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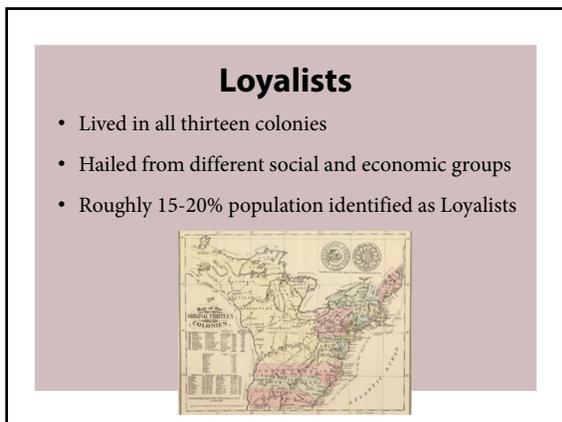
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**Loyalists**

- Native Peoples
  - Iroquois
- People of color
  - Black Loyalists
- New Immigrants
  - Great Britain
- Scotch Irish
- Descendants of Dutch settlers



*Joseph Brant*

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**Reasons for Loyalty**

- Identified as British subjects
  - Morally wrong to oppose the British Crown
- Politically conservative
- Family ties to the British Crown
- Business relationship with the British Crown
- Personal advantage to remaining loyal
  - Property owners

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**Reasons for Loyalty**

- Employed by the British Crown
  - Clerks, officials, etc.
- Saw Patriot cause as radical
- Former soldiers who served in British Army
- Newly arrived immigrants from Britain
- Personal reasons

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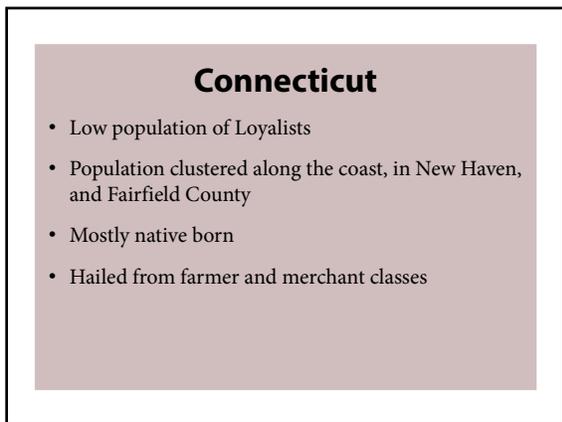
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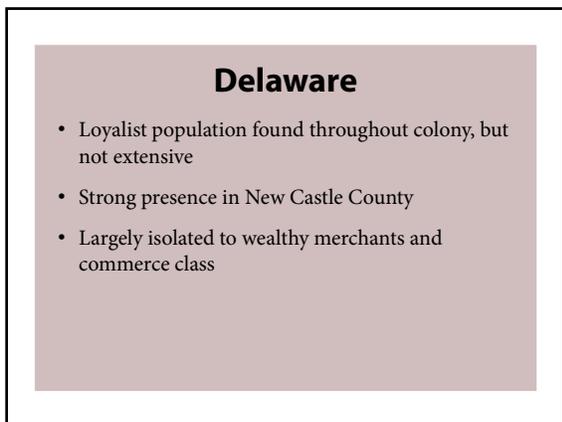
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**Georgia**

- High concentration in Savannah; an epicenter of Loyalism
- Powerful class of Loyalists
- Wealthy landowners and merchants
- Immigrants from Great Britain

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**New Hampshire**

- Low population of Loyalists
- Concentrated in Portsmouth
- Wealthy business or merchant class

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**New Jersey**

- High Loyalist population
- Clustered on northern seacoast, East Jersey, and surrounding Perth Amboy
- Mostly native born
- Large percentage of farmers

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**New York**

- Highest Loyalist population
- Very powerful Loyalists
- Concentrations in New York City, Staten Island, Long Island, Hudson River Valley, and Mohawk River Valley
- Native and foreign born
- Included farmers, wealthy merchants, and professionals

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**North Carolina**

- Many mid-level farmers
- Some merchants
- Largely foreign born, many Scotch Irish
- Located in interior counties or near Wilmington and New Bern

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**Maryland**

- Low population of Loyalists
- Clustered along Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Frederick County
- Likely hailed from commerce or merchant class

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**Massachusetts**

- Highest population of Loyalists in New England
- Native born
- Wealthy; well-connected families
- Population centered around Boston, Portland (Maine), and parts of Worcester County
- Very powerful Loyalists

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**Pennsylvania**

- Sizable population
- Concentrated at Philadelphia and surrounding counties
- More likely to be an immigrant
- Likely part of commerce or business class

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**Rhode Island**

- Centered around Newport
- Hailed from wealthy merchant and business classes
- Native born

