

Lesson Plan:

Loyalists in Delaware

Content Standards:

Delaware State History Standard 3

9-12a: Students will compare competing historical narratives, by contrasting different historians' choice of questions, use and choice of sources, perspectives, beliefs, and points of view, in order to demonstrate how these factors contribute to different interpretations.

Advanced Placement Historical Thinking Skill:

Making Connections

Claims and evidence

Primary Documents:

Lesson plan on loyalist in the state using reports of incidents such as the Chennry Clow, Black Camp Rebellion, Thomas Robinson Loyalist.

Grade Level: **9-12**

Procedure:

Warm up: *John Adams wrote that approximately one-third of the American population supported the move for independence (Patriots), one-third of the population supported the king (Loyalists), and one-third supported neither side (neutral).* Teacher should propose this statement and then ask the following questions. Let students discuss without any answers from you. Students should brainstorm.

Questions:

1. What is a loyalist and what is a patriot?
2. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. What would cause someone to choose one group over another?
4. Why does the document look so bad?

Procedure: Students will receive copies of each of the documents individually. Students will then answer the questions below Worksheet A. When students finish individually put them in groups of 2 or 3 and have them discuss their answers.

Activity: Students should use the knowledge they gained from the above exercise to create a news report about loyalists and their threat. The report should be 3 minutes long. Students can work in pairs or groups of three. Students should have a news desk and cut away to a reporter in the field. Visuals should be used. Students should video the news reporter to share with class. Information gleaned from the documents should be used in the report.

The questions can be put into a Peardeck, Nearpod, or other interactive platform for group discussion.

Context for Teacher

Delaware during the revolutionary war had an active loyalist population. It is hard to count the exact number of loyalists within the state but the historical record illustrates the activity of the loyalists especially in the more conservative areas of Kent and Sussex Counties.

One of the more well-known incidents is that of Cheney Clow. Clow was an immigrant farmer in Kent County who held a commission in the British Army. He led around 100 other loyalists in guerilla type raids throughout Central Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Clow's force was motivated by economic considerations and opposition to the Whig control of government of Delaware. Clow and his small force built a small fort in, what is now Kenton. A small battle was fought here and Clow and his followers were driven off and the fort was captured. Clow himself was able to escape and was not apprehended until 1782 when the Sheriff John Clayton, with a warrant for Clow's arrest, was able to arrest him. The apprehension was not without casualties as shots were fired and at least one person Joseph Moore was killed. Clow's insurrection worried even those in the Continental Congress including George Washington. In 1788 Clow was executed by the State for murder.

1780 saw the poor farmers in Sussex County engaging in a rebellion which lasted about a month. These farmers upset over the taxes imposed on them for the war effort against the British and the closing of markets in Boston and Philadelphia began to seize weapons and supplies throughout the county. The ultimate goal was to secure Sussex County for the British. However, poor organization, discipline, and lack of communication with the British assisted in its eventual collapse of this Black Camp Rebellion. Troops from Kent County were sent to the area of the Black Swamp to disperse the rebellion. Members of the rebellion were arrested and fined or required to serve in the Continental Army.

One of the most prominent loyalists in the state was Thomas Robinson a store owner at the Head of the Indian River in Sussex County. Robinson initially was a Delaware representative to the Stamp Act Congress but soon changed his tune when it became apparent that direct and violent confrontation with England was becoming the norm. Robinson began to speak against the Continental Congress and any opposition to the King. Robinson would defy Delaware authorities when called before them to answer for charges of defying the Whig government. By the Declaration of Independence any criticism of the patriot cause was unthinkable. By 1776 Robinson had fled Delaware to New York.

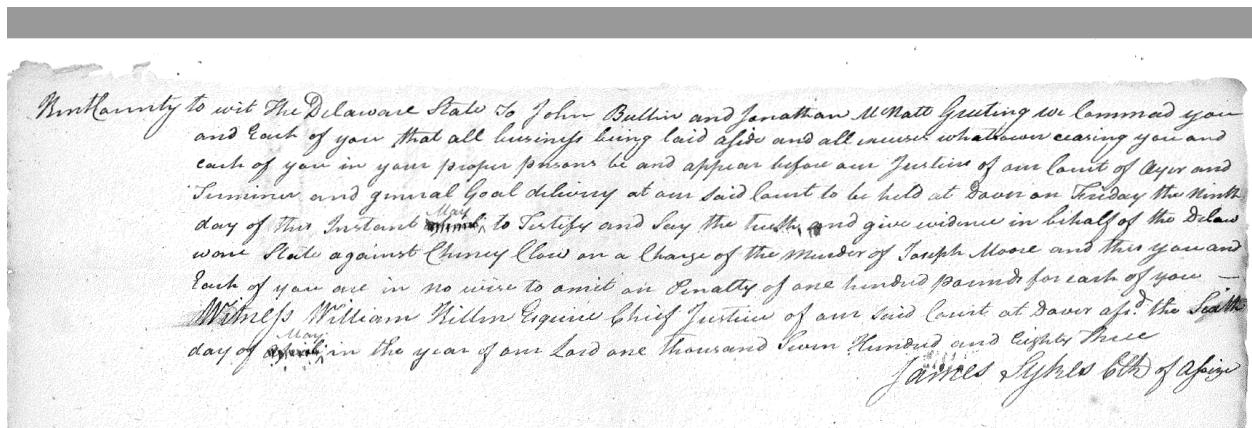
The cause of Caesar Rodney's famous ride to cast the tie breaking vote for Delaware in favor of Independence was due to insurrection in Sussex County. Rodney head of militia in the State was in Dover coordinating efforts to keep the peace in Sussex County when word reached him about the impasse. Thomas Robinson had claimed to have 5000 signatures of those opposed to Independence.

