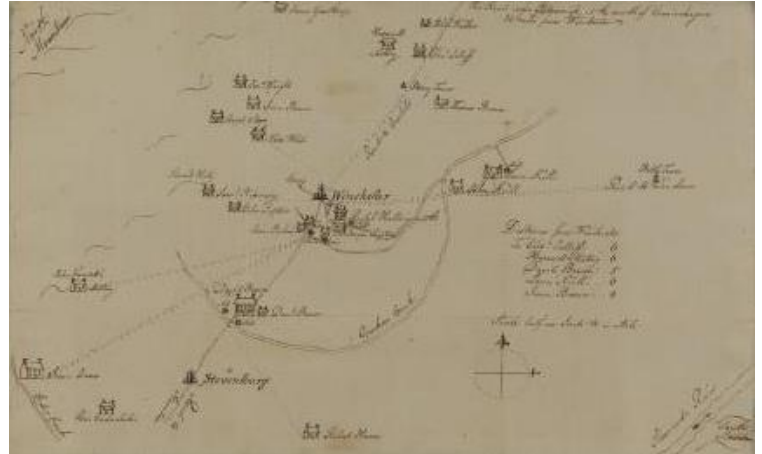


Philadelphia Quaker Exiles

Though many Quakers in the colonies were critical of British rule, most were strongly anti-war and did not participate in any revolutionary violence. Worried that Quakers were disloyal to the new United States government and spying for the British, the Continental Congress had a number of them arrested and exiled to Virginia in 1777. The exiles were promised freedom if they swore loyalty to the new government, but many of them refused to compromise their ideals. Those individuals would only accept an unconditional release, because they were innocent and the government had no right to detain them without a fair trial.



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