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6

Town Record Minutes

- Record the business of the town, including elected officials
- Town records date back to when the town was first incorporated

10

Continued by a Adjournment Wednesday next at four o'clock after noon etc. etc. and voted that the Officers make a rate by the last day to pay the tax obligations in three months given them by the selectmen to be paid in the sum of the for months Agre. Daviss the the Medinaty

Sept 9 1780 At a legal Meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of South Hadley on the fourth Day of September 1780 at four o'clock after noon at the Meeting House in South Hadley for the purpose of choosing Governor and Senators and voted as follows viz

John John Kenrick	12	3 Governor
John John Dymond	1	
John John Coffin	22	3 Lt. Governor
John John Dymond	17	
John John Dymond	28	
John John Dymond	28	
John John Dymond	29	
John John Dymond	22	
John John Dymond	5	
John John Dymond	7	
John John Dymond	1	
John John Dymond	2	
John John Dymond	1	
John John Dymond	1	
John John Dymond	1	

} Senators

Town Records, South Hadley, Massachusetts, 9 Sep. 1780

11

Locating Town Records

- Many are digitized on FamilySearch.org. They can be found under the town in the catalogue.
- Ancestry.com has some town records under their Town and Vital Records databases
- For town records not online, contact the Town Clerk to ask for access to their early collections.
- Many are kept in the town's vault for safe keeping and may be restricted.

12

Town records, 1648-1851

Authors [Marblehead \(Massachusetts\), Town Clerk](#) (Author)
[Marblehead \(Massachusetts\), Town Clerk](#) (Added Author)

Format Microfilm 35mm

Language English

Publication Date 1971

Publisher Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah

Place of Publication Salt Lake City, Utah

Physical 3 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

References (Digital Collection) [Massachusetts, Town Clerk, vital and town records, 1626-2001](#)

Notes
Includes proceedings of town meetings, tax rolls, lists of those available for jury duty, misc. records, publications, 1742-1746.
Some vols. include index.
Microreproduction of ms. and typescript.
[Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records are available online, click here](#)
[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations.](#)

FamilySearch.org

13

Results per page:

< Page 1 of 1 >

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
1648-1839.	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	864833	7011147	
1649-1788.	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	864834	7011148	
1787-1851.	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	864835	7011149	

FamilySearch.org

14

Patriotic Service

15

Acts of Patriotic Service

- These acts cannot be self-serving
- Service could only be rendered to the Patriots
- This can be one act or a series of actions demonstrating loyalty to the American cause

16

Examples of Patriotic Service

- Signing oaths of allegiance to the new government
- Rendering aid to wounded (nurses and doctors)
- Furnishing supplies
- Lending money or munitions
- Ministers giving patriotic sermons
- Paying supply taxes
- Defenders of forts and stations
- Members of Continental Congress, State Conventions and Assemblies
- Membership in committees during the war (ex. Committees of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety)
- Boston Tea Party participants

17

Patriotic Sermons

- Religion provided a moral sanction for opposing British rule
- Ministers of the Church of England are not eligible – they swore an oath to support the King

18

Sermon from Rev. Samuel Langdon

Rev. Samuel Langdon – president of Harvard College preached in Watertown, CT, May 31, 1775 (one month after the Battles of Lexington and Concord):

"We have lived to see the time when British liberty is just ready to expire—when the constitution of government which has so long been the glory and strength of the English nation is deeply undermined and ready to tumble into ruins—when America is threatened with cruel oppression and the arm of power is stretched out against New England, especially this colony, to compel us to submit to the arbitrary acts of legislators who are not our representatives, and who will not bear the least part of the burdens which, without mercy, they are laying upon us" (Thornton, John Wingate. *The Pulpit of the American Revolution: or the Political Sermons of the Period of 1776* Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1860, pg. 235).

19

Oaths of Allegiance

- 18th century oaths were seen as "sworn promises"
- Most colonies required an oath of allegiance by free males over the minimum age (varied from over 16 to 21 years)
- Prisoners of war and enslaved persons were exempt from taking an oath of allegiance
- Women were not required to take an oath of allegiance unless required in other circumstances (ex. in New York to file a lawsuit)
- Some colonies allowed Quakers to affirm allegiance (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)

20

Oath of Allegiance Example

- *"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; 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."*
 – Oaths of Allegiance During the American Revolution 8 May 2021, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

21

Three Elements of an Oath of Allegiance

- Renouncing allegiance to the King of England
- Promise of allegiance to the state as an independent state
- Commitment to reveal treasons and conspiracies against any of the states