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**South Carolina**

- Probably second highest population of Loyalists after New York
- Charleston a Loyalist stronghold
- Also found at Camden and Ninety-Six
- More likely immigrants

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**Virginia**

- Low population
- Mostly British or Scottish
- Clustered at Norfolk, Williamsburg, Petersburg, and Portsmouth
- Wealthy, likely merchant or business class

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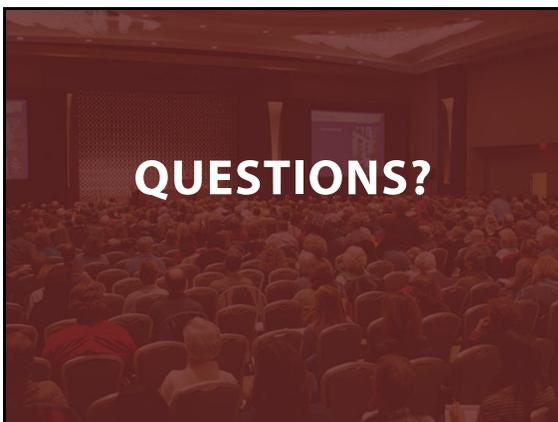
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**Taxation**

- British Crown in debt after Seven Years' War and French and Indian War
  - Wars ended in 1763
- Needed to raise revenue from thirteen colonies
  - Revenue or Sugar Act of 1764
  - Stamp Act of 1765
  - Townshend Acts of 1767

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**Escalation**

- British Crown sought to subdue Colonies
  - Tea Act of 1773
  - Coercive Acts of 1774
- Bolstered Patriot cause



Americans throwing the excess of the Tea Ships into the River, at Boston

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**First Continental Congress**

- Delegates from twelve colonies meet on September 5, 1774 in Philadelphia
- Adopt Articles of Association
  - No importation of British goods
  - No consumption of British goods
- Local committees established to enforce the Association

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**Articles of Association**

- Those found guilty of subverting the Association were publicly renounced
- Names published in newspapers
- Publicly slandered



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**Emergence of Loyalists**

- The Articles of Association were seen as catalyst
- Forced colonists to take a side
- Two groups emerged
  - **Whigs:** Supporters of Patriot cause
  - **Tories:** Supporters of British Crown

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**Battles of Lexington and Concord**

- April 19, 1775
- Outbreak of war forces colonists to adopt sides



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**Persecution**

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**The Tory Act**

- Second Continental Congress passed Tory Act in January 1776
- Offered guidance for managing Loyalists
- Empowered local committees to action



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### Test Laws

- Test laws passed by colonies requiring pledge to Patriot cause
  - Identify those against Patriot cause
  - Generally applied to adult males
- Harsh penalties for refusal
  - Imprisonment
  - Banishment
  - Loss of legal rights
  - Execution upon return to colony

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### Test Laws

- *The Loyalists in the American Revolution* by Claude Halstead Van Tyne
- Laws passed by all colonies included

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### Massachusetts

**MASSACHUSETTS.**  
 ("Laws of Massachusetts, 1775-80," pp. 31, 159, 161, 168, 184.)

1776.	Every male person above 16.	Disarmed, unable to hold office, ministers and schoolmasters lose salaries--also governors of Harvard College.	Committee of Corres., Safety, Justice of Peace, Sheriff.
Jan. (?), 1778.	Persons suspected of being inimical (except Mandamus Councillors who accepted office, and all who since April 19, 1775, have joined the enemy or enlisted men for, etc.).	Committed to gaol (costs to be paid out of the estate of person). Within 40 days sent to British territory. Death penalty if return.	Justice of Peace (upon representation made by member of Council, H. of R.). Civil or military officer, selectman, or member of any Committee of Corres. or any two substantial free-holders.

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**Oath of Allegiance**

“ I \_\_\_\_\_, do swear (or affirm) that I renounce and refuse all allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent state, and that I will not at any time do or cause to be done any matter or thing that will be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and independence thereof, as declared by Congress;

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**Oath of Allegiance**

...and also that I will discover and make known to some one justice of the peace of the said state all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which I now know or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the United States of America...”

Passed June 13, 1777

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**Additional Laws**

- Colonies passed additional laws restricting rights of Loyalists
  - Freedom of Speech
  - Removal from public office
  - Taxation
  - Loyalty to British Crown criminalized; Treason

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## Confiscation of Property

- Confiscation laws passed to criminalize opposition to Patriot cause
  - Varied in each colony
- Loyalist lands confiscated by colonial governments
- Lands were auctioned off and income given to colonial governments

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## Confiscation of Property

- *Boston Gazette*, December 30, 1782
- Several properties sold by The Committee for the Sale of Absentee Estates in the County of Suffolk



