

“I Have Scarcely a Mouthful of Bread for Myself or Children”

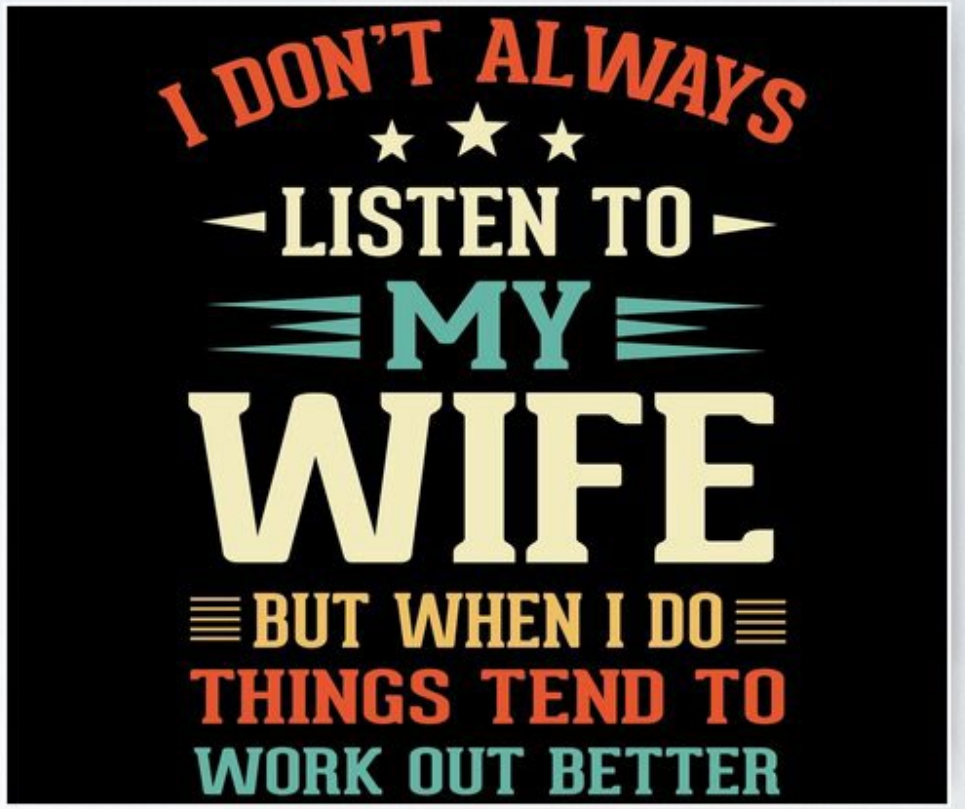
The Plight of Massachusetts Loyalists on the Eve of Independence

What We Will Discuss Today

- Who were the loyalists?
- Why remain loyal to the Crown?
- Pre-war acts of violence in Massachusetts
- The violation of civil rights and liberties
- Loyalists fight back!
- The “Counter Declaration”
- Flight from home
- Loyalist refugee camps
- The Banishment Act
- The aftermath of the Revolutionary War
- Questions?




Inspirational Quote


I DON'T ALWAYS
LISTEN TO
MY
WIFE
BUT WHEN I DO
THINGS TEND TO
WORK OUT BETTER

Province of Day of 1779.

I do hereby profeſs and declare my Loyalty and Allegiance to his Majeſty King George the Third, and do hereby engage, that when ever I can be protected againſt the preſent rebellious and uſurped Government in this Province, I will take up Arms, in Defence of his Majeſty, and the Laws of the ſaid Province; and that I will in the mean Time, promote his Majeſty's Intereſt, by every Means in my Power, conſiſtent

Who Were the Loyalists?

Who Were the Loyalists?

- By the conclusion of the American Revolution, between 80,000 and 100,000 loyalists had fled the American colonies. Almost half of them escaped to Canada.
- Of those, 45,000 refugees settled in the Canadian Maritime region.
- An additional 9,500 refugees fled to the Quebec Province. Of those, approximately 7,500 ultimately settled in Upper Canada.
- These men, women, and children left behind more than their homes. They left behind their experiences, communities, friends and relatives, businesses and personal belongings.

Who Were the Loyalists?

- Many colonists who ultimately became "Tories" were not distinguishable from their neighbors who embraced independence.
- Some loyalists were respected members of their towns; often well-educated Harvard graduates who worked as merchants, doctors, lawyers, distillers, or ministers.
- However, most colonists from New York and New England who remained faithful to the Crown hailed from the middle and lower classes of the American colonies. These loyalists enjoyed neither wealth nor privilege.
- According to Bruce Wilson, author of *As She Began: An Illustrated Introduction to Loyalist Ontario,* of the four hundred eighty-eight loyalists who eventually fled to Canada after the American Revolution, settled in the Ontario area, and submitted claims to the English government for losses sustained during the American Revolution, only five held public office.

Who Were the Loyalists?

- Only one claimant was a physician.
- A small number owned shops, ran taverns or were considered artisans.
- Ninety percent of those loyalists who settled in the Ontario region simply identified themselves as farmers.
- The average loyalist farmer who ultimately took refuge in Upper Canada leased or owned less than two hundred acres of land prior to the American Revolution.
- 42% of the Ontario settlers admitted they had cleared less than ten acres of land prior to their flight.

Ethnic Makeup

- Over half of the loyalist refugees who settled in Upper Canada were foreign-born.
- Over 50% of Ontario loyalists were Scottish Highland Roman Catholics. Second in number were German and Irish immigrants.
- An additional 8% claimed England as their place of birth.
- Many loyalist Scottish immigrants had only resided in the American colonies for four years at the start of the American Revolution.
- English immigrants had resided in America on average for eight years.
- By comparison, many Irish and German immigrants had lived in the colonies between eleven and eighteen years.

A Snapshot of Loyalists from Salem, Massachusetts

Identified Occupation	Total
Merchant	5
Surgeon	2
Sailor	2
Shop Owner	2
“Student”	1
Politician	2
Surveyor	1
Judge/Lawyer	2
Customs Officer	1
“Water Guard”	1
Clergy	1
Apprentice	1
“Adventurer”	1
Unknown	1



Why Remain Loyal to the Crown?

Why Remain Loyal to the Crown?

- Economic Principles
  - Patronage: Many naturally sided with the English government because their respective colonial posts ensured potential profit.
  - Dependency: Many feared economic losses if they ended business relationships with England.
  - Colonial tenant farmers faced financial ruin if their landlords severed political ties with the Crown.
- Religious Principles
  - Anglicans: Ministers and others believed they were bound by oath to support the King.
  - Sandemanian belief was that the Bible commanded that every Christian must be a loyal subject to civil authority, even if that ruler was tyrannical.
  - Loyalist Congregational ministers argued that church teachings forbade them from being disobedient to their king or Parliament.

Why Remain Loyal to the Crown?