22

Oaths of Allegiance – Minimum Age Requirements

- Connecticut – Office holders and freemen (over 21)
- Delaware – White males over 21
- Georgia – All men over 16
- Maryland – Free males over 18
- North Carolina – Free males over 16
- Pennsylvania – White males over 18
- Rhode Island – Men above 21
- South Carolina – Free males over 16
- Vermont – Freemen (over 21)
- Virginia – Free born males over 16 (except indentured servants)

23

Oath of Allegiance, Delaware, 1778, Delaware Public Archives

24

Oaths of Allegiance – Massachusetts and Rhode Island

- Massachusetts and Rhode Island oaths did not include an allegiance to a state.
- They required a man to pledge supporting the war against Great Britain.

25

Oaths of Allegiance - Georgia

- Men were allowed to affirm allegiance
- Officers in high state positions were required to swear an oath of allegiance

26

Oaths of Allegiance - Maryland

- Also allowed affirmation by Dunkers and Mennonites
- Separate lists were kept of those who swore and those who affirmed allegiance
- 1781 – Permitted Quakers, Dunkers and Mennonites to preach without affirming allegiance assuming they had not manifested a disposition against the state of Maryland
- 1783 – Allowed Methodists to preach without affirming allegiance

27

Oaths of Allegiance – North Carolina

- Also allowed affirmation by Dunkers, Mennonites, and Moravians
- Men who took an oath of allegiance were allowed to purchase land at 50 shillings/acre
 - 640 acres per single man
 - 640 acres per married man plus 100 acres each for his wife and each child

28

Supply Taxes

- Congress has no authority to levy taxes. Money and supplies were requested from the states.
- Taxes went towards raising supplies, paying troops, building ships, providing clothing, raising bounty money, providing relief for families of soldiers in service.
- The laws that were passed to levy taxes **must state in the statute** that they were addressing a request of the **Continental Congress and/or to support the war or achieve independence.**
- Each state has different tax assessments that were levied. Consult the DAR and SAR guides on which taxes count for patriotic service.

29

Online Databases

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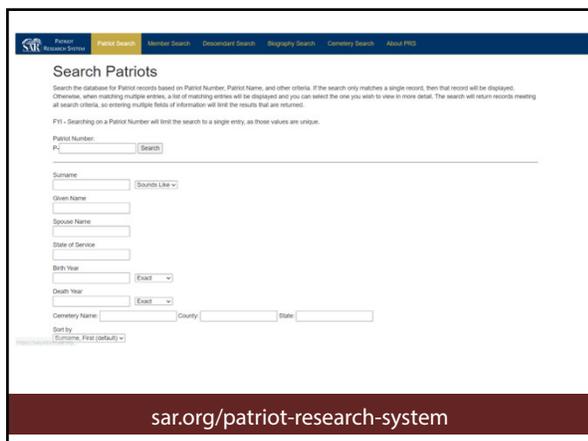
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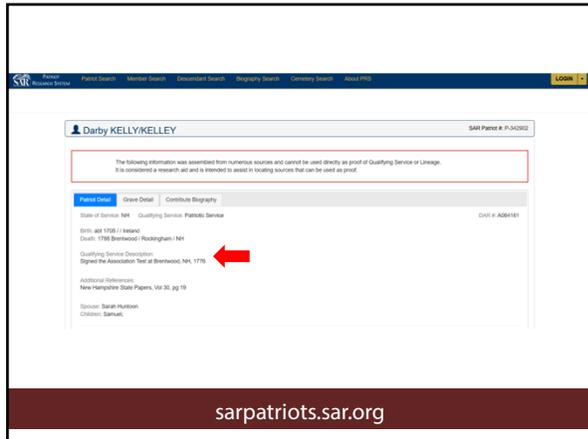
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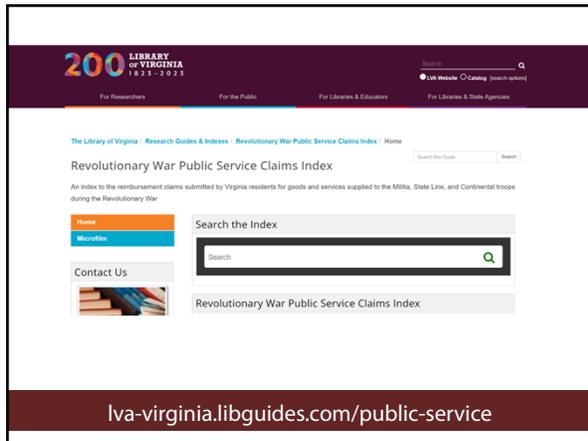
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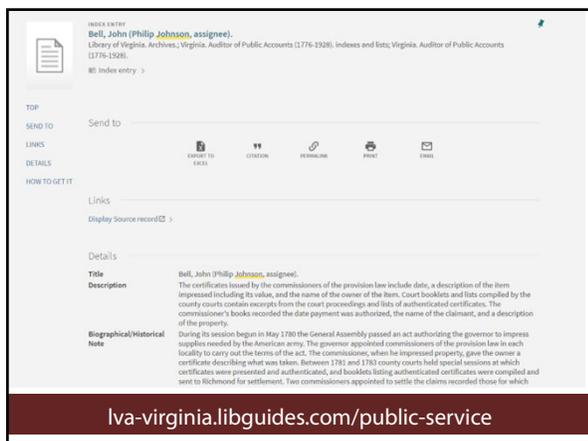
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52



