

Tracing Loyalist Lineages

Sources and Strategies

Sheilagh Doerfler, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



Sheilagh Doerfler

Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (50 mins.)**
 - Historical background
 - Identifying Loyalists in your family tree
 - Research and records
- **Q&A (10 mins.)**

Who were the Loyalists?



Voice of
Sheilagh Doerfler
Senior Genealogist

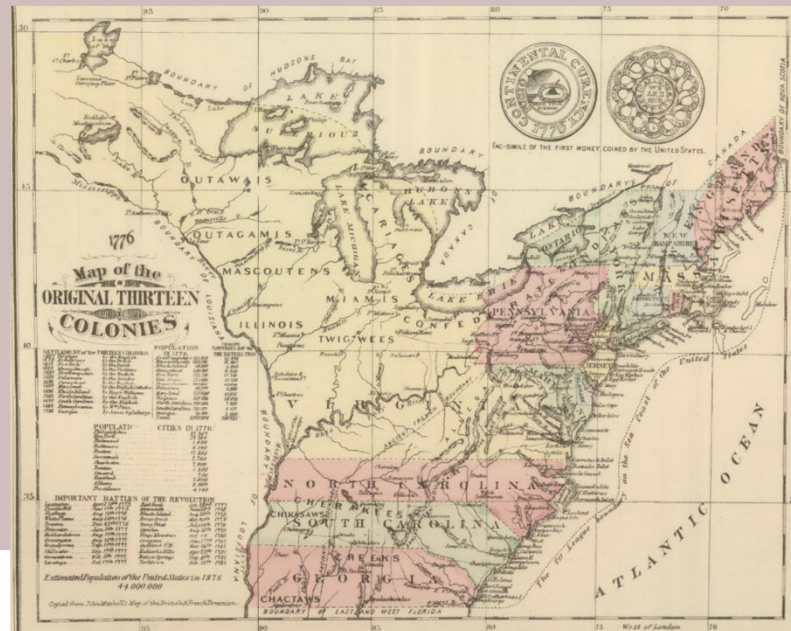
Loyalists

- Individuals who remained loyal to the British Crown during and after the American Revolution
- Also known as Tories and Royalists
- Later referred to as Refugees



Loyalists

- Lived in all thirteen colonies
- Hailed from different social and economic groups
- Roughly 15-20% population identified as Loyalists



