



Hidden in the Documents: Discovering Loyalist Stories

Handout 6.1

Meet Some Loyalists

More than 220 years ago, James Parrot told his story and somebody wrote it down. They used a quill pen and black ink that was so good that we can still read it. We can follow James' adventures and his escape from capture during his unsuccessful raid in 1781. What about some other Loyalists whose stories are hidden in the documents we have today?

We have portraits of Sir John Johnson and his sister Ann. What kinds of adventures did these Loyalists have? Their portraits do not reveal many secrets.

What about the speech of Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea) a Mohawk chief and leader of a large number of Loyalist First People? What about his portrait? What can we learn about the battles, losses and betrayals the Mohawks faced? Brant tells us in his own words, and a special document tells us about Mohawk farmers who lost everything.

Find out about Capt. David Hill (Karonghyontyec). He even lost 46 fat hogs, cattle and other property when the Americans pushed the British and their Mohawk allies out of their lands.

John McIntyre has been discharged from his duties with the British army. Where has he been, what fighting has he done and what will he do now that his army days are over?

And what do we make of the note on our list of Loyalists given food and shelter above Cataraqui? The note says that Derek Dutcher gets special food rations on account of his long imprisonment. Can we find out more about Derek, or the two girls under age 10 whose father is William Avery?

We see a drawing of a Black woodcutter. What is his story? What can we learn about him?

And what do we think about the contract signed with an X by John McNaughtan. He can't write his name and he is only 9 years old. Yet it looks like he has agreed to work for



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the next 9 and a half years as a shoemaker's apprentice. He agrees not to get married, play cards or gamble. What can we find out about John?

Many more people's stories are hidden in the documents. Choose a person and see what you can uncover.