



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Early Colonists Were Loyal to the King

The early Pilgrim colonists felt they were, and wanted to remain, English, even though they were persecuted and arrested.

While the Mayflower Compact (1620) established a government for the Plymouth Colony, they still considered themselves loyal subjects of King James I and made that very clear in the text. That loyalty continued for 150 years.

The Colonists were loyal to King George III during the First Continental Congress (1774), stating,

“We your majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies ... That your Majesty, as the loving father of your whole people, connected by the same bands of law, loyalty, faith and blood, though dwelling in various countries ...”

The Colonists were loyal to the King during the first part of the 2nd Continental Congress (1775) stating,

“We, your Majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies ... The union between our Mother country and these colonies ...”

“That your Majesty may enjoy a long and prosperous reign, and that your descendants may govern your dominions with honor to them selves and happiness to their subjects, is our sincere and fervent prayer.”

At the time, war was underway.

Unwilling to completely abandon their hope for peace, the Olive Branch Petition was adopted by Congress on July 5, 1775 to be sent to the King as a last attempt to prevent formal war from being declared.

The Petition emphasized their loyalty to the British crown and emphasized their rights as British citizens.

In part, it said the Colonists felt “too tender a regard for the kingdom from which we derive our origin, to request such a reconciliation as might in any manner be inconsistent with her dignity or her welfare. ...”

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William Penn carried the Olive Branch Petition to London, but the king refused to see him. Congress adjourned for a brief respite on Aug. 2, 1775; they re-convened on Sept. 13, 1775.

Opposition to independence was steadily waning, in part to popular support for it. ‘Common Sense’ was published in January 1776.

It offered “simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense.” This stirred debate on the subject of independence.

Then, over one-hundred and fifty years after the Pilgrims landed and signed the Mayflower Compact in the New World, the subsequent colonists in Congress took the important step of formally declaring the colonies’ independence from Great Britain.

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the 13 colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain. The Declaration summarized the colonists’ motivations for seeking independence.

Congress and the British government made further attempts to reconcile, but negotiations failed when Congress refused to revoke the Declaration of Independence, both in a meeting on September 11, 1776, with British Admiral Richard Howe and when a peace delegation from Parliament arrived in Philadelphia in 1778.

The war raged on throughout this time and continued until the Peace of Paris on September 3, 1783.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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