

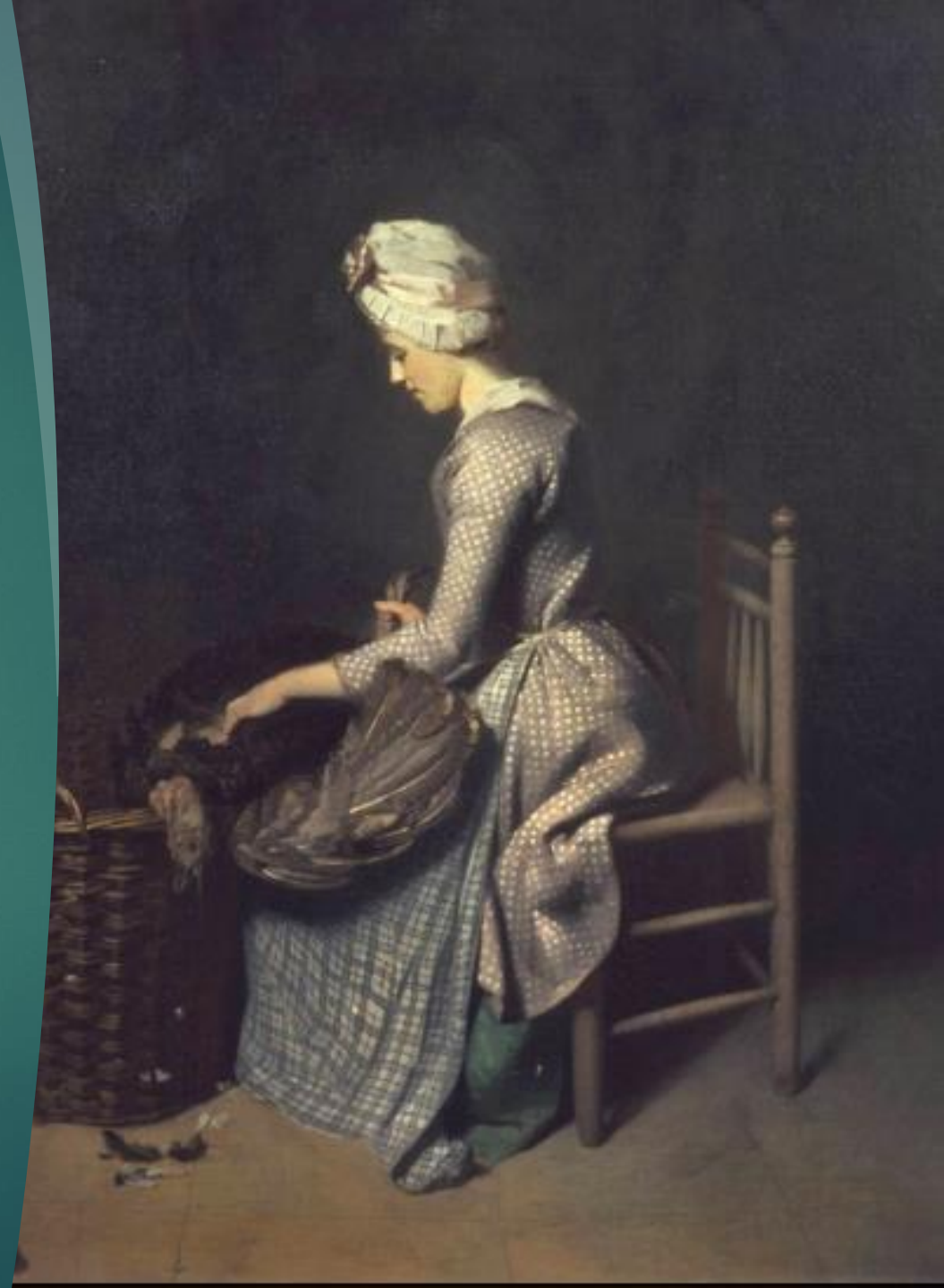


“I Have Scarcely a Mouthful of Bread for
Myself or Children”: Mary McAlpin
and The Plight of Loyalist Women During
the Saratoga Campaign

Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnsonstown, on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada, taken June 6th 1781

What We Will Discuss Today

- ▶ Who were the Loyalists?
- ▶ Introduction to the McAlpin Family
- ▶ Mary McAlpin's Story Begins: The Violation of the Civil Rights and Liberties of Loyalist Women
- ▶ The Flight North
- ▶ Loyalist Refugee Camps
- ▶ The Death of a Husband and Flight to England
- ▶ Questions?