Loyalists

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



Joseph Brant

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

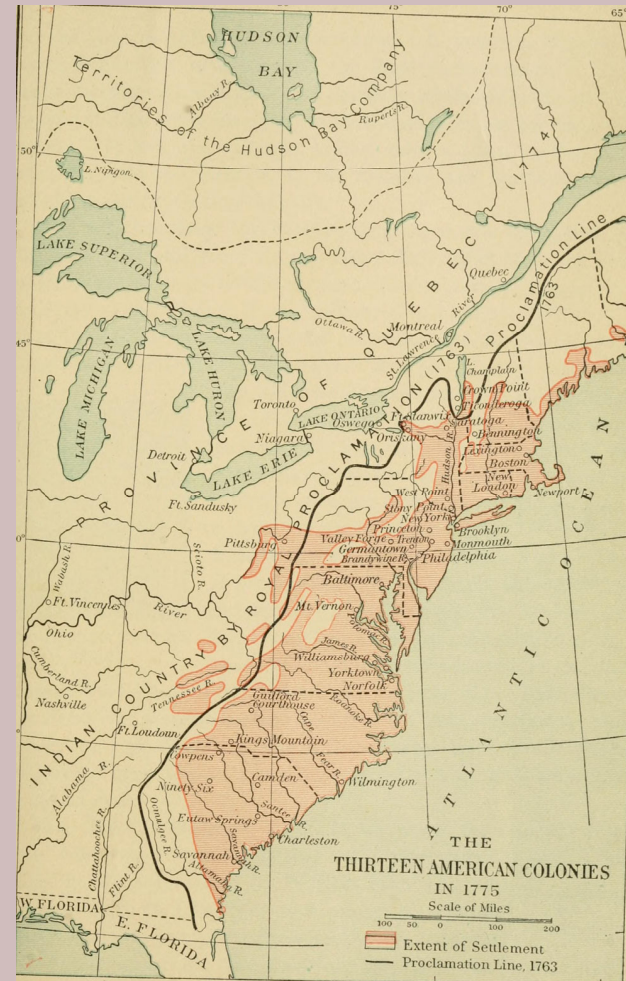
Reasons for Loyalty

- 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

Loyalists in the Colonies

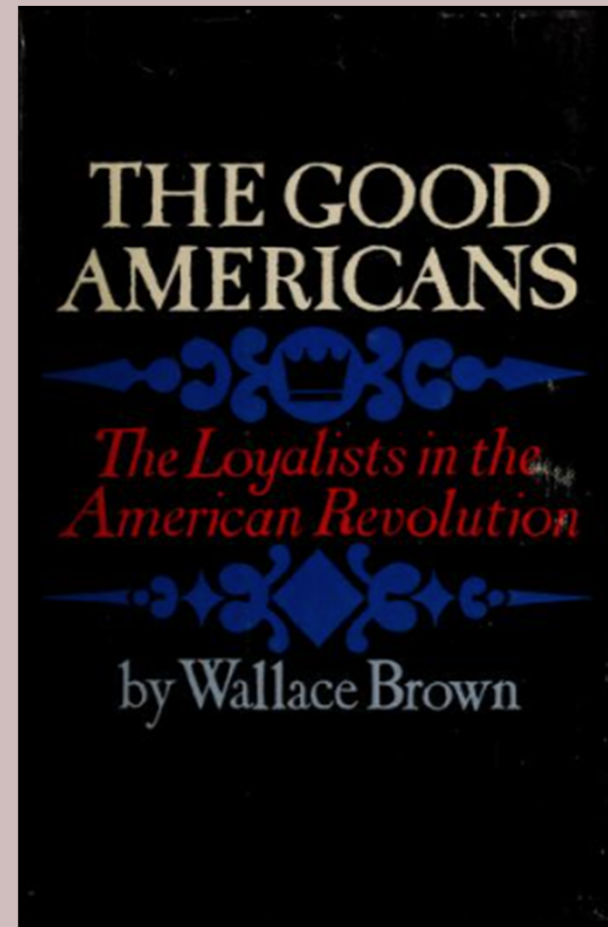
Loyalist Hot Spots

- New York
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania



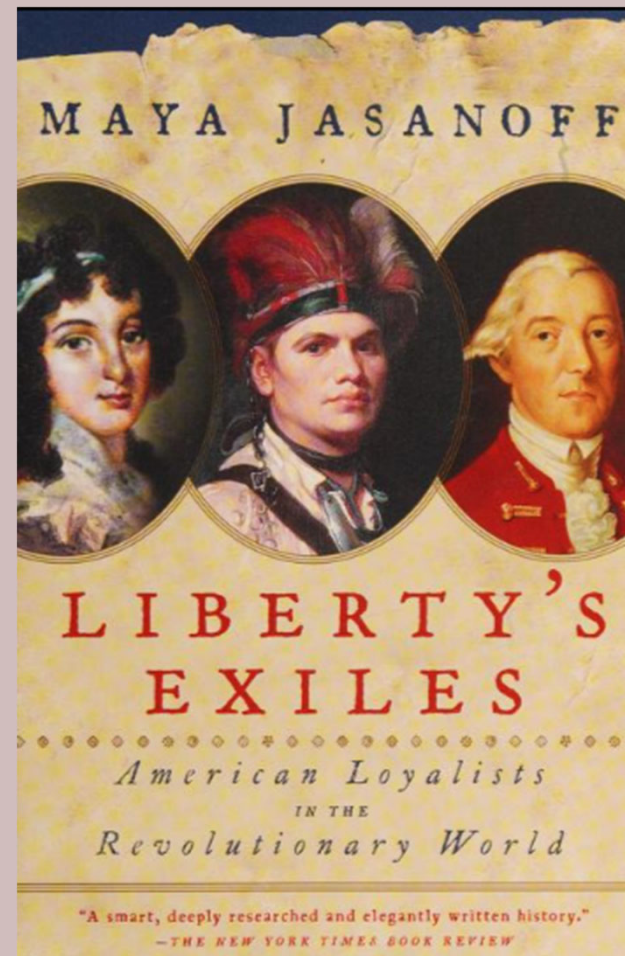
The Good Americans

- Wallace Brown
- Social and political history of Loyalists in the American Colonies
- Reasons for loyalty
- Differences by region
- Loyalist Diaspora



Liberty's Exiles

- Maya Jasanoff
- Motives for leaving the colonies
- Study of exile and migration
- Highlights resettlement and life after the American Revolution



How to identify Loyalists in your Family Tree

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?

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?

Important Questions

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



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 | |

Loyalist Strongholds

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



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?

Where in Canada?

Nova Scotia

- Shelburne
- Halifax
- Guysborough
- Digby

New Brunswick

- Fredericton
- Saint John
- Saint John River Valley

Prince Edward Island

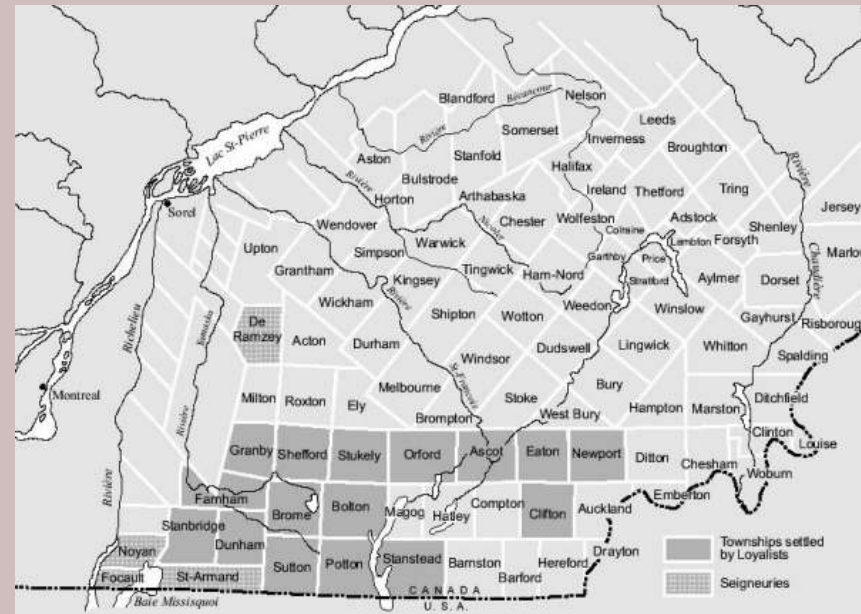
Where in Canada?

Ontario

- Bay of Quinte
- Prince Edward Co.
- Kingston
- Cornwall
- York (Toronto)

Quebec

- Eastern Townships



Map of the Eastern Townships settled by Loyalists, by Victor Dohar

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

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!

Finding Loyalists in U.S. Records

Finding Loyalists in U.S. Records

- Loyalist Muster Rolls
- Confiscations
- Loyalist Claims
- Prisoners
- Town Records
- Newspapers
- Published Town Histories and Diaries
- Study Projects





Skip to: [Finding the Records](#), [Muster Rolls On-Line](#)

Loyalist Muster Rolls

During the American Revolution, muster rolls were prepared by the commanding officer of each company of a regiment for the express purpose of paying the officers and soldiers. For the British, they were prepared about once every 182 days. Loyalist rolls were to have been made out once every 61 days, although there were exceptions, especially during the southern campaigns.

Only those regiments that received pay and clothing for their services were mustered. As a result, there is an absence of muster rolls for many of the militia and other irregular units that served during the war. Rolls do exist for some of the militia units that were in pay for a part of their service, however, such as some of the North and South Carolina militias. For a better understanding of the different types of regiments, or establishments, please see [Not All Loyalist Regiments Were Created Equal](#).

royalprovincial.com/military/musters/musters.htm



Library and Archives Canada



Canada

Search BAC-LAC.gc.ca

Search

Discover the Collection ▾

Search the Collection ▾

Services for the Public ▾

Services and programs ▾

[Home](#) → [Discover the Collection](#) → [Military Heritage](#) → [Loyalists](#) → Loyalists in the Maritimes - Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777-1785

[Renewing our web presence](#)

**Loyalists in the Maritimes —
Ward Chipman Muster
Master's Office, 1777–1785**

The records

About the database

Search screen

How to interpret the results

How to obtain copies

Other resources

Search: Database

Loyalists in the Maritimes — Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777–1785

On this page

- [The Records](#)
- [The Database](#)
- [Search Screen](#)
- [How to Interpret the Results](#)
- [How to Obtain Copies](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

Search: Database

The Records

Ward Chipman, a prominent lawyer, judge and Loyalist, was born on July 30, 1754, in Marblehead, Massachusetts and died on February 9, 1824, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.



The coming of the Loyalists, 1783,
[Mikan 2837473](#)

bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/loyalists-ward-chipman

Search > Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal

New York, U.S., Sales of Loyalist Land, 1762-1830

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)
 Last Name

Day Month Year Location

Any Event

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Day Month Year Location

Civil Date

Civil Place

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Sales Contracts

Volume 08

Page

[Page 001](#)
[Page 002 a-f](#)
[Page 003 a-d](#)
[Page 004 a-b](#)
[Page 005 a-b](#)
[Page 006 a-b](#)
[Page 007 a-d](#)
[Page 008 a-b](#)
[Page 009 a-c](#)
[Page 010 a-c](#)
[Page 011](#)

Source Information



New York State Archives
 Ancestry.com. *New York, U.S., Sales of Loyalist Land, 1762-1830*
 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: 2013.

Original data: New York State Engineer and Surveyor. Records of Surveys and Maps of State Lands, 1686-1892, Series A4016, Vols. 7-10 and 17. New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

Related data collections

[Landholders of Northeastern New York, 1739-1802](#)

All Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal in the Card Catalog

More help

[Search tips](#)
[Understanding records](#)
[What do I do next?](#)
[What can I do with this?](#)
[Handwriting help](#)

About New York, U.S., Sales of Loyalist Land, 1762-1830

As the costs of the American Revolution began to mount, beginning in 1777 New York's Provincial Congress began passing laws providing for the forfeiture of Loyalist lands. Loyalists could be found guilty of treason by trial in the Supreme Court of Judicature or they could be attainted (which stripped property rights) by the state legislature, and upon either forfeited their lands to the state. The state then sold the property to replenish its depleted coffers.