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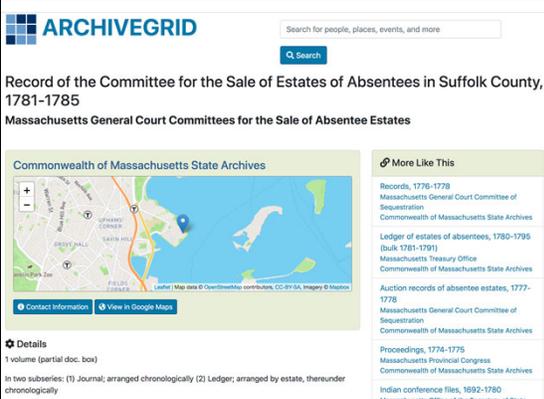
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**ARCHIVEGRID** Search for people, places, events, and more

**Record of the Committee for the Sale of Estates of Absentees in Suffolk County, 1781-1785**  
 Massachusetts General Court Committees for the Sale of Absentee Estates

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives

**More Like This**

- Records, 1776-1778  
Massachusetts General Court Committee of Sequestration  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives
- Ledger of estates of absentees, 1780-1795 (bulk 1781-1791)  
Massachusetts Treasury Office  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives
- Auction records of absentee estates, 1777-1778  
Massachusetts General Court Committee of Sequestration  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives
- Proceedings, 1774-1775  
Massachusetts Provincial Congress  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives
- Indian conference files, 1692-1780  
Massachusetts Office of the Secretary of State

**Details**  
 1 volume (partial doc. box)  
 In two subseries: (1) Journal; arranged chronologically (2) Ledger; arranged by estate, thereunder chronologically

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**Violence**

- Victims of violence and harassment
- Vigilante groups form
  - Especially true where loyalist and patriot populations were relatively even
  - New Jersey
- Destruction of property

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46

**Migration out of the Colonies**

- Loyalists from New England begin to leave the colonies as early as 1774
- Some flee to Canada at outbreak of the American Revolution
  - New Yorkers

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**Migration within Colonies**

- Moved to a different region within home colony
  - Some banished
- Migrated to another colony
  - Protection amongst more Loyalists
  - Opportunity to participate in war effort
  - Banded together to protect interests
  - Loyalist culture – plays, concerts, balls, etc.

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**Protection**

- British Government assumed duty of protecting some Loyalists
- Some Loyalists settle near British executive headquarters
  - New York City



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**British Army**

- Many Loyalists joined the British Army
- Loyalist regiments formed
  - Most known as Provincials
- Various regiments raised by individuals
  - Butler's Rangers



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**Firsthand accounts**

- Robert S. Allen, *An Annotated Bibliographic Guide to the Writings on the Loyalists of the American Revolution*, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1982)
- William Matthews, *American Diaries in Manuscript, 1580-1954*, (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1974)
- William Matthews, *American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of American Diaries Prior to the Year 1861*, (Boston: J.S. Canner, 1959)

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**Peace**

- Preliminary treaty of peace signed in November 1782
- Termination of fighting on April 19, 1783
- Treaty of Paris signed in September 1783



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**Evacuation**

- Sir Guy Carleton installed as commander-in-chief of North America in 1782
- Ordered evacuation of all British troops in the southern colonies
  - Left southern Loyalists vulnerable
- Many flee to the Bahamas, Jamaica, and greater Caribbean
- Others flee to the north

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**Evacuation**

- Largest population in New York City
- Loyalists worked to sell property and businesses before evacuation
- Transportation organized by Sir Guy Carleton
  - First ship leaves in April of 1783 for Nova Scotia
  - Ensuing ships bring about 32,000 Loyalists to Nova Scotia in summer of 1783
- Others flee to Britain

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**Why did they leave?**

- Lost property, fear of violence or retribution
- Exiled or banished from home colony
- British government offered reimbursement for property losses
- Opportunity to resettle while still a subject of British Crown; transportation provided
- Land grants

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**Resettlement**

- Loyalist agents work to identify possible settlements
- Governor John Parr organizes care and settlement of Loyalist refugees in Nova Scotia
- Reacquires private lands by escheat or reversion of property to the state
  - Frees land for Loyalists
- Timber, tools, rations, and materials acquired to support refugees

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**Resettlement**

- Surveyor General Charles Morris tasked with laying out townships
  - Hires Boston Loyalist Benjamin Marston as Chief Surveyor
- Engineers, clerks, and surveyors work to prepare new communities
- Loyalists lodge in makeshift shelters
- Port Roseway, later Shelburne, becomes first planned community

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**Resettlement**

- British Crown implemented similar planned communities in other provinces
  - New Brunswick (part of Nova Scotia until 1784)
  - Ontario
  - Quebec
  - Prince Edward Island
- Veterans of Loyalist regiments often settled together in planned communities and districts

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**Exile**

- Estimated that 60,000 loyalists left the colonies



*Encampment of the Loyalists at Miramichi, a New Settlement, on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada, in 1783.*