Throughout the war for independence those who opposed independence and war with England engaged in efforts to stay loyal to the King. Threats of armed insurrection and protests were common during war. Located so far from the hot spots of independence and isolated kept most of these people loyal to the King.

Document 1

Kent County to wit the Delaware State to John Bullin and Johnathan McNatt Greeting we command you and each of you that all business being laid aside and all excuses whatsoever ceasing you and each of you in your proper persons be and appear before our Justice of our Court of Oyer and Terminus and general goal delivery at our said Court to be held at Dover on Thursday the ninth day of this instance May to testify and say the truth and give evidence in behalf of the Delaware State against Cheney Clow on a charge of murder of Joseph Moore and this you and each of you are in no wise to omit on Penalty of one hundred pounds for each of you. Witness William Killen Esquire Chief Justice of our said Court at Dover on the seventh day of May in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three.

James Sykes 6th of apize



Writ Comuntty to wit the Delaware State to John Bullin and Jonathan McNatt Greeting we command you and each of you that all business being laid aside and all excuses whatsoever ceasing you and each of you in your proper persons be and appear before our Justice of our Court of Oyer and Terminus and general goal delivery at our said Court to be held at Dover on Thursday the Ninth day of this instance ^{May} to testify and say the truth and give evidence in behalf of the Delaware State against Cheney Clow on a charge of the Murder of Joseph Moore and this you and each of you are in no wise to omit on Penalty of one hundred pounds for each of you -
Witness William Killen Esquire Chief Justice of our said Court at Dover on the Seventh day of ^{May} ~~June~~ in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three
James Sykes 6th of Apize

Kent Count to wit the Delaware State to Major Allen McLane greeting we command you that laying aside all business and excuses you be and appear before our Justice of our Court of Oyer and Terminer and general goal deliver at Dover at said Court of Oyer and Terminus and general goal delivery there to be met this day to give evidence in behalf of the Delaware State against Cheney Clow on a Charge of the murder of Joseph Moore and this you may not omit on Penalty of one hundred pounds. Witness William Killen Esquire Chief Justice of our said Court at Dover the ninth day of May in the year of our lord on thousand and seven hundred and eighty three.

James Sayers

*Kent Count to wit the Delaware State To the Major Allen McLane greeting we Command you
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Chief Justice of our said Court at Dover the ninth day of May in the year of our Lord
one thousand seven hundred and eighty three*

James Sayers

Document 2

Thomas Robinson Case

SUSSEX COUNTY (DELAWARE) COMMITTEE.

Dagsberry, July 18, 1775

To the Publick.

Notwithstanding the many rumours and intimations that have been frequently spread, that Thomas Robinson, Esq., of Sussex on Delaware, was counteracting the wise, prudent, and manly measures recommended by the honourable Continental Congress, to put a stop to the calamities of America, and, if possible, avert Ministerial vengeance, which, like a torrent with increasing violence, is rushing down on our heads, yet the Committee, out of tenderness to his character, (as no vouchers appeared) considered those vague reports as not worthy their notice, and therefore declined making inquiry into them. But Mr. Robinson, weakly imagining that this tenderness and lenity proceeded from fear, began to vaunt and exult, and with an effrontery ever the companion on ignorance, proceeded more openly and boldly to stamp his vile and slavish Ministerial principles upon the weak and unwary, over too many of whom, in the forests of Sussex and Maryland, by means of his office and store, he has indeed too much influence.

