

Church History

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is a force in America today. It's an important force here, but it's a force you can't understand without knowing something about its background and about its root in the Church of England and its situation here in those early days. Now the Methodist was originally, previous to the revolution was not a church. John Wesley insisted that he was merely trying to revive the spiritual life of the Church of England. He was not interested in people outside the Church of England. Of course everyone in England was nominally a member of the Church of England unless they declared themselves to belong to independent churches. They were supposed to be, they were considered by birth only to be part of the Church of England and John Wesley was reaching people of the Church of England, and he always insisted that his people would never hold a service at the same hour in which there was a Church of England service because his people were to go to the Church of England services and they were to be members of the Church of England, and the result was that during the revolutionary war in this country when the Congregationalists and the Baptists and the Lutherans were very ardent, most of them, in support of the revolution the Methodists and the Church of England people were looked upon as pro-English. .Most of the ministers whom--not ministers but they really amounted to ministers--most of the preachers in the Methodist church immediately went back to England, of those whom Wesley had sent over here, as soon as the war started, and the people, the Methodists, were considered by the rank and file of people as members of the Church of England and probably disloyal to the United States. The Church of England in the North was pretty largely loyal to England but in the South, the Church of George Washington himself belonged to/England and there was a large element of the Church of England probably predominant in the South that was anti-British in the revolutionary war. The Methodists, however, there were many of them who were very strongly for the revolution and gradually they overcame the injury that was done to them in the minds of the people here in general by their being connected up so closely in their minds with the Church of England but there was no Methodist church really here before the revolution. Of course, you know