



The American Revolution and the Loyalists.

- Not everyone believed in separation from the Crown (approximately one-third supported the Crown, one third supported the Continental Congress, and the final third were ambivalent), causing a great number (called “Loyalists”) to head north for British territory outside of the Thirteen Colonies.
- These Loyalists came from a variety of different backgrounds: English, Irish, Scottish, Dutch, German, Scandinavian, Black (both free and slaves), as well as many Americans born in the Thirteen Colonies.
- This influx of settlers created new homes for themselves in modern-day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (settling on land that had been vacated by the Acadians), Quebec and Ontario, where their descendants continue to be active members of their communities.
- Representatives of the Crown, notably John Graves Simcoe (the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada), began to mould these regions to reflect a very British identity.
- Native allies of the British (largely Mohawks, Cayugas, and Onondagas) made up nearly six thousand of the Loyalists travelling north to safety. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 had created a vast territory for First Nations’ peoples to live in west of the Adirondacks, but as the Thirteen Colonies threw off the British Crown, such agreements became obsolete. Fighting alongside the Crown, First Nations’ peoples immigrated north to lands set aside for their settlement after the defeat of British forces. The loyalty of the First Nations received special recognition from the Crown.
- Twice, Americans tried to invade Canada, occupying both Montreal and Quebec City in 1775, but were pushed back. That the republicans were repelled highlights how many French Canadians saw that liberties granted to them by the Crown could only be guaranteed through its continued existence on the continent, for without the Crown, the French would become an unprotected minority.

"First Loyalists" or United Empire Loyalists

- By 1784, some 10,000 Loyalists had arrived from the United States in Québec seeking refuge. They had expected to find familiar institutions: British laws, Protestant churches, and freehold land tenure. Instead, they found Catholic churches and unfamiliar French-language political institutions.

- British authorities dealt with this problem in two ways:
 - sending most of these Loyalists into the more westerly rural part of the province that would eventually become known in 1791 as Upper Canada;
 - creating new law and governmental institutions alongside the French ones to benefit the remaining Loyalists.
- On November 9, 1789, Québec governor Lord Dorchester issued an order in council that gave particular recognition to Loyalists by formally differentiating them from other settlers who had immigrated to the colony after 1783. He allowed them to affix the initials "U.E." after their names so they could be recognized as those who adhered to "the Unity of the Empire".
- These settlers are among those referred to as the United Empire Loyalists, though it has since come to include those who settled in the Maritimes prior to the creation of America in 1783 as well.
- As a result of Lord Dorchester's order, the sons and daughters of adult Loyalist settlers were also to be given 200 acres of free land when they became 21 years old. (Daughters could claim this land even earlier in life if they married before turning 21).

"Late Loyalists" or "Simcoe's Loyalists"

- In 1791, John Graves Simcoe became the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. After obtaining land from the Aboriginals, he began an aggressive campaign to attract:
 - former military officers living in the Maritimes who were loyal to Britain.
 - Americans living in what was now called the United States, particularly from New York and Pennsylvania.
- He attracted American settlers by offering cheap land and other kinds of assistance, like food, clothing, building materials and seeds.
- Simcoe extended his invitation to those who were neutral and hadn't taken up arms against the British during the American Revolution. He was particularly targeting those who:
 - were unhappy with life in the newly-created United States;
 - wanted to obtain fairly inexpensive land in Canada.

Many historians now feel, though, that most of these U.S. immigrants remained somewhat sympathetic to the ideals of American republicanism well after their arrival, and came not out of loyalty to Britain, but out of forwarding their own self-interests. It is now felt that this does not necessarily make them true "Loyalists".

For instance, members of several pacifist religious sects, like Quakers and Mennonites, came to Upper Canada from America during this period when Simcoe offered them an exemption from having to take part in future military service. While one can admire the moral or religious convictions of these settlers in opposing war, it can be argued that they came to Upper Canada for the sole purpose of avoiding compulsory military service, not out of a sense of loyalty to British interests.

Nevertheless, Americans of various ethnic descent continued to arrive until the War of 1812 began. This is not to speak of the fact that American immigrants, who had been designated as being United Empire Loyalists by Lord Dorchester in 1789 (see "First Loyalists" above), had already migrated to the region. Some United Empire Loyalists were living in "Upper Canada" as early as 1781 (a full decade before the province was created) around the Niagara Peninsula.

All of these American settlers generally lived on the north shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario or in the uppermost reaches of the St. Lawrence River valley system well to the southwest of the Montréal region.

By 1800, Upper Canada's population had grown to 50,000 from about 12,000 in 1791. By 1815, the population grew to 95,000. About 80 per cent of those living in the colony around this time had been born in America.