Ancestry.com/search/collections/5368/

MEMORANDUM

OF AN AGREEMENT, made the *seventeenth*
 Day of *September* — One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-*four* BETWEEN HENRY
 DOTHOUT, JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER, and CHRISTOPHER YATES, Esquires, Commissioners of Forfeitures
 for the *Western District* of the State of *New-York*, of the first Part, and *John Little of Johnstown in the*
County of Montgomery —

of the second Part,
 WITNESSETH, That the said Commissioners do hereby acknowledge to have, on the Day of the Date hereof,
 sold, and the said *John Little* — *Doth*
 hereby acknowledge to have purchased from the said Commissioners, ALL that *Certain Lot of ground* —
Situate in Johnstown County of Montgomery forfeited by the attainder of
the John Johnson late of the County of Dutch Knight and Baronet known
by the name of Lot Number thirty eight is bounded on the West by William
Street on the South by the Church Lot. being in Breadth in front and Rear
one Chain and in length from East to West five Chains contains half
an Acre —

[Ancestry.com/search/collections/5368/](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5368/)

Date of record.	Loyalist owner.	Purchaser.	Lib.	Vol.
May 12, 1781	BRATTLE, WILLIAM . .	JAMES ALLEN	132	202
Sept. 28, 1782	BRINLEY, THOMAS . .	GUSTAVUS FELLOWS . .	136	11
Sept. 30, 1793	CANER, REV. HENRY . .	SAMUEL HENLY	177	82
Aug. 9, 1783	COFFIN, JOHN	CHRISTOPHER CLARK . .	139	151
Mar. 12, 1785	" "	MOSES WALLACK	146	290
Feb. 13, 1786	" "	EDWARD JONES	155	111
Feb. 3, 1783	DEBLOIS, GILBERT . .	GILBERT DEBLOIS, JR. .	137	28
Oct. 17, 1785	" "	ANN DEBLOIS, wife of } GILBERT DEBLOIS }	151	217
Feb. 7, 1783	DRAPER, MARGARET . .	RICHARD DEVENS	137	48
May 4, 1787	ERVING, JOHN	JAMES LLOYD	160	105
July 2, 1787	" "	JOHN CODMAN, JR. . . .	160	201
Feb. 13, 1789	" "	NATHANIEL APPLETON . .	164	149
May 6, 1789	" "	JOHN DEMING	166	11
Mar. 16, 1782	FISHER, WILFORD . .	PHILIP WENTWORTH . .	134	66

Description.
Land and buildings in Boston, Tremont St. W.; John Rowe and Henry Caner, an absentee, S.; Nathaniel Holmes E.; George Bethune N. and E.; John Andrew and heirs of Samuel Pemberton deceased N.; Robert McElroy W. and N.; passageway W. and W. [N.].
Land, dwelling-house, distill house and wharf in Boston, Hollis St. S.; heirs of Joshua Henshaw deceased W.; low water mark.
Land and dwelling-house in Boston, Tremont St. W.; Chapel Burying Ground and heirs of Middlecott Cook deceased S.; John Rowe E.; William Brattle, an absentee, N.
Land in Boston, Essex St. S.; Short St. W.; Joseph Ford E.; Thomas Snow N.
Land in Boston, Essex St. S.; said Wallack W.; S. and W.; Blind Lane N.; Thomas Downes and Samuel Bradley E.
Land in Boston, Essex St. N.; the sea S.; sugar house and land of heirs of Thomas Child deceased E.; Mary Pitman and heirs of Samuel Bradley W.; with flats to low water mark.
Two thirds of land and brick warehouse in Boston, Cornhill W.; Spring Lane N.; Stephen Minot E.; land of Old South Church S.
Two thirds of land and house in Boston, Common St. W.; Martha Symmes N.; E. and N.; Moses Gill N.; William Dana E.; Rawsons Lane S.
Land and buildings in Boston, Newbury St. W.; heirs of Benjamin Church S. and E.; Josiah Waters Jr. N.
Land and buildings in Boston, Kilby St., formerly Mackerel Lane, E.; heirs of John Erving deceased N.; heirs of Samuel Hughes W.; Joseph Winthrop S.
Land and message in Boston, Newbury St. W.; John Crosby N.; E. and N.; John Soley E. and S.; passage or alley S. — Land, 14 A., in WALPOLE, road from Walpole to the sign of the Black Lamb in Stoughton N.; Nathaniel Preble S.E.; Philip Bardin S.W. and N.W.
Land, 14 A., in WALPOLE, road from Walpole to the sign of the Black Lamb in Stoughton N.; Nathaniel Preble S.E.; Philip Bardin S.W. and N.W.
Land and message in Boston, Newbury St. W.; John Crosby N.; E. and N.; John Soley E. and S.; passage or alley S.
Land and buildings in Boston, Blind Lane N.; William Kitchen and heirs of Josiah Quincy Jr. W.; Samuel Hewes S.; heirs of John Pratt deceased E.

American Loyalist Claims

- Records often include evidence and "memorials" given by witnesses about a Loyalists Claim
- List of losses of both land and personal possessions
- Associated documents relating to the claim are also provided

Genealogical Details

- Name of the person or family affected for the purpose of the claim
- Residence(s) of the individual or family
- Financial estimates of their losses
- Actual documents to support the claim
- Details of the Loyalist's life in America before, during, and after the Revolutionary War

Search > [Military](#)

UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

☐ Exact...

Last Name

☐ Exact...

Lived In
 Day — Month — Year — Location

Any Event

Keyword

 e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" v

Correspondence Date
 Day — Month — Year — Location
 —

Correspondence Place
 — — —

Residence Year
 — — —

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
 Original data: American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835. AO 12-13. The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew, Surrey, England.

About UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835

Historical Background

Following the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), also known as the American War of Independence, British commissioners were appointed to examine claims of losses sustained by those loyal to the British crown or "Loyalists" during and following the war. Records in this database relate to Loyalist claims and cases heard by the American Loyalist Claims Commission.

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Class Description
 v

Title

Related data collections

[U.S., Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783](#)
 This database is a collection of records kept by the U.S. National Archives listing men who fought for the colonies during the war. Each record provides the soldier's name, category, rank information, and NARA microfilm roll number to aid the researcher in locating the original record. Images of the records are also included.

[U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900](#)
 This data collection contains an estimated 80,000 application files from officers and enlisted men who served in the Revolutionary War in all branches of the American military: army, navy, and marines. The files that make up these records consist of 10" x 14" cards or 10" x 14" envelopes that can contain documents relating to an application for a pension or bounty-land warrant by a Revolutionary War veteran, his widow, or his heirs. The files can contain a wide variety of records submitted to support an application. Information of genealogical interest includes the application itself, which can provide the soldier's name, rank, unit, time of service, age, date of birth, residence, and sometimes birthplace.

