

What Do the Proclamations Actually Say?

As you read the quote below, circle, underline, or highlight words and phrases that you think are important.

Dunmore's Proclamation

(Royal Governor John Murray, Lord Dunmore, 1775, Williamsburg, Virginia)

“...As I have ever entertained hopes that an accommodation might have taken place between Great-Britain and this colony, without being compelled, by my duty, to this most disagreeable, but now absolutely necessary step, rendered so by a body of armed men, unlawfully assembled, firing on his Majesty's tenders, and the formation of an army, and that army now on their march to attack his Majesty's troops, and destroy the well disposed subjects of this colony: To defeat such treasonable purposes, and that all such traitors, and their abettors, may be brought to justice, and that the peace and good order of this colony may be again restored, which the ordinary course of the civil law is unable to effect, I have thought fit to issue this my proclamation,...

... And I do hereby farther declare all indented servants, Negroes, or others (appertaining to rebels) free, that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining his Majesty's troops, as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper sense of their duty, to his Majesty's crown and dignity...”

Use this space to write, in your own words, what this proclamation is saying.

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Phillipsburg Proclamation

(General Sir Henry Clinton, 1779, Philipsburg Manor, New York)

“Whereas, The Enemy have adopted a practice of enrolling Negroes among their troops: I do hereby give Notice, that all Negroes taken in Arms, or upon any military Duty shall be purchased for the public service at a stated price; the Money to be paid to the Captors.

But I do most strictly forbid any Person to sell or claim Right over any Negroe, the Property of a Rebel, who may take refuge with any part of this Army: And I do promise to every Negroe who shall desert the Rebel Standard full Security to follow within these Lines any occupation which he may think proper.”

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