

Connecticut Extends Voting Rights Conservative Puritans also set up new colonies. In 1636, Thomas Hooker moved his congregation to the Connecticut Valley. There settlers wrote the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** in 1639. (See pages 74–75.) The Orders extended voting rights to non-church members. This expanded representative government.

 **SUMMARIZE** Explain why some colonists left Massachusetts.

The Fight for Tolerance

 **KEY QUESTION** Why did the Quakers protest against the Puritans?

Although Puritans had come to America to find religious freedom for themselves, they would not allow all faiths to worship freely. They were particularly intolerant of the **Quakers**, another group of Protestant dissenters.

Puritans Persecute Quakers The name “Quakers” came from a leader’s statement that they should “tremble [quake] at the word of the Lord.” Quaker beliefs angered the Puritans. The Quakers believed God could be known directly through an “inner light,” and that Puritan sermons and ministers were obstacles to the direct experience of God. Because Quakers believed that women were spiritually equal to men, Quaker women served as preachers and as missionaries. These beliefs and practices threatened the very foundations of the New England Way. For this, Quakers were jailed, whipped, or banished from Puritan colonies.

Although often banished, Quaker missionaries defied the authorities, returning repeatedly to Puritan colonies to speak openly about their faith. In frustration, Puritan leaders passed laws with increasingly brutal punishments. Finally Puritans began executing Quakers who returned after being banished.

In response, Quakers became martyrs, people who choose to die for a religious principle. One of the most famous Quaker martyrs was a woman named Mary Dyer. Despite her banishment from the colony, Dyer returned to Massachusetts, determined to “look the bloody laws in the face.” Although she was executed, her death led to greater religious tolerance.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why the Quakers protested against the Puritans.



History Makers

Mary Dyer ?–1660

Mary Dyer, the religious martyr, came to Massachusetts with her husband, William Dyer, in 1635. She supported her friend Anne Hutchinson during Hutchinson’s trial. When Hutchinson was banished from Massachusetts, Dyer followed her to Rhode Island. Returning to England, Dyer met George Fox, the founder of the Quakers. In 1657 she was back in New England as a Quaker missionary. For speaking openly about her faith, Dyer was banished once from New Haven before being imprisoned and banished three times from Massachusetts.

Determined to protest against religious intolerance, Dyer again returned, this time to face the sentence of death. She was hanged on June 1, 1660. As she had hoped, her execution helped end the Puritan persecution of the Quakers.

CRITICAL THINKING Make Inferences Why do you think the Puritans felt threatened by the Quakers?



For more on the life of Mary Dyer, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com