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 spyng 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.

Primary sources

   [Call no. REF F 158.9.F89 D75 1991]
❖ Parrish and Pemberton families papers [Collection 1653] | Series 1: Pemberton family papers 1676-1870
   ➢ http://www.jstor.org/stable/20089127
❖ James Pemberton diary, 1777-1778 [Call no. Am_0247]
❖ The Diary of John Pemberton, for the Years 1777 and 1778, Philadelphia, PA: H.B. Ashmead, 1867. [Call no. Wxp*.12]

Secondary sources

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