

ANTI-LOYALIST BROADSIDES & BLANK ALLEGIANCE FORMS
1775-1776: A Selection

T O T H E
P E O P L E O F A M E R I C A:
Stop him ! Stop him ! Stop him !
One Hundred Pounds Lawful Money Reward !
A W O L F in Sheep's Clothing !
A T R A I T O R !

WHEREAS ISAAC WILKINS, of the Province of New-York, has made his escape from the place of his former residence, after having betrayed the confidence of his constituents, and villainously consented, that they, and their posterity, should become abject Slaves, to the mercenary, and tyrannical Parliament of Great-Britain ; and hath, in divers other instances, endeavoured to destroy the Liberties of America, in which ~~the~~ Freedom will reign amidst the most sanguinary machinations of her inveterate enemies.— Therefore, whoever apprehends the said Isaac Wilkins, and secures him, that he may be sent to the Provincial Camp, in Massachusetts-Bay, shall receive the above reward, of the Commanding Officer of the said camp.

By order of the committee.

NEW-LONDON, May 4, 1775.

Library of Congress New London, Connecticut, 1775

Isaac Wilkins was a vocal and adamant Loyalist in New York who published pro-British newspaper essays and pamphlets as the "Westchester Farmer." With other opponents of rebellion he issued a declaration in April 1775 to "express our honest abhorrence of all unlawful congresses and committees, and that we are determined at the hazard of our lives and properties to support the King and [English Constitution]" [*Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*, 20 April 1775]. After residing in Nova Scotia for several years, he returned to New York where his Long Island farm was destroyed by American soldiers. Unlike many Loyalists, however, Wilkins established his post-revolution life in America. He died in New York in 1830.¹

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T H E
R E C A N T A T I O N S
O F

ROBERT HOOPER, JOHN PEDRICK, ROBERT HOOPER, Jun.
GEORGE M'CALL, RICHARD REED, and HENRY SANDERS.

In COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,

Cambridge, May 4. 1775.

THE Recantations of a Number of Persons of the Town of *Marblehead*, viz. *Robert Hooper, John Pedrick, Robert Hooper, Jun George M'Call, Richard Reed, and Henry Sanders*, having been laid before this Committee for their Opinion as to the Propriety of accepting them ;

V O T E D, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Recantations of these Persons be accepted, and that they be made acquainted with the Proclamation lately issued by the PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, respecting those who may incline to go into *Boston* ; and that it be recommended to the Inhabitants of this Province, that they be protected from all Injuries or Insults whatsoever, so long as they adhere to their several Recantations, and continue to assist and abide by their Country, and the Inhabitants of *Marblehead* in particular, in the important Dispute between *Great-Britain* and *America*.

WILLIAM COOPER, Sec'y.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of *Marblehead*.

WHEN Governor *Hutchinson* was about leaving the Province, I signed an Address to him with no other Motive, than the Hopes it would have a Tendency to serve the Province in general, and this Town in particular. I am now convinced it has not had the hoped for Success, and therefore renounce it in all its Parts, and am sorry for it ; and stand ready with my Interest to defend the Rights of my injured Country.

ROBERT HOOPER.

Marblehead, May 3. 1775.

WHEREAS I the Subscriber, did some Time since sign an Address to Governor *Hutchinson*, which has given just Cause of Repentment to my Fellow-Countrymen : I do now declare that at the Time of signed said Address, I did suppose it might serve us, but am convinced of my Error, and do now renounce said Address in all its Parts, and stand ready with my Life and Fortune to defend my injured Country, and hope for the Forgiveness of all Mankind.

JOHN PEDRICK.

Marblehead, April 28. 1775.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of *Marblehead*.