- The Declaration of Independence
  - Many Massachusetts loyalists, including the Rev. Mather Byles Sr., and William Smith, were initially sympathetic or openly supported the American cause.
  - However, with the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, they believed the Americans had "gone too far" and quickly sided with the Crown.

- Public Safety
  - Most Loyalists saw the crisis of the 1760s and 1770s not as a political issue, but a PUBLIC SAFETY issue. The majority chose to remain loyal to England and Parliament because of a desire for law and order.
  - Most loyalists detested the mob rule that spread from cities to the countryside and abhorred the lack of order.
  - As tensions grew between the colonies and England, many colonists attempted to remain neutral. However, as radicals seized power, neutrality became impossible.



Pre-War Violence Against Loyalists

Mob Rule in Newburyport

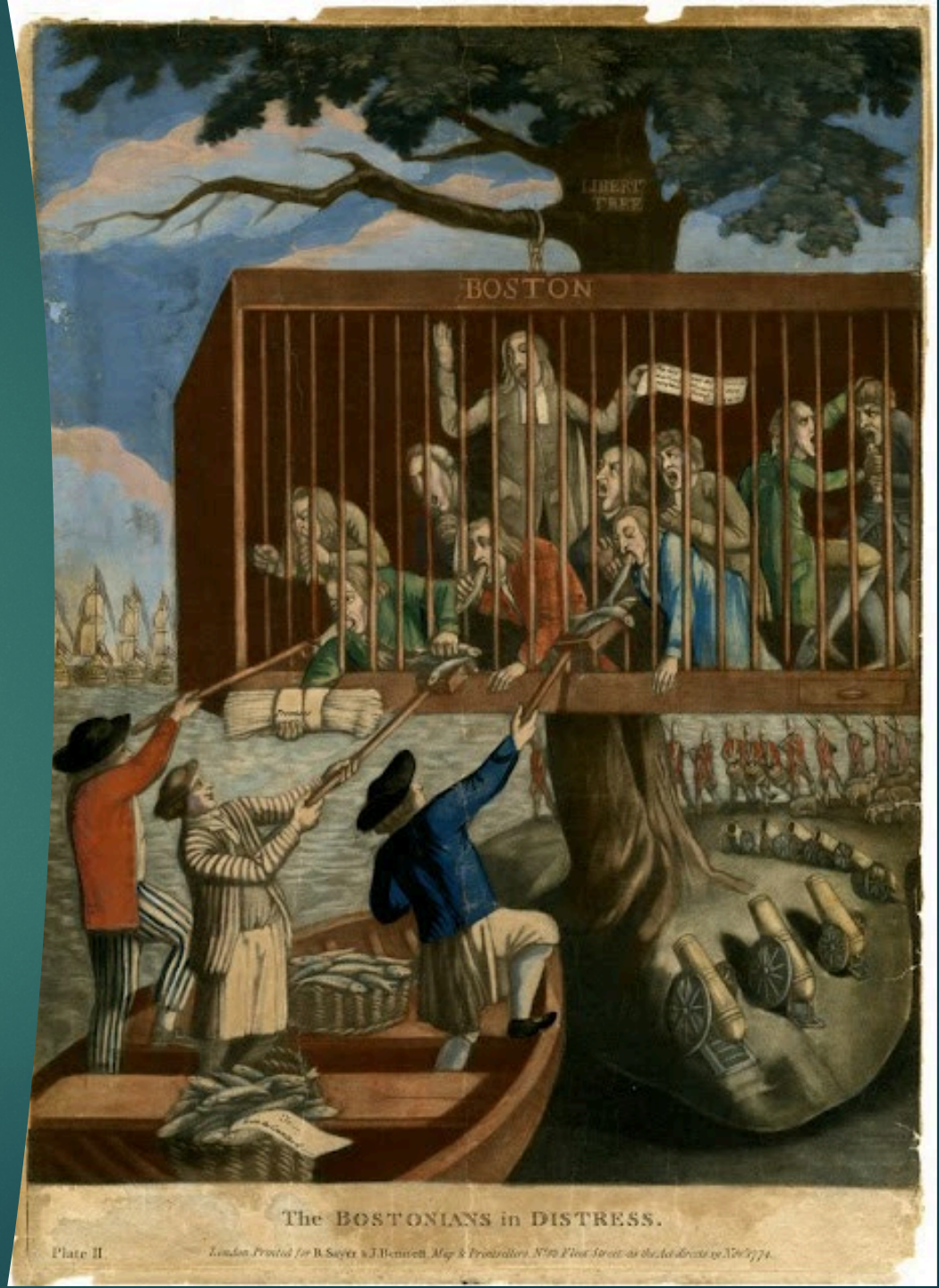
- At the height of the Stamp Act Crisis in 1765, members of a "patriot" Newburyport mob then armed themselves with clubs and patrolled the town, questioning strangers and residents alike about their position on the crisis.
- *"Companies of men, armed with clubs, were accustomed to parade the streets of Newbury and Newburyport, at night, and, to every man they met, put the laconic question, 'stamp or no stamp.' The consequences of an affirmative reply were anything but pleasant."*
- *"In one instance, a stranger, having arrived in town, was seized by the mob at the foot of Green Street and, not knowing what answer to make to the question, stood mute. As the mob allows no neutrals, and as silence with them is a crime, he was severely beaten."*
- A second man fared better when he was able to provide a clever answer. *"The same question was put to another stranger, who replied, … 'I am as you are.' He was immediately cheered and applauded, as a true son of liberty, and permitted to depart in peace, wondering, no doubt, at his own sudden popularity."*



To the Keeper of Ipswich Jail: You are ordered to receive into your custody Jonathan Stickney Jr., [of Rowley] who has been apprehended by the Committee of Inspection, Correspondence and Safety of the Town of Rowley … for having in the most open and daring manner endeavored according to the utmost of his abilities to encourage & introduce Discontent, Sedition, and a Spirit of Disobedience to all lawful authority among the people by frequently clamoring in the most impudent insulting and abusive Language … You are therefore to keep him safely in close confinement (in a Room by himself & that he be not allowed the use of pens, ink nor paper, and not suffer him to converse with any person whatever unless in your hearing) till the further order.

Loyalist Victims of Central and Western Massachusetts

- Timothy Paine of Worcester was a prominent loyalist and Mandamus Councilor to the Royal Governor. In August 1774, his house was stormed by an angry mob, compelling him to resign his appointment.
- John Murray of Rutland was another member of the Crown's Mandamus Council. Following Paine's resignation, a rebel mob attacked Murray's home, broke windows, and harassed his family. Soon after, Murray resigned his position and fled to Boston.
- Conrad Burghardt of Great Barrington was accused of being an "enemy of his people." He was removed from his family and confined to Great Barrington Gaol without due process after being declared "a person dangerous to the liberties of America."



Other Examples of Abuse

- Peter Etter of Braintree repeatedly challenged local patriot mobs on the constitutionality of their actions. Deemed "*obnoxious to the rebellious faction*," he and his family were forced to flee from their home to the safety of Boston.

