

# The World Turned Upside Down



**A** *Loyalist's story*  
— Loyalty to the King of  
England during the American  
Revolution meant fight, flight  
and rebuilding a new life in  
Canada. This is one family's  
story, re-created through the  
eyes of eleven-year-old  
Hannah Ingraham. This tale  
of hardship and courage is  
dramatically re-enacted at the  
reconstructed King's Landing  
Historic Settlement in  
New Brunswick.

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada



National  
Film Board  
of Canada

Office  
national du film  
du Canada



# The World Turned Upside Down

The American Revolution was as much a civil war as it was a war of independence. The population split into two almost equal groups: the Loyalists who wanted to remain British subjects and the rebels who wanted complete independence from Great Britain. *The World Turned Upside Down* is a historical re-enactment of one Loyalist family's fate during those troubled times. Based on the account of Hannah Ingraham, eleven years old at the end of the revolution, the film tells her family's story through her eyes.

The revolution caused bitter fighting, with neighbor turning upon neighbor, friends and family turning upon each other. The harassment experienced by Hannah and her family, the confiscation of their possessions and destruction of their farm, didn't stop at the end of the war. Neither the new American government nor the remaining British army could guarantee the Loyalists' safety. The film vividly recreates the hardships the Loyalists faced as they abandoned homes and fled. Like the Ingrahams — sixth generation Americans — many went north to build new lives in the sparsely populated wilderness of what was then part of Nova Scotia.

The film is a testament to the courage and perseverance of the 100 000 Loyalists who represented the first major influx of English-speaking immigrants into Canada. Bringing with them many skills and trades, they were largely responsible for the settling of two new colonies in British North America, namely New Brunswick and Upper Canada.

*The World Turned Upside Down* was filmed entirely on location at the reconstructed King's Landing Historic Settlement, a large outdoor museum located in the Saint John River valley near Fredericton, New Brunswick. King's Landing has more than 70 restored buildings from the Loyalist era to late Victorian times. Staff members of the Settlement doubled as actors for the film. Costumes were created by the Settlement's large costume department. The Ingraham family's house, as seen in the film, was moved to and preserved on this historic site. Extraordinary care was exercised to recreate that period to the smallest detail. The Settlement's curatorial department certified the authenticity of all costumes, props and artifacts used in the film.

*Designed to reflect contemporary approaches to the teaching of history, the film interprets the Loyalists' story through the eyes of a young girl. The mores and customs, artifacts and clothes of those times become useful adjuncts to understanding how people lived and felt. The film also raises questions about personal values, conscience, about the place of minorities, and even about revolution itself. It will be a useful catalyst for discussion on moral and ethical issues.*

## Discussion Questions

- Who were the Loyalists?
- Who were the Rebels?
- How does the film relate to today's problems of racial, cultural or religious discrimination?
- How are these differences dealt with today?
- What are the issues of personal integrity and non-conformity that are raised by the film?

## Themes Suggested by the Film

Courage, endurance, parental support, rejection, isolation, prejudice, conformity vs self-respect, problem-solving, family closeness, sharing, hope, political opponents, persecution, injustice minorities, change through crisis.

## Suggested Audiences

Students of Social Studies, History, Social History, Values Education, and Civics, upper elementary through secondary levels.

## Related Films

*Adventures in History* series.

## Time Line

- 1775-1783 American Revolution.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence. Arrival of first Loyalists in Nova Scotia.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris 1783, formally recognizing the United States of America. Persecution of Loyalists continued.
- 1784 New Brunswick was created to meet the need for land and recognition.
- 1788 Adoption of the Constitution of the United States by ratifying states.
- 1791 Creation of Upper Canada, later to become Ontario.

## Director

Joan Henson

## Cinematography

André Luc Dupont

## Editor

Ginny Stikeman

## Sound Recordist

Jacques Drouin

## Narration

Gloria Demers

## Set Design

Thomas Lackey

## Original Music

Chris Crilly

## Music Editor

Julian Olson

## Sound Editor

Bernie Bordeleau

## Re-recording

Jean-Pierre Joutel  
Adrian Croll

## Producer

Bill Brind

## Executive Producer

Barrie Howells

*This film is part of a history re-enactment series.*

## Produced by

National Film Board of Canada  
in co-operation with  
Parks Parcs  
Canada Canada

## Distributed by

National Film Board of Canada

## Color

Screening time:  
24 minutes 35 seconds

16 mm: 106C 0185 047

3/4": 116C 0185 047

VHS: 113C 0185 047

Beta: 114C 0185 047



National  
Film Board  
of Canada

Office  
national du film  
du Canada

© National Film Board of Canada 1985  
P.O. Box 6100, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5  
Printed in Canada