WHEREAS I the Subscriber did some Time since sign an Address to Governor *Hutchinson*, which has given just Offence to my Town and Country : I now declare, that I had not the least Design to offend either, but at the Time of signing said Address I thought it might be of Service to my Town and Country, but finding that it has not had the desired Effect, I do now renounce said Address in all its Parts, and beg that my Town and Country would forgive the Error, and I now assure them that at all Times I have been, and still am ready

to the utmost of my Power, to support and defend the just Rights and Liberties of my Town and Country with my Life and Fortune.

ROBERT HOOPER, Jun.

Marblehead, May 1. 1775.

Mr. MODERATOR,

MY not acknowledging my Error and Sorrow in the last Meeting, for having signed an Address to the late Governor *Hutchinson*, which justly incensed this Town and Country, was, because I did not know what Business they were to proceed upon until it was too late : I now publicly and solemnly declare, that the Welfare of this Land was the only Motive that induced me to sign it. And as I find myself mistaken, am as ready as any other (as far as in me lies) to support its Rights and Liberties with my Life and Fortune. I humbly ask Pardon of those whose Sentiments then differed from mine, respecting Governor *Hutchinson*, for the high Reflection, which by signing said Address, I cast upon their Sense and Temper, and hope that my Townsmen and the Public will restore me to their Favour and Friendship.

GEORGE M'CALL.

Marblehead, May 3d, 1775.

To the Gentlemen Select-Men of *Marblehead*.

WHEREAS I the Subscriber signed an Address to Governor *Hutchinson*, which I supposed would answer a good Purpose and be generally adopted, and being now convinced from a further Attention to the Matter, as well as the public Opinion, that it will greatly injure the Cause of *America* ; I do now publicly declare, that I had no such Design, and therefore renounce the said Address in every Respect, and am heartily sorry that I ever signed it, and hope to be forgiven by my Town and Countrymen. I now stand ready with my Life and Interest to defend my injured Country whenever called upon.

RICHARD REED.

Marblehead, May 3, 1775.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEREAS I the Subscriber signed an Address to Governor *Hutchinson*, which I supposed would answer a good Purpose, and be generally adopted, and being now convinced from a further Attention to the Matter, as well as the public Opinion, that it will greatly injure the Cause of *America*, I do now publicly declare, that I had no such Design, and therefore renounce the said Address in every Respect, and am heartily sorry that I ever signed it, and hope to be forgiven by my Town and Countrymen. I now stand ready with my Life and Interest to defend my injured Country whenever called upon.

HENRY SANDERS.

Marblehead, May 3. 1775.

Printed and Sold in Queen-Street.

In May 1774, Boston-area Loyalists sent letters of gratitude and farewell to the departing royal governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson. In addition to praising his moderate administration, they entreated him to use his influence in "moderating the resentment of the Government against us." A year later, after the outbreak of war in April 1775, some of the men were called before the Patriot Committee of Safety to recant the statements, apologize to their countrymen, and vow to support the Patriot cause. This is one of several recantation broadsides published that month.

(The obscured place of printing is Queen Street, Boston.)

I do acknowledge the UNITED STATES of AMERICA to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

Blank form for affirmation of allegiance to the United States of America on assuming an office in the government, printed by the Second Continental Congress, Philadelphia, 1776

I A. B. DO solemnly swear, that I DO renounce, refuse, and abjure, any Allegiance, or Obedience to George the III. King of Great-Britain; -- and that I will to the utmost of my Power, support, maintain, and defend the INDEPENDENCE of all the UNITED-STATES of AMERICA, as the same was set forth by the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, in their Declaration of the fourth of July 1776. And, I DO promise that I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to the State of New-Hampshire during my Residence therein; and will disclose and make known to some Magistrate acting under said state, all Treasons and Conspiracies, which I shall know to be against the UNITED-STATES, or any one of them, as Independent of the Crown of Great-Britain. And these Things I DO swear according to the plain and common sense of the Words, without any Equivocation, or secret Reservation whatsoever; upon the true Faith of a Christian. So help me GOD.

Blank form for renunciation of allegiance to Britain and King George, and affirmation of allegiance to the State of New Hampshire, 1776