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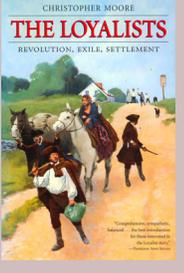
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**Further Reading**

- Christopher Moore, *The Loyalists: Revolution, Exile, and Settlement*, (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1984)



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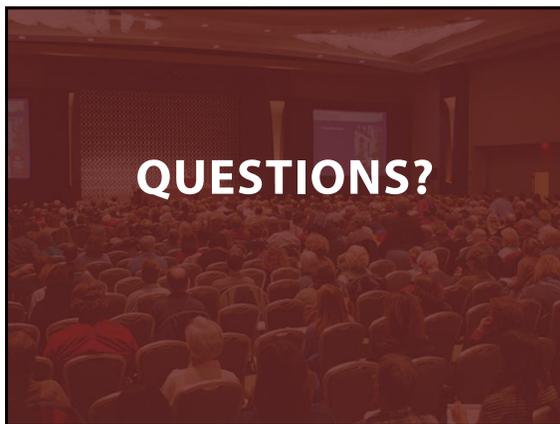
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**QUESTIONS?**

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**How to identify  
Loyalists in your  
Family Tree**

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**Location**

- **Where** did they reside? **When** did they reside there?
- Create a timeline of your ancestor's life
  - Use vital records, deeds, court, town, and tax records to track residences
- Note family, associates, and neighbors
  - Research all
  - Loyalist? Patriot?

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**Learn about Residence**

- Always learn about community in which your ancestor lived
  - Community **AND** Colony
- What was the political climate?
- Was it predominantly Patriot? Loyalist?

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**Important Questions**

- Did your ancestor live in a town, county, or colony with Loyalist leanings?
- Were family members Loyalists?
- What about neighbors or associates?

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**Best Sources**

- Published town and county histories
- Newspapers
- Diaries
- Loyalist Claims
- Loyalist Confiscations

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**Loyalist Population Rankings**

1. New York	8. Virginia
2. South Carolina	9. Georgia
3. Massachusetts	10. Maryland
4. New Jersey	11. Rhode Island
5. Pennsylvania	12. New Hampshire
6. North Carolina	13. Delaware
7. Connecticut	

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**Loyalist Strongholds**

• Savannah	• Baltimore
• Boston	• Newport, Rhode Island
• Charleston	• Philadelphia
• Annapolis	• Portsmouth, New Hampshire
• New York City	

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**Timing**

- Did your ancestor arrive in what is now Canada in the 1780s?
  - Ontario
  - Quebec
  - Nova Scotia
  - New Brunswick
  - Prince Edward Island
- Receive land grant in 1783 or after?

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**Where in Canada?**

<b>Nova Scotia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shelburne</li><li>• Halifax</li><li>• Guysborough</li><li>• Digby</li></ul>	<b>New Brunswick</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fredericton</li><li>• Saint John</li><li>• Saint John River Valley</li></ul>
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**Where in Canada?**

<b>Ontario</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bay of Quinte</li><li>• Prince Edward Co.</li><li>• Kingston</li><li>• Cornwall</li><li>• York (Toronto)</li></ul>	<b>Quebec</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eastern Townships</li></ul> <b>Prince Edward Island</b>
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**Beware!**

- Not all Americans who settled in what is now Canada in the late 18th century were Loyalists
  - Economic opportunity
  - Available lands
  - Arrived from UK, Ireland, and Europe
  - New England Planters

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**How can I tell the difference?**

- Settlement
  - Loyalists often settled amongst themselves
  - Geography
  - Military
- Land grants given in and after 1783
- Who did they interact with?
- Identify and research all associates!

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**Conclusion**

- Loyalists were a diverse group
  - Lived in cities and rural regions of all 13 colonies
  - Different economic classes and backgrounds
  - Immigrants
  - People of color
  - Native Peoples
- Reasons for loyalty diverse and complex
- Faced persecution, violence, and exile

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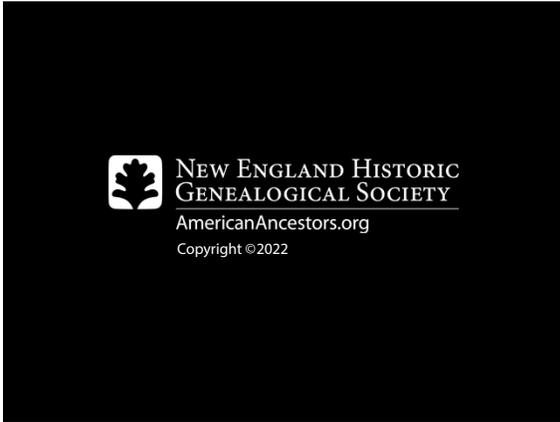
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