

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert,

My wife, my son and, through me, my extended family thank you for allowing us the opportunity of visiting Mulberry Plantation. The visit occurred on Monday, September 26, 2005. Mr. Miller met us at the gate and then personally took us around your "home", the guest houses, the old rice fields, to the river and the land that you are so beautifully restoring and improving. We not only saw Mulberry Plantation but also South Mulberry Plantation and Holly Hill Plantation. Just being there is a historic event for my family

Karen Emmons of Historic Charleston Foundation and Ben Miller both told me that you asked of me, if there is any information that associates my family history with that of Mulberry, that you would be pleased to hear about the information. Accordingly, I will give you a brief outline and include a few supporting important historic reproduced documents.

#### I. History of Hagar Broughton:

1. In the early part of the eighteenth century most of the slaves came from West Africa either directly to South Carolina or indirectly from Barbados to South Carolina. If one reviews the British Naval District taxing records of the time, in order to garner taxes for England, each slave imported by slave merchants was taxed. The nation of origin was noted and the sex but no other identifying detail. Those studies show that the vast majority of people came from West Africa countries of Guinea, Benin and Nigeria. Thomas Broughton in the years 1702-1705 was the Tax Collector for the Port of Charleston.
2. Amongst the multiple careers that Thomas Broughton had was that he also did business directly with the "Royal African Company." This English company had a monopoly for the slave trade in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, Hagar Broughton I may have been purchased directly by Thomas Broughton.
3. Thomas Broughton's Will: recorded on 8/19/1738 gave Seaton Plantation (Mulberry Castle) to his son Andrew Broughton. This same Will gave to his grandson Thomas Broughton (son of Nathaniel Broughton) Kibblesworth Plantation.
4. Andrew Broughton's Will: recorded 4/29/1743, Ann Broughton was given Hagar Broughton I along with her future offspring. This was four years after Thomas Broughton had died. Ann and Hagar were living at Seaton Plantation.
5. Ann Broughton married William Sanders about 1760. William Sanders died in 1776. He willed to his wife Ann Broughton Sanders, Caesar the son of Hagar. Hagar I is not mentioned in the Sanders Will. It is assumed that the Hagar Broughton II who was born in and who was to become a "Black Loyalist" is the daughter of Hagar I. It is possible that Hagar Broughton was a slave of Thomas Broughton, the son of Nathaniel Broughton.

#### II. The "Black Loyalists"

1. Mercantilism controlled international trade \_ both England and France were vying for control of the New World along with Spain and Portugal.

2. "**Dunsmore Proclamation**" in the Revolutionary War, 1775 \_ first emancipation of the enslaved in the Americas; to destabilize the economy of the South; British promise freedom; 100,000 slaves escape to the British.
3. "**Phillipsburg Proclamation**" 1779 \_ Henry Clinton promises not only freedom but also safe passage out of the Colonies should the British lose the War \_ to destabilize further the economy of the South.
4. Hagar Broughton escapes from Mulberry Plantation in 1779; joins the **Wagon Master General Department** of the British Army.
5. "Provisional Treaty between Great Britain and the United States" **Order by Sir Guy Carleton**, April 15, 1783 (negotiated with General George Washington) approves the sailing of Loyalists from NYC with the condition that only "free people of color" who have a written "**certificate of freedom**" as of 12/31/1782 will be allowed to leave the country. The Black Loyalists are to have their names recorded to serve as basis for compensation in the future to the former slave owners for the economic loss of their slaves.
6. "**Book of Negroes**" records the names of former slaves and free people of color.
7. "**Ship Nisbet**" sails 11/19/1783 bound for Port Mattoon Manifest (partial) with the name of **Hagar Broughton**, former slave of Thomas Broughton, noted; ship arrived in Nova Scotia in the winter of 1783-1784.
8. Hagar Broughton marries Benjamin **Gerrow** (variation: Guerard, Giraud. Garo, Gero ) in Guysborough County, Nova Scotia. Benjamin Gerow was the slave of Peter Guerard of Charleston. The Guerards were planters, goldsmiths and associates of the Broughtons.
9. Black Loyalists move to **Tracadie**, Guysborough County, NS in 1787.
10. Hannah Broughton Gero daughter Margaret Gero married Matthew Day where the family and other "Black Loyalists" **lived in relative isolation** and continue to do so today.

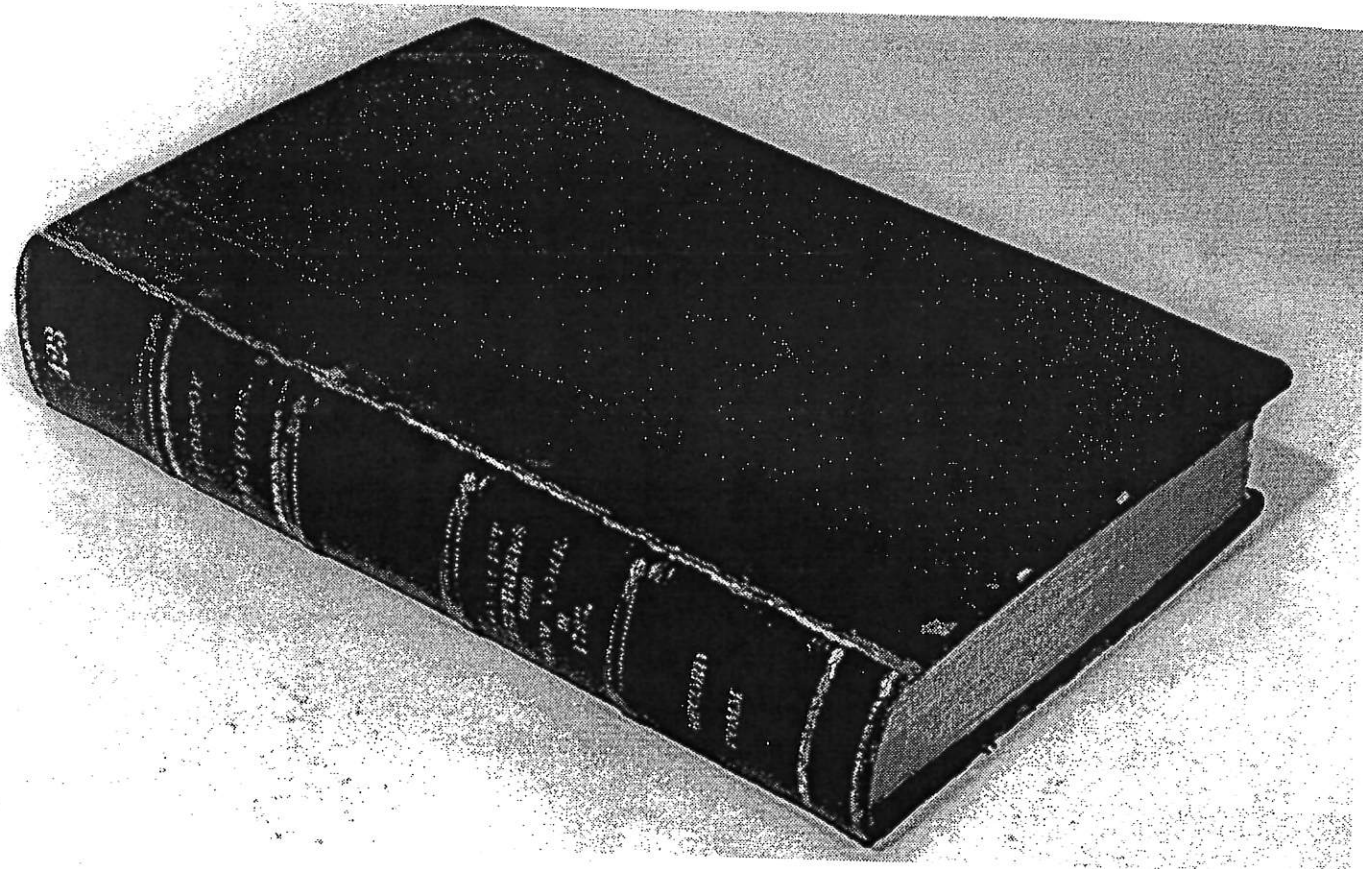
III. Genetic Descent: I was curious to see what Hagar Broughton's ancient ancestry was. Since I am a direct descendant of the people who had been transported in the late 1600's or early 1700's into South Carolina and/or from Barbados, I had performed a **mtDNA analysis** done. This test showed a 100 % probability that my ancient grandmothers came from the Yoruba People of South West Nigeria and Benin. My other ancient grandmother was also a Black Loyalist who escaped to Nova Scotia and lived in Tracadie, N.S. for over 200 years. The mtDNA tests only the female line of descent. I am seventh generation descendant.

I trust that you will find the above informative. I have done the research in honor of my 94 year old mother who wanted to know where she came from. My mother is still alive and of sound mind. My visiting Mulberry with my wife and son is the fulfillment of a dream for many people.

I do hope that I will have the opportunity to explore Mulberry Plantation further at another time.

Very truly yours.





*The "Book of Negroes" manuscript of 1783 is an important source for researching many Black Loyalist ancestors who came to Nova Scotia. It is a contemporary record of many of those who left the United States for other parts of the world following the American War of Independence (or American Revolutionary War), 1775-1783.*

*Photo: Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management*

Sally, 12, fine girl, (Capt. McCrea). Formerly slave to Charles Renk, South Carolina; left him 4 years ago.

Tom, 2, fine boy, (Capt. McCrea). Formerly slave to Charles Renk, South Carolina.

Sambo Frier, 24, ordinary fellow, (Daniel Ray). Formerly slave to George Frier, John's Island, South Carolina; left him in 1779. GMC.

Tom Rivers, 43, stout fellow, (Daniel Ray). Formerly slave to Col. Rivers, James Island, South Carolina; left him beginning 1780. GMC.

### **Brig Jenney bound for Port Mattoon Ammerson**

Phil Birtley, 50, ordinary & worn out, (John Nash). Formerly slave to John Birtley, Mill town, South Carolina; left him early in 1780. GMC.

Charles Middleton, 57, ordinary & worn out, (John Nash). Formerly slave to Arthur Middleton, Ashley River, South Carolina; left him in 1779. GMC.

Abraham, 10, fine boy, (John Nash). Proved to be the property of John Nash by Bill of Sale.

Bina, 17, likely wench, (John Nash). Proved to be the property of John Nash by Bill of Sale.

Bina, 17, likey wench, (John Nash). Proved to be the property of John Nash by Bill of Sale.

Pompey, 4 months, (John Nash) Proved to be the property of John Nash by Bill of Sale.

### **November 19, 1783**

### **Ship Nisbet bound for Port Mattoon Wilson**

Henry Derling, 32, stout fellow, M, (Mr. Thomas Cutler). Free. Formerly the property of Garret Derling, Jamaica South, who gave him his freedom 6 years ago.

Philip Thompson, 24, stout fellow, M, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly the property of James Thompson, Clown, South Carolina; left him 4 years ago. GMC.

Andrew Izzard, 28, stout fellow, B, (Wagon Master General

Rose French, 16, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Obadiah Bown, Shrewsbury, New Jersey; left him in 1778.

Phillis, 22, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Thomas Erskine, Charlestown, South Carolina; left him in 1776.

Mary, 1, (Wagon Master General Department). Her child.

Nancy, 2, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to John Miles, South Carolina; left him in 1781.

Sarah Stebbs, 22, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Born free on Long Island.

John, 20 months, (Wagon Master General Department). Her child.

Dinah, 22, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to John Rag, Charlestown, South Carolina; left him in 1778.

John, 2, (Wagon Master General Department). Her children.

Lakey, 7 months, (Wagon Master General Department). Her children.

Fanny, 30, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Dr. Bluefinch of Boston; left him in 1775.

Silvia Thompson, 23, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Thomas Ladson, Charlestown, South Carolina; left him in 1778.

Hagar, 20, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Thomas Broughton, Canonachee, South Carolina; left him in 1779.

Nanny, 26, stout wench, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Thacker Washington, Eastern Shore; left him in 1776.

Mary, 7 months, infant, (Wagon Master General Department). Her child.

Nancy, 20, stout wench, several scars in her face, (Wagon Master General Department). Formerly slave to Rutledge, Charlestown,

Kent County, Maryland; left him in 1777. GMC.

Abraham Bayard, 30, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Samuel Bayard, Cecil County, Maryland; left him in 1777. GMC.

Joseph Harris, 53, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Joseph Harris, Rhaway neck, New Jersey; left him in 1775. GMC.

Job Work, 22, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Anthony Work, Hemps Landing, Virginia; left him in 1778. GMC.

Willis Page, 35, stout fellow. Formerly slave to John Driver, Nansemond, Virginia; left him in 1779. GMC.

Polly, 14, fine girl. Formerly slave to Peter Trumbly, Springfield, New Jersey.

Peggy, 7, fine girl.

Paul Jackson, 35, ordinary fellow. Formerly slave to Joe Jackson, Boston; left him in 1775.

Charles Whiter, 25, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Dr. Dillehour, Charlestown, South Carolina; left him in 1777. GMC.

Dick Roach, 55, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Lieutenant Col. DeLancey.

Benjamin Gerrow, 25, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Peter Gerrow, Charlestown, South Carolina.

Isaac Balton, 23, likely fellow. Formerly slave to Joseph Johnson, Norfolk, Virginia; left him in 1778. GMC.

Bacchus Erwin, 40, ordinary fellow. Formerly slave to David Irwin, Philadelphia; left him in 1778. GMC.

William Goodwin, 45, ordinary fellow. Formerly slave to James Goodwin, Nansemond, Virginia; left him 1780. GMC.

Moses Mount, 20, ordinary fellow. Formerly slave to Michael Mount, Allentown, New Jersey; left him in 1776. GMC.

Esther Clark, 35, ordinary wench. Formerly slave to Michael Clark, Philadelphia; left him in June 1778.

William Billinger, 23, likely fellow. Formerly slave to George

Nancy Van Bruyck, 28, stout wench. Formerly slave to David Edwards, Tappan, New Jersey; left him in 1779.

Sarah Van Bruyck, 5. Her child.

Francis Wells, 24, stout lad. Formerly slave to Thomas Wills, Mulberry, Virginia; left him in 1780.

Thomas York, 31, stout fellow. Formerly slave to Col. Bird, Reading, Pennsylvania; left him in 1777.

In pursuance of two orders from His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton K. B. General and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces from Nova Scotia to West Florida inclusive, both dated Head Quarters, New York, the one 15 April 1783 and the other 2nd May, We whose names are hereunto subscribed do certify that we did carefully inspect the foregoing Vessels on the 13th June 1783 and that on board the said vessels we found the Negroes mentioned in the foregoing List amounting to **Two Hundred and ninety six men, two Hundred and fifty five women and one Hundred and ninety nine Children** and to the best of our Judgment believe them to be all the Negroes on board the said vessels and we enquired of the Master of each Vessel whether he had any Records, Deeds, Archives or papers or other property of the Citizens of the United States on board and to each Enquiry We were answered in the negative. And we further certify that We furnished each master of a Vessel with a Certified List of the Negroes on board the Vessel and informed him that he would not be permitted to Land in Nova Scotia any other Negroes than those contained on the List and that if any other Negroes were found on board the Vessel he would be severely punished and that We informed the Agent for the Transports of this matter and desired him to use means for returning back to this place all Negroes not mentioned in the List.

*[Signed]*: Gilfillan; Armstrong; W.S. Smith, Col., on the part of the United States; Samuel Jones, Secretary.

[Click Here for Book Three](#)

<b>Ancestor Search:</b> Having trouble finding your Ancestors? Try an Ancestry.com quick search:		
First Name:	Last Name:	Location:
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		<input type="button" value="Search"/>

# The Story of Guysborough County's Black Loyalists

by Gloria Desmond

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## The Coming of The Loyalists

The history of Blacks in Nova Scotia really begins with the arrival of the Loyalists at the time of the American Revolution.

In 1775, the Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, issued a proclamation promising freedom to "all Negroes" escaping to British lines. In 1779, the Phillipsburg Proclamation was issued by Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of British Military in America. This decree promised to every Black person, not only freedom but full security to follow any occupation.

Thousands of slaves emerged and formed their own units or corps and calvary troops. Others were used as guides, servants, spies and in the Royal Navy as pilots and seamen. As the war drew to a close in 1783, with the British accepting defeat, a hurried evacuation of Loyalists occurred from their base in New York. Many Blacks were taken to the West Indies and Florida. Others were taken to Nova Scotia. The coming to Nova Scotia was considered by the Loyalists as an entry into a new world where the dignity and independence, that came of equal citizenship, was to be theirs.

## The Guysborough Settlement

- *Country Harbour, June 12, 1784.* - South Carolina Royalist Regiment and King's Carolina Rangers arrived with some Black slaves and some free Blacks holding certificates.
- *Chedabucto Harbour, June 21, 1784.* - Department of Army and Navy ship arrived with 226 recorded Blacks as both servants and Negroes holding certificates. From the Muster Rolls of each of these ships, we can determine the number of Blacks accompanying the White Loyalists. Quite often the Black servants assumed the last name of their owner, since slaves were stripped of their African identity and given only an English first name.

## A Harsh Beginning

The first winter, the winter of 1785 - 1786, in Guysborough was tragic for all the inhabitants, particularly Blacks. In September of 1785, a vessel carrying much needed supplies to Guysborough was hi-jacked by a mutinous crew and taken to the United States where it was sold.



A large number of Blacks perished that winter without the necessities to sustain life. There were no more ships that year until the harbour opened in the Spring. The white settlers had guns and could hunt for food while Blacks were not permitted to have weapons at that time. Lacking food, suffering from exposure and profoundly affected by the strange new environment, many died.

Those who survived became increasingly confident in their ability to cope. By 1871, records show that Guysborough had a population of 747 Negroes. In 1872, there were 918. Communities and small settlements of Blacks existed at Sunnyville, Birchtown, Cook's Cove, Country Harbour, Old Guysborough Road, Upper Big Tracadie, Rear Monastery, and along the Tracadie River.

### The Reality

- Many of the Black Loyalists were skilled carpenters, sawyers, barbers, seamstresses, midwives, and coopers, however they had to work for less wages than their white counterparts.
- Land promised to the Black Loyalists was difficult to obtain as the system used for distribution was unfair. In the system used, white officers and gentlemen were to be served first. Ordinary whites had to wait their turn. The Blacks, coming up last, were all too frequently, not served at all.
- The land that Blacks received was smaller in size, less fertile, and often located in remote regions in blocks where they were left completely on their own.
- Early settlers were promised a mule, seeds, and tools. These provisions were extended to the White Loyalists, while Blacks being last on the list, went without, making it difficult to prepare land and produce crops to support their families.
- Punishment for the Black Loyalists for crimes such as theft, slander, assault, or vagrancy was severe. Between 1785 and 1791, there were no whites in Guysborough County receiving corporal punishment, however records indicate public whippings for Black settlers.
  - In 1786, a Black Loyalist woman, Sarah Ringwood, stole some butter. She was ordered, for punishment, to receive thirty-nine stripes on her naked back, at the Public Whipping Post in Manchester
  - During the year of the famine, in 1789, Eleanore Bourke received the same punishment, plus a weeks imprisonment for being a vagrant.
  - In 1790, Black Loyalist men were whipped for stealing food and a Black woman for lewd and indecent behaviour.

### Upper Big Tracadie

From the beginning of the Guysborough settlement, Thomas Brownspriggs, well educated and respected, emerged as a leader in the Guysborough settlement. By 1787, having grown fully dissatisfied with the conditions of the community in the Chedabucto Bay area, he partitioned Lieutenant Governor Parr for a grant of land for Negroes who wanted to become farmers.

On September 28, 1787, Governor Parr ordered the surveyor-general to lay out under the authority of Thomas Brownspriggs and 73 others, at Tracadie, 3,000 acres.

### Lincolnvillle

Few records have been found on the origins of the Lincolnvillle community. It might be assumed that early settlers formed a separate community apart from the Tracadie settlement on part of the original 3,000 acre land grant of 1787.

Traces of early inhabitants can still be found in the Lincolnville area. A road existed about a kilometer in from the present highway, running almost parallel to Route 16. This settlement was part of what was called the "Sixty's Lots". Remnants of early pit homes are still there.

These homes were made by hollowing out ground, lining the pit with fir boughs, and securing the top with rock circles. These often measured 8 ft. by 6 ft. and housed families of up to six people. When tools became available, settlers began building log cabins.

Despite the lack of fertile land and water, the availability of firewood and isolation from other Black and White communities, the people of Lincolnville continue the struggle to survive as a community.

*(Taken from lecture notes Mrs. Desmond uses in Guysborough County Schools)*

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[Who are your ancestors?](#)

[Click Here](#)



# *Black Loyalists: Our History, Our People*

Home: Documents: Official: Carleton's Orders

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*Our Story*

*revolution*

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*People*

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*Feedback*



MANUSCRIPT#15465

SIR GUY CARLETON PAPERS PANS MFM\*101429-  
DOCUMENT"10427

HEADQUARTERS: NEW  
YORK 15 April, 1783 ORDERS

It is the Commander-in-Chief's order that the following extract from the Seventh Article of the Provisional Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, be strictly attended to and complied with, by all persons whatsoever under His command.

And His Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed and without causing any destruction or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American Inhabitants, withdraw out His services, provisions and fleets from the said United States and from every post, place and harbour within the \_\_\_\_\_, leaving in place any fortification, the American artillery that may be therein, and shall also order and cause all the archives, records, deeds and papers belonging to any of the said States or their citizens, which in the course of the war, may have been taken into the hands of the Officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper States and persons to whom they belong. All Masters of Negroes are particularly cautioned at their \_\_\_\_\_ not to commit any breach of the above Article. The Commander-in-chief has been pleased to appoint certain

Story:  
Revolution

Dunmore's  
Proclamation

Philipsburg  
Proclamation

Documents

Virginia  
Congress's  
Response

\_\_\_\_ of the Royal Navy: Captains Gifillan and Armstrong, Assistant Deputy Quarter-General on His part and who has obligations to HopThins and Parker Esquires, that they have at His request undertaken Until proper persons shall be authorized by Congress to attend to the part of America where intends all embarkation's and see that the above stipulations are strictly observed. Three of those gentlemen are hereby fully empowered to act as American agents, always being present and considered as one of that number. Any person claiming property embarked or to be embarked, will apply to any of these gentlemen, who will call a Board to examine into the merits of their claims should any doubts arise on examination, the circumstances of the case to be minuted-down so as to furnish proper evidences to Commissioners, who may hereafter be appointed on both sides to adjust and settle all claims and compromise's between the parties as approved \_\_\_\_\_ for this purpose. Three of these gentlemen will please to examine every transport vessel to be sailing to prevent any evasion of their order. The Refugees and all Masters of Negroes will be attentive that no Negro is permitted to embark as a Refugee who has not recorded himself within the British Lines do not receive passport.





## Black Loyalists: Our History, Our People

**Home: Documents: Official: Virginia Declaration**

CA  
DI  
COL



Virginia, Dec. 14, 1775.

Our Story

revolution

exile

arrival

prejudice

faith

suffering

expedus

People

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Feedback



By the Representatives of the People of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, assembled in GENERAL CONVENTION

### A DECLARATION

WHEREAS lord Dunmore, by his proclamation, dated on board the ship William, off Norfolk, the 7th day of November 1775, hath offered freedom to such able-bodied slaves as are willing to join him, and take up arms, against the good people of this colony, giving thereby encouragement to a general insurrection, which may induce a necessity of inflicting the severest punishments upon those unhappy people, already deluded by his base and insidious arts; and whereas, by an act of the General Assembly now in force in this colony, it is enacted, that all negro or other slaves, conspiring to rebel or make insurrection, shall suffer death, and be excluded all benefit of clergy : We think it proper to declare, that all slaves who have been, or shall be seduced, by his lordship's proclamation, or other arts, to desert their masters' service, and take up arms against the inhabitants of this colony, shall be liable to such punishment as shall hereafter be directed by the General Convention. And to that end all such, who have taken this unlawful and wicked step, may return in safety to their duty, and escape the punishment due to their crimes, we hereby promise pardon to them, they surrendering themselves to Col. William Woodford, or any other commander of our troops, and not appearing in arms after the publication hereof. And we do farther earnestly recommend it to all humane and benevolent persons in this colony to explain and make known this our offer of mercy to those unfortunate people.

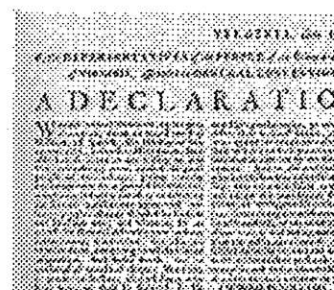


Image of the Virginia Declaration

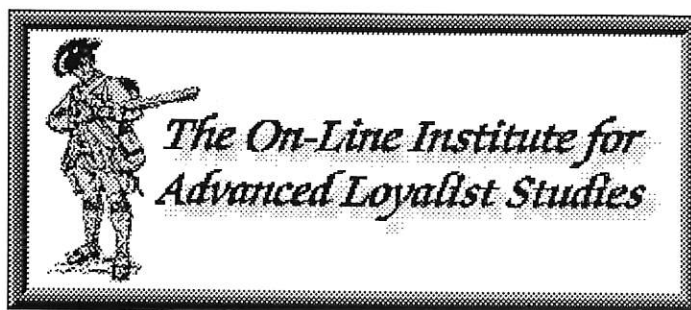
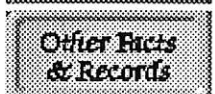
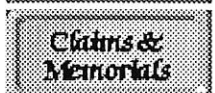
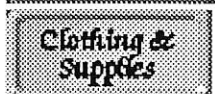
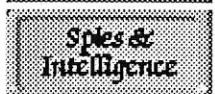
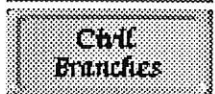
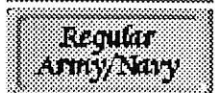
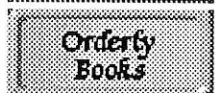
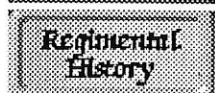
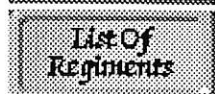
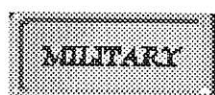
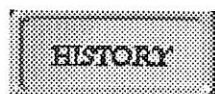
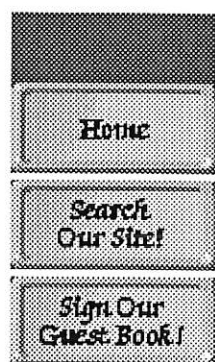
Lord Dunmore's Proclamation

**Chronological Timeline**

Nov. 1775

Lord Dunmore's Proclamation

Nov. 1775



## Black Loyalists: Permission for John Williams

New York 19 April 1783

This is to Certify to whomever it may Concern that the Bearer hereof John WILLIAMS a Negro, resorted to the British Lines, in Consequence of the Proclamations of Sir William HOWE & Sir Henry CLINTON, late Commanders in Chief in America; and that the said Negro has hereby his Excellency Sir Guy CARLETONs Permission to go to Nova Scotia, or wherever else he may think proper.

By Order of Brigadier General BIRCH Commandant of the City and Garrison of New York this 19th day of April Annoque Domini 1783.

Edwd. WILLIAMS  
Major of Brigade

N.B. His Wife

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This is to Certify that John WILLIAMS came into the British Lines in Consequence of the Proclamation by Sir Henry CLINTON and that he has remain'd in my Service Ever since.

Wm. FYERS Lieut. of Engineers

Public Archives of Nova Scotia, RG 1, Volume 170, page 350.