

**Timothy J. Compeau**  
**2007-2010 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award Recipient**



The 2007 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship was awarded to Timothy J. Compeau. Originally from Gananoque, Ontario, Tim received an Honours BA in History from Queen's University (2004) and an MA in Public History, University of Western Ontario (2006). In 2015, Tim Compeau received his Doctor of Philosophy in History from the University of Western Ontario.

Tim credits his interest in Loyalist history to a summer spent working at the Gananoque Museum. There, he discovered a suitcase filled with hand-written correspondence from the 1780s penned by the founder of Gananoque, loyalist Colonel Joel Stone. "For the rest of the summer, I got to explore these 200-year-old letters, put them in order and archive them," says Tim, who was 19 years old at the time. "That was a formative experience which left a lasting impression on me."

In 2007, Tim was accepted into the PhD program of the University of Western Ontario with his thesis titled "Reconciling Revolution: Loyalists and the United States, 1776-1815". As a three year UELAC Loyalist Scholarship recipient, Tim has shared his knowledge at many Ontario UELAC branch meetings. In 2008 he was the keynote speaker at the UELAC Central West Regional meeting in London, Ontario.

On receiving the UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Tim wrote, "The financial assistance provided by the UELAC is greatly appreciated and will allow me to undertake research trips, afford supplies and books. Your organization's continued support will help us both achieve our mutual goal of understanding the Loyalists and ensuring they are remembered in Canada and the United States."

Today, Dr. Timothy Compeau is recognized as a historian of colonial North America and the Atlantic World with a particular focus on the cultural history of the Revolutionary period. He presently works as a postdoctoral researcher at Brock University exploring the use of augmented reality (AR) applications for public history. Dr. Compeau teaches Digital History at the University of Western Ontario and American History at Huron University College in London, Ontario. He has consulted on numerous projects, is active in public history and is also available for freelance research.

Under the supervision of Dr. Nancy L. Rhoden, Tim Compeau's PhD dissertation explored how loyalists dealt with defeat and exile within eighteenth century honour codes.

Following is the thesis abstract for – "Dishonoured Americans: Loyalist Manhood and Political Death in Revolutionary America" by Timothy J. Compeau.

This dissertation offers a new reading of the loyalist experience by drawing on the insights and methodologies of cultural history and the anthropological study of honour, as well as the history of masculinity, to contextualize the class and gender-based concerns embedded in patriot and loyalist written records. American revolutionaries attacked loyalist men using deeply gendered language and symbols, and succeeded in dishonouring loyalism in general, while also driving individual loyalists from their communities. Male loyalists relied on the same culture of honour to rationalize their experiences, justify their continued allegiance to the Crown, and transform injuries intended as marks of shame into badges of honour.

This dissertation adds to the historiography of the loyalists, and to the wider study of eighteenth century masculinity and honour, by revealing that while the American Revolution was a deadly conflict, at the local level patriots often destroyed a loyalist's public existence and honour rather than kill him outright. Despite differences of political ideology, loyalists and patriots shared a common culture of manhood which made insults and humiliations exceedingly powerful. The combination of legal punishments and social ostracism is referred to in this dissertation as political death, an original theory which describes the process and consequences of the loss of citizenship, the negation of patriarchal power and privileges, financial ruin, and the cultural dishonour of white loyalist gentlemen and their families. Using the themes of household patriarchy, public and printed insults, captivity, and vengeance, this study explains how the benchmarks of manhood were systematically stripped from loyalists, and how the patriots formed their own masculine ideals in contrast to the dishonoured loyalists. This dissertation also reveals the importance of honour in the loyalists' self-perception, their official claims on the British government for compensation, and their political rebirth in Canada as they attempted to restore their privileged status with Britain's help. Loyalist honour has been described by American historians as being submissive and deferential, but this dissertation argues that it was in fact as assertive and demanding as the patriot concepts of manhood formed in the American Revolution.

#### Recommended Citation

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The dissertation is available free to download at Western University's [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Depository](#).

[Timothy J. Compeau Curriculum Vitae](#)