

DUCKS, ENGINE OR SENZALA? THE STORY OF A PEOPLE BEHIND A STORY

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ABSTRACT

The project began with the curiosity to know if there really existed a mill in the locality of Patos. Through our research we find that it did. Surveys were done with the parentheses of people who lived close by or even worked there. Photos that were taken from some machines that remained in the mill. The machines were produced in England and sold to the coronel, owner of the mill.

Keywords: Job. Slavery. Canavial.

PATOS, ENGENHO OU SENZALA? A HISTÓRIA DE UM POVO POR DETRÁS DE UMA HISTÓRIA

RESUMO

O projeto iniciou-se com a curiosidade de saber se realmente existiu um engenho na localidade de Patos-Itarema-CE. Através das nossas pesquisas descobrimos que de fato existiu. Pesquisas foram feitas com os parêntes de pessoas que viverem de perto ou chegaram a trabalhar lá. Fotos que foram tiradas de algumas máquinas que restaram no engenho. As máquinas foram produzidas na Inglaterra e vendidas ao coronel, dono do engenho.

Palavras-chave: Trabalho. Escravidão. Canavial.

INTRODUCTION

On March 25, 1884, Ceará, land of light, anticipated the national context and freed its slaves. Four years later, Princess Isabel would sign the Lei Áurea that would definitively free any and all slaves that existed in Brazil. After that, and still in this context, in the northern region of Ceará, on the west coast, approximately 40 km from the center of Itarema-CE, precisely in the village that would receive the name of Patos, a mill was in full operation that had possibly been built between 1857 to 1860 (our authorship), commissioned by the then Colonel “Frederico”, as is popularly reported. By force of slave labor, the machines worked at full speed. Sugar, cachaça and cane molasses were the main products traded.

MAIN GOAL

Reflect on the origin of the Patos location as well as unveil and bring to the knowledge of the academic world the history of a mill that served as the basis for the development of this region.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Seeking to critically understand the history of the district of Patos located in the municipality of Itarema – CE.
- Meet the relatives of people who worked in the slave quarters/engenho and collect information in this regard.
- Publish the history of slavery in the district of Patos for the municipality, the state and the country.
- Know how sugarcane was produced on the coast of Patos.

METODOLOGIA

A ideia propulsora do projeto se deu pelo fato de uma das pesquisadoras ser descendente de um morador que viveu de perto e trabalhou no engenho. Pesquisas, e entrevistas foram realizadas, fotografias registram os restos materiais do engenho, das máquinas e, sobretudo, dessa história que quase todos os moradores da localidade preferem esconder. Escondem pelo medo, pela vergonha e pela dor que trazem com suas lembranças ao recordarem que outrora viveram um passado tão desumano.

As alunas apanharam, por meio de uma pesquisa de campo, conteúdos bem específicos como relatos de moradores, falas de pessoas que viveram na época e até comentários de curiosos que compartilham da ideia. Registraram fotografias do local e das máquinas (conferir no diário de bordo).

SOCIAL RELEVANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

We cannot consider something more relevant to a community than actually knowing its real history. On the other hand, the research is relevant because it makes the public at EEEP Professor Rosângela Albuquerque de Couto aware of such an important story that it hides behind other stories. Not only the school, but the academy, in general, will gain a lot from this research. While it can even invest in deeper research, for example, identify if the

company that produced the machines still exists and, if it exists, report how the transport was possible. And what economic interests were behind this negotiation. As for society, in a general sense, interests and curiosities are planted in discovering the true story that is often not told in history books. As well as getting to know the riches of the fertile lands that are conducive to the production of sugar cane on the district's coast.

IMPACT ON THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AT SCHOOL

As has already been said, we want to plant interest in people, in a way, to plant curiosity in the history of a people who suffered slavery. What was the role of these people enslaved to the locality of ducks? Make people curious and interested in the story. Another relevant impact, and this one has already happened, was the certainty that the town of Patos was born around a mill maintained by slave labor.

In this sense, it is very healthy that the school can do science about such a close past. And in doing so, it will certainly be possible to publish this story to other interested parties. In fact, this publication will be the driving force for the development of other research carried out in the locality where the mill's ruins still persist over time.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the field research, we sought to know more about the history of the mill in the locality of Patos. We studied about this locality, how it came about and from what it came. Although the project is new, it is believed to have taken steps towards a perspective that integrates both aspects of the research. On the one hand, we have the history of a people that allows us to study their history as it really emerged. On the other hand, we put our findings in the context of our history with the characteristics that assumed their origin covered by the work. The two paths do not clash or exclude, in fact they complement each other.

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