

WHITLOCKS OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

Bit by bit we are piecing together the family of John Whitlock, the Loyalist whose land became the Whitlock Golf and Country Club in Hudson Heights, Quebec. The latest material sent in by Marian Downum sheds additional light on this family and it is interesting to see how the court transferred their assets. It appears John Whitlock and his two brothers-in-law, James Keeler and Daniel Wilson all left Lenox in the 1780's and their estates were processed in the Court at Stockbridge in 1781. None are shown as deceased but are shown as "conspirator" or "absentee". John Whitlock's two sisters, Sarah Wilson and Abigail Keeler appear to have stayed in Lenox. Listed below are some of the extracts Marian made that give a bit of the flavour of the time.

"at a Court holden at Stockbridge within & for the County of Berkshire on 10 March 1781 before the Hon. Timothy Edwards, Esq. Judge of said Court. Power of Agency on the estate of John Whitlock Junr. late of Lenox absentee is given to Elias Willard Junr of said Lenox & bond is taken of the said Elias for the faithful discharge of said trust - as on file. And Charles Dibble, John Stoughton & Jonnah Churchill -- all of Lenox are appointed & ordered to appraise in lawful money of the Commonwealth all the estate where in the said John was seized in the aforesaid County at the time of absenting himself."

Similar documents were processed for James Keeler and Daniel Wilson. Marian mentions there was a hard to read petition to the Court for Sarah Wilson to have some bedding & household stuff for Daniel's estate. There is a note that Widow Abigail Keeler is permitted to choose £10 worth of household stuff from the estate of her husband, James Keeler. There were several items relating to debts paid to creditors of each of the "Conspirators & Absentees".

"Inventory of the estate of John Whitlock Junr late of Lenox, Absentee taken by the subscribers, Charles Dibble, John Stoughton, Jonna Churchill, 90 acres of land £262-0-0. Elias Willard, agent reported that the whole of the estate of John Whitlock Junr was insufficient to pay his debts. The Court ordered the three subscribers to record and examine the claims against John Whitlock Junr."

"Inventory of the estate of James Keeler, late of Lenox, Absentee - 150 acres of land £562-0-0, pewter platter & pewter plates, 3 cosons, teapot, 1 copper kettle, warming pan, 2 feather beds, 4 blankets, trammel, 1 chest & table, iron pot...1 pewter cup total £574-0-0"

"Inventory of the estate of Daniel Wilson, late of Lenox, Absentee - 20 acres unimproved land £50 -0-0 a few household items, total £59-14-3"

There is no mention the fate of any of the three, just that they were conspirators or absentees. Also no reference to property being confiscated. Very interesting material and our thanks to Marian for passing it on.

Source:R1233