Kyler Eckess

T00546626

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1. Many Rules and regulations constrict those who participate in dueling, and failure to abide to the rules would result in a punishment such as jail time or death. Both Morgan’s, "In Search of the Phantom Misnamed Honour" and Bown’s, "Pistols at Six O'Clock” illustrate how a failure to conduct a duel under these rules could result in murder, manslaughter, or any other crime charges. Both authors do a great job of illustrating their points in these documents and show how duels were held, challenged, and the consequences to a misconducted duel.
2. For the most part, dueling was a way for men to demonstrate their courage and masculinity. In Morgan’s "In Search of the Phantom Misnamed Honour" she demonstrates how males were more likely to participate in duels due to an act of “courage”. Morgan says, “the central, unifying tenet of this code was the right and responsibility of certain men to defend their reputations with a public display of physical courage, an option that was not open to women of the same class and racial group.” [[1]](#footnote-1)Although dueling was a common practice to separate the differences of two individuals and sometimes and entire group, it was also seen as socially unacceptable and illegal. In the case of Wilson and Lyon, Wilson had fled the scene out of nervousness and shock and was later sentences to prison upon arrival in Perth. Bown demonstrates the court case and the incident in the document and further analyzes the judge’s ruling. Bown says in the document, “After a two-day trial, the Honourable Mr. Justice Macaulay, who had served during the War of 1812 and was aware of the duelling code, told the jury that, although illegal, duelling had its precedents among royalty, and that juries seldom convicted if the proper duelling code was followed”[[2]](#footnote-2).
3. For the most part, dueling’s rules and regulations are pretty straightforward, but how might these restrictions be imposed? Had many incidents occurred previous to the rules? How might a jury or judge rule for or against a suspect? What separates someone from being guilty or not guilty? Many of these questions may be in the reade’rs mind during the reading of the documents and many of the answers to these questions are located in the documents. These documents gave me a better understanding of the topic of dueling. For example, I wasn’t aware that dueling was socially unacceptable, nor was I aware that there were rules around a “civilized duel”.
1. Cecilia Morgan, “‘In search of the phantom misnamed honour’: Duelling in Upper Canada,” Canadian Historical Review 76:4 (1995), pp. 529-562 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Stephen Bown, “Pistols at Six O’clock,” Beaver, 79: 3 (Aug/Sept. 1999). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)