

Primary source image: A petition to protect families of loyalists

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Williams, John. 1782. *Governor's Papers: Alexander Martin, Correspondence*. State Archives of North Carolina. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/governors-papers-alexander-martin-correspondence-not-dated/1015261> (accessed 5/22/2018).

We the Subscribers, Inhabitants
 warmly attached to the State of New
 Jersey, devoted by our best wishes & endeavors
 its Independence. Feeling for the honour of
 a distance that our enemies should not have the
 that pretence to brand them as cruel or proscriptive
 That the dignity of our public may not be degraded to
 the imitation of examples of Inhumanity exhibited
 by our Enemies. Humbly shew to Her Excellency the Govern-
 our and the Honourable the Council that we have been
 informed that orders have issued from your honourable
 board that the Wives & Children of Absentees should de-
 part the State with a small part of their property in forty
 eight hours after notice given them. It is not the province
 of our view to reason deeply upon the policy of the order, but
 as it must affect the helpless & innocent it ~~represents~~
 with the most sincere distress & prompt our earnest sup-
 plication that the order may be annulled, & the officers
 forbid to carry it into execution. If it is intended
 as retaliation for the expulsion of some of the Sub-
 sscribers by the British from the Town of Wilmington and
 to gratify a resentment which such inhumanity to us
 may be supposed to have excited, its object is greatly
 mistaken. Those whom your proclamation holds forth
 as marks of public vengeance neither prompted the
 British order nor aided the execution of it. On the con-

Available at:

State Archives of North Carolina

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