

FLEEING CRUCIFIXION: MIGRATION TO CANADA

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered (Timothy 6: 1).

The early enslaved persons were First Nations or indigenous peoples known as panis. In 1501, Gaspar Corte-Real, a Portuguese explorer, landed in Newfoundland. He subsequently captured and enslaved 50 native persons. Almost three decades later, in 1535, Jacques Cartier, a French explorer, captured 10 members of the Iroquois and carried them to be displayed in France.

One of the earliest known enslaved Blacks in Canada was Olivier Le Jeune in 1632. He was born in Madagascar, Africa and as a child was captured by the traders of the enslaved. Subsequently, Le Jeune was given to the Kirke brothers in Québec. In 1632 the Kirkes decided to sell him and depart for Britain. This action was prompted by the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye in which Québec was returned to France. The young slave was educated by Father Paul le Jeune of the Society of Jesus, who recounted, "...the other day I had a little Savage on one side of me, and a little Negro or Moor on the other, to whom I taught their letters."¹

¹ Robin Winks, "Negro School Segregation in Ontario and Nova Scotia," *Canadian Historical Review* 50 (1969): 167.