[All Military in the Card Catalog](#)

Ancestry.com/search/collections/3712/

Claim of Peter Ackerman

- Former residence
- Military service in British Army
- Details of property and real estate

5
To the Honorable Colonel Dundas and Jeremiah
Remberton Esquires Commissioners Appointed
By Act of Parliament to Enquire into the Losses
and Services of the American Loyalists &c &c
The memorial of Peter
Ackerman a Loyalist from New Jersey
Humbly Sheweth
That your memorialist at the commencement
of the late rebellion resided in Bergen County
Province of New Jersey that his Loyalty to his
Sovereign and Attachment to the British govern-
ment induced him to embrace the earliest op-
portunity to get within the British Lines ac-
cordingly he joined the British troops at
Hackensack where he got 11 pertecion and then
returned home But soon after the Rebels got
word that your memorialist had been with the
troops then your memorialist was obliged to
take the woods where he with some others stay-
ed until the spring folowing then he joined the
British troops again and brought in some recruits in
which he enlisted for the third Battalion of
New Jersey Volunteers Commanded By Lieut
Colonel Abraham Rushworth he also served as
a guide to the army when Lord Cornwallis
surrendered the Light-horse at Appomattox which was
called Lady Washington's horse he Chiefly resi-
ded at New York until the Emigration of the
Loyalists into Nova Scotia that your memorial-
ist had both Real and personal Estate his
Real Estate could not be confiscated by the
Rebels for the reason that it was given to
his wife and his mother in law to remain
in full possession of the same during her life or

joined the British Army, viz., in Septem^r, 1777; he marched with them to New-York in June, 1778. He was taken as a Captain of marines on board of the privateer sloop Jenny of New-York.

3. Joseph Moffat.—He joined the British army when in Philad^{ia}, marched with them to New-York, and was taken on board a schooner, prize to the Privateer Bayard of New York.

4. John Connel.—Formerly a schoolmaster near Concord in Chester County, from whence he came and joined the British Army when in Philad^{ia}—marched with them to New-York, and was taken on board the Privateer Intrepid.

5. Joseph Paxton.—He is a freeholder in Bucks county, joined the British Army when in this city, and was taken prisoner in the Fort at Stony Point.

6. Jacob Gatcheus.—Captain of the Enemy's Privateer Impertinent. He was an Inhabitant of Philad^{ia}, and went with the Enemy to New-York in June, 1778.

7. Samuel Saunders.—Pilot in the above Privateer, & joined the Enemy with Gatcheus.

8. Jas. Thompson,	} —They respectively joined the British Army when in Philad ^{ia} , went with them to New-York, and were taken as privates on board the Enemy's Privateer Imper-tinent.
9. Charles McClain,	
10. John McDonald.	

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 Mr. John Peck two Certificates for the Judge of Probate of this County, that Richard Smith Merch^t. & Daniel Chismore Commissary General of Stores, have absented themselves from this Town & State & voluntarily joined themselves to our Enemies.

Mr. Dorr appointed to make a change of the Stove in y^e School in Queen Street, the present being insufficient.

[157.] Mr. Preston & Fellows a Comm^{ce}. 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

America's Historical Newspapers

Explore the nation's past in unprecedented ways

Search and browse American newspapers published across three centuries

[How to use this database](#)

Searching 1 of 1 databases

Loyalist

Go!

Need more options? Try [Advanced Search](#)



readex.com/products/americas-historical-newspapers-periodicals



[Home](#)
[Advanced Search](#)
[Browse Publications](#)

[How to use this database](#)
[Other Databases](#)
[Share Feedback](#)

[My Folder](#)

[Back to Results](#)
20 of 60

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of Veracity, Dated Falmouth July 12, 1780

Royal Gazette (published as THE ROYAL GAZETTE.) (New York, New York) | September 6, 1780

Page [3]

Page 3 of 4

View Full Page

Search Issue

View Details

+
-

Loyalist

Highlight

1 highlight

On Friday the 1st instant departed this life, much lamented, after a long and tedious illness, which he bore with great patience, in the 60th year of his age, Mr. SAMUEL JARVIS, a **LOYALIST** from Stanford, in Connecticut,—and on Sunday evening his remains were interred, attended by a numerous body of the inhabitants of this city, and loyalists from different parts.—He was ever much respected by the circle of his acquaintance, as an honest man, an affectionate husband, tender parent, and sincere friend. He discharged the duties of Recorder in the town of Stanford for many years, in which he gave universal satisfaction, until the commencement of this cruel rebellion, which he early opposed with a patriotic zeal, and ever appeared a firm, unalterable advocate in behalf of his Sovereign and the glorious constitution. His sons, by the persecution of the rebels, were early forced from their possessions, and came within the British lines. Notwithstanding the many and frequent abuses he met with, in person and property, from the banditti, he remained in possession of his farm &c. &c. &c. until about twelve months ago, when his house was surrounded by a mob of rebels in the dead of night, himself, wife, three daughters, and one little son, turn'd out of their beds, stripp'd of every necessary, put on board a rebel

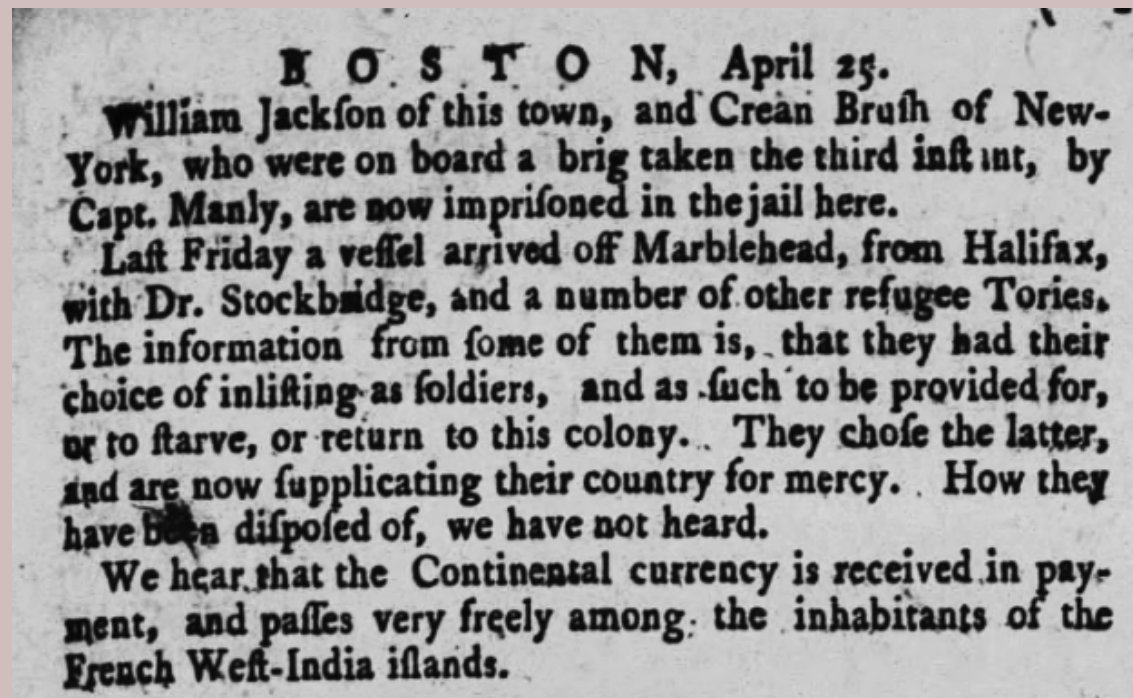


Page Thumbnails

readex.com/products/americas-historical-newspapers-periodicals

Newspaper Search Terms

- Loyalist
- Tory
- Refugee
- Enemy
- Rebel
- Traitor
- Prisoner



B O S T O N, April 25.
William Jackson of this town, and Crean Brush of New-York, who were on board a brig taken the third instant, by Capt. Manly, are now imprisoned in the jail here.
Last Friday a vessel arrived off Marblehead, from Halifax, with Dr. Stockbridge, and a number of other refugee Tories. The information from some of them is, that they had their choice of inlisting as soldiers, and as such to be provided for, or to starve, or return to this colony. They chose the latter, and are now supplicating their country for mercy. How they have been disposed of, we have not heard.
We hear that the Continental currency is received in payment, and passes very freely among the inhabitants of the French West-India islands.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post, May 04, 1776