53

Oaths of Allegiance

- In November 1775, an updated oath of allegiance to King George III was created.
- Over 3,000 individuals took an oath of allegiance to denounce the patriot cause and pledged support to King George III

54

Loyalist Oath of Allegiance

- "I, AB do therefore abjure all their Authority and solemnly promise in the presence of Almighty God to bear faith and true Allegiance to his sacred Majesty George the 3rd and will to the utmost of my power and Ability support maintain and defend his Crown and dignity against all traiterous Attempts and Conspiracies whatsoever".

55

Town Records

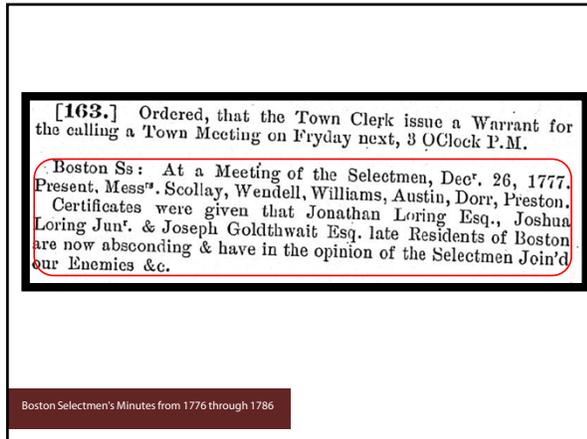
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50 CITY DOCUMENT NO. 150.

Boston Ss: At a meeting of the Selectmen, Sep^r. 17, 1777. Present, Mess^{rs}. Scollay, ——— Greenough, Dorr, Williams. Gave M^r. John Peck two Certificates for the Judge of Probate of this County, that Richard Smith Mercl^t. & Daniel Chismore Commissary General of Stores, have absented themselves from this Town & State & voluntarily joined themselves to our Enemies. M^r. Dorr appointed to make a change of the Stove in y^r School in Queen Street, the present being insufficient. [157.] M^r. Preston & Fellows a Comm^{os}. to view the Hay Engine & Report what alteration in the same & of its situation may be necessary.

Boston Selectmen's Minutes from 1776 through 1786

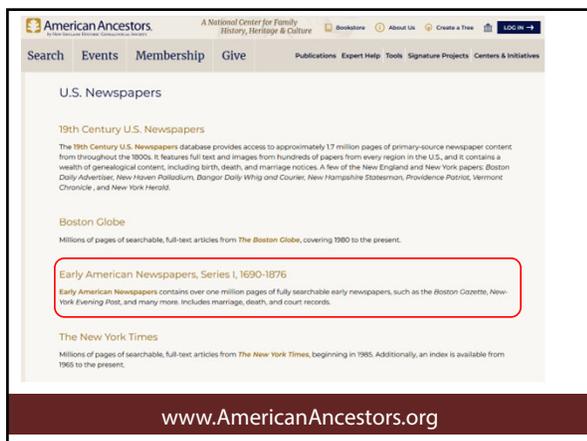
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67

John Kenney, Esq., was appointed by the town to obtain evidence against the Tories. In regard to five, no action appears to have been taken, but Edward Taylor was so obnoxious that Kenney determined to have him arrested. Taylor, ascertaining the situation of affairs, declared that he would not be taken alive. He made a great display of fire-arms, and it was asserted that he had no less than seven guns in his house at one time; and when he went into the village he was a walking arsenal. Accordingly, Mr. Kenney procured the assistance of Squire Tudor, who had been judge advocate in the Continental army, came to Stoughton, put up at the old May tavern, and in three days, having obtained sufficient evidence, ordered, as the town's attorney, the arrest of Taylor. He was arrested at midnight, and after a vigorous resistance, conveyed into Boston and confined in the guard-house.

