

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

Loyalists came from each of the Thirteen Colonies. Some historians put the number of Loyalists as a percentage of the total American colonial population as high as 33 percent.

Georgia, New York and South Carolina were the Loyalist strongholds, followed by New Jersey and Massachusetts. New York colony produced as many members for the British forces as the rest of the colonies combined, and at least half the total American Loyalists.

One noted historian estimates that as many as 55,000 men and boys may have fought for their King on a regular basis, with perhaps as many as 8,000 serving in the regular army in 1780. At least 312 companies were on the establishment of 50 separate Provincial Corps.

Loyalists took part in almost every important engagement of the war.

Between 80,000 and 100,000 Loyalist families migrated to:

- the United Kingdom
- the Bahamas
- Bermuda
- Sierra Leone
- Jamaica
- Canada
- Florida
- Dominica
- St. Vincent

It is estimated that at least 35,000 Loyalist families settled in the Maritimes, with about 10,000 Loyalist families settling in Quebec (later Quebec and Ontario).

Some historians estimate that there are at least four to six million Canadians living today (about one in five) who are descended from a Loyalist ancestor.

The Loyalists migration to Canada can truly be described as multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-religious. Loyalists were:

- men and women
- white, black, and North American Indian
- English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, German, Swiss, French, Dutch, Italian and American.
German may have represented the largest national group.
- Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Quaker, Dunker, Lutheran, Calvinist, Methodist, Jewish and Congregational.
- Farmers, shopkeepers, government officials, fisherman, butchers, soldiers, blacksmiths, glassmakers, merchants. Almost 50 percent of the Loyalists who submitted claims to the British government were farmers.

Loyalist claims for compensation represent only a small number of the people who arrived in Canada. There were 4,118 claims, which amounted to over 8 million Sterling. The British government eventually agreed to a payment of approximately 3 million Sterling, equivalent to \$20 million. In addition to free land, the British spent nearly 30 million (or \$200 million) including compensation, to settle Loyalists in Canada.

The majority of the Iroquois under Chief Joseph Brant settled near the Grand River on a grant of between 570,000 and 675,000 acres of land. The Fort Hunter Mohawks, under Chief John Deserontyon, settled at the Bay of Quinte.