

6 Joseph Hedden, Jr., to Governor William Livingston

[*Selections from the Correspondence of the Executive of New Jersey, from 1776 to 1786* (Newark, 1848), pp.82-83. Hereafter *Executive Correspondence*.]

Just as Whiggish women were excluded from prominent roles in establishing the republican regime, so too were Loyalist ladies inconspicuous in their determined support of the crown. The exit, voluntary or otherwise, of disaffected men from the state early in the war diminished only the more visible manifestations of Loyalism. Whether because of personal convictions or familial interests, women aided and abetted the British by harboring fugitives (see Sec. IX, Doc. 1), spying, transmitting intelligence, engaging in illicit trade, and privately promoting the royalist cause. Especially troublesome to the state were the wives of exiles. In some cases problems arose because the women could not adequately provide for their families, but in most instances the women were a burden because of their political activities and, as the following letter shows, their efforts to frustrate the policies of the state government. Although numerous women were deported during the war, an apt motto of the Livingston administration might well have been "cherchez la femme."

Newark, July 9th, 1777.

Sir,

The commissioners are much impeded in their business on account of the tory women that remain with us.¹ They secrete the goods, and conceal every thing they possibly can from them, which gives them a great deal of trouble. There is here one James O'Brien and his wife that have been great plunderers and concealers of goods, and when called upon for any thing, they petition to leave and go among christians, and not to be detained among brutes, as they call us in this town. Pray make an order to send them among their christian friends, our enemies. I send the following list of women whose husbands are with the enemy—Mary Kingsland, Mary Stager, Filia Risser, Sarah Garrabrant, Mary Grumfield, Elizabeth Howet, Martha Hicks, Autta Van Ripper, Susanna Wicks, Mary Garrabrant, Jane Drummond, Sarah Sayres, Lydia Sayres, Margaret Nichols, Elizabeth Brown, Sarah Crawfoot, Abigail Ward.

Sending the above women after their husbands will be an advantage to the state and save the commissioners a world of trouble.²

I am, Sir, your most ob't and hum. ser't,
JOS. HEDDEN, Jr.

1. Under the terms of the Act of Free and General Pardon of June 5, 1777, special commissioners were authorized to confiscate and sell the personal property of those who had gone over to the enemy; if the exiles did not return

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and avow allegiance to the state by August 1, 1777, the money raised from the sale of their goods was forfeited to the public treasury.

2. On June 4, 1777, the legislature authorized the governor or commander in chief to deport the wives and children of exiles if deemed necessary. In part because of the concerted effort to resist implementation of the Act of Free and General Pardon of June 5, the Council of Safety on June 24 ordered that the wives of designated Loyalists be sent behind enemy lines and on July 11 extended the order to provide for the banishment of all dependents of those who had gone over to the British (see Doc. 8).

7 William Franklin to Governor Jonathan Trumbull

[*PNJHS*, N.S., 3 (January 1918), pp. 46-48.]

Pursuant to the orders of the Continental Congress (see Sec. VII, Doc. 4), William Franklin arrived in Lebanon, Connecticut, on July 4, 1776. Ironically, the former royal governor of New Jersey signed a parole with the rebel Governor Jonathan Trumbull on the very day the congressmen adopted the Declaration of Independence. Because of both his former position as governor and his father's prestige, he escaped confinement in the notorious Simsbury Mines near Hartford and was granted the maximum amount of freedom possible. He was allowed to retain his butler, and could travel freely within the town limits and correspond with whomever he wanted so long as he did not contact the enemy or in any way attempt to further the British cause. Sometime in December 1776 Franklin broke his parole by collaborating with the Howe brothers to issue royal pardons to Loyalists in Connecticut and New Jersey. He may have done so out of anger at the Congress for failing either to permit his transfer to New Jersey or to allow his exchange with the British; perhaps he was embittered because his son, William Temple Franklin, had gone to France with Benjamin Franklin in October, thus signifying his allegiance to the grandfather's position. In any event, Franklin was found out and ordered confined to the Litchfield town jail in April 1777. There he sat in a small room with only one window for light and air, unable to leave the cell, to write letters, or to receive visitors. When Elizabeth Downes Franklin learned of her husband's plight, she became despondent. Of frail constitution, she could not bear the emotional strain; she died on July 28, 1777, after having "suffered much in her mind." William sank into a deep depression upon hearing of her death. He had apparently lost everything because of his loyalty to the crown—his position, his possessions, his son, his father, and now his wife. The letter below to Governor Trumbull poignantly describes his mental and physical condition in September 1777. He later recovered and was exchanged in October 1778. He was an active Loyalist leader in New York from the time of his exchange until his departure for England and exile in 1782.