

1838 PETITION

May it please your Excellency
The humble Petition of Matilda Whitlock Sheweth

That your Petitioner being the Wife of William Whitlock imprisoned in the Gaol of Montreal for the alleged crime of having been the Author of certain ...papers, ... to be of a seditious tendency. This ... is false as your Petitioners Husband was always a true and Loyal subject and the son of the late Captain John Whitlock of the British Army who distinguished himself as a brave and gallant officer during the American revolutionary War and in consequence of his Loyalty had a valuable property confiscated by the Americans for which he never received any compensation. Captain Whitlock was Captain of the Queens American Rangers.

Your Petitioner is well aware that the groundless accusation against her Husband originated from the hatred and malice of John A. Mathison, Major of Militia in the place who has been for years persecuting your Petitioners Husband. Shewing a most deadly hatred and ... against him in consequence of his having Petitioned the late Governor General Lord Aylmer to remove from the commission of the same the said Mathison who had been guilty of ... encouraging instigation and in disturbing the peace and tranquility of the Public.

Your Petitioner would humbly implore your Excellency to take into consideration the great hardship of the unhappy Prisoner being incarcerated in gloomy Prison. Suffering in health, his humble affairs neglected and going to ruin, his feelings lacerated by accusations both false and groundless.

An unhappy Wife would solicit your Excellency's sympathy to commiserate her unfortunate situation and would humbly pray that your Excellency would be pleased to liberate her unfortunate husband from that confinement to which the dark malice of his enemies has consigned him And your Petitioner as in duty bound ever pray

Vaudreuil 3rd of February 1838 MATILDA WHITLOCK

William Whitlock had been imprisoned for his part in the Rebellion of 1837. Strangely the John A. Mathison mentioned in Matilda's petition was married to "the beautiful American Niece of Capt. John Whitlock". After Matilda's death in 1856 William married Ann, daughter of John A. Mathison!!