Loyalist Diary

Search

149 Loyalist Diary

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 10 of 149 **1** 2 3 4 5 > >> Show: 10 ▾

Diary, 1777-1778

Pemberton, James, 1723-1809

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Diary kept during exile

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

Diary of Samuel Shoemaker, Esquire, of Philadelphia. From November 7, 1783 to October 5, 1785.
Copied from the original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania : typescript,
1892

Shoemaker, Samuel, 1725-1800

New-York Historical Society

Typescript copy, 1892, of the diary, 1783 Nov. 7-1785 Oct. 5, of Samuel Shoemaker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, kept while staying in New York City from 1783 Nov. 7-1785 Oct. 5, and in London. Most of his diary records his life London, as an exile from America, and of his daily intercourse with other American Loyalists there; and of his testifying before the Commissioners on Loyalist Claims

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

Diary, 1752-1783

Parker, James, 1725-1797

New Jersey Historical Society

researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/

The diary of Thomas Vernon : a loyalist, banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776 : with notes

Search

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Location

Any Event

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Page Number

Search

Clear search

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *The diary of Thomas Vernon : a loyalist, banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776 : with notes* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
Original data: Vernon, Thomas. *The diary of Thomas Vernon : a loyalist, banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776 : with notes*. Providence, R.I.: S.S. Rider, 1881.

Browse this collection

Table of Contents

[Front matter](#)[Title page](#)[The diary](#)[The Vernon Family and arms...](#)[Genealogy of the family of Richard Greene, of Potowomut](#)

More help

[Search tips](#)[Understanding records](#)[What do I do next?](#)[What can I do with this?](#)[Handwriting help](#)

THE DIARY OF THOMAS VERNON.

11

at five P. M. We walked and talked until eight in the evening, when Mr. A. Lechmere made his appearance, a very welcome visitor, not having before the agreeable news of hearing from home. A bowl of punch being soon made, we remembered our Newport friends, chatted until after ten, and retired to bed quietly.

Saturday, June 29, 1776. Arose at ten minutes after five; pleasant morning, fresh breeze at about west. We chatted till breakfast, which was tea, after which we walked to the river, and A. Lechmere tried for trout but caught none, Mr. Nicoll took some pouts or toad fish; we returned at twelve, it being very warm. Made a cool bowl of punch, which was very refreshing. Dined upon a baked line of veal, part of a calf which was killed in the morning, with some sorrel for a salad. Took a nap after dinner and drank tea at five, watered our garden, etc., walked till our retirement. About eight o'clock Mr. Jabez Bowen,¹ of Providence, joined us. He

1. Jabez Bowen was born in Providence June 2, 1739. He was the son of Ephraim and Mary [Fenner] Bowen. He married Sarah, daughter of Obadiah Brown, December 19, 1762; second, Pelly Leonard, May 21, 1801. The first mention of Mr. Bowen in connection with Colonial business is with the

Ancestry.com/search/collections/23194/

Search Database



Massachusetts: Divided Hearts, Massachusetts Loyalists, 1765-1790

☐ Exact Search ☐ Soundex

First Name

John

Last Name

Sturtevant

Keywords

Enter terms or words

Q SEARCH

★ Favorite

Saved Searches

Saved Searches

Browse This Database

Page

Page

Browse

See other databases in this category

Comment or Question

Write a comment

By default all results are a best fit to your criteria

Q SEARCH

Reset Search

Switch to Advanced Search

Search Tips

This index-only database supports the following searchable fields:

- First and last name
- Keywords – for record text

Wild card characters are available for name fields. Helpful symbols to use in your name search include:

- ? to match any single character
- * to match any number of characters - Note that two characters must precede the * wildcard.

AmericanAncestors.org/search/databasesearch/80/massachusetts-divided-hearts-massachusetts-loyalists-1765-1790

[◀ Back to Results](#)

Massachusetts: Divided Hearts, Massachusetts Loyalists, 1765-1790

[◀ Previous Result](#) [Next Result ▶](#)[◀](#) Page 1446 of 1705 [▶](#)

Comment or Question

[Saved Records](#)[Print](#) [★ Save Record](#) [New Search](#) [Report Error](#)

Name	Josiah STURTEVANT
Record	1765 - 1790
Location	
Original Text	d. 8/1775; Halifax, NS w. Lois & 6 children RM Ply. prop. L 1782
Page	1446

No Image – Index only database

Why can't I see an image?
This database is an index only database, so no images are available.

[View](#)

Citation

[Copy Citation](#)

Massachusetts: Divided Hearts, Massachusetts Loyalists, 1765-1790. A Biographical Directory. (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002.) Originally published by The Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and The New England Loyalists.

AmericanAncestors.org/search/databasesearch/80/massachusetts-divided-hearts-massachusetts-loyalists-1765-1790

After the Revolution

Peace

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



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

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

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

The Ships to Canada

- Nine transport ships sailed from New York on October 19, 1782, and arrived in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia
- On April 11, 1783, the "Spring" Fleet set sail
- Ships continued to arrive with thousands of refugees; ships arrived as late as January 15, 1784

Canadian Sources

Ship Database

Click on any column heading to sort by the data in that column



Ship	Departed	Date	Landed	Date	Passengers	Notes
Alexander	New York	1783, fall	New Brunswick	1783, Oct. 17	116	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Amity's Production	New York	1783, Jun. 16	New Brunswick	1783, Jul. 5	62	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Amphitrite	New York	1782	Annapolis	1782, Oct. 19	360	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Ann	New York	1783, fall	New Brunswick	1783, Sept. 27	204	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Ann	New York	1783, Jul. 8	New Brunswick	1783, Jul. 24	103	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Ann & Elizabeth			Port Roseway / Shelburne			from <i>The Book of Negroes</i>
Antelope Gordon			Bremer Lee (German port)			from <i>The Book of Negroes</i>
Apollo	New York	1783, Jun. 8 (?)	Port Roseway, NS			
Apollo	New York	1783, fall	New Brunswick	1783, Sept. 27	605	Ref. Evacuation of NY
Argo	St. Augustine,		Halifax	1784, Jul. 13		TheShipsList has more information: Argo Transport from St. Augustine FL arrived at Halifax NS 13 July 1784

uelac.ca/loyalist-ships

Loyalist Ships: The *Amphitrite*

Return of Men, Women & Children arrived at Annapolis from New York, 19th Octr. 1782 (360 persons)

Name	Women	Ch. above 8 years	Ch. under 8 years	Total
Abbott , Samel.				
Anderson , Walter	1			
Babcock , Benjn.				
Belcher , Adam				
Botsford , Amos, Esq.	1	4	1	
Bouchan , Alexr.	1		2	
Bourgar , Alexr.	1	3	1	
Bragg , John	1			
Brandon , John	1		1	
Bunnel , Solomon	1	4	1	
Burnet , William				
Carrier , Green	1		2	
Carron , James				
Chandler , Samel.				
Craig , James	1	1		
Crain , Thos.				

