

**Stop #5: 801 Royal Ave SW**  
***The Loyalists***

**Mr. Burima's Notes**

- James W. Davidson had it built in 1908.
- He was a very successful American. Travelled all over the world.
- Prior to coming to Alberta, he had established himself as a significant statesman with an impressive list of international accomplishments.
- At the age of twenty-one, he was chosen to be a member of the Peary Arctic Expedition in search of the North Pole in 1893 and 1894.
- Race to get their first, just like with the Northwest Passage
- Incredibly difficult journeys. Frostbite, dogsleds, just really difficult.
- Injured during the second expedition, he gave up exploration to become a war correspondent with the Chinese and Japanese armies.
- He was decorated by the Emperor of Japan in 1895 with Order of Rising Sun for what he did.
- Came from America and eventually called Canada home.
- He was not alone, in fact, Calgary has very close ties with America. Does anyone know why that might be?
  - Partially because of business and oil.
- Well, way, way back in 1776, long before James Wheeler Davidson was alive, there was something in the United States called the war of independence. Back then, the United States was known as a colony of Britain. It meant that Britain ran the colony. They collected taxes, ran the government, and that was that.
- Well, some in the United States wanted to become their own country and be free of the British Empire. BUT, there was a problem – there were a bunch of people who were really loyal to the British. They were called LOYALISTS. They did want there to be a separate country. They wanted to stay loyal to Britain. SO, there was a war. The loyalists lost, and the United States was born.
- As an official country, the United States is considerably older than Canada, by almost 100 years.
- The Loyalists looked around and said, well nuts to this, we're going up North. Back then, Canada wasn't even called Canada. It was also a colony of Britain.
- Britain had promised a bunch of free land to the Loyalists up in what would become Canada. Many of them fled North with nothing, basically no supplies and very little money. The government said that they had to build homes and start farms.
- It wasn't just people who were originally from Britain. It included Germans, Irish, Scottish, and people of African decent.
- Free Blacks and escaped slaves who had fought in the Loyalist corps, as well as about 2,000 Aboriginal allies — mainly Six Nations Iroquois from New York State — also settled in Canada.
- Here's a story from girl named Hannah Ingraham, an 11 year old daughter of a loyalist who woke up one day to find out that they had to flee America.

Father said we were to go to [Canada], that a ship was ready to take us there, so we made all haste to get ready.

We had five wagon loads carried down the Hudson [River] in a sloop and then we went on board the transport that was to bring us to Saint John [New Brunswick]. . . . It was the last transport of the season and had on board all those who could not [leave] sooner. . . . This was the last of September. . . . There were no deaths on board, but several babies were born.

It was a sad, sick time after we landed in Saint John. We had to live in tents. The government gave them to us and rations, too. It was just at the first snow then, and the melting snow and the rain would soak up into our beds as we lay. Mother got so chilled and developed rheumatism and was never well afterwards.

[Later we went] up the river in a schooner and were nine days getting to St. Anne's. . . . We lived in a tent at St. Anne's until Father got a house ready.

One morning when we awoke, we found the snow lying deep on the ground all around us. Then Father came wading through it and told us the house was ready and not to stop to light a fire and not to mind the weather, but follow his tracks through the trees. . . . It was snowing fast and oh, so cold. Father carried a chest and we all took something and followed him up the hill.

There was no floor laid, no windows, no chimney, no door, but we had a roof. . . . We toasted bread [around a small fire] and all sat around and ate our breakfast that morning. Mother said . . . "This is the sweetest meal I ever tasted for many a day."<sup>5</sup>

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*The Loyalists*



*James Wheeler Davidson*



**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
OR  
WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE**



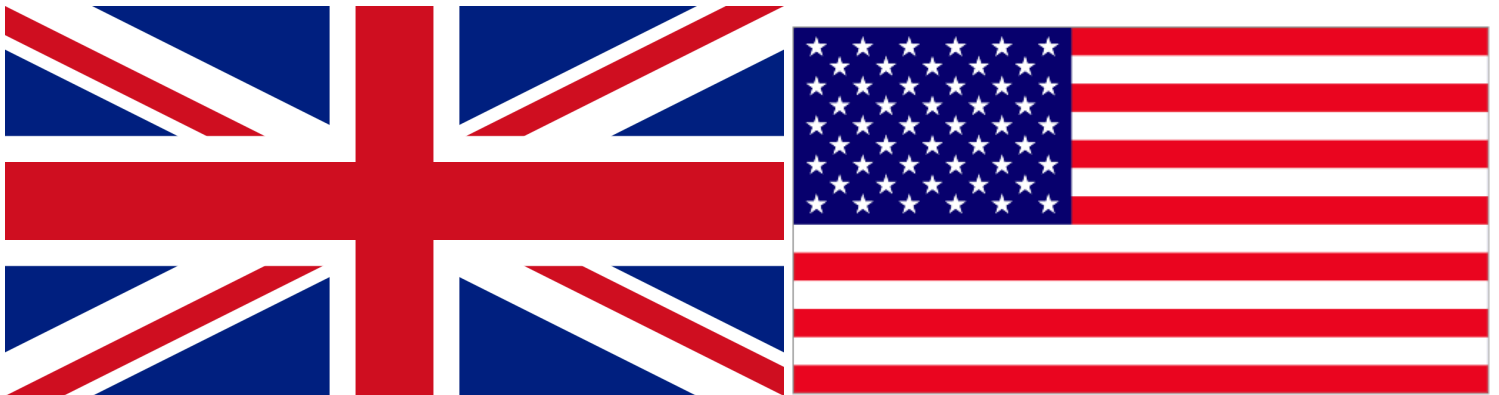
**VS**



**13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**      **GREAT BRITAIN**



*War of Independence In What Would Become The United States*



**Questions/Activities**

1. If you travelled back in time to 1776, what do you think you would miss? Make a list of 5 items that you would want to take back with you. (*Individually, then as a group, then class*)
2. Believe it or not, there have been rumblings in circles of Alberta/Western Canada separating. How would that change your identity?
3. What do you think some of the challenges were for Loyalists coming to start farms in the North?
4. There were thousands of escaped slaves and African-Americans, as well as 2000 Indigenous allies who also fled to Canada. How do you think they were treated? Why?
5. Flags are very important to many people. It can serve as a symbol and unite people. Design your own flag using symbols or shapes.