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*SCRAPBOOK STORIES:
KITTY CAMPBELL*



KITTY CAMPBELL

What Do We Find In The Records?

1820



Magistrates met by letter of Superintendent Arthur directing them to carry out an inquiry into a complaint of treatment exercised by Dunkanette Campbell on her Slave Kitty. Kitty was brought before the Magistrates handcuffed and chained by one leg.

3rd
April

William Eve, the officer tasked with collecting Kitty, states that upon opening the door of a bedroom he saw Kitty sitting down at the foot of the bed, handcuffed with a chain wound round both legs and double padlocked which prevented her from getting up. Upon him showing Duncanette the warrant to retrieve Kitty, she declared "she (kitty) was her slave, and could do as she pleased with her, and noone had a right to touch her property none but Colonel Arthurs and a file of men should take her out."

Examining Physician, Dr. Thornton, told the bench that upon examining Kitty, it appeared that she had received severe punishment, that the "stripes to her face were inflicted on a improper place and was cruel and severe, but had they all been given on the shoulders it would not have been severe. She did not appear to have suffered from being put in irons."

Kitty States the following:

- She had been confined for 6 weeks in the loft
- She was flogged repeatedly, her ear was cut.
- She was told that she would always be held in the loft, no matter the place her mistress resided, and that she would never come out of chains, but would die in chains.
- Kitty asked to be sold, but was told that she never would be because "she has made some stuff which caused Captain Isles to leave her mistress."



What Did The Magistrates See?



Her face was much bruised, marks of severe flogging, her ear appeared cut and her back bore visible signs of severe punishment being recently afflicted. Based on this inquiry, the Magistrates Recommended the case be tried at Special Court.

**SRAPBOOK STORIES:
Kitty Campbell**

1820

5th
June

Duncanette takes Johanna, a Negro woman slave, to the Slave Court for Harboursing Kitty, her Property. Court finds Joanna Not Guilty

Special Court

The King vs. Duncanett Campbell

For punishing her slave named Kitty in an illegal, cruel and severe manner, by chaining her and repeatedly whipping her, and for confining her, for a considerable time, in the said chains, in the loft of her house. The case minutes gives us more details regarding the physical condition of Kitty when she was examined by Dr. Thornton

6th
Sept.

"scores of several wounds which appeared to have been recently inflicted, with a whip or cowskin. They were chiefly upon the shoulders but there was also a considerable number on the left arm the neck and face, those on the face had produced considerable swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, one of the stripes had divided the ala of the left ear, and another had wounded the left eyeball, both eyes were much swelled and inflamed, her whole countenance was so much disfigured that it was some time before I could recognize her".

Statement of the Defence

6th
Sept.

"the slave Kitty had behaved uncommonly well to her for many years until very lately and until Mr. Isles, with whom she then lived, first kept her, Kitty. He even kept her in the prisoners own house, and she then began to conduct herself in a most improper and imprudent manner, constantly insulted and used the prisoner ill, and while she was sick she neglected her, would do nothing for her. On account of the slave Kitty, Mr. Isles left her, and she could get no good from her ever since, that she deserted her duty some time ago when she was concealed by order of Mr. Isles...On the Saturday she was brought to the court, the girl attempted her life, attacked her, and held her so fast that she could not get released from her until she was assisted, she was then chained so".

At the Close of the Defence, the Jury retired for a few minutes and returned with the verdict...NOT GUILTY

7th
Sept.

A day after the trial, Duncanette transfers ownership of Kitty and her issue from herself to her daughter Eleanor Rowan, as paid for by Clarissa Paslow. The transfer stated that Kitty would serve Duncanette for her natural life, and then after she passing, she was to then serve her daughter Eleanor. In the event of her daughter dying, a subsequent line of inheritance (mother, brother, brother's heirs, etc.) would ensure that Kitty and her future issue (children) would ever be free.

KITTY CAMPBELL

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1820

29th
Sept.

We learn that it was due to a complaint of Kitty herself that Superintendent Arthur had her examined before the Magistracy. Marshal Bennet brought a complaint to the Magistrates, whereby he says that Kitty had stated a barefaced falsehood respecting him. According to Bennett, Kitty said that she had overheard Duncanette Campbell telling Mary Tillett that Bennett had advised her to give Kitty 39 lashes every morning. He declared this to be a most shameful falsehood and which Mary denied being told and Duncanette denied him ever telling her to use severity towards Kitty.

39

1828 † 1830

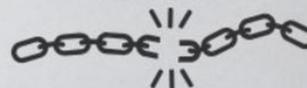
7th
Jan.

Record of Slave Baptism for William, son of Kitty Campbell, 11 months Old

10th
Jan.

Record of Slave Baptism for Peter Campbell, son of Kitty Campbell, 3 months Old

1832



17th
April

Sale, from Duncanette Campbell to Duncan Canel, of a negro boy named Thomas Pickton, son of Kitty Campbell, for his freedom. Sold for 50 pounds. Thomas appears in the Census of 1829 under the name Picton, no age is recorded.

1834

Slave Register



Clause sixty-two of the Slavery Abolition Act, which came into effect on August 1st, 1834, called for a Slave Register to be compiled for (British) Honduras. While similar to a slave census, the register contained additional information which would help to ensure that families were not separated during the Apprenticeship Period, and also act as a check and balance for the process of Compensation. The entry page for Donkenett Campbell shows:

Family of Kitty

Kitty -- Campbell -- Black -- Baker -- 35 Years

William -- Campbell -- Black -- Waiting Boy -- 9 years -- son

Mary -- Campbell -- Black -- Nothing -- 3 Years -- daughter

1st August 1838
EMANCIPATION



As with majority of the enslaved population of the settlement, we lose track of Kitty and her children after the Census of 1835. Did Kitty decide to completely break all ties to her enslaver and abuser by changing her name and adopting an alias after 1838?

Note of interest

Though at least 4 of the Census Registers lists enslaved persons along with their age, more often that not, the actual age of the enslaved was not known and an estimate was written on the forms. The Census records list Kitty as being age 25 in 1820, 30 in 1823, 25 in 1826 and finally 35 in the 1834 Slave Register. The Baptism entry for her son William indicates that though he is listed as 9 years of age at the time, he would have been about 6 going on 7.

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