uelac.ca/loyalist-ships

Land Grant Petitions

- Petitions were submitted that stated whether the Loyalist was a soldier or supported the British in some other way
- Petitions could be submitted by the children of the Loyalist
- If petition was approved, the claimant was provided with a ticket with the township and lot # of the land they were awarded

Land Grants – July 1783

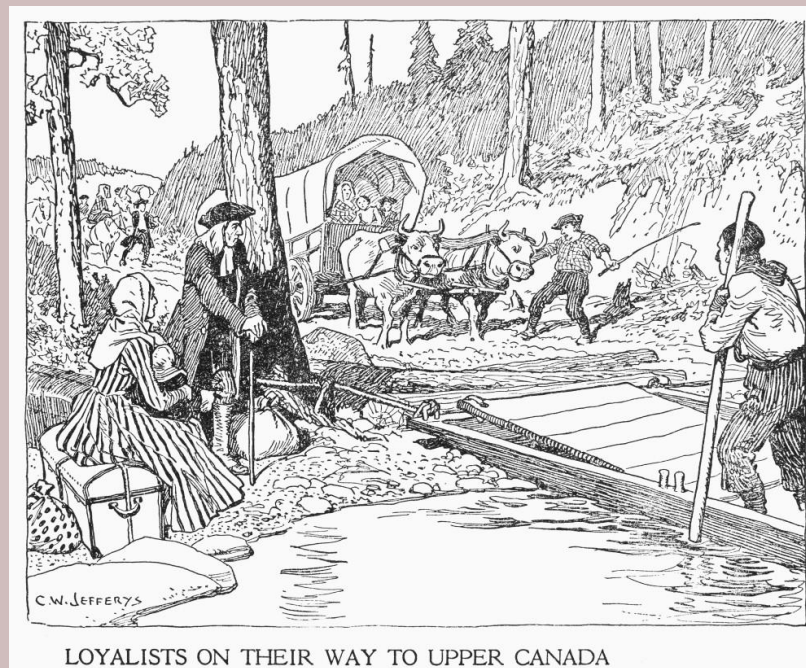
- 200 acres allotted to non-commissioned officers of Provincial Corps and Associated Loyalists
- 100 acres to private soldiers
- 100 acres to a family head
- 50 acres to each family member or single man

Land Grants – August 1783

- 1,000 acres to Field Officers in the Loyalist Corps
- 700 acres to Captains
- 500 acres to Subaltern/Staff/Warrant Officers
- 50 acres to family members
- Officers in the Royal Highland Emigrants (84th Regiment) received significantly higher portions (5,000 for field officers, 3,000 for captains, and 2,000 acres for lesser ranks)

Land Grants – 1787

- "General refugees" were granted 200 acres, with the increase of 200 acres to each son or daughter



Land Grants – 1788

- Land grants for the Provincial Corps officers were matched with the Royal Highland Emigrants if they were classified as "military claimants"
- A military claimant applies to a soldier in the British army and its Germanic allies, the Hessians

Where can I find them?

- Library and Archives Canada
 - Upper and Lower Canada
- Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia
- Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org

Other Loyalist Destinations

England

- About 14,000 Loyalists fled to England
 - Including roughly 5,000 free people of color
- Close family ties
- Economic interests
- Property



Audit Office – (AO-3/276)

- Series consists of four volumes of pensions paid out to American Loyalists and others seeking refuge in Great Britain
- Each list contains the names of persons who will receive the pension or allowance, the period for the pension or allowance, and the amount
- The typical period was one year, however, there were exceptions
- Widows and children were included in the allowances
- Records are held at the National Archives in Kew, England; not currently digitized

AO 12 and 13

- As discussed in Class 2, claims for or against giving compensation incurred during the Revolutionary War
- Ancestry.com database: "UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835"

WO 42

- Officers' Birth Certificates, Wills, and Personal Papers
 - Applications for pensions or benefits for widows and children contain vital records (birth, baptism, marriage, and death), probate records, and other personal papers of officers who died between 1776 and 1881
 - Original records at the National Archives in Kew, England; digitized on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

Search > Military

UK, Pension Applications For Widows and Family of Military Officers, 1776-1881

Search

☒ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	—	—		—
Death				City, County, State, Coun
Marriage				City, County, State, Coun
Any Event	—	—		City, County, State, Coun

Add family member: [Spouse](#)

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Spouse

×

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Year

Location

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Piece Title

Choose...

Surname Range

Related data collections

[Canada, British Navy Ship Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1757-1836](#)

Was great-grandpa a deck walker or a dockworker? Find out in these Canadian naval records.

[Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1795-1850](#)

Find your Canadian military ancestor's name, rank, and pay stub here.

[Canada, Militia and Defence Forces Lists, 1832, 1863-1939](#)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/>

Ancestry.com

Bibliography of Loyalist Source Material

- Published in volumes 85, 86, and 90 of *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*
- United States, Canada, and Great Britain

A Bibliography of Loyalist Source Material in the United States

Part III

Edited by

HERBERT LEVENTHAL and JAMES E. MOONEY

PROGRAM FOR LOYALIST STUDIES
AND PUBLICATIONS

*Sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society
City University of New York
University of London and University of New Brunswick*

ROBERT A. EAST, *Executive Director*

IN THE eighty-fifth volume of the *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society appeared the first two installments of the list describing Loyalist manuscripts in repositories along the Atlantic coast from Maine through Maryland, and also in the District of Columbia, for a total of about three hundred pages. This Part III continues that list to include the states from Virginia through Florida. The next installment will cover holdings in the rest of the nation, including several of its most prestigious libraries. It will then be indexed all together.

Robert A. East

343

PRIMARY UNPUBLISHED

New Brunswick

Fredericton

100 Public Archives of New Brunswick

- 1 Rep. No.: MYO1D23
Typescripts, 10 pages, 1678-1910.
Family records of the Barker family of New Brunswick. Apparently only one branch of the family became Loyalists and emigrated to Nova Scotia. Barker family genealogy, 1678-1910.
Ref: YSHS Inventory.
- 2 Rep. No.: MYO1D26
Typescripts, 27 pages, 1509-1871.
Family record of the Blakeney family. David Blakeney came from South Carolina to New Brunswick in 1784 and resided in Westmorland County. An account of the family's activities during the Revolutionary War and of their emigration to N. B. Much of the information is based on David Blakeney's Loyalist Claim, no. 165.
- 3 Rep. No.: 14-15
Microfilm, 2 reels, 1784-1796.
Caraquet, N. B. St. Pierre (Roman Catholic) Church. Records of baptisms, marriages, and burials, 1784-1796.
Ref: Inventory to church records on microfilm.
- 4 Rep. No.: None
Originals, 1/2 inch, 1795-1798.
Official papers of Sir Thomas Carleton (1735-1817), Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, 1784-1817. Correspondence between Carleton and the Duke of Portland concerning certain money bills before the N. B. House of Assembly pertaining to provincial defence, 1795; letters regarding commercial duties, 1796. Two letters deal with the problem of relations between the provincial House of Assembly and the Executive Council, 1797 and 1798.
- 5 Rep. No.: None
Originals, 5 inches, 1784-1810.
Official papers of Sir Thomas Carleton (1735-1817), Lieutenant-Governor of N. B., 1784-1817. Seven letter-books, principally of correspondence between Carleton and several Secretaries of State in London. These officials include: Lord Sydney—correspondence concerning N. B. government administration 1791-1795; Hon.

