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Subject: Whitlock

Date: Sun, 18 Nov 2001 11:48:39 EST

From: Chukrock2@cs.com

To: whitlock@bcegg.com

Subject: PML Search Result matching Whitlock

Date: Sat, 17 Nov 2001 20:50:35 -0700

From: JSDDOC@aol.com

To: chukrock2@cs.com

A result of your requested PML search. To refine or cancel this search, please visit <http://pml.rootsweb.com/>

Source: ARNOLD-L@rootsweb.com

Subject: Re: FW: [ARNOLD] Antecedents of Reverend William Arnold

Kathleen:

The John Arnold who was married to Martha Whitlock had a house and lot in Asheboro, county seat of Randolph. John, an obviously talented man, was a Virginia carpetbagger to Randolph after the Revolution. He was in Halifax County, Virginia, with his brother Francis, Jr., at the beginning of the Revolution. Both of them went to Randolph in 1779 to take advantage of the opportunities following North Carolina's confiscation of all the King's lands and the disenfranchisement of Tory freeholders. Cornwallis's invasion of North Carolina in 1781 forced the Arnolds to retreat back to Virginia: Francis, