

LOYALIST WRONGED??

In the Reference files there is a copy of a letter I received from the Archives of Ontario some years ago and have never been able to place. It is written by a John Whitlock to Mr. David B. Stevenson Esq, Picton, U.C. (Upper Canada = Ontario) and dated Athol, 7th of Aug.1841. If anyone has any information about who this John Whitlock was I would appreciate knowing. The letter reads as follows:

Sir

As I have been much annoyed by the reports of nefarious individuals, who have circulated reports which if true would be a discredit to the Spirits of the infernal regions, and as I in the presence of God and the world declare them to be false and wicked in the extreme. I do hereby declare my firm allegience to the crown of Great Britain which thing I have a right to do in consequence of being a natural born British Subject.

I therefore claim the protection of the laws of my country in the protection of my Person and Property. Which Laws I am bound to defend and will do so whenever required. Evil disposed persons have endeavoured to injure me by the circulation of reports as base as could be invented by the most abanded and degenerate of the sons of men. If I have said or done any thing against the Laws of any country, against the crown of Great Britain or the general jurisprudence of the British Empire, I hereby declare my entire ignorance of it and would most sincerely ask her Majesty's Pardon.

I therefore wish you not to be credulous as to what you hear but if any thing be told I pray you see accused and accuser face to face. I am willing to appear before you or any other officer of her Majesty's Empire and State under oath every act of my ... I esteem dishonourable. But if wicked men stalk forth wolves in sheeps clothing it is time their deeds were examined and their validity examined into.

I remain, Sir, your Obj. Servt, John Whitlock, Athol, 7th Aug. 1841

(Source:REF57)