

## Background reading

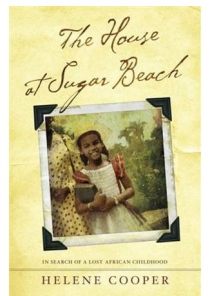
### Slavery



*The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal* by Afua Cooper

*The House at Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper

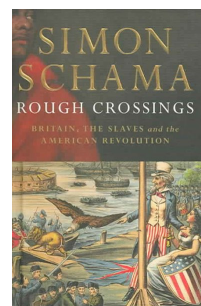
Set in modern Liberia, the author traces her family's history to slaves who returned to Africa from the U.S. to establish a colony in Liberia.



*Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves* by Adam Hochschild

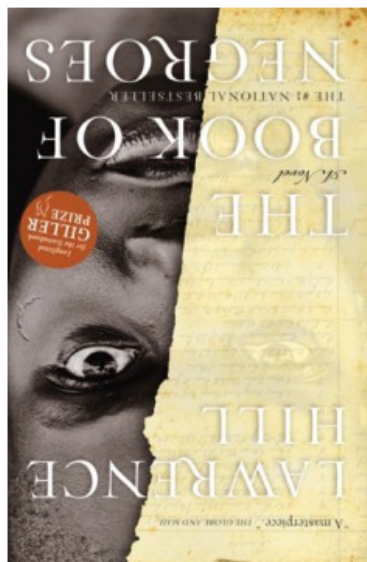
Hochschild, previously known for *King Leopold's Ghost*, here tackles the absorbing history of the abolition movement in England. It begins with 12 angry men meeting in a printer's shop in London in 1787; these men succeed in mobilizing a nation, resulting in boycotts of slave-made sugar and petitions to Parliament.

*Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas



*Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves, and the American Revolution* by Simon Schama

*The Black Loyalists: The Search for a Promised Land in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone, 1783-1870* by James W. St. George Walker



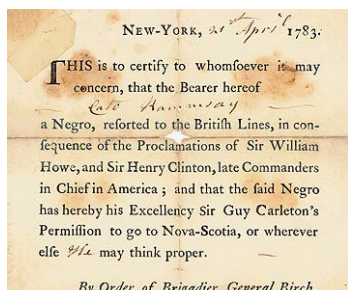
Lawrence Hill's *The Book of Negroes*

Reading Map

Ontario library association

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### History online



One of few remaining original certificates of freedom issued in New York to slaves who had joined the loyalist cause. From "The official site of Colonial Williamsburg"  
<http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Autumn07/slaves.cfm>

Breaking the Silence: Learning About The Transatlantic Slave Trade. "The Middle Passage."

<http://www.antislavery.org/breakingthesilence/main/04/index.shtml>

Canada's Digital Collections: Black Loyalists

<http://blackloyalist.com/canadiandigitalcollection/index.htm>

Lawrence Hill discusses *The Book of Negroes* - CBC Arts | Books  
[http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/book\\_of\\_negroes.html](http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/book_of_negroes.html)

Lawrence Hill's Web site

<http://www.lawrencehill.com/>

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management: African Nova Scotians in the Age of Slavery and Abolition

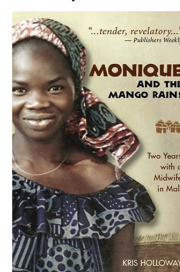
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/africanns/default.asp?Language=English>

### Midwifery

*A Midwife's Story* by Penny Armstrong

Armstrong writes about her training in Scotland and her midwifery work in an Amish community in Pennsylvania.

*Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali* by Kris Holloway



Holloway worked for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the remote village of Nampossela in Mali, West Africa. There, she became friends with Monique, the village midwife in a country with one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world.



*Obstructed Labour: Race and Gender in the Re-emergence of Midwifery* by Sheryl Nestel

Nestel, a professor of sociology and equity studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, U. of Toronto, studies the re-emergence of midwifery and analyzes how the movement to legalize midwifery in Ontario (the first province to do so, in 1994) excluded from practice midwives from the global south.

*A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Reading map prepared by Alexandra Yarrow and the staff of the Ottawa Public Library Readers' Advisory Committee for OLA Superconference January 2009



Image from Breaking the Chains Commission  
<http://www.breakingthechains.co.uk/>



## Ancestors and memory

*Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* by James Baldwin

Actor Leo Proudhammer reflects upon his life, and his childhood in Harlem, as he lays felled by a near-fatal heart attack.

🍁 *In Another Place, Not Here* by Dionne Brand

Short-listed for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award, Brand's book traces the relationship between Elizete and Verlia, two women living on a Caribbean island. A book about nowhere, about elsewhere, and about here.

## Lives lived

🍁 *George & Rue* by George Elliott Clarke

The writer of the award-winning *Execution Poems* shares a fictional depiction of the lives and motivations of two ancestral cousins, who suffered underprivileged and violent childhoods and were condemned and hanged by the white community for their role in killing a taxi driver.

🍁 *No Crystal Stair* by Mairuth Sarsfield

This CBC Canada Reads selection follows Marion Willow, a Black widow living in Montreal during the 1940s, as she raises her three daughters and works various jobs. Marion faces segregation and discrimination, but also moments of great joy – such as seeing Oscar Peterson play in Westmount's Victoria Hall!

## Adventures: not for the faint of heart

*Middle Passage* by Charles Johnson

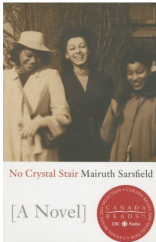
A freed slave living in New Orleans accidentally boards a slave ship returning to Africa.

*The Known World* by Edward P. Jones

This 2005 IMPAC Dublin Award winner traces the fallout from the death of a former slave who later became a plantation – and slave – owner himself.

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Morrison's powerful novel follows Sethe, a fugitive slave, and the emotional consequences of the horrible choices she made on the way to freedom.



## Reel time

*Amazing Grace* (2007)

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Romola Garai;

Director: Michael Apted

Based on the life of British Member of Parliament and antislavery pioneer William Wilberforce. Gruffudd (*Black Hawk Down*) plays Wilberforce, who, elected at the age of 21, navigates political intrigue with his wife, Barbara Spooner (Garai) to end the slave trade in the British Empire.

Watch the trailer here: <http://www.amazinggracemovie.com/>



*A Respectable Trade* (1998)

Starring: Warren Clarke, Anna Massey

Director: Suri Krishnamma

A young girl marries a corpulent shipping merchant in Bristol, England, only to find out his cargo is human. A *Masterpiece Theatre* film based on the book by Philippa Gregory.

## Recommended children's books

🍁 *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
Ages 9 and up.

*The Ballad of Belle Dorcas* by William H. Hooks  
For ages 7-12; good read-aloud.

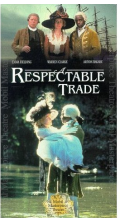
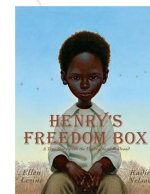
*Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine

A great advanced picture book to introduce the issue of slavery to ages 4-8.

🍁 *Last Days in Africville* by Dorothy Perkins  
Ages 7-12.

*In the Time of the Drums* by Kim L. Siegelson  
Another excellent picture book for ages 6-9.

*Underground To Canada* by Barbara Smucker  
Ages 7-12.



Detailed inset map shows both the black refugee community of Burch Town (Birchtown) and the black suburb of Shelburne, Black Town. Black Town was founded by black settlers driven from Shelburne by white labourers and disbanded soldiers during the so-called 'race riot' of July 1784.