Rethinking the Shelburne Riots

Exploring Community Perspectives
On the Shoulders of Giants...

The (Black) Loyalist Myth.

The Shelburne (Race) Riots.

The (Shelburne) (Race) Riots.

Diaspora as Community and Composite Histories.
The (Black) Loyalist Myth

- Blacks settle primarily in Birchtown.
- David George baptises White folks, gets chased out of town.
- Black Loyalists leave Nova Scotia for Sierra Leone.
- The Maroons Arrive.
The Shelburne (Race) Riots

- The Year Without Summer
- Religious Unrest
- Republicanism
- Continuous stream of refugees
- The arrival of Black paramilitaries
- Strife among Northern and Southern Loyalists.
The (Shelburne) (Race) Riots

- General lack of supplies
- The partition of Nova Scotia
- Land allotment issues
- Religious Unrest
- Class strife in Saint John
- Continuous migration of settlers
- Fluctuating labour market
- Corruption
Diaspora as Community and Composite Histories.

Stop treating Black Loyalists as a monolith

Recognize all the Black communities in the region.

Dive deeply into these communities.
- Identify leadership
- Identify economic and social motivations
- Tie those motivations to the broader historical narratives i.e. The Black Atlantic

As the “Shelburne Riots” show, we are still in a climate where Black agency remains unrecognized.
The above provides one remedy to building a richer history of the region.
BANG!: The Black Atlantic Network Gazetteer
Thank You!