17 and worked as a student assistant in the Archives & Special Collections at Harriett Irving Library (HIL). She was a Student Assistant in the Microforms Department at the HIL, where she conducted research on microfilm documents and helped to create and design "New Brunswick Loyalist Journeys" digital story map.



Zoe worked part-time for several members of the History department, further honing her digital and research skills. She worked for Dr. Wendy Churchill and Dr. Bonnie Huskins as a research assistant and a story map designer for a digital research project centered on the Atlantic migrations of British military engineer, William Booth, in the eighteenth century. During the summer of 2018, Zoe completed a three-month internship in Malawi (southeastern Africa) that involved fieldwork, digital mapping, and archival research on the 2017-18 cholera epidemic. This research was funded through a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship.

Zoe published her HIST 3226 research essay 'In this deplorable state I entered upon a course of your Cordial Balm of Gilead': Samuel Solomon, Quackery, and Nervous Disorders in Montreal, 1770–1808" in the 2017-2018 issue of TimePieces, UNB's History Undergraduate Journal. She served as a member of the planning committee and presented a paper (adapted from her HIST 3226 research paper) at the 2018 Arts Matters conference at UNB. Zoe has volunteered as an Academic Peer Mentor in the Faculty of Arts for several years and was the Vice-President Internal of the History Undergraduate Society between 2018-2019.

Zoe's wide range of coursework in Caribbean and Atlantic slavery and diaspora, loyalism, and cultural studies will provide an excellent basis for her MA research. The following is Zoe's MA proposal titled "Caribbean and Canadian Connections: Black Migration in the World of Atlantic Slavery, 1783- 1800":

On 13 July 1784, Fredrick William Hecht placed an advertisement in the Royal Gazette notifying New Brunswick society of his escaped slave, Hector. According to the advertisement, Hector spoke "English like the West India negroes," and had migrated from the Caribbean to Florida and New York before arriving in the Maritime colonies in 1783. Hector can be contextualized as embodying both internal and international migrations through his escape from Hecht, located at Fort Howe, and his larger migration from New York following Britain's 1783 colonial defeat. My MA thesis will examine the forced and coerced trans-Atlantic migrations of enslaved people, like Hector, who in the last two decades of the eighteenth century involuntarily migrated from the Caribbean and the United States to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. My research will examine colonial legislation and runaway advertisements in the Caribbean and Maritime colonies to explore these transoceanic colonial connections further.

In the late eighteenth century, the British Atlantic World witnessed two major forced migrations of enslaved people of African descent into the Maritime colonies: the American Revolution (1775-1783) and the Second Maroon War (1795-1796), in which English troops suppressed a war instigated by Jamaican runaways. A more comprehensive understanding of the intimacies between British Jamaica, the Maritimes colonies, and the American Revolution will contribute to a wider analysis of Atlantic world displacements of the enslaved, as their forced migration transcended countries and continents. Slave advertisements existed to police the migration of black bodies; serving as a pervasive form of state surveillance in white society. These advertisements reveal valuable information about the enslaved as historical actors who continually contested their enslavement across the Atlantic World. Therefore, slave advertisements and British legislation, such as the Jamaican Slave Acts, will serve as my primary research focus. The act of running away in slave society was the gravest non-violent crime an enslaved person could commit, as it subverted the colonial order imposed by British slave laws.

Scholars of slavery in the Caribbean and Canadian contexts have used runaway advertisements and colonial legislation to study black migration in its various forms. Harvey Amani Whitfield's works titled *North to Bondage: Loyalist Slavery in the Maritimes* (2016) traces survival tactics, kinship bonds, and resistance strategies employed by the enslaved after the Loyalist migration of 1783. Ruma Chopra's publication *Almost Home: Maroons Between Slavery and Freedom in Jamaica, Nova Scotia, and Sierra Leone* (2018), firmly links the British colonies of Jamaica and Nova Scotia geographically through the 1795 involuntary transatlantic migration of the Jamaican maroon community. My research will contribute to the existing scholarship on Atlantic slavery by contextualizing runaway advertisements and

colonial legislation as encompassing both a localized and international framework. My thesis will situate Atlantic Canada firmly within the larger context of British Atlantic World migration and legislation.

I will conduct extensive research in the University of New Brunswick Loyalist Collection, the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, and the Nova Scotia Archives. Accessible online databases will be utilized for the Caribbean and wider Atlantic World context, such as Eighteenth-Century Collections Online. I will further benefit from Dr. Stefanie Kennedy's extensive database of Jamaican runaway advertisements, along with a growing number of accessible online databases of runaway advertisements published by historians of Atlantic slavery. My Honours degree in History at the University of New Brunswick has well-prepared me to conduct graduate research at that institution. I will draw on my Caribbean and Atlantic World lecture and seminar courses which analyzed British colonial laws in the Caribbean and the African diaspora, along with my Loyalism courses. I will benefit from the guidance and expertise of Caribbean and Atlantic World scholar, Dr. Kennedy, at UNB, with whom I have already established a working relationship, as well as several members of the History department whose research provides a firm methodological and theoretical foundation for the development of my MA research. By entering into denationalized conversations about the shared histories of enslaved black migrations in two of Britain's territories, we can better understand these trans-Atlantic linkages and divergences.

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