Daniel T. V. Huntoon, *History of Canton* (1893)

68

In 1777 an Act of the General Court obliged the selectmen "to present the names of all those who were unfriendly to the common cause, and had endeavored since the nineteenth of April, 1775, to counteract the united struggles of this, and the United States for the preservation of their liberties and privileges." Six only were found; namely, William Curtis, Noah Kingsbury, Samuel Capen, Henry Cranz, Edward Shale, and Edward Taylor. William Curtis was an East

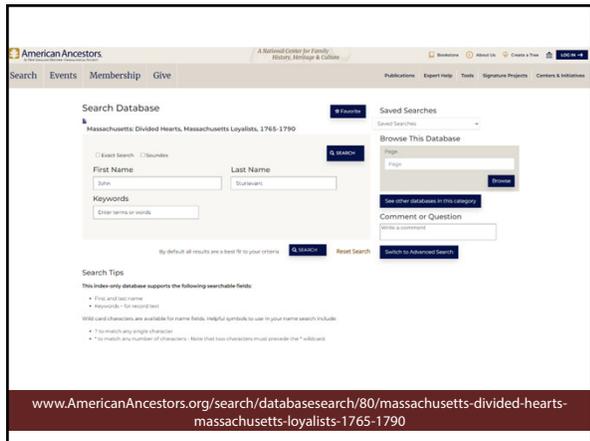
Stoughton man. Noah Kingsbury was an Episcopalian, and paid his ministerial rates to St. Paul's, Dedham. Samuel Capen was not the Canton man of that name, but was the son of Jonathan and Jerusha (Talbot) Capen; he was born in Dorchester, and died in Stoughton, April 15, 1801. Henry Cranz was the son of William and Abigail (Puffer) Cranz; he was born May 6, 1719, and married Abigail Lyon, Nov. 29, 1744. He was a warden of the English Church, and its constant friend and supporter. He died Jan. 4, 1804. Edward Shale lived in the Bet Everton house at the time of the Revolution; he was married to Elizabeth Kilpatrick, of Milton, in 1753; he died April 30, 1784. He had a son Edward, who was born Oct. 20, 1754, married in November, 1776, and was in the patriot army. Old Betty Shale lived in the old house until April 23, 1831, when she died in the seventy-sixth year of her age, and so utterly alone that she had no one to follow her to her grave.

Daniel T. V. Huntoon, *History of Canton* (1893)

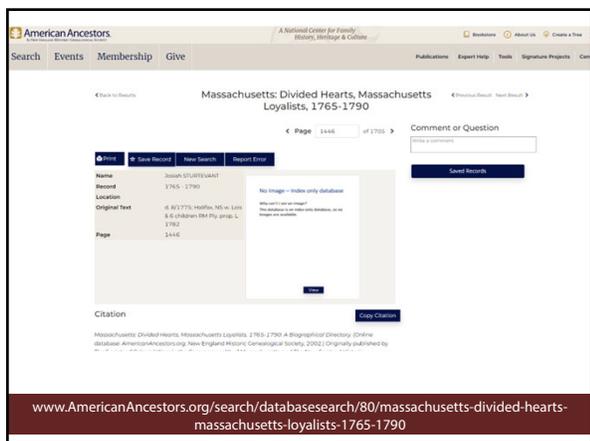
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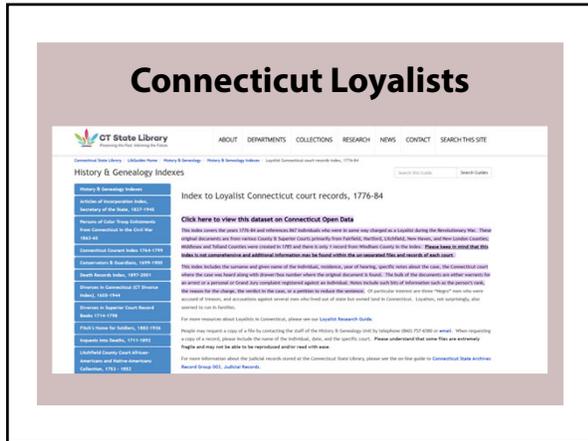
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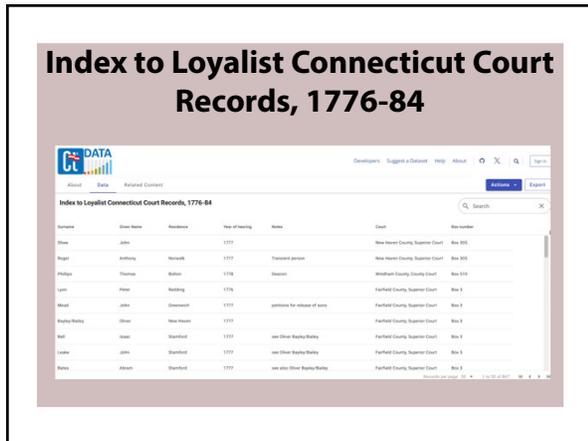
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77