Bib. of Loyalist Source Material

Bahamas

- According to a report presented to the Bahamas House of Assembly in 1789, 1,200 Whites and 3,600 people of color arrived between 1784 and 1785
- Around 2,000 Loyalists and their enslaved servants arrived between 1783 and 1789
- The enslaved were listed as "servants" to help avoid possible claims issues with the United States

[◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#) [PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Land and property records, 1788-1955

[Add to Print List](#)

Authors: [Bahamas. Registrar General](#) (Main Author)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Nassau, Bahamas : Filmed by Dakota Southern Microfilm Service, 1956

Physical: 326 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original manuscripts in the Bahama Islands.

Includes indexes.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[Bahamas - Land and property](#)

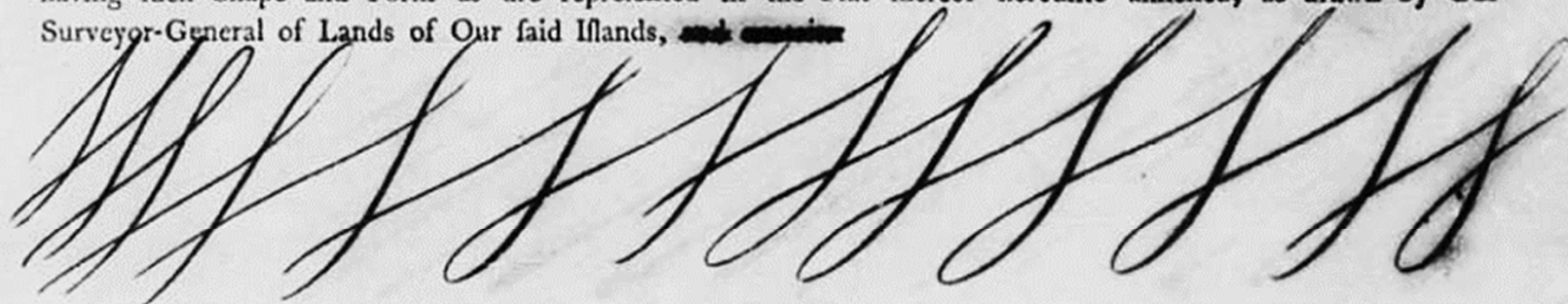
[Bahamas - Probate records](#)

familysearch.org

GEORGE the THIRD, by the Grace of GOD, of GREAT-BRITAIN, FRANCE, and IRELAND, KING, DEFENDER of the FAITH, and so forth. *To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.* KNOW YE THAT WE, of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have given and granted, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, do Give and Grant unto *William Gamble Esquire his*

Heirs and Assigns, All that

Lot of Land in the Town of Nassau, on the west side of Cumberland Street, being part, or one moiety of a Lot known in the plan of the said Town by number eighty three: fronting to the East sixty one feet six inches on Cumberland Street, bounded to the South by part of the said Lot No. 83, to the west by sixty one feet six inches on Lot No. 82, and to the North by Lot No. 84.
having such Shape and Form as are represented in the Plat thereof hereunto annexed, as drawn by Our Surveyor-General of Lands of Our said Islands, ~~and~~ *and*



and is bounded as in and by the Certificate also hereunto annexed, under the Hand of Our said Surveyor-General of Lands of Our said Islands, may more fully and at large appear; together with all Erections, Buildings, and all other Improvements whatsoever on the same now standing, being, and growing; and all Ways, Waters, Paths, Passages, Privileges, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said Lot belonging, or in any wise appertaining: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Lot, Hereditaments, and all other the Premises hereby granted with the Appurtenances unto the said *William Gamble his*

Crown Land Grant to William Gamble,
Bahamas, 22 Nov. 1788

Jamaica

- Most Loyalists came from Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia
- They departed from the cities of Charlestown and Savannah
- There were 3,000 Loyalists who took 8,000 enslaved persons to Jamaica

Jamaican Family Search

GENEALOGY

RESEARCH LIBRARY

 Search this site

This is a virtual genealogy library for those researching family history for Jamaica, West Indies, especially for people born before 1920. The site contains transcriptions from various documents including nineteenth century Jamaica Almanacs (which list property owners and civil and military officials), Jamaica Directories for 1878, 1891 and 1910, extractions from Jamaican Church records, Civil Registration, Wills, Jewish records, and excerpts from newspapers, books, and other documents. There is information on immigration and on slavery.

Jamaica was a British colony from the time of its conquest by the English 1655-1660 from the Spaniards, until it gained its independence in 1962 and became a part of the British Commonwealth. The indigenous Indians had been killed by the Spaniards. The population over the past 350 years has been comprised of:

- British: within its first 100 years as a British colony thousands of British immigrants arrived in the island, and made up the white population along with
- Portuguese Jews who had been left behind by the Spanish. The British remained the dominant majority until
- African slaves grew in number with the slave trade from 1663 until their emancipation in 1838.
- Diversity increased with the addition of other people groups:
- French refugees from St. Domingue arrived in the late 18th century.
- German settlers were brought to the island in the mid 1800s.
- Indian laborers were brought in accordance with Acts of the Assembly in 1842 through 1899.
- Chinese laborers were brought in 1854.
- Indian, Syrian, Lebanese merchants and businessmen came in the late 19th to 20th centuries.
- Individuals from China, Europe, and countries around the world have added to the variety in the population.

Their mingling is reflected in our island motto, "Out of Many, One People."

In the decade of the 1830s many landowners returned to Great Britain, or dispersed to other parts of the British Empire. In the decade of the 1970s there was another dispersion to North America and the UK in particular.

In the 17th through 19th centuries Britain required that the colony should take a census or a count of the population in various years in order to provide statistics concerning the makeup of the population. The results, which have been preserved as census records do not contain any names of individuals, but merely numbers of persons in various categories, which generally included: white, black, free colored, certain countries of origin, and occupation. One exception is the Census information for Hanover for 1822 which has been found in some Colonial Office correspondence and is on this site. Because of this lack of what most genealogists would

jamaicanfamilysearch.com

AMERICAN LOYALISTS IN JAMAICA 1783

LAND GRANTS

On 6th October, 1781, the "Cornwall Chronicle" newspaper published a letter, dated 18th August, from a "Gentleman in Georgia" to a correspondent in Jamaica:

"I am exceeding sorry to tell you, that I consider the greatest part of your and every other person's debts in Carolina to be totally lost; that country and this, except the very small part of them that our troops cover, have almost unanimously revolted and are become more violent, cruel and obstinate rebels than ever."

In 1783, at the end of hostilities in North America, the following loyalists were granted land in St. Elizabeth. Most were from Carolina.

ATKINSON, John
AVID, John
ALEXANDER, Henry
BRAIDSFORD, Elizabeth
BRAIDSFORD, Miss
BRAIDSFORD, Miss
BRADFORD, Wm.
BORNAL, Samuel
BUNYIE, James
BULL, Mr. Francis
BULL, Wm., Esq.
BROWN, Robert
BURGESS, Ann
BRYAN, Samuel
BETHUNE, John
BRAILSFORD, Wm.
BLOOMER, Lawrence
BROVACK, ____
BADID, James, Esq.
BRAILSFORD, Mrs. Jane
BROMS, Wm.
BULLS, Wm.



