

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION 1: "For Crown or Colony?"

Letters of a Loyalist Lady, June 1768-July 1770

These letters were written by Englishwoman Ann Hulton, whose brother, Henry Hulton, was sent to Boston as a Customs Commissioner in the years leading up to the Revolution. Hulton's vivid correspondence describes many famous events, including the Boston Massacre, from the less familiar historical perspective of a "loyalist lady."

Castle William Boston Harbor
June 30, 1768

[T]he Mobs here are very different from those in [old] England..here they act from principle & under countenance, no person daring or willing to suppress their outrages, or to punish the most notorious offenders for any crimes whatever, these Sons of Violence after attacking houses, breaking windows, beating, stoning & bruising several gentlemen belonging to the Customs, the Collector mortally, and burning his boat.... All was ended with a speech from one of the [Patriot] leaders, concluding thus, "We will defend our Liberties & property, by the Strength of our Arm & the help of our God."

..From the inherent Republican, & leveling principles, here is no subordination in the society. Government is [exterminated] and & it is quite a state of anarchy. There are some sensible and good people that are greatly alarmed...the infant Colonies have been advancing toward a state of independancy.

Castle William
July 12, 1768

Its reported that a Regiment of Soldiers is on the way from New York to Boston...

Boston,
April 10, 1769

I hope we shall be in no more dangers or alarms from lawless mobs...it is certain that our safety & quiet depends on the army & navy being here.

(continues next page)

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...the tyranny of the Multitude is the most arbitrary and oppressive...many persons awed by the people, are obliged to court popularity for their own security, this is only to be done by opposing government at home...Several persons were threatened...for no other reason than visiting us at the Castle, & it would certainly have been done, with a deal more mischief, had not the Troops, arrived seasonably for our Protection, as well as that of every person of property. Yet there are very few [people] to be met with that will allow the right of taxation to the British Parliament, therefore we avoid politicks.

Source: [Ann Hulton], *Letters of a Loyalist Lady; Being the Letters of Ann Hulton, Sster of Henry Hulton, Commissioner of Customs at Boston 1767-1776* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1927), 11-21.