- Robert Cook of Wrentham was a veteran of the French and Indian War and a vocal loyalist. On the eve of Lexington and Concord, he assembled a group of 25 fellow loyalists and attempted to suppress patriot gangs roaming Wrentham and neighboring communities. In response, he was arrested, thrown into a local jail without due process, and subjected to repeated abuse. He escaped and fled to Boston but was forced to abandon his wife and 13 children.

- Elizabeth Belcher of Milton described in a later petition for compensation how on the day after Lexington and Concord, her house was beset upon by a mob of militiamen, plundered and then torched. She pleaded for the men to put the fire out, but discovered *"in consequence of her attachment to His Majesty's government, [the soldiers] refused to use any endeavors whatever to extinguish the flames."*



The Deprivation of Civil Rights and Liberties

Deprivations of Civil Rights

- Legal suppression and political targeting: Beginning in late 1775, Massachusetts towns held meetings at which local officials compiled lists of residents suspected of loyalist sympathies and initiated prosecutions against them as criminals simply for their allegiance to the Crown.
- Oaths and criminal penalties: Loyalists brought before local committees of safety and were forced to swear allegiance to the Patriot cause; refusal led to incarceration or house arrest, often without due process.
- Restriction of travel: Many loyalists were barred from leaving their communities or were only permitted after providing a detailed account of their travel plans and posting a bond.
- Violence and property confiscation: Those loyal to the crown continued to be subjected to random and targeted violence and property confiscation.



Proclamation of the Massachusetts General Court, January 19, 1776

- On January 19, 1776, the Massachusetts General Court passed a resolution that rejected royal authority.
- The declaration asserted that subjects were not obligated to obey the Crown following the alteration of the Massachusetts charter by an Act of Parliament, nor to any Governor or Lieutenant Governor who did not safeguard the charter. This stance effectively stripped Crown-appointed officials of legal authority, thereby weakening loyalist support for them within the colony.
- The proclamation charged that “every person who fails in his duty to support and obey the new government [will be] deemed a disturber of the peace and deserving of exemplary punishment.”
- Civil officers, including local committees of safety and the militia, were ordered to enforce revolutionary laws and suppress “crimes, immoralities, or any who fail to support the lawfully constituted authorities,” creating legal pressure on loyalists who might resist the regime.

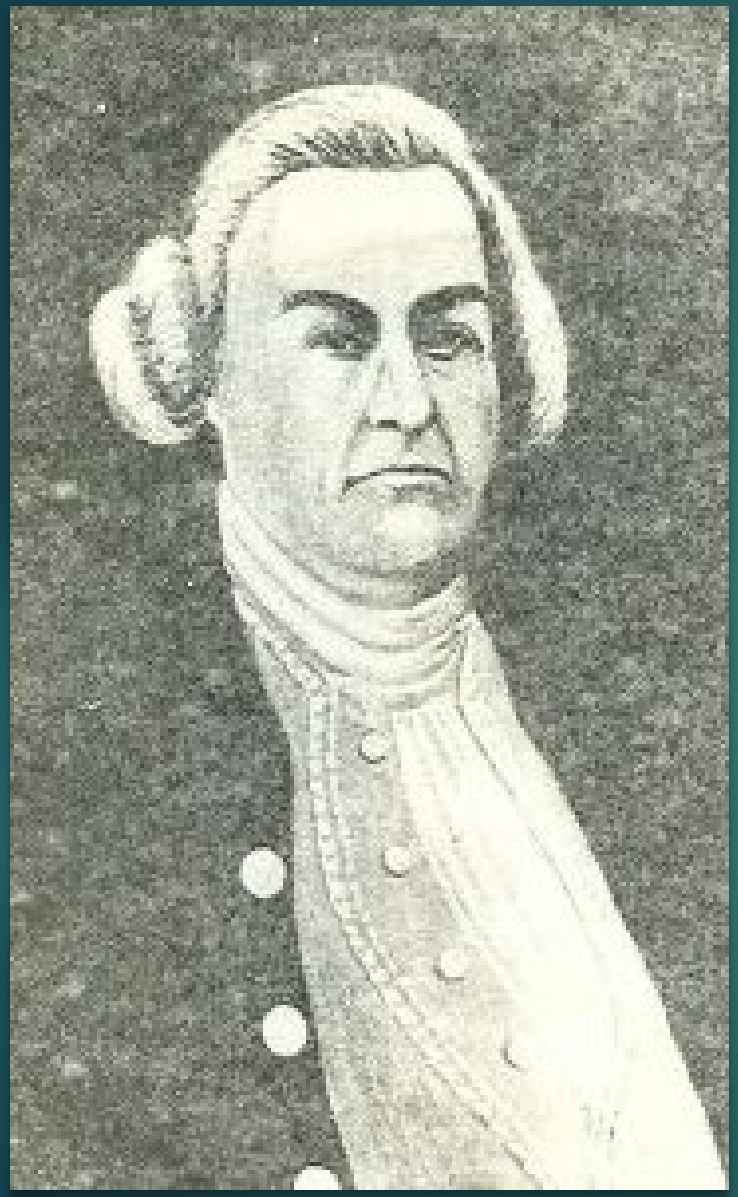
Disarmament of Loyalists

- By May 1776, the Massachusetts Provincial Court passed a law disarming those males who refused to sign loyalty oaths to the American cause.
- "Every male person above sixteen years of age…who shall neglect or refuse to subscribe to a printed or written declaration…upon being required thereto by the committee of correspondence, inspection and safety, for the town or place in which he dwells…, shall be disarmed and shall have taken from him, as herein directed, all such arms, ammunition and warlike implements, as, by the strictest search, can be found in his position or belonging to him."
- The law also stripped those loyalists who refused to sign, of certain rights and privileges, including the right to hold civil or military offices, to vote, and to serve as a minister or grammar schoolmaster.



Continued Violence and Harassment of Loyalists

- When William Jackson and other Loyalists arrived in Newburyport in late 1775 after securing travel passes in Exeter, an angry crowd "threatened to destroy the Carriadge" in open hostility to their mere presence.
- Newburyport's Committee of Safety appointed a small guard to escort the loyalists, but the men were still pelted with blows, mud, stones, eggs, and other abuse as they left town, forcing them to abandon their carriage and walk roughly 40 miles to Boston on foot.
- Nathaniel Dickerson of Deefield was routinely threatened due to his opposition to the American cause. On the eve of Lexington and Concord, he was kidnapped, tied up and threatened to be hanged. He fled to Boston, and his property was seized and auctioned in 1776.
- In 1777, Reverend William Clarke of Dedham intervened as a mob attempted to murder a *"distressed loyalist."* In turn, it accused Clarke of harboring enemies of the country, arrested him, and transported him to a jail in Boston. During his trial, Clarke was denied legal counsel and access to witnesses. He was subsequently convicted of being disloyal to the American cause. He was then confined on a prison ship in Boston harbor for a year before being permitted to flee to Newport.