Conclusion

- Learn about your ancestor's community
- Research family and associates
 - Loyalist or Patriot?
- Utilize research guides to identify relevant source material
- Examine primary *and* published sources

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation

consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services

research@americanancestors.org

 American Ancestors.

A National Center for Family History,
Heritage & Culture

 Bookstore  About Us [MY ACCOUNT](#) 

[Search](#) [Events](#) [Join/Renew](#) [Give](#) [10 Million Names](#) [Publications](#) [Expert Help](#) [Tools](#) [Projects](#) [Centers & Initiatives](#)

Tracing Loyalist Lineages: Sources and Strategies

Not all our early American ancestors were patriots fighting for independence. Approximately one third of the population in the American colonies at the time were loyal to the Crown, with tens of thousands leaving their homes and taking up residence in Canada's eastern provinces or England. You can piece together your ancestor's movements and motivations using several resources. This lecture will provide you with historical context, records, and research strategies for identifying and learning more about your loyalist ancestors.

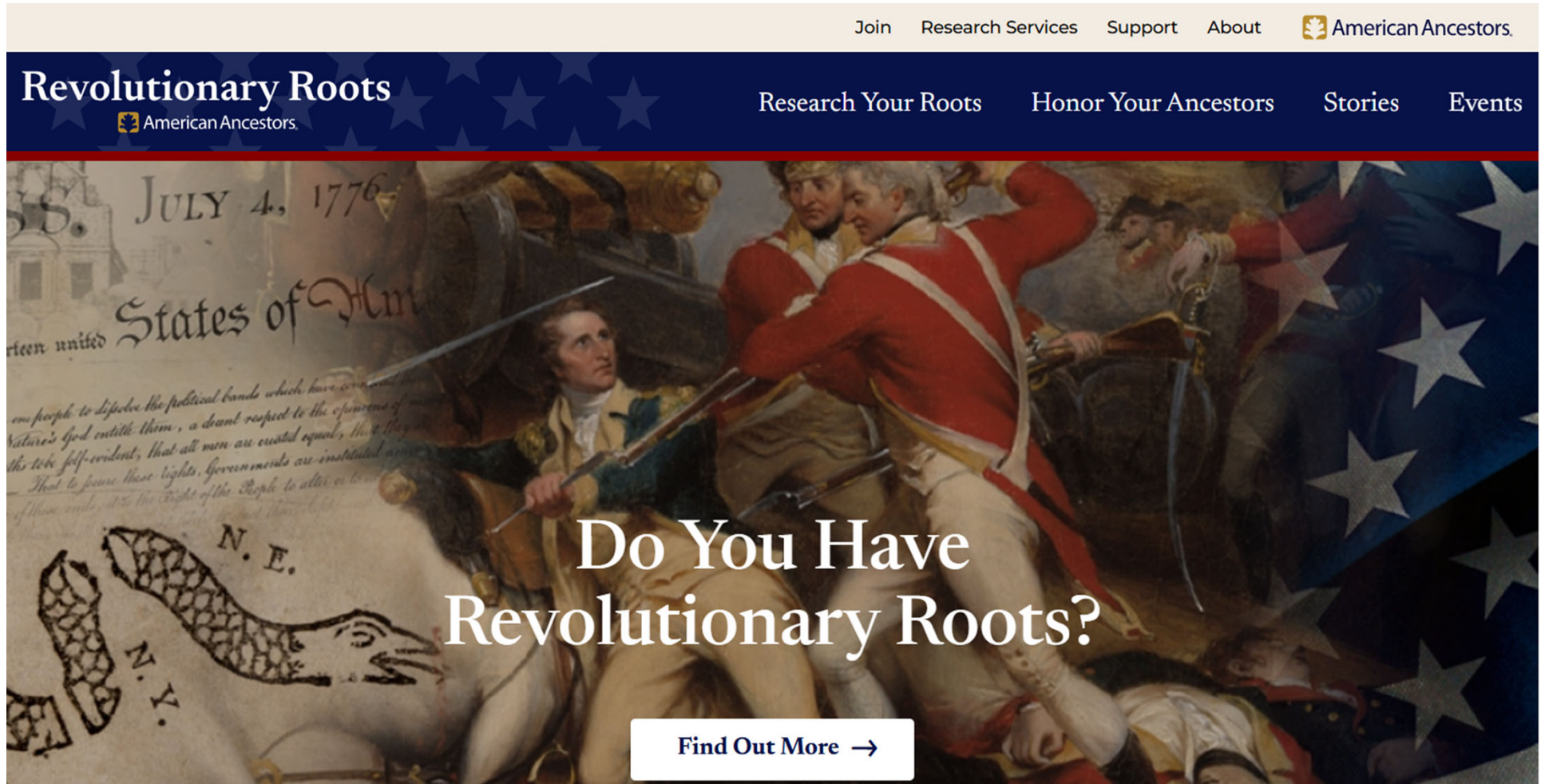
Registration in this program includes access to a 60-minute live broadcast, recording, and other materials for the foreseeable future.

Join the Live Broadcast

Click here to join the live broadcast: <https://zoom.us/j/91977114813>

Saturday, September 12, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

AmericanAncestors.org/tracing-loyalist-lineages-sources-and-strategies

A banner for the 'Revolutionary Roots' project. The background is a historical painting of a battle scene with soldiers in red uniforms and a large American flag. Overlaid on the left is a document snippet with the date 'JULY 4, 1776' and the text 'United States of America'. The main text 'Do You Have Revolutionary Roots?' is centered in white. A 'Find Out More' button with a right arrow is at the bottom center.

Join Research Services Support About  American Ancestors.

Revolutionary Roots
 American Ancestors.

Research Your Roots Honor Your Ancestors Stories Events

**Do You Have
Revolutionary Roots?**

[Find Out More →](#)

revolutionaryroots.AmericanAncestors.org

Upcoming Events

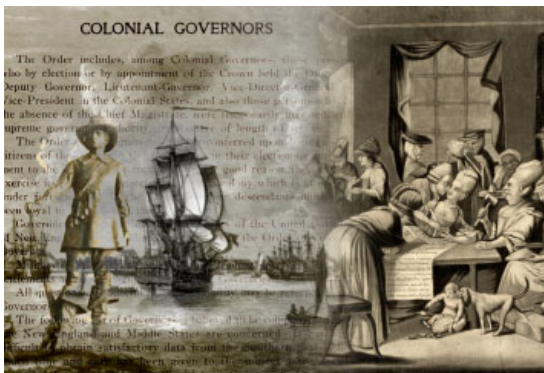


IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Discover Your Revolutionary Roots

In Partnership with the Massachusetts DAR

October 3, 2026, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET



ONLINE LECTURE

Applying to Colonial Lineage Societies

Presented by David Allen Lambert

October 8, 2026, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

ONLINE LECTURE

Jewish Patriots in the American Revolution

Presented by Melanie McComb

October 15, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET



IN-PERSON EXHIBIT

Patriots of Color

April 23–December 31, 2026

AmericanAncestors.org/Events



THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

Copyright ©2026