78

Women's Roles During the Revolutionary War

79

How did women show patriotic service?

- Making home spun clothes
- Boycotting British goods
- Paying taxes
- Fundraising money for supplies for soldiers
- Battlefield service (camp followers, nurses, military service)

80

Daughters of Liberty

- Established in 1765
- Organization composed solely of women
- Boycotted British goods and made their own, including homespun cloth

PROVIDENCE, March 12.

On the 4th Instant, Eighteen *Daughters of Liberty*, young Ladies of good Reputation, assembled at the House of Walter *Egleston* Esquire, in this Town, in Consequence of an Invitation of that Gentleman, who hath discovered a laudible Zeal for improving Home Manufactures. There they exhibited a fine Example of Industry, by spinning from Sunrise until Dark, and displayed a Spirit for saving their sinking Country exactly, to be found among Persons of more Age and Experience. The Do^{rs} provided an elegantly plain Dinner, and other Refreshments, for the fair Company; but they expended but very little Time in dining, and cheerfully agreed to omit Tea, to render their Conduct consistent. Besides this Instance of their Patriotism, before they separated, they unanimously resolved that the Stamp Act was unconstitutional, & that they would purchase no more *British* Manufactures unless

Providence Gazette 12 Mar 1766
via Early American Newspapers

81

Spinning Bees



- Gatherings of women spinning yarn
- The amount of thread and yarn produced at the spinning bees was published in the newspapers

82

THE following is an Account of the Performances of a Number of *Mifses* at Warren, in this Colony, who, at a late Spinning-Match in that Town, spun in one Day, of good Linen Thread, the Quantities ascribed to their respective Names, viz.

<i>Mifses</i>	<i>Sk. Kn. Tb.</i>	<i>Mifses</i>	<i>Sk. Kn. Tb.</i>
Lydia Cockrum,	4 11 0	Patience Miller,	3 11 25
Reb. Easterbrooks,	4 11 20	Roby Thurber,	5 5 0
Anna Easterbrooks,	6 4 0	Elizabeth Eddy,	5 8 15
Lydia Turner,	4 2 14	Betty Bowen,	5 4 0
Roby Luther,	4 9 20	Lois Cole,	5 1 36
Lilles Barton,	4 3 2	Rebecca Miller,	3 12 29
Polly Miller,	4 5 0	Nabby Bradford,	4 8 20
Lilles Hale,	4 4 0	Harty Cole,	5 2 34
Patience Hill,	5 4 0	Mary Cary,	4 13 13
Deborah Cole,	5 11 0		
Rebecca Nuning,	4 3 30		
		Total,	96 2 18

The Newport Mercury 26 May 1766
(Early American Newspapers)

83

Tea Boycotts

- Foreign tea was not allowed in social gatherings
- "Liberty teas" were made instead from herbs and fruits
 - Labradore tea (also known as Hyperion Tea)
 - Yeepann tea (popular in North Carolina)
 - Raspberry Leaf Tea
 - Indian Lemonade Tea

84

Edenton Tea Party

- 51 women in Edenton, North Carolina, led by Penelope Barker, met on October 25, 1774
- The women signed a statement of protest to give up tea and boycott other British products



PENelope BARKER
DRAWN BY JOHN WATSON OF NEW YORK
(FROM A PORTRAIT BY MISS GARDNER)

85

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, October 25, 1774.

