

LOYALISTS IN KINGWOOD, PART 2

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6 MARCH 2023

NEW JERSEY LOYALISTS - RECAP

❖ Recap

- ❖ Estimated 50,000 Loyalists in New Jersey - ~ 1/3 of the white population
- ❖ New Jersey Volunteers (NJV) - Fought on the British side

❖ Timeline

- ❖ 1776 - The Break – Independence; NJV commissioned; Provincial Congress and Council of Safety formed and started crackdown on Loyalists
- ❖ 1778-1779 - Legal action – Loyalist real and personal property seized and sold
- ❖ 1781-1784 – Peace – Some Loyalists try to come back; some flee to Canada

SOCIETAL IMPACT

- ❖ Continuum from Loyalist to Patriot
- ❖ In between:
 - ❖ Straddlers – Relatives on both sides
 - ❖ Trimmers – “Fudged” their position
 - ❖ Opportunists – Took advantage of the moment
- ❖ Quakers – particularly difficult; supposed to maintain neutrality but if they helped both sides, e.g., tending to battle wounded, seen as loyal to British

KINGWOOD LOYALISTS

- ✓ Benjamin Thatcher – fled to Nova Scotia; later returned to Kingwood
- ❖ Edward Taylor
- ❖ Joseph Merrill
- ❖ Rev. David Sutton
- ❖ Militia Holdouts
- ❖ George Fox
- ❖ Mary Grandin Vought
- ❖ Kingwood Connection

KINGWOOD MILITIA HOLDOUTS – FALL 1778

- ❖ Several Kingwood men refused to march under Capt. Daniel Bray – Sept 1778
 - ❖ Exact reason unknown
 - ❖ Fined; some still refused
- ❖ Names:
 - ❖ George Fox
 - ❖ John Hotpence
 - ❖ Isaac Kitchin
 - ❖ Josiah More
 - ❖ James Powel
 - ❖ John Price
 - ❖ William Reder
 - ❖ Benj. Rettinhouse
 - ❖ Abner Stout
 - ❖ Amos Thatcher
 - ❖ Ambrass Waterhouse
 - ❖ Charles White

Revolutionary War Records
From the Docket of Richard Opdyke, J.P., of Kingwood

These extracts have been in the GSNJ collection for some years. They are in typewritten form and bear a pencil note in the hand of Russell B. Rankin, long editor of this magazine, by whom the copy below doubtless was made. Location of the original docket is not indicated.

November the 25th 1778. By virtue of a Return made to me by Daniel Bray Captain of the under Named persons Refusing to march with the Malitia according to General orders in Septer last a Disstress Warrant was granted against them for their fines and Cost as appears By the following List of their Names according to the Late malitia act passed April 19th 1778—Constable Wm. Coolbaugh

Jonathan More	£ 7.16.0	
James Powel	5. 6.0	
John Price	5. 6.0	
William Reder	10. 6.0	to £5 remitted
Benj. Rettinhouse	5. 6.0	
Abner Stout	39.16.0	
George fox	20. 6.0	
Ambrass Waterhouse	45.16.0	
Charles White	20. 6.0	
Amos Thatcher	5. 6.0	
John Hotpence	22.16.0	to £7 remitted
Josiah More	5. 6.0	
Isaac Kitchin	7.16.0	

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Betty DeSapio, PLCGS, 6 March 2023

KINGWOOD MILITIA HOLDOUTS, CONT'D

- ❖ Some still refused in November and December; others joined refusal

January the 5th 1779. By vertue of a Return made to me By Daniel Bray Capt of the under Named persons Refusing to Serve in their tower of Duty to Sessex Disstress Warrants was granted against them for their fines and Costs as appears By the following List of their Names

John price	£ 5. 6.0
Josiah More	5. 6.0
Wm Reder	5. 6.0

the following under Named persons was Returned for Neglecting to appear at the Musters on the Days appointed By Law for that purpose

Return for November training	fine & cost
James Powel	£ 0.13.6

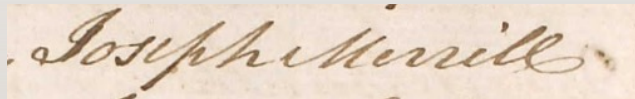
Thomas Price	13.6
Abner Stout	13.6
James Riley	13.6
Charls White	13.6

