"An Overview of Findings from King's and Slavery: A Scholarly Inquiry"

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Learning Nova Scotia history, without gaps



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Detail from a Customs report, showing ships entering Halifax with cargoes of slave-produced goods.

The business model of Nova Scotia **required for its success** that enslaved people be exploited in plantation agriculture.

King's: indirect connections to slavery Key findings by Tillotson King's' funding sources Derived from slavery From other sources Provincial government grant 100% 1789-1802 Provincial and British government British NS 35.7% grants, 1803-1833 Student fees, merchant 10% and non-merchant 1789-1854 Donations, merchant and 10 to non-merchant 1846-1854 15 % SPG Priests' salaries 1789 to circa 1813 % derived from slavery TBD SPG Scholarships 1811 to after 1854 SPG Grant 1825-46 Society for the Propagation of the Gospel 1789 - 1854 in Foreign Parts (SPG).

King's: indirect connections to slavery Tillotson's conclusion

"The implication I draw is that we inherit an institution funded at its origin by unjustly extracted profits and taxes charged on blood-soaked goods. We should understand the benefit to the College and the province that was taken from the enslaved people of the 18th and 19th century West Indies."

King's: direct connections to slavery Key findings by Frost and States

- Nearly all 18 Anglican clerics who petitioned from New York to establish a College in N.S. owned slaves. All but one were funded by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG).
- Of the nine who came to the Maritimes, most had claimed the service of enslaved people while in the Thirteen Colonies or had acquired human property in the Maritimes. A number sent their sons to King's.
- Bishop Charles Inglis, the founder and first Bishop of Nova Scotia, owned slaves while still in New York. There is no record of him opposing or having problems with slavery once he reached Nova Scotia. Many of his priests owned slaves, including those he stayed with during Episcopal Visitations.

King's: direct connections to slavery Key findings by Frost and States

- In the growing debate over slavery and the slave trade, those associated with King's generally supported the continuation of slavery, as part of the established order they came to NS to uphold.
- There were three noted exceptions:

William Cochran (Pres. and then VP), who was an abolitionist; and Board members Thomas Andrew Lumisden Strange and Sampson Salter Blowers, both of whom were Chief Justices. Strange and Blowers consistently made rulings that favoured the enslaved when they fled, or that otherwise challenged rights claimed by owners of the enslaved.

 Governor John Wentworth, ex officio Board member from 1792 to 1808, owned (and sold) enslaved people. The former colonial Governor of New Hampshire, Wentworth was from a family that had made its fortune in slavery and from trading in the fruits of enslaved labour.

King's: direct connections to slavery Key findings by Frost and States

- In addition to funding priests who taught at King's (or who sent their sons to King's), the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) provided scholarships at King's for the sons of SPG funded priests (missionaries).
- Funds received by SPG were tainted or entangled with individuals and organizations whose wealth derived from slavery. The proportion of money SPG received from individuals and organizations whose wealth derived from slavery is yet to be determined.
- King's students or parents of King's students were on both sides of legal proceedings in New Brunswick on the rights of enslaved people and of those who claimed to own them.
- A number of students who attended King's in its early years were from families that owned enslaved people and/or were involved in the slave trade or commerce in goods produced by enslaved people.

King's N.Y. and King's N.S. connections Findings by Roper

Roper asked: Is the slavery history of King's College N.Y. part of the slavery history of King's College N.S.? What was the nature of connection between the two institutions? Was King's N.S. a continuation of King's N.Y. ?

- King's Nova Scotia was independently founded as a new institution.
- Some of the people involved had been involved with the King's College in NY and there
 were intended similarities between the two institutions, but King's NY was not moved to, or
 continued in, Windsor NS.