

American Revolution Essay Contest

According to the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township, the people held different beliefs about the future of the colonies during the American Revolution. Some people were Patriots while others were Loyalists. Their opposite viewpoints created rivalry between families and communities. If we compared what each group believed and how their beliefs affected daily life, we can understand what it might have been like to live in Woodbridge Township during this time.

Patriots were people who believed that the colonies should break away and gain independence from Great Britain. They felt that the King and the Parliament were treating the people unfairly by enforcing taxes and laws without the freedom of speech. The Patriots believed in freedom, independence, and the right to live life on their own terms. They thought fighting back was the way to protect their rights and freedoms. Because of these beliefs, Patriots supported protests, joined militias, and encouraged others to stand up against Great Britain.

Loyalists, on the other hand, believed that staying loyal to the king and monarchy was the best choice. They felt that Great Britain provided them with protection and a strong government. Many of the Loyalists were worried that if they broke free, it would lead to chaos and war. They believed that they were an important part of the empire. Loyalists often were scared that rebellion would bring danger to their families and communities, which is why they supported Great Britain.

These opposing opinions of the two groups had a major impact on daily life in Woodbridge. One example was through constant military movement. Armies, soldiers, and supplies often passed through the towns, which made life unpredictable. People never knew when troops would arrive or when battles could break out nearby. This was stressful and fearful for families who wanted to live peacefully.

Another major effect was family separations. In many families, some family members were Loyalists while others were Patriots. This caused distrust, arguments, and even divisions. Neighbors who used to get along would suddenly refuse to speak to one another. Communities eventually became separated, and people were cautious about what they said because they didn't know who supported whom. These divisions made life in Woodbridge difficult and unpleasant.

If my own family had lived in Woodbridge Township during the American Revolution, these disagreements would have affected us as well. We might have had relatives who supported different sides, which could lead to arguments at home. We would also have to deal with soldiers constantly passing through the area, creating anxiety and insecurity. Daily activities such as going grocery shopping, seeing friends, and attending church would be difficult due to fear of being reported for our beliefs, opinions, and ideas. Everyone would have to watch what they said and whom they trusted.

If I had to choose between being a Patriot, Loyalist, or Quaker, I would choose to be a Quaker. They believed in peace and didn't want to fight on any side. During the Revolution, both Patriots and Loyalists argued and even turned on their own neighbors, but Quakers stayed neutral

and avoided violence. I chose to be a Quaker because I don't wish to take part in the conflict between the two groups. Even though it would be difficult when everyone around me was choosing sides, I would still want to focus on being safe and keeping my family safe as well as avoiding conflict. Being a Quaker would allow me to be peaceful while still living divided.

In conclusion, the American Revolution created strong disagreements between Patriots and Loyalists in Woodbridge Township. Patriots believed in independence, while Loyalists believed in staying loyal to Great Britain. These beliefs affected daily life, from non-stop military movement to divisions within families and communities. If I lived during that time, I would choose to be a Quaker because of my intent to lead a peaceful life with my family and the community, as well as fulfill the rightful duties to my country!