

When I decided to participate in National History Day this year, I knew I wanted to do a topic that was compelling, yet not too well known. When researching possible topics, I came across an article from a website from the Smithsonian Institution, detailing the Creole Slave Revolt. When I learned that it was the most successful slave rebellion in United States history, despite the fact that I had never heard of it, I knew it would make for a fulfilling project. I found the story to be a unique aspect of African-American history, as well as inspirational. I figured the satisfying ending fit the “triumph” part of this year’s National History Day theme perfectly.

I started conducting my research primarily through internet resources, finding a variety of journals and websites that provided helpful details about my topic and the domestic slave trade in the United States. To gain knowledge about the different public reactions to the *Creole* case, I extensively used old newspapers from the *Chronicling America* resource provided by the Library of Congress. Other primary sources I used included letters exchanged between diplomats in the United States and Britain, congressional resolutions proposed subsequent to the incident, records of British parliamentary debates, depositions by the slave owners aboard the *Creole*, and more. I conducted an interview with Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie, Associate Professor of History at Howard University in Washington D.C. Furthermore, I contacted the Bahamian Historical Society to gain a copy of one of their journals, "The Revolt on the Slave Ship Creole: Popular Resistance to Slavery in Post-Emancipation Nassau", as well as an article written by an author who knew connections to Elijah Morris, a slave involved in the *Creole* rebellion.

To present my research, I chose a website format because it allowed me to communicate the content with many visual options and included interactive features that enhanced the audience’s experience. For example, the website allowed me to incorporate the audio of a former slave describing his experiences, which I thought was powerful since it came from someone who lived through that time in history. The website also allowed me to include effects such as an interactive timeline, a video clip, navigable slides, hover text, and simply being able to zoom into an image with a single click. Finally, it allowed me to access and modify the site from anywhere with internet access.

The Creole Slave Revolt is a perfect example of both triumph and tragedy. The slaves who initiated the revolt experienced tragedy their entire lives, being sold as property and forced to work long hours without pay. Their success in taking control of the ship and landing in the Bahamas, with 135 of them reaching the ultimate goal of freedom, was certainly a triumph. Their teamwork and strength was effective enough to sail the boat to the Bahamas, and the subsequent actions of the British authorities ensured their freedom forever.