

+Guy Carleton Chapter

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Finding Loyalists in the Records

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How to identify Loyalists in your Family Tree

Study your ancestor's location and residence

- 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 neighbours
 - Research all
 - Loyalist? Patriot?

Important questions

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

Loyalist Population Rankings (by numbers, not percentage)

1. New York
2. South Carolina
3. Massachusetts
4. New Jersey
5. Pennsylvania
6. North Carolina
7. Connecticut
8. Virginia
9. Georgia
10. Maryland
11. Rhode Island
12. New Hampshire
13. Delaware

Loyalist strongholds

Savannah
Boston
Charleston
Annapolis
New York City
Baltimore
Newport, RI
Philadelphia
Portsmouth, NH

Timing

Did your ancestor arrive in what is now Canada in the 1780s?

- o Ontario
- o Quebec
- o Nova Scotia
- o New Brunswick
- o Prince Edward Island

Did they receive a land grant in 1783 or after?



Beware! Not everyone who settled in what is now Canada in the late 18th century were Loyalists. Many were drawn to the region by economic opportunity and available lands

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!

Loyalist Muster Rolls

- Online Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies:
<http://www.royalprovincial.com/military/musters/musters.htm>
- Ward Chipman “Muster Master’s Office, Fonds (MG D1):
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/loyalists-ward-chipman>
- Carleton Papers, Loyalist and British Soldiers [https://www.bac-lac-gc.ca/eng/discover/military_heritage/loyalists/loyalists-british-soldiers-1722-](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military_heritage/loyalists/loyalists-british-soldiers-1722-)



TIP Adopt the Regiment FAN Approach

Confiscations

- Determine the confiscated property of your ancestors from published accounts or “Memorials”
- Note the physical location of land, and buildings for auctions and deeds
- Personal property confiscated from Loyalists will generally be listed in “Memorials” of Loyalist Claims
- Ancestry.com database of New York Sales of Loyalist Land,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5368/>
- Fold3.com database of Revolutionary War Prize Cases – Captured Vessels:
<https://www.fold3.com/publication/468/revolutionary-war-prize-cases-captured-vessels>

Loyalist Claims

- 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 in these collections
- 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 Revolution
- Audit Office (AO-12) and Audit Office (AO-
- Ancestry.com database of American Loyalist Claims, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3712/>



TIP AO-12 is consolidated and easy to read; more abstracted than AO-13 that contains the original documents

Prisoners

- Fold3.com database of the Continental Congress Papers (which contain lists of Loyalist prisoners): www.Fold3.com



TIP: When searching use "Tory" and "Loyalist"

Town Records

- Examine Town Records for mention of Loyalists
- Selectmen's records often report Loyalists and confiscations
- Example: *Boston Record Commissioners Series, Selectmen's Minutes from 1776 through 1786*
- Use FamilySearch.org catalog for searching Town Records by place

Newspaper Accounts

- Early American Newspapers via AmericanAncestors.org External Databases: <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/external-databases>
- Remember to search by name, location, and time frame
- Depending on if it is a paper published by the Loyalists or Americans search criteria will vary with the use Tory or Loyalist
- Include arrests, obituaries, confiscated property auctions, and later historical context

Published Town Histories and Diaries

- Many 19th- and 20th- century town and county histories are written with a varied approach to Loyalist history; some ignore the fact there were loyalists in the community and focus on the Revolutionary veterans and supportive families
- Often Town histories will publish oral traditions in the community, and some will quote from town records verbatim
- Example: Daniel T. V. Huntoon's *History of Canton, Massachusetts*
- Example: Rev. William Clark Papers, NEHGS Manuscript Mss 987
- Ancestry.com database, *The Diary of Thomas Vernon, a loyalist banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/23194/>

- For a variety of Loyalist papers and diaries search using ArchiveGrid: <http://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/> and WorldCat <http://worldcat.org>

Study Projects

- AmericanAncestors.org database of David E. Maas published research Divided Hearts, Massachusetts Loyalists, 1765-1790: <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databaserearch/80/massachusetts-divided-hearts-massachusetts-loyalists-1765-1790>
- American Philosophy Society Study Project on Maryland Loyalists: <https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/announcing-maryland-loyalism-project>
- Loyalist Migrations is a partnership between the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC), Huron University College's Community History Centre, and Western Libraries' Map and Data Centre. <https://loyalistmigrations-westernu.opendata.arcgis.com/>

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