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### **Sons of Liberty: Patriots or Terrorists?**

Often when you hear about the Sons of Liberty, you hear about valiant patriots that aided the process of winning freedom for their country. They met in secrecy to avoid detection, or possibly for their safety. They terrorized Loyalists, British officials, and anyone at all in relation with the Loyalist side. Furthermore, they worked with gangs, tar and feathered Loyalists, and although they didn't use violence themselves, they supported raucous crowds, and other forms of large, rowdy, gatherings. Despite what you think, the Sons of Liberty sometimes acted like terrorists during their rebellious acts.

Firstly, the Sons of Liberty always met at night. They always worked in secrecy to avoid the detection of British officers. However, if the Sons of Liberty were doing nothing wrong, why would they have to work in secrecy? They also sometimes worked with gangs, which may have been another reason why they had to meet in secrecy. The Sons of Liberty were sometimes dangerous, and that is why they had to meet in secrecy.

Additionally, the Sons of Liberty often terrorized Loyalists, or even, in one case, those merely in possession of stamped papers. Stamped papers were a result of the Stamp Act. All legal documents had to have stamps on them to show that the owner has paid a tax. Upon arrival of stamped papers, Cadwalder Colden was so frightened that he was forced to hide in Fort George. A raucous mob burned his coach to ashes. They proceeded into his house, and they smashed windows, drank all of his wine, and vandalized the entire house. This was an act of terrorism that cannot be denied.

Finally, here are some other examples of other terroristic acts that the Sons of Liberty performed. They tar and feathered Loyalists, completely mutilating any clothes

they were wearing, and forced to scrub the body from head to foot to alleviate the tar sticking all over their body. Rather than just boycotting taxed items, they destroyed the property of others. Respecting others property is a rule taught since kindergarten. They instilled fear in all the Loyalists around them.

It is evident, that although the Sons of Liberty were remarkable Patriots, they often went too far. As a result, they met in secrecy to avoid being foiled, terrorized Loyalists, and did many other things that would result in jail time, then and now. The quote, "One man's terrorist is another man's patriot," comes into play when discussing this matter. To Americans, the Sons of Liberty were honorable men. To the British, they were menacing terrorists. Therefore, the debate may never rest.