Since which time the Sub-Committee met at Dagsberry, the 18th July, 1775; and receiving information, clothed with better circumstances, ordered the authors immediately to be brought before them; who deposed as follows:

Peter Watson, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that on Monday, the 10th of this instant, July, being at Robinson's store, on the head of Indian River, he saw John Gazlin, clerk to said Robinson, weigh and sell two small parcels of Bohea Tea, one of which he delivered to a girl, the other to Leatherberry Barker's wife; which aforesaid Tea he took out of a large canister, that he judged would hold about twelve or fifteen pounds. And further saith not.

PETER WATSON.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775: before
John Dagworthy.

True Copy: Simon Kollock, Clerk.

Robert Butcher, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that being in company with Thomas Robinson, Esq., the said Robinson asked him what those Committees were doing; he told him they were advising the people to muster, in order to defend their liberties. Robinson replied, that they were a pack of fools, for it was taking up arms against the king; and that our Charters were not annihilated, changed, or altered by the late Acts of Parliament, and therefore we ought to obey the King, and those that were put in authority under him; and that the great people were only leading the poor into a premunire, and after they had done it, they would not help them out of it. And further saith not.

ROBERT BUTCHER.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775, before
John Dagworthy.

True copy: Simon Kollock, Clerk.

Nathaniel Mitchell, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that being in company with Thomas Robinson, Esq., and talking of some publick matters, the said Robinson declared, that the present Congress were an unconstitutional body of men; and also, that the great men were pushing on the common people between them and all danger. And further saith not.

NATHANIEL MITCHELL.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775, before
John Dagworthy.

Document 3

Sussex County Delaware State

Au. 14 1780

Jacob Carpenter came in an surrendered himself to one the subscribers and of the justices of peace for Delaware State and in examination with respect to the late Insurrection sayeth that he went George Messic on Sunday to hear reading and other those from the people gathering to go to Black Camps, which he went home, on Monday he met that M'man (militia men) under arms at Obadigh (Obadiah) Messick's, they did not say where they ware going nor he did not ask, they marched and left him there he went home and continued at his common business.

John Carpenter

John Cloves

Wm. Ratlif surrendered himself as above and on examination sayeh that he don't know much about the Black Camps.

He has no respect to it all and never had, he acknowlegith that he was at Shorts old field and saw 8 or 10 men those going from the house to some old apple tree he had some talk with Peter Sharp there don't remember what he talked about but he remembers he did not like the propositions of the matter. Came home the same day, he has since that which was 2 or 3 weeks ago heard nothing about the Black Camps has never been right it nor changed a word with any of them about any such thing.

Wm Ratliff

John Cloves

Johnthan Hemmons being examined sayeth that William Ratliff told him 4 or 5 weeks ago that Elias Johnson told him that one of the Messicks had came and shot on the Black Camps men herd nothing particular after that until Sunday evening the 6th inst. Peter Sharp came to an old field near George Messick's where he and sundry others has been consulting what was to be done about the hard taxes that was laid on them he cant tell what he said for he did not like his projection he stayed all night and day marched down to Saml. Findals saw Robert Young prisoner to Barnums I am some of Barnums men, next morning returned home.

his

Jonathan Herman

Worksheet A

Questions

1. What are the dates of the documents?

Document 1:

Document 2:

Document 3:

2. What was going on in the country at time indicated on the documents?

3. Document 1 makes reference to whom?

4. Document 2 makes reference to whom?

5. Document 3 makes reference to whom?

6. Who do you think created each of the documents?

7. What are the documents describing?

8. How many people died or were injured?

9. What do the documents have in common?

Worksheet B

Group Work and Outline for News broadcast.

What did the group decide was going on in all three documents?

Are the subjects of the documents Loyalists or Patriots?

If you are the State of Delaware what are you trying to accomplish with these documents?

Pick one incident that would make the best cut to a reporter in the field and describe what the report might say about the incident?

What further information would it be good to know?

Rubric Newscast

	4	3	2	1
Historical Accuracy	The information provided in the requirements is correct and compelling	The information is not well described	The information provided contains or 1 or 2 errors that detract from the need for a marker	The information provided in the requirements contains multiple inaccuracies that make the need for a marker untenable
Rehearsed and Clear Transitions	The newscast was excellent. Clearly rehearsed and the cut to the reporter in the field was perfect. 3 minutes	The Newscast had minor mistakes and cut to reporter minor mistakes. 2:59 to 2:01 minutes	Newscast provided information in a weak manner (many mistakes) with a poor cut to the field reporter. 2 minutes	Newscast was poorly done there was no cut to reporter in the field. 1 minute or less
Written Script	The information provided is correct and provides clear information about loyalists with clear roles for every member in newscast	The information in script is organized and has defined roles with only minor issues.	The information in script is poorly organized with no defined roles	No written script
Sources	There are a variety of sources and they are credible. Contains both primary and secondary sources	There are a variety of sources but no primary source is listed	The source are unreliable and inaccurate	No sources are listed