Returned for December training

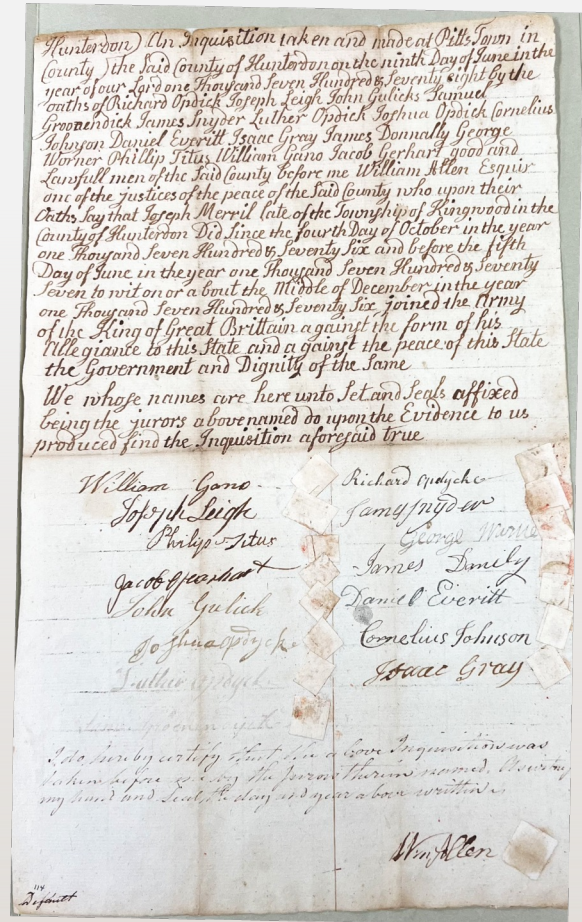
Joseph Hart	1. 1.0
Isaac Kitchin	13.6
James Powel	13.6
Aron pettit	1. 1.0
Dennis Riley	1. 1.0
John price	13.6
Elisha Jolley	13.6
Amos Thatcher	13.6
Hezekiah Wood	13.6
Abner Stout	1. 1.0
Daniel Lake	13.6
James Riley	13.6
Rubin Lake	13.6
John Johnson	1. 1.0
Henry Waterhouse	1. 1.0
George Opdycke	1. 1.0

JOSEPH MERRILL

- ❖ June 1778 – Inquisition, Pittstown
 - ❖ “...late of...Kingwood...Did Since the fourth Day of October [1776] and before the fifth Day of June [1777] to wit on or about the Middle of December [1776] joined the Army of the King of Great Britain...”
- ❖ Dec 1778 – Personal estate sold - ~174£
- ❖ Kingwood tax ratables – Not in ratables (1778 earliest); would not be listed if not in residence
- ❖ April 1779 – Property in Kingwood sold
- ❖ 1787 – Filed a claim through British government to Hunterdon County for items confiscated



Joseph Merrill



Joseph Merrill Inquisition, 1778
NJ State Archives

REV. DAVID SUTTON (1730-1812)

- ❖ Baptistown minister – Baptist
- ❖ Served in Baptistown ~1763 thru ~1783
- ❖ Conflicting information; both could be true
 - ❖ 1777 - refused to take oath and was fined – county records
 - ❖ Oct 1777 – he requested to appear before Council and took the oath
- ❖ It is said he was favorable to the British.

GEORGE FOX (1753-1815)

- ❖ 1777 - Fined for refusing oath
- ❖ 1778 - one of the Kingwood militia holdouts
- ❖ 1778-1803 - in Kingwood tax ratables
- ❖ No evidence real or personal property was sold
- ❖ Possibly, he was the George Fox who served in NJ Volunteers, but identifying evidence was not found

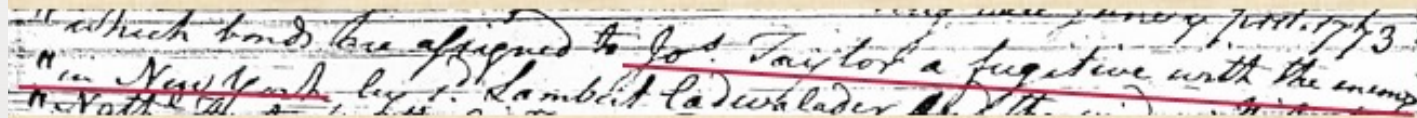
MARY GRANDIN VOUGHT (1755-1831)

- ❖ Wife of Captain John Vought, who fought for the British as a New Jersey Volunteer
- ❖ 1777 – She joined John in Staten Island – likely pressured by Safety Council (they had called for her appearance on the matter)
- ❖ Spent much of war on Staten Island
- ❖ Family went to Nova Scotia – 1783
- ❖ Back to US – near Albany, 1792 – land had been owned prior to the war

JOSEPH TAYLOR – KINGWOOD CONNECTION

❖ From Reading house history

LOYALIST DRAMA, 1783



*"...which bonds were assigned to Jos. Taylor a fugitive with the enemy
" in New York by J. Lambert Cadwalader of the ...
" North ..."*

- Joseph Reading's mortgage was assigned to Joseph Taylor, a loyalist.
- In April 1783, Taylor was "...a fugitive with the enemy in New York..." New York was occupied by the British and loyalists until November 1783.
- Mortgage was confiscated as an asset of Joseph Taylor; apparently looked unpaid
- Joseph Reading presented proof he had paid off the mortgage in 1779, so he was able to keep the land.

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Other:

New Jersey State Archives: some original Loyalist inquisitions; various Loyalist records

Online services: *Ancestry, FamilySearch, Find a Grave*

The *Internet Archive* website ([www.https//archive.org](https://archive.org)) has a vast amount of early New Jersey Government records available in the public domain, including the “Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey, 1775-1776 and some or all volumes of the “Minutes of the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey.”