As we cannot be indifferent on any Occasion to that appears nearly to affect the Peace and Happiness of our Country, and as it has been thought necessary, for the publick Good, to send into several particular Colonies, by a Meeting of Members deputed from the whole Province, it is a Duty which we owe, not only to our own and our Connections, who have concurred in them, but to ourselves, who are essentially interested in their Welfare, to do every Thing as far as lies in our Power to verify our former Adherence to the same; and we do therefore accordingly subscribe this Paper, as a Witness of our Sentiments and sincere Determination to do so.

ARTHUR CHARLTON. F. JORDINTON. MARGARET CATSCART. ANNE JORDINTON. MARGARET FRASER. FENELOP DAWSON. JANE BLAIR. GRACE CLAYTON. FRANCIS HALL. MARY JONES. ANNE HALL. REBECCA BONDFIELD. SARAH LITTLETON. PENELOPE BARKER. ELIZABETH P. ORBOND. M. FAYRE. ELIZABETH JORDINTON. MARY BONDERS. LYDIA BONDERS. SARAH HOWE. LYDIA BONDERS. MARIAN WELLS. ANNE ANDERSON. SARAH MATTHEWS. ANNE HARRINGTON. ELIZABETH BEAULEY.	MARY BLUNT. ELIZABETH CROCKETT. ELIZABETH PATTERSON. JANE WELLSWOOD. MARY WELLSWOOD. SARAH BEAULEY. SUSANNA WALKER. ELIZABETH VAIL. ELIZABETH VAIL. MARY CROCKETT. MARY CROCKETT. RUTH BONDERS. SARAH HOWCOTT. SARAH HOWCOTT. MARY LITTLETON. SARAH WALLINGTON. ELIZABETH CROCKETT. ELIZABETH COOPER. MARY BARKER. ANNE HERRINGHAM. MARY HERRINGHAM. THERESA CHURCHMAN. ELIZABETH ROBERTS. ELIZABETH ROBERTS. ELIZABETH ROBERTS.
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The Virginia Gazette 3 November 1774 (Early American Newspapers)

86

Beef Tax

- Chapter 205 – Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay
- Inhabitants of several towns were required to supply cattle or money to purchase beef for the Continental Army



CHAPTER 205
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WITH BEEF, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WITH BEEF, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WITH BEEF.

87

What actions made a woman a Loyalist?

- Married a Loyalist man
- Importing and selling British goods
- Delivered intelligence to the British
- Housing or supplying British soldiers
- Resisted edicts from Committees of Safety or other local militias
- Declared pacificism
- Fled their homes to live with other Loyalist exiles

Credit: What is a Female Loyalist? By Kacy Tillman, Common Place, issue 13.4 (Summer, 2013)

94

Women Merchants

- Loyalist women refused to sign nonimportation agreements, banning the importation of goods from Great Britain or other parts of Europe
- When the First Continental Congress accepted Virginia's nonimportation resolution laws in 1774, every single female milliner and dressmaker who arrived in Williamsburg, Virginia between 1766 and 1771 announced they would leave the colony of Virginia

WILLIAMSBURG, Nov. 24, 1775.
AS I intend for *Great Britain* immediately, all Mrs. *Rathell's* STOCK of GOODS will be absolutely fold by publick vendue, the 10th and 11th days of next month, for ready money, with a large bow window, some flow-glasses, and glass cases.----All persons indebted to Mrs. *Rathell* are requested to discharge their accounts immediately, either to *John Tazewell*, esq; of this city, or to
 (2) M. B. RODIE.

November 24, 1775 edition of Purdie's Virginia Gazette, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

95

Legislative Petitions

- Between 1776 and 1780, the legislatures of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia received over 780 petitions from women.
- In 1782, twenty-one Whig women of Wilmington, North Carolina signed a petition against the 48-hour eviction of Loyalist families, arguing that it was "beneath the character of the independent State of North Carolina to war with women and children."

Credit: *Southern Women in Revolution, 1776-1800: Personal and Political Narratives* by Cynthia A. Kierner.

96

Review

1. Town Records are an important record set for finding your patriotic ancestors paying taxes and serving in civil positions, as well as identifying Loyalists who were brought before the Committee of Safety and/or left town due to their Loyalist sympathies
2. Consult your State Archives for records that will prove your ancestor's patriotic or Loyalist service
3. Consult multiple repositories and record sets to prove your ancestor's allegiances and participation during the Revolutionary War. There are many ways that individuals contributed!
4. Don't forget to research the ladies! They contributed in many ways including boycotts, petitioning, fundraising, paying taxes, and more.

97

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

98

Consultations

Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations




SCAN ME

99



100



101