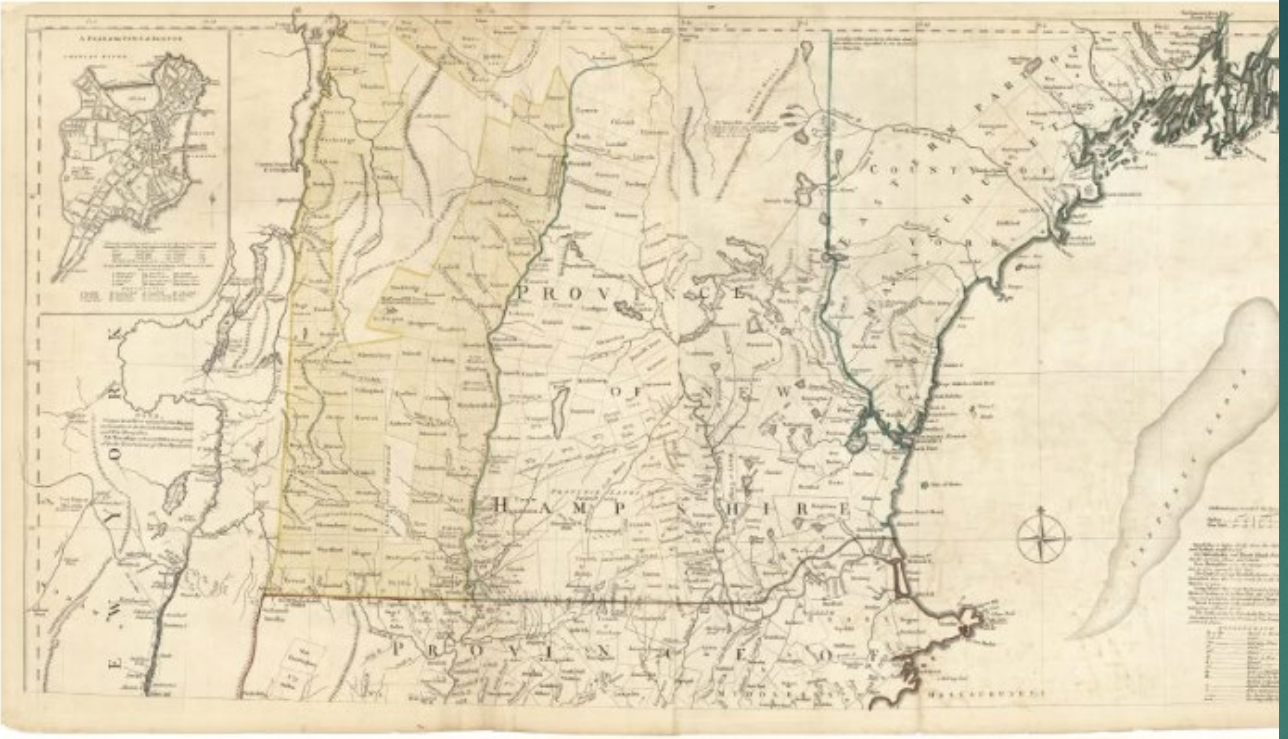
Loyalists Fight Back



Thomas Hutchinson's "Declaration of Dependence"



The Flight to Safety





The Routes Taken

The Flight North

- Ultimately, many loyalists, especially women and children, concluded they and their families would be safer by withdrawing to British-held territory north in Canada, Northeast in Halifax, or south in Newport, RI or New York City.
- Despite popular misconception, loyalists generally did not gather their belongings and flee into the night.
- Instead, many had to appear before local Committees of Safety or similar organizations and request permission to leave the community to join their husbands if they had already fled.
- Officials scrutinized the petitions of loyalists and set strict terms regarding their departure through an order of removal.
- Refugees were also subject to severe limitations on what they were allowed to take when they departed from their community.

The Flight North

- At first, many committees were reluctant to release loyalist families, as they served a useful purpose as hostages. From the rebel perspective, the continued presence of loyalist families under their careful guard could deter future military attacks, stem the flow of young male recruits into Canada or New York City, and encourage the release of American prisoners held by British authorities.
- However, following Burgoyne's invasion of 1777, many local committees recognized that hostages would not prevent future British raids and agreed to release women and their families.
- Likewise, the decision to allow women and their families to flee was prompted by financial concerns, including a reluctance to care for indigent loyalists.
- Many states took proactive measures, ordering the *expulsion* of loyalist families from their territories as Burgoyne advanced south into New York

The Routes Followed

- Those refugees from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Eastern New York usually followed a combined land and water route along Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River to Montreal.
- The roads followed were often muddy and in poor condition. Refugees could use only pack horses, ponies, or hand- or horse-drawn carts to transport their belongings and provisions.
- Securing water transportation was critical to the flight north. Often, refugees were forced to seek shelter on insect-infested or low-lying islands in the middle of Lake Champlain.
- Because of the difficulties of this combined land and water passage, loyalists were forced to travel in groups whose members could share the burden of carrying boats and provisions.



The Hardships Faced Moving North

- Some loyalists might be lucky enough to make the trip in thirteen days, but most took much longer.
- An expedition of women and children that had to move slowly, was not lucky enough to make good connections with boats, and experienced bad weather could take from two to three months to reach Quebec Province.
- The delay in travel, combined with the rugged country, took its toll on the clothing of loyalist women and children. It was not uncommon for refugees to exhaust their supplies and be forced to survive on nuts, roots, and leaves.



The Hardships Faced Moving North

- The experience of loyalist Mary Munro highlights the hardships that loyalist families likely faced as they also fled north.
- As they traveled towards Lake George to join others en route to Canada, Munro and her children lightened their load by discarding food and *"most of their wearing Apparel. . . After much difficulty, [they] arrived at Lake George and . . .lay in the woods Six days almost perished with Cold and Hunger . . . until three other families arrived. . . [afterwards they] prevailed on the commanding officer at Fort Edward to give them a boat and a flag, they set off across Lake George."*
- For Mary, they were *"discovered by a party of Indians from Canada - which pursued them. . . as a result of the excessive hardships they underwent,"* Mary and her children were *"very sickly the whole Winter"* after arriving in Canada.



Life In Loyalist Refugee Camps

Lack of Preparation

- The British government controlling Canada was ill-prepared for the arrival of thousands of men, women, and children who Governor Frederick Haldimand fittingly described as *"loyalists in great distress."*
- As a result, the Crown adopted a policy like governmental treatment of the poor in England. Incoming loyalists were questioned to determine their trade or profession and then dispatched to specific locations to seek employment. Destitute loyalists, including the sick, infirm, children, women with infants, and cripples, were assigned to refugee camps and placed on public assistance.
- However, "public assistance" in the 18th century differed greatly from modern practices. Under 18th-century British policies, those on public assistance received only the bare necessities at minimal cost. More importantly, those on assistance were expected to work in exchange for aid.