A tall, white lighthouse with a red roof and a glowing lantern room stands on a rocky shore. The sky is a mix of dark blues and oranges, suggesting dusk. A small brown building with a red roof is at the base of the lighthouse. The foreground shows a rocky beach with a log. The text "Inspirational Quote" is centered in white serif font.

Inspirational Quote



How to speak Boston...



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.
- ▶ Many 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 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.

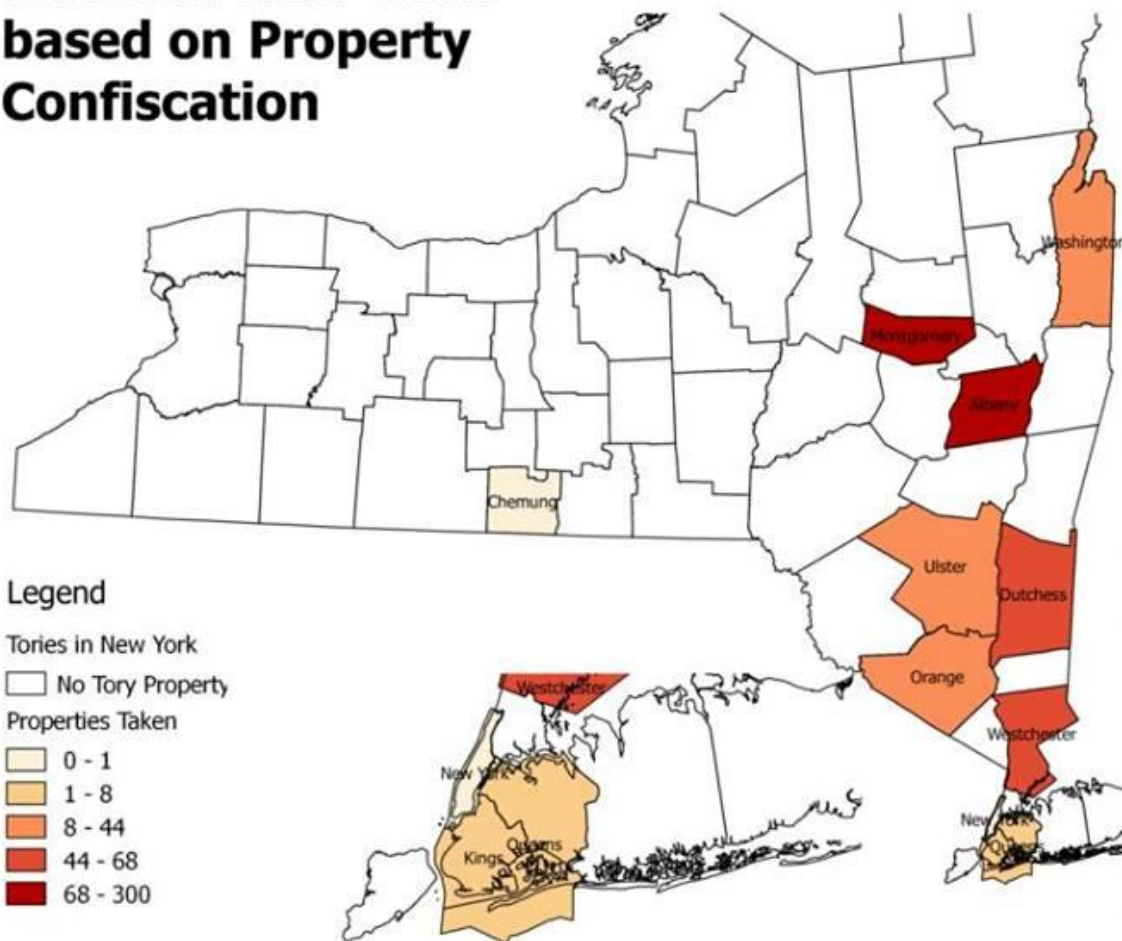
Who Were the Loyalists?

- ▶ 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.

Who Were the Loyalists? Ethnic Makeup

- ▶ Over half of the loyalist refugees who settled in Upper Canada were foreign born.
- ▶ Over 50% of Ontario loyalists were Scot Highland Roman Catholics. Second in number were German and Irish immigrants.
- ▶ An additional 8% claimed England as their place of birth.
- ▶ Many loyalist Scot 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.

Tories in New York based on Property Confiscation



Legend

Tories in New York

□ No Tory Property

Properties Taken

0 - 1

1 - 8

8 - 44

44 - 68

68 - 300

This map displays the concentration of Tories in New York during the American Revolution based on property owning Tories. The map was made by using court records of Tory property that was confiscated in 1783 under the Confiscation Act. We are able to see that the largest concentration of Tories was in two counties, Albany, and Montgomery. Montgomery was Tryon County prior to the war.

The court records also give us the demographics of the occupation of these Tories who had their property taken after the war. The numbers are as follows: 399 Yeoman, 200 Farmers, 64 Laborers, 23 Esquires, 19, Blacksmiths, 17 Tailors, 16 Carpenters, 13 Cordwainers, 12 Merchants, 1, Barber, 2 Widows, 8 Gentlemen, 4 Boatman, 8, Weavers, 2 Colonels in the Army, 2 Surveyors, 6 Shoemakers, 1 Sadler, 2 Captains, 2 Accomplands, 2, Wheelwrights, 1 Tavern keeper, 2, Bakers, 5 Inn Keepers, 2 Mariners, 2 Attorney at Laws, 2 Sawyer, 5 Physician, 4 Single Women, 1 Joiner, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Coopers, 1 Shipwright, 1 Millwright, 1 Hatter, and 12 with no occupation listed.

Map Created By: Amber Jolly 12/1/16

Source: "List of loyalists against whom judgments were given under the Confiscation Act", Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York



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. Many New York tenant farmers faced financial ruin if their landlords severed political ties with the Crown.

➤ Cultural Dependency

- Scottish settlers were known for their unquestionable loyalty to the Crown. In a society where clan ties were often paramount, many Scottish residents viewed King George III as their Laird or clan chieftain.

➤ Religious Principles

- Anglicans: Ministers and others believed they were bound by oath to support the King.
- Sandemanian belief was the Bible commanded that every Christian must be a loyal subject to civil authority, even if that ruler was tyrannical.
- Loyalist Congregational ministers argued church teachings forbade them to be disobedient to their king or Parliament.

Why Remain Loyal to the Crown?

- The Declaration of Independence
 - Many loyalists, including Justus Sherwood, Robert Rogers 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 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.

A sepia-toned historical photograph showing a large group of people in a camp. In the foreground, a man is riding a horse, and a dog is running. To the right, a woman in a dark, voluminous dress stands near a horse-drawn wagon. The background is filled with many other people, some standing and some sitting, in a hilly, outdoor setting. The overall scene suggests a busy, organized camp environment from the late 19th or early 20th century.

The McAlpin Family

The McAlpin Family

- ▶ After forty years of service in the British Army, including a stint in the 60th Regiment of Foot, Captain Daniel McAlpin retired from military life and settled in Stillwater, New York, with his wife Mary and three children James, Isabella and Mary.
- ▶ In May of 1774 he purchased approximately one thousand acres of land located on the west side of Saratoga Lake near the present town of Malta, New York. His first house was built on site in 1775, while a second was constructed in 1776.
- ▶ According to period accounts, both houses were timber log planked and floored.
 - ▶ The houses were valued at £100 and £200 respectively
 - ▶ A value of £1 Sterling per acre unimproved and £2.10 Sterling improved was placed on the land. By the summer of 1777 there were at least 170 acres in high cultivation.
 - ▶ Captain McAlpin had 20-25 servants in constant employ on his farm.

The McAlpin Family

- ▶ Following the Battles of Lexington and Concord, local authorities actively courted McAlpin to serve as an officer with the Continental Army. To the rebels, McAlpin was a respected authority who had the potential to recruit countless men on behalf of the American cause for independence.
- ▶ However, McAlpin rejected their overtures. It is possible he declined the offer because of the Scottish cultural norm of unwavering loyalty to the crown. It is more likely his motivations were financial.
- ▶ Specifically, McAlpin was embroiled in a bitter dispute over a six-thousand-acre tract of land that he had acquired along the Connecticut River in the Hampshire Grants.
- ▶ As was the case with many other New York landholders, settlers from New England seized his property and claimed it as their own.

The McAlpin Family

- ▶ McAlpin appealed to the Colony of New York, requesting crown authorities to intervene on his behalf and declare him the rightful owner.
- ▶ As a result, Captain McAlpin needed the King's continued jurisdiction over the Hampshire Grants if he was ever to take repossession of his disputed property again.
- ▶ Unfortunately, by 1775, a decision on his claim was still pending. Recognizing the inherent risk of losing his six thousand acres if he sided with rebels, McAlpin attempted to delay giving a decision for almost a year.
- ▶ However, by June 1776, McAlpin was called out by local rebel leaders and was forced to reject their invitation to join the American cause.
- ▶ McAlpin was promptly arrested and sent to a jail in Albany.

The McAlpin Family

- ▶ On July 26, 1776, Albany's Tory Committee declared that McAlpin was to be sent to Redhook, New York in preparation for transfer to a prison mine in Connecticut.
- ▶ However, the order was revoked due to McAlpin's quickly deteriorating health.
- ▶ In August 1776, American General Philip Schuyler personally intervened on behalf of McAlpin and ordered him released. In support of this order, Schuyler declared "little or no harm might be expected from him."
- ▶ Daniel McAlpin returned to his homestead and by September 1776 he was recruiting men for the British Army stationed in Canada. Less than a month later, McAlpin had successfully enlisted fifty-six men who were quietly dispatched northward without him.

- ▶ Despite being forced to flee from his home by rebel mobs and hide in nearby woods for over two weeks in February 1777, the Tory leader was still able to successfully recruit over 570 men.
- ▶ Unfortunately, local rebels quickly learned of the plot. A bounty of \$100 was set for the capture of McAlpin and four of his ringleaders.
- ▶ Captain Tyrannis Collins of the Albany County Militia was ordered to arrest McAlpin and “*carry [those] who were supposed to be disaffected to the country, as prisoners to Albany.*”
- ▶ Realizing he had been exposed, McAlpin was forced to flee to the safety of Canada with less than thirty of his recruits. The band of men retreated west towards the Adirondack Mountains; hot in pursuit were a combined force of Albany County militia and a regiment of Green Mountain Boys.
- ▶ “*There was a battle fought by . . . some loyalists against rebels from Schenectady and some Yankees in which we lost one man, five wounded and eleven taken prisoners which were confin’d in Albany.*” In the confusion, McAlpin and twelve of his followers managed to escape. The loyalists remained in hiding until Burgoyne’s army arrived at Fort Edward in August 1777.



Mary McAlpin's
Story Begins: The
Violation of the
Civil Rights and
Liberties of
Loyalist Women

The Plight of Those Left Behind

- ▶ When loyalist men fled to the safety of British lines, many expressed a belief that their wives and children would be spared from the political violence because they were innocent bystanders.
- ▶ From the male perspective, their wives were mere appendages with no independent wills or political roles of their own. Many male loyalists assumed that if their spouses were left behind, personal and real property would be carefully protected from seizure or destruction.
- ▶ As loyalist Captain Alexander McDonald opined “*surely the people [the rebels] has not got so barberously mad as to Molest or hurt a poor innocent woman and still more Innocent poor Children.*”
- ▶ Unfortunately, such a view was summarily rejected by the enemy. Rebel committees and colonial governments concluded that unless there was evidence to the contrary, the families of fleeing male loyalists shared in the guilt.

The Plight of Those Left Behind

- ▶ Unfortunately, such a view was summarily rejected by the enemy. Rebel committees and colonial governments concluded that the families of fleeing male loyalists shared in the guilt.
- ▶ In turn, many Americans directed their attention towards the loyalist women who were left behind and began to see them as vipers living in their midst. Over a short span of time, it was the women and their families who bore the brunt of the rebels' rage.
- ▶ Women and families that were branded as loyalists were subjected to various forms of punishment, the most common and devastating being the confiscation of their property.
- ▶ Looting and destruction of loyalist property was also an accepted practice. Finally, many women also faced imprisonment and violence at the hand of local mobs.

The Fate of Mary McAlpin

- ▶ Shortly after his escape, Daniel McAlpin's property was seized and his wife and family were arrested. Mary McAlpin described her family's treatment at the hands of the rebels in the vivid language in her petition for compensation submitted to the English government after the war.
- ▶ *From the day her husband left to the day she was forced from her home the Captain's house was never without parties of the Rebels present. They lived at their discretion and sometimes in very large numbers. They destroyed what they could not consume ... a group of armed Rebels with blackened faces broke into the McAlpin's dwelling house. They threatened Mary and her children with violence and menace of instant death. They confined them to the kitchen while they stripped every valuable from the home. A few days after this, by an order of the Albany Committee, a detachment of Rebel Forces came and seized upon the remainder of McAlpin's estate both real and personal.*

The Fate of Mary McAlpin

- ▶ In 1777, Mary McAlpin and her children were taken to an unheated hut located in Stillwater and locked inside “*without fire, table, chairs or any other convenience.*”
- ▶ Hoping that the hardship would eventually break Mrs. McAlpin and induce her to beg her husband to honorably surrender, the rebels kept Mary and her children in captivity for several weeks.
- ▶ Mary McAlpin refused to comply and instead responded her husband “*had already established his honour by a faithful service to his King and country.*”
- ▶ Enraged, rebels seized Mary and her oldest daughter, stripped both down to their shifts and “carted” both through Albany as they were pelted with dirt and rotten vegetables.

Local Response to the Abuse of the McAlpin Family

- ▶ On May 27, 1777, General Gates condemned the actions of local militiamen who raided the McAlpin home. However, Gates did little to prevent McAlpin's property from being sold to support the American war effort.
- ▶ One local minister later recalled, "*Mrs. McAlpin was brought down to Albany in a very scandalous manner so much that the Americans themselves cried out about it.*"
- ▶ A second account asserted "*when Mrs. McAlpin was brought from the hut to Albany as a prisoner with her daughter . . . they neither of them had a rag of cloaths to shift themselves. Eventually, Mary and her children fled to Canada and were reunited with Daniel.*"

The Situation Has Become Dire...

- ▶ As violence, imprisonment and looting continued to mount, many loyalist women recognized their situation was becoming desperate.
- ▶ In a letter to her husband John, loyalist Mary Munro described just how dangerous her situation was. *“For heavens sake, my dear Mr. Munro, send me some relief by the first safe hand. Is there no possibility of your sending for us? If there is no method fallen upon, we shall perish, for you can have no idea of our sufferings here; Let me once more intreat you to try every method to save your family”*
- ▶ In a second letter, Mary reiterated her desperate situation when she declared, *“I must leave my house in a very short time and God knows where I shall get a place to put my head in, for my own relations are my greatest enemies, ... I have scarcely a mouthful of bread for myself or children.”*



The Flight North To Canada

The Flight North

- ▶ Ultimately, many loyalist women, like Mary McAlpin, concluded they and their families would be safer by withdrawing to British held territory north in Canada or south in New York City.
- ▶ Despite popular misconception, loyalist women and their families 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.
- ▶ Officials carefully scrutinized petitions of loyalist women and set strict terms regarding their departure through an order of removal.
- ▶ Women were also subject to severe restrictions 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

- ▶ When loyalists left their communities and traveled north to Canada, they usually followed one of two routes.
- ▶ Loyalists from New York typically followed an overland route through Native American territory to Lake Ontario. Because much of the travel was along forest trails, Indian guides were essential.
- ▶ Unfortunately for many refugees, the route included passage through territory held by the Oneidas, an ally of the Americans. Likewise, refugees had to avoid Continental and militia detachments that actively patrolled the region.
- ▶ Once clear of enemy territory, refugees crossed Lake Ontario at Oswego or followed the southern shore of the lake to the Niagara River.
- ▶ The trip along the Niagara was often difficult, especially in time of spring floods.



The Routes Followed

- ▶ Those refugees from the Hampshire Grants 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 only use pack horses, ponies, or hand and horse carts for their belongings and provisions.
- ▶ Securing water transportation was critical to the flight north. Often refugees were often 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 the 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 the Mary McAlpin and her family 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.



The Hardships Faced Moving North

The toll the journey took on Mary was sadly announced by her husband when he declared “*the children recovered [from their illnesses] but Mrs. Munro never will.*”



Life In Loyalist Refugee Camps

The Aftermath of the Defeat of Burgoyne

- ▶ 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 what trade or profession they possessed and then were 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 bare necessities at minimal costs. More importantly, those on assistance were expected to work in exchange for aid.

The Aftermath of the Defeat of Burgoyne

- ▶ 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 coerced, to enlist in military service. If they refused, their families were often denied access to necessary public assistance.
- ▶ Who was placed in charge of overseeing the refugee crisis as loyalists flooded into Canada? Newly promoted Major Daniel McAlpin.
- ▶ Although he was in a position of authority, it appears even Mary McAlpin and her family was confined to a refugee camp (Machiche) as well.

Life Inside Loyalist Refugee Camps

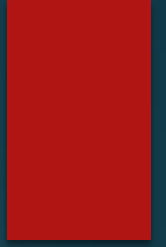
- ▶ Housing was the greatest problem. On September 14, 1778, government officials complained about the lack of pine wood to construct necessary housing for the refugees. By December and the onset of the Canadian winter, loyalist housing was not complete. British authorities even experienced difficulties establishing a schoolhouse for refugee children.
- ▶ Living quarters for loyalist refugees were cramped at best. In December 1778 one hundred and ninety-six refugees at Machiche were distributed among twelve buildings. The following year, over four hundred refugees were placed in a mere twenty-one buildings. Records suggest that these structures were only eighteen by forty feet in size.
- ▶ 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 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 the Majority of the Loyalist Refugee Population in Canada



Life Inside Loyalist Refugee Camps

- ▶ From the perspective of Mary McAlpin and other 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 Gershom French, a loyalist in charge of supplies at Machiche, of abusing loyalists and diverting basic materials to himself.

Loyalist Refugee Camp Restrictions and Further Hardships

- ▶ British authorities restricted loyalists and refused to let them travel outside of their respective camps. Refugees quickly discovered that they could not supplement their meager supplies with trips to neighboring towns and villages.
- ▶ Services, including laundry, were subject to price fixing under the threat of being removed from public assistance. Likewise, requests to sell goods, including alcohol, to complement their meager living conditions were summarily denied.
- ▶ An even greater 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.

Loyalist Refugee Camp Restrictions and Further Hardships

- ▶ As years passed and loyalists like Mary McAlpin and her family 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, suicides increased, and emotional breakdowns became commonplace.
- ▶ Several period accounts recalls “insane loyalists” being sent from refugee camps to hospitals in Quebec.
- ▶ In short, death and tragedy surrounded the loyalists in Canada.



The Death of Daniel McAlpin and Departure for England

A Husband and Father Passes

- ▶ In early 1780, Daniel McAlpin's health deteriorated drastically.
- ▶ Despite the efforts of his physicians, the major never recovered from the long-term exposure to the elements while he hid from rebel patrols in 1777.
- ▶ On July 22, 1780, McAlpin succumbed to his illnesses and passed away. The news of his death travelled quickly and by July 25, 1780, British officials in Canada were informed of the loss of their major.
- ▶ McAlpin's passing was a tremendous blow, emotionally and financially, to his family. For the next two years Mary McAlpin and her children lingered in Canada.

A Husband and Father Passes

- ▶ On March 15, 1781, Mary McAlpin personally appealed to the Royal Governor and overall commander of British forces in Canada, General Frederick Haldimand, for help.
- ▶ According to the general, Mrs. McAlpin pleaded that as a result of outstanding debts accrued by Major McAlpin “only the sum of £633 17s 3d remains for the support of herself and her two daughters.”
- ▶ It was the loyalist Jessup brothers who were among the first to step forward and donate funds to support the McAlpins.
- ▶ Unfortunately, the monies raised were only sufficient for the short term and a scandal involving her only son, James, exacerbated her financial situation.

Departure for England

- ▶ By 1782, the McAlpin's' financial situation was desperate and as a result, they were forced to sail for England.
- ▶ While in London, Mary McAlpin, and her daughters, repeatedly petitioned British authorities for £6000 in compensation for personal and real property lost at the hands of New York rebels during the American Revolution.
- ▶ Curiously, McAlpin makes little to no reference of her son or his military career. Instead, she focuses on the hardships of her husband, daughters and herself.
- ▶ By 1788, her petition remained unanswered, and she was forced to survive on a small pension.
- ▶ Mary McAlpin and her children never returned to America. To date, what became of Mary McAlpin and her family after the American Revolution remains a mystery.

6
The People of the State of New York by the Grace of God free and independent
To all to whom these presents shall come. ~~Knowing~~ Know Ye that we having
inspected the Pleas of our Supreme Court of Judicature do find a certain Record
which remains in our words following, to wit, New York Supreme Court, 1st
of the Term of October in the Fifth Year of the Independence of
of this State. Be it remembered, that on the twentieth

The Mary McAlpin Loyalist Claim Petition



Questions?

While the
Women
Only
Wept

*Loyalist
Refugee Women in
Eastern Ontario*

JANICE
POTTER-
MACKINNON



Required Reading!!!

How to Contact Me

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