

Nathaniel Dickenson Biography

From George Sheldon's **History of Deerfield, Massachusetts** (1896):

Nathaniel Dickinson, who lived out at Mill River, on or near the farm lately occupied by Dea. Stowell, was under the influence of Col. Israel Williams, and a "High Tory." Probably as agent for Col. Williams, he made the trip to Berkshire county in January. He was earnest, out-spoken, took no pains to conceal his sentiments, and became obnoxious to the Whigs. Soon after his return from Berkshire he set out for Boston. He "was mobbed three times and sent back." Thursday, Jan. 26th, he was back at Hatfield, where a mob drove him out of town. Monday night he lodged at Sunderland, "where a mob collected, but could not find him." His trouble arose from the fact that he had been found to be a messenger for Col. Williams, bearing letters from him to parties in Boston. The ire of the Whigs was roused against the colonel, as well as Dickinson, and Moses How of Belcher-town, and one Harmon rode night and day through the country as far as Pittsfield, stirring up the people to go to Hatfield and capture him. He was charged with enlisting men for, and corresponding with, Gen. Gage, but the exact contents of his letters do not appear.

AND from [**http://americancenturies.mass.edu**](http://americancenturies.mass.edu):

Harsh treatment of neighbors based on political affiliation was not unusual. At a 1778 meeting of Deerfield's Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety (committees of this sort were urged by the Massachusetts General Court), the men voted to confiscate the estate of Nathaniel Dickinson, "who hath joined our unnatural enemies for the purpose of aiding and assisting them in subjugating these American Colonies." They first leased Dickinson's property to his brother, Samuel, and later sold the property at auction. Nathaniel had owned livestock, including seven yoke of oxen, 11 horses, 14 cows and heifers, and many calves, sheep, etc. All of it, plus his household items, were sold and the profits paid into the treasury of the Province. Nathaniel Dickinson was last heard of in New Brunswick where he reportedly continued to be a faithful servant of the King.