

BRITISH MERCANTILE CLAIMS

Following the American Revolution a great number of claims were filed for debts incurred during the War. Several of these mention Whitlocks and it appears they may all be from the same family.

The reports of Richard N. Venable in January 1802 include the following:

Claims of Dreghorn, Murdock & Company:

[P.108] William Whitlock. £63.1.2½.. Was not good for his debts in 1783 nor at any time since.

William A. Whitlock, Josiah Cole & John Whitlock. £12.6.2. William A. Whitlock insolvent in 1783. Josiah Cole and John Whitlock removed to Georgia before 1783 with sufficient to pay their debts.

[P.109] William Whitlock & Robert DeGraffenreed. £11.7.6. Whitlock insolvent in 1783 and ever since. DeGraffenreed removed to Carolina; carried sufficient property to pay his debts.

Robert Walton & William A. Whitlock. £7.11.9½. Walton removed to Georgia before 1783; had sufficient estate to pay debts. Whitlock not good in 1783 nor since.

Wm. Whitlock & Josiah Whitlock. £46 and £4.0.10½. William not good in 1783 nor since. Josiah removed to Georgia before 1783. Both carried away property sufficient to pay all debts.

[P.119] John Whitlock. £22.7.4½.. Removed to Georgia; had sufficient estate to pay all his debts.

William A. Whitlock. £2.16.5. Was not able to pay his debts in 1783 nor at any time since.

[P.125] William Whitlock. £0.2.8½. Insolvent in 1783 and ever since.

The reports of George Craghead, Special Agent for Lunenburg County includes the following:

[P.55] Josiah Whitlock. £35.6.1. Removed to Georgia about 1786.

John Whitlock. £54.4.4½. Removed to Georgia about 1785, his estate supposed to be rather doubtful.

[P.59] Josiah Whitlock and Wm. Whitlock. £39.3.2½.. The former moved to Georgia about 1785, his circumstances very doubtful. The latter died a few years past, a most worthless abandoned wreck.

Josiah Whitlock. Signed statement, £62.14.7, Meherrin Store. Removed to Georgia about 1788.

We have been able to determine who some of the above are:

“William A. Whitlock, Josiah Cole & John Whitlock. £12.6.2. William A. Whitlock insolvent in 1783. Josiah Cole and John Whitlock removed to Georgia before 1783 with sufficient to pay their debts.”

This entry likely refers to the children of Josiah Whitlock who died in Prince Edward Co., Virginia in 1770. William A. Whitlock is likely William Adams Whitlock born about 1752. John Whitlock is likely William Adams Whitlock's brother born about 1742. William and John also had a sister Mary who was married to John Cole Aug.18,1772. It is not clear if Josiah Cole was related to John Cole.

The unanswered question is “ Are all the John Whitlocks the same John and is William Whitlock the same as William A. Whitlock. It is possible as each is talked about in the same way each time.

I was also interested in the comments that indicate that you could avoid your debts if you moved to Georgia. I have come across this in other documents and find it interesting. We often wonder what motivated our ancestors to move from place to place. Nothing like a Revolution and war debts as incentives to move. Particularly if you found yourself on the wrong side of your neighbours!!

Sources: R847/11,12; R2187