

WILLIAM WHITLOCK, COUNTERFEITER

In the package of Virginia and North Carolina material sent in by Bill King is a photocopy of several original pages of the Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Rowan County, North Carolina. The pages Bill sent start in 1774 and relate to James Cole and William Whitlock who are charged with counterfeiting. There are extracts of this material in the files from the book, Abstracts of The Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Rowan County, North Carolina 1763-1774 Vol.II by Jo White Linn, 1979. These were sent in by Betty Hallowell in 1991. The pertinent sections from the original are as follows:

May 4, 1774: Ordered by the court that the Coroner immediately upon the receipt hereof take into Custody and bring before the Court, James Cole and William Whitlock to answer all such matters and things as shall be then and there alleged against then on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, and bring into Court their Saddles, Saddle bags etc.

Ordered by the Court that James Cole and William Whitlock be committed to the public Goal (sic) for the District of Salisbury on suspicion of having knowingly passed Counterfeit Money of this province until discharged by due course of Law

May 6, 1774: Ordered by the Court that a former order of this Court respecting James Coles and William Whitlock be altered and Entered as follows

North Carolina, Rowan County At an Inferior Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions began and held for the said County at Salisbury on the First Tuesday in May in the year of our Lord 1774 present his Majesty's Justices to keep the peace for said County

William Whitlock and James Cole being brought before the Count as persons Suspected of printing Stamping and uttering the Debenture and other Bills of Credit current Money of this province, particularly the Debenture bills emitted in pursuance of an Act of Assembly of the Province in December 1771 and being also charged upon Oath made before John Campbell Esquire of Guildford County one of his Majesty's Justices for said County upon the oath made by Michael Jordan who swore that they the said William Whitlock and James Cole uttered and passed to him Two Thirty Shilling bills Counterfeit, base and false Money of the last mentioned Emission as good Money, The said William Whitlock and James Cole being also charged in open Court by the Oath of the said Michael Jordan as to the truth of the above Charge as also upon the Oath of two other Witnesses in open Court that they the said William Whitlock and James Cole have been heretofore charged with uttering and passing counterfeit Bills of the Current paper Currency of the Colony of Virginia, as well as those of this Province.

To the Sheriff, Coroner or Keeper of the Common Jail of the district of Salisbury. Herewith we send you the Bodies of the above mentioned William Whitlock and James Cole whom we require and charge you to receive into your safe Custody and keeping in the Goal aforesaid and them securely to keep until they be thence discharged by due course of Law herein fail not. Given under our hands and Seals this 5th day of May Anno Domini 1774 Signed Jon Brandon Rob King William Sharp

May 6, 1774: William Temple Coles Esqr being on the Bench when an Order was made for the Commitment of James Cole and William Whitlock, protests against the proceedings of the Court in that respect and prays this his protest may be entered in the record

NOTE: It is not clear what the outcome of the case was. It is also unclear who this William Whitlock is.

There may a clue in the British Merchantile Claims (1775-1803) where Lunenburg Co., Virginia documents relating to a claim of L75.3.21/2 mention Josiah Whitlock and William Whitlock. "The former moved to Georgia about 1785, his circumstances very doubtful. The latter died a few years past, a most worthless abandoned wreck".

Source: R526; R847/11