Expectations of Refugees

- At many refugee camps, women and children were expected to make *"blanket coats, leggings at cheaper rates than the Canadians."*
- To keep expenses low, loyalist women and children were mustered once a month so they could be inspected to determine whether they still qualified for public assistance.
- Male loyalists were strongly encouraged, if not pressured, to enlist in military service, raising the concern that if they refused, their families would be denied access to necessary public assistance.

Life Inside Loyalist Refugee Camps

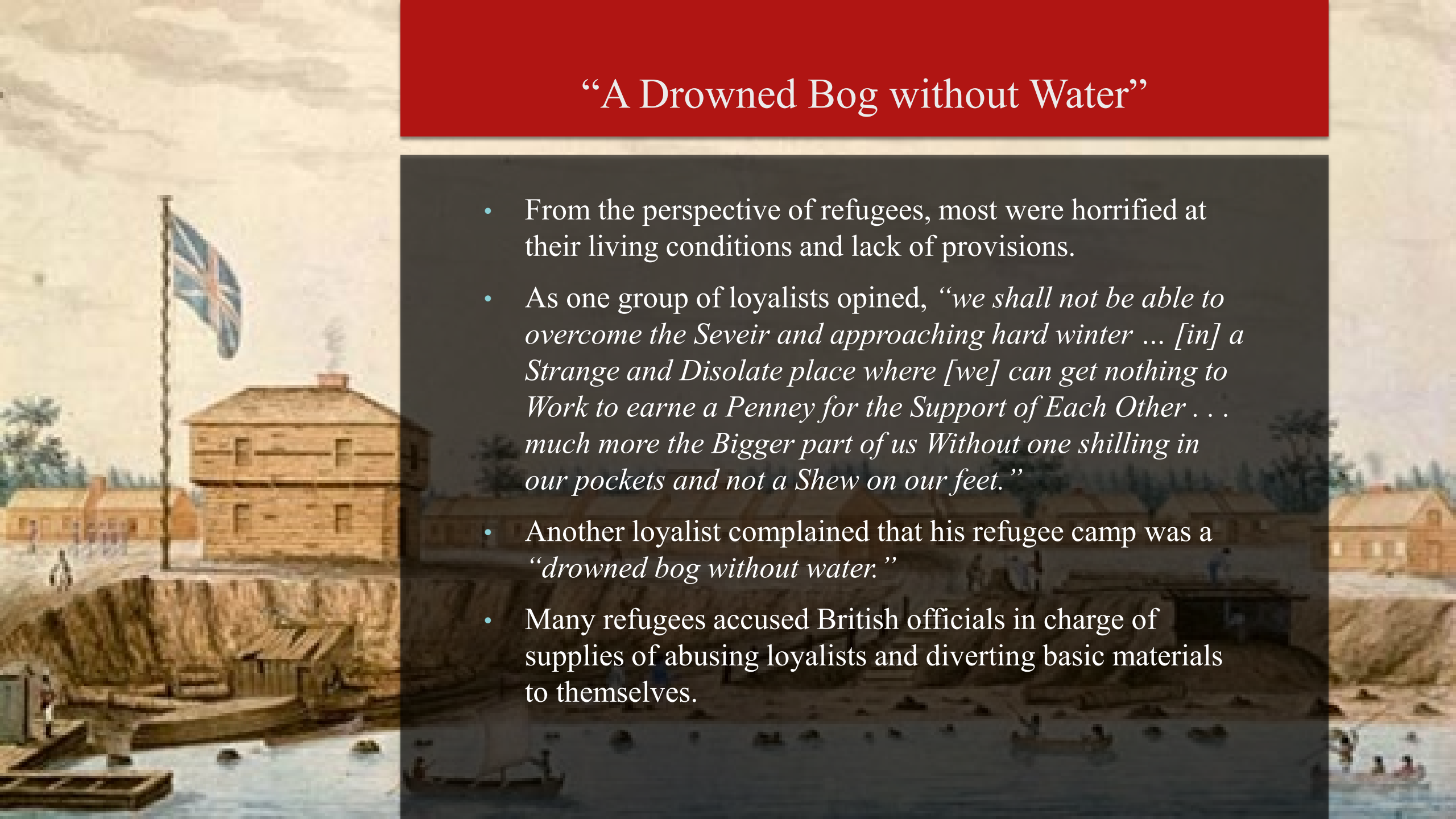
- Housing was the greatest problem. On September 14, 1778, government officials complained of the shortage of pine wood for constructing necessary housing for the refugees. By December, at the onset of the Canadian winter, loyalist housing was incomplete. British authorities even experienced difficulties establishing a schoolhouse for refugee children.
- Living quarters for loyalist refugees were cramped at best. In December 1778, 196 refugees at Machiche were distributed among 12 buildings. The following year, more than 400 refugees were placed in only 21 buildings. Records suggest that these structures were only eighteen by forty feet (720 square feet).
- Throughout the fall months of 1778, British officials likewise struggled to supply the loyalists with rations, candles, and blankets. By 1783, over three thousand loyalists needed basic clothing, including over three thousand pairs of stockings and shoes, and sixteen thousand yards of linen and wool.

Life Inside Loyalist Refugee Camps

- Food supplies and cooking equipment were exceedingly difficult to procure as more loyalists arrived in Canada. Fresh meat was continuously scarce, and full rations were often withheld.
- Reports indicated loyalist children at Machiche were severely malnourished, and many mothers were depriving themselves of their own food to keep their children alive.
- To alleviate this problem, loyalists were encouraged to grow or secure their own food. Unfortunately, the efforts to establish self-sufficiency among the loyalists failed miserably.
- By 1780, over two hundred and sixty-two men, three hundred and eight women, and seven hundred and ninety-eight children at various refugee camps outside of Montreal alone were completely dependent upon food supplies from the government.



Children made up most of the loyalist refugee population in Canada



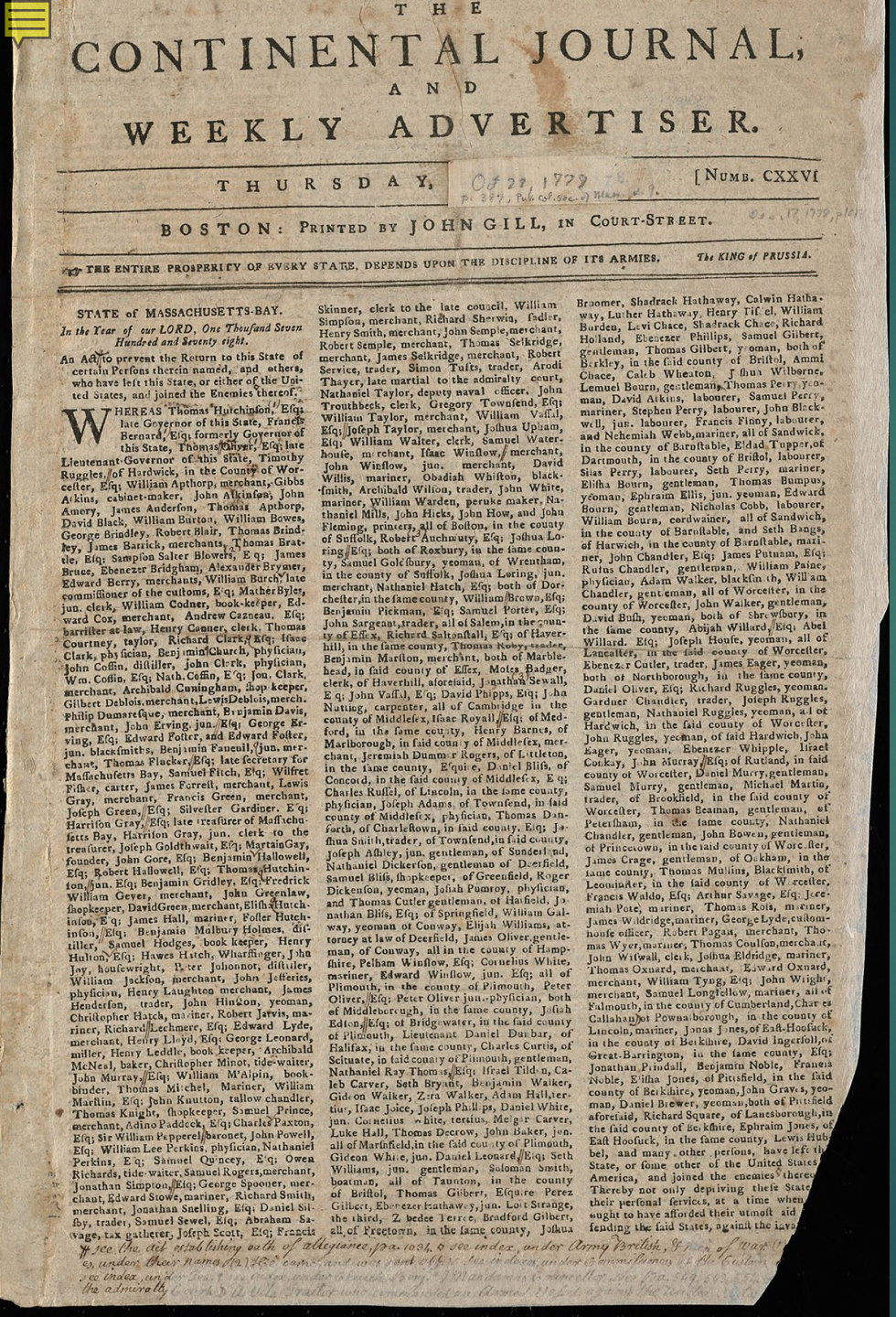
"A Drowned Bog without Water"

- From the perspective of refugees, most were horrified at their living conditions and lack of provisions.
- As one group of loyalists opined, *"we shall not be able to overcome the Seveir and approaching hard winter … [in] a Strange and Disolate place where [we] can get nothing to Work to earne a Penney for the Support of Each Other . . . much more the Bigger part of us Without one shilling in our pockets and not a Shew on our feet."*
- Another loyalist complained that his refugee camp was a *"drowned bog without water."*
- Many refugees accused British officials in charge of supplies of abusing loyalists and diverting basic materials to themselves.



The Psychological Hardships of the Refugee Camps

- As years passed and loyalists continued to be confined inside refugee camps, families and individuals collapsed under the psychological burden.
- Long-term absences of loyalist men on military missions only exacerbated the situation. There was one recorded incident of infanticide at Carleton Island, where a mother killed her newborn.
- Marriages crumbled, alcoholism rose, and emotional breakdowns became commonplace.
- Several period accounts recall “insane loyalists” being sent from refugee camps to hospitals in Quebec.
- An equal concern amongst refugees was the presence of camp fever, which was quickly spreading through the refugee sites. Other deadly diseases present at the camps included malaria, smallpox, and pneumonia.



THE
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THURSDAY, [NUMB. CXXVI

BOSTON: PRINTED BY JOHN GILL, IN COURT-STREET.

THE ENTIRE PROSPERITY OF EVERY STATE, DEPENDS UPON THE DISCIPLINE OF ITS ARMIES. *The KING of PRUSSIA.*

STATE of MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

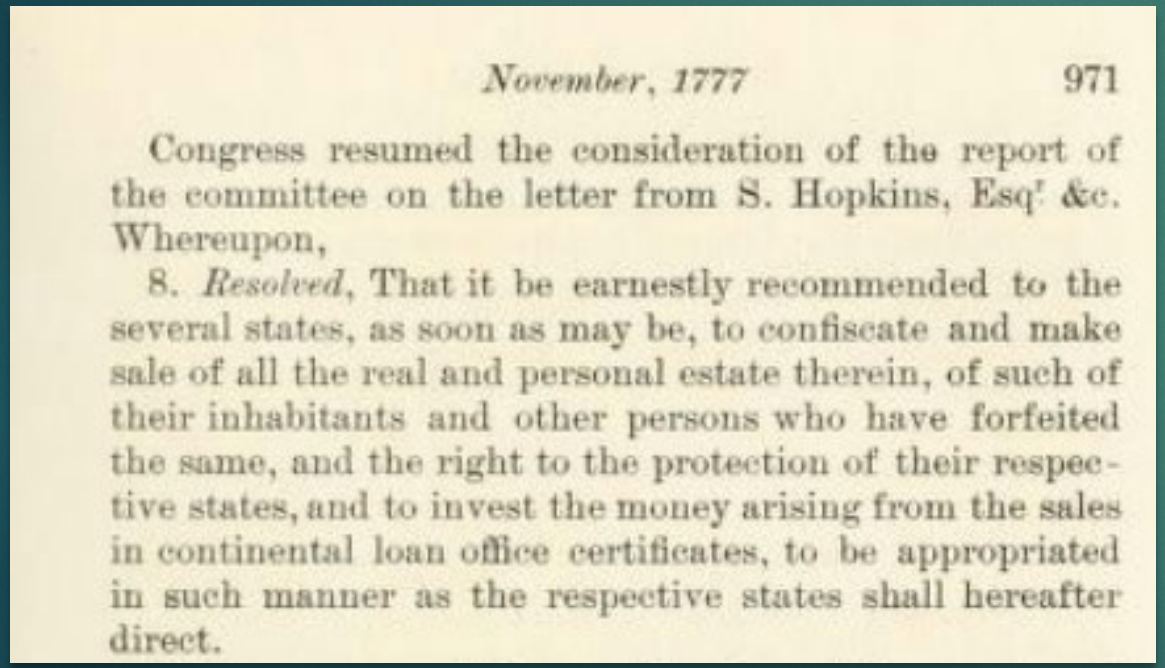
In the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy eight.

An Act to prevent the Return to this State of certain Perſons therein named, and others, who have left this State, or either of the United States, and joined the Enemies thereof.

WHEREAS Thomas Hutchinſon, Eſq; late Governor of this State, Francis Bernard, Eſq; formerly Governor of this State, Thomas Oliver, Eſq; late Lieutenant-Governor of this State, Timothy Ruggles, of Hardwick, in the County of Worceſter, Eſq; William Apthorp, merchant, Gibbs Atkins, cabinet-maker, John Atkinſon, John Amery, James Anderſon, Thomas Apthorp, David Black, William Burton, William Bowes, George Brindley, Robert Blair, Thomas Brindley, James Barrick, merchants, Thomas Bratle, Eſq; Sampſon Salter Blowers, Eq; James Bruce, Ebenezer Bridgham, Alexander Brymer, Edward Berry, merchants, William Burch, late commiſſioner of the cuſtoms, Eſq; Mather Byles, jun. clerk, William Codner, book-keeper, Edward Cox, merchant, Andrew Cazneau, Eſq; barriſter at law, Henry Conner, clerk, Thomas Courtney, taylor, Richard Clark, Eſq; Isaac Clark, phyſician, Benjamin Church, phyſician, John Coſſin, diſtiller, John Clark, phyſician, Wm. Coſſin, Eſq; Nath. Coſſin, Eſq; Jon. Clark, merchant, Archibald Cuningham, ſhop keeper, Gilbert Deblois, merchant, Lewis Deblois, merch. Philip Dumareſque, merchant, Benjamin Davis, merchant, John Erving, jun. Eſq; George Erving, Eſq; Edward Foſter, and Edward Foſter, jun. blackſmiths, Benjamin Faneuil, jun. merchant, Thomas Flucker, Eſq; late ſecretary for Maſſachuſetts Bay, Samuel Fitch, Eſq; Wilfret Fiſher, carter, James Forreſt, merchant, Lewis Gray, merchant, Francis Green, merchant, Joſeph Green, Eſq; Silveſter Gardiner, Eq; Harriſon Gray, Eſq; late treaſurer of Maſſachuſetts Bay, Harriſon Gray, jun. clerk to the treaſurer, Joſeph Goldthwait, Eſq; Martin Gay, founder, John Gore, Eſq; Benjamin Hallowell, Eſq; Robert Hallowell, Eſq; Thomas Hutchinſon, jun. Eſq; Benjamin Gridley, Eſq; Fredrick William Geyer, merchant, John Greenlaw, ſhopkeeper, David Green, merchant, Eliſha Hutchinſon, Eſq; James Hall, mariner, Foſter Hutchinſon, Eſq; Benjamin Mulbury Holmes, diſtiller, Samuel Hodges, book keeper, Henry Hulton, Eſq; Hawes Hatch, Wharfinger, John Joy, houſewright, Peter Johonnot, diſtiller, William Jackſon, merchant, John Jefferies, phyſician, Henry Laughton merchant, James Henderſon, trader, John Hinſon, yeoman, Chriſtopher Hatch, mariner, Robert Jarvis, mariner, Richard Lechmere, Eſq; Edward Lyde, merchant, Henry Lloyd, Eſq; George Leonard, miller, Henry Leddle, book keeper, Archibald McNeal, baker, Chriſtopher Minot, tide-waiter, John Murray, Eſq; William Malpin, bookbinder, Thomas Mitchel, Mariner, William Marſhn, Eſq; John Knuſton, tallow chandler, Thomas Knight, ſhopkeeper, Samuel Prince, merchant, Adino Paddock, Eſq; Charles Paxton, Eſq; Sir William Pepperel, baronet, John Powell, Eſq; William Lee Perkins, phyſician, Nathaniel Perkins, Eſq; Samuel Quincey, Eſq; Owen Richards, tide-waiter, Samuel Rogers, merchant, Jonathan Simpton, Eſq; George Spooner, merchant, Edward Stowe, mariner, Richard Smith, merchant, Jonathan Snelling, Eſq; Daniel Silſby, trader, Samuel Sewel, Eſq; Abraham Savage, tax gatherer, Joſeph Scott, Eſq; Francis Skinner, clerk to the late council, William Simpſon, merchant, Richard Sherwin, ſadler, Henry Smith, merchant, John Semple, merchant, Robert Semple, merchant, Thomas Selkridge, merchant, James Selkridge, merchant, Robert Service, trader, Simon Tufts, trader, Arodi Thayer, late martial to the admiralty court, Nathaniel Taylor, deputy naval officer, John Trouthbeck, clerk, Gregory Townſend, Eſq; William Taylor, merchant, William Vaſſal, Eſq; Joſeph Taylor, merchant, Joſhua Upham, Eſq; William Walter, clerk, Samuel Waterhouſe, merchant, Iſaac Winſlow, merchant, John Winſlow, jun. merchant, David Willis, mariner, Obadiah Whiſton, blackſmith, Archibald Wilſon, trader, John White, mariner, William Warden, peruke maker, Nathaniel Mills, John Hicks, John How, and John Fleming, priſoners, all of Boſton, in the county of Suffolk, Robert Auchmuty, Eſq; Joſhua Loring, Eſq; both of Roxbury, in the ſame county, Samuel Goldſbury, yeoman, of Wrentham, in the county of Suffolk, Joſhua Loring, jun. merchant, Nathaniel Hatch, Eſq; both of Dorcheſter, in the ſame county, William Brown, Eſq; Benjamin Pickman, Eſq; Samuel Porter, Eſq; John Sargeant, trader, all of Salem, in the county of Eſſex, Richard Saltonſtall, Eſq; of Haverhill, in the ſame county, Thomas Roby, trader, Benjamin Marſton, merchant, both of Marblehead, in ſaid county of Eſſex, Moſes Badger, clerk, of Haverhill, aforeſaid, Jonathan Sewall, Eq; John Vaſſal, Eq; David Phipps, Eſq; John Nutting, carpenter, all of Cambridge in the county of Middleſex, Iſaac Royall, Eſq; of Medford, in the ſame county, Henry Barnes, of Marlborough, in ſaid county of Middleſex, merchant, Jeremiah Dummer Rogers, of Littleton, in the ſame county, Eſquire, Daniel Bliſs, of Concord, in the ſaid county of Middleſex, Eq; Charles Ruſſel, of Lincoln, in the ſame county, phyſician, Joſeph Adams, of Townſend, in ſaid county of Middleſex, phyſician, Thomas Danforth, of Charleſtown, in ſaid county, Eſq; Joſhua Smith, trader, of Townſend, in ſaid county, Joſeph Aſhley, jun. gentleman, of Sunderland, Nathaniel Dickerſon, gentleman of Deerfield, Samuel Bliſs, ſhopkeeper, of Greenfield, Roger Dickenſon, yeoman, Joſiah Pumroy, phyſician, and Thomas Cutler gentleman, of Hatfield, Jonathan Bliſs, Eſq; of Springfield, William Galway, yeoman of Conway, Elijah Williams, attorney at law of Deerfield, James Oliver, gentleman, of Conway, all in the county of Hampſhire, Pelham Winſlow, Eſq; Cornelius White, mariner, Edward Winſlow, jun. Eſq; all of Plimouth, in the county of Plimouth, Peter Oliver, Eſq; Peter Oliver jun. phyſician, both of Middleborough, in the ſame county, Joſiah Edſon, Eſq; of Bridgewater, in the ſaid county of Plimouth, Lieutenant Daniel Dunbar, of Halifax, in the ſame county, Charles Curtis, of Scituate, in ſaid county of Plimouth, gentleman, Nathaniel Ray Thomas, Eſq; Iſrael Tilden, Caleb Carver, Seth Bryant, Benjamin Walker, Gideon Walker, Zera Walker, Adam Hall, tertius, Iſaac Joice, Joſeph Phillips, Daniel White, jun. Cornelius White, tertius, Meiger Carver, Luke Hall, Thomas Decrow, John Baker, jun. all of Marſhfield, in the ſaid county of Plimouth, Gideon White, jun. Daniel Leonard, Eſq; Seth Williams, jun. gentleman, Soloman Smith, boatman, all of Taunton, in the county of Briſtol, Thomas Gilbert, Eſquire Perez Gilbert, Ebenezer Bathaway, jun. Lot Strange, the third, Z bedee Terree, Bradford Gilbert, all of Freetown, in the ſame county, Joſhua Broomer, Shadrack Hathaway, Calvin Hathaway, Luther Hathaway, Henry Tiſdel, William Burden, Levi Chace, Shadrack Chace, Richard Holland, Ebenezer Phillips, Samuel Gilbert, gentleman, Thomas Gilbert, yeoman, both of Berkley, in the ſaid county of Briſtol, Ammi Chace, Caleb Wheaton, Joſhua Wilborne, Lemuel Bourn, gentleman, Thomas Perry, yeoman, David Atkins, labourer, Samuel Perry, mariner, Stephen Perry, labourer, John Blackwell, jun. labourer, Francis Finny, labourer, and Nehemiah Webb, mariner, all of Sandwich, in the county of Barnſtable, Eldad Tupper, of Dartmouth, in the county of Briſtol, labourer, Silas Perry, labourer, Seth Perry, mariner, Eliſha Bourn, gentleman, Thomas Bumpus, yeoman, Ephraim Ellis, jun. yeoman, Edward Bourn, gentleman, Nicholas Cobb, labourer, William Bourn, cordwainer, all of Sandwich, in the county of Barnſtable, and Seth Bangs, of Harwich, in the county of Barnſtable, mariner, John Chandler, Eſq; James Putnam, Eſq; Rufus Chandler, gentleman, William Paine, phyſician, Adam Walker, blackſmith, William Chandler, gentleman, all of Worceſter, in the county of Worceſter, John Walker, gentleman, David Buſh, yeoman, both of Shrewbury, in the ſame county, Abijah Willard, Eſq; Abel Willard, Eſq; Joſeph Houſe, yeoman, all of Lancaſter, in the ſaid county of Worceſter, Ebenezer Cutler, trader, James Eager, yeoman, both of Northborough, in the ſame county, Daniel Oliver, Eſq; Richard Ruggles, yeoman, Gardner Chandler, trader, Joſeph Ruggles, gentleman, Nathaniel Ruggles, yeoman, all of Hardwich, in the ſaid county of Worceſter, John Ruggles, yeoman, of ſaid Hardwich, John Eager, yeoman, Ebenezer Whipple, Iſrael Conkay, John Murray, Eſq; of Rutland, in ſaid county of Worceſter, Daniel Murry, gentleman, Samuel Murry, gentleman, Michael Martin, trader, of Brookfield, in the ſaid county of Worceſter, Thomas Beaman, gentleman, of Peterſham, in the ſame county, Nathaniel Chandler, gentleman, John Bowen, gentleman, of Princetown, in the ſaid county of Worceſter, James Crage, gentleman, of Oakham, in the ſame county, Thomas Mullins, Blackſmith, of Leominſter, in the ſaid county of Worceſter, Francis Waldo, Eſq; Arthur Savage, Eſq; Jeremiah Pote, mariner, Thomas Rois, mariner, James Wildridge, mariner, George Lyde, cuſtomhouſe officer, Robert Pagan, merchant, Thomas Wyer, mariner, Thomas Couſſon, merchant, John Wiſwall, clerk, Joſhua Eldridge, mariner, Thomas Oxnard, merchant, Edward Oxnard, merchant, William Tyng, Eſq; John Wright, merchant, Samuel Longfellow, mariner, all of Falmouth, in the county of Cumberland, Charles Callahan, of Pownalborough, in the county of Lincoln, mariner, Jonas Jones, of Eaſt-Hooſuck, in the county of Berkſhire, David Ingerſoll, of Great-Barrington, in the ſame county, Eſq; Jonathan Prindall, Benjamin Noble, Francis Noble, Eliſha Jones, of Pittsfield, in the ſaid county of Berkſhire, yeoman, John Graves, yeoman, Daniel Brewer, yeoman, both of Pittsfield aforeſaid, Richard Square, of Lanesborough, in the ſaid county of Berkſhire, Ephraim Jones, of Eaſt Hooſuck, in the ſame county, Lewis Hubbel, and many other perſons, have left the State, or ſome other of the United States of America, and joined the enemies thereof: Thereby not only depriving theſe States of their perſonal ſervices, at a time when they ought to have afforded their utmoſt aid in defending the ſaid States, againſt the inva-

The Massachusetts Banishment Act of 1778

The Massachusetts Confiscation Act of 1779



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Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the letter from S. Hopkins, Esqr &c. Whereupon,

8. *Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the several states, as soon as may be, to confiscate and make sale of all the real and personal estate therein, of such of their inhabitants and other persons who have forfeited the same, and the right to the protection of their respective states, and to invest the money arising from the sales in continental loan office certificates, to be appropriated in such manner as the respective states shall hereafter direct.

- The Confiscation Act of 1779 was passed following a recommendation from Congress.
- The law authorized the seizure of estates and property belonging to prominent royal officials and Loyalists who had fled Massachusetts.
- Confiscation extended to real estate, personal possessions, financial assets, and outstanding debts. Seized properties could be sold at public auction, with proceeds benefiting the state and the American war effort.
- Banishment and property confiscation permanently displaced many Loyalist families, redistributed wealth and land ownership, and reinforced the political and economic dominance of the Patriot movement in Massachusetts.



After the War



Questions?

How to Contact Me

Alexander Cain

HistoricalNerdery.com

Alex@HistoricalNerdery.com

