Charivaris in Lower Canada

Culture is something we hold very closely too. In Lower Canada the French Canadian’s protect and held on to their traditions throughout time charivari. In this paper it will discuses what and where the origins of these traditions came from. We will also look at the relation with charivari and the rebellion that took place in Lower Canada in 1837. The rebellion was to protect the traditions of the French Canadian’s.

The British took control over the French in Canada however the French Canadians kept their French way of life in Lower Canada keeping some traditions much longer then France had[[1]](#footnote-1). This included the tradition of charivari, which penalized people by making a public spectacle of their faults.[[2]](#footnote-2) It basically is when a group of people thinks you are doing something wrong and will make a public display of it and will sometimes fine and lead to harassment. In many cases in Lower Canada it had to do with newly wed couples. They would be forced to pay a fine if suspected of a illegitimate marriage. If the couple wouldn’t pay the group of charivari believers would protest outside the home of the newly wed and be a nuisance, taunting, making fun of, and threating them till they paid up. Some of these demonstrations would be violent[[3]](#footnote-3). The French Canadians were worried they were going to loose their French way of life so they rebelled using charivaris tactics in 1837. They would stand out side British authorities homes and basically do whatever it takes to make the British authority resign his powers. This included surrounding his house hurling insults, threats, and even rocks[[4]](#footnote-4). The rural parts of Lower Canada was no longer governed by the British so military from the Britain came and ended the acts of the rebels.

The French Canadians of Lower Canada valued their way of life and were worried of losing it. We learnt were the French Canadians got their traditions form. We will also looked at the relation with charivari and the rebellion that took place in Lower Canada in 1837. The whole point of the rebellion was to protect the traditions of the French Canadian’s in Lower Canada.

1. Allan Greer, Folklore to Revolution: Charivaris and the Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837, *Social History,* 15, 1, (1990) pg. 27 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid, pg. 30 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid, pg. 32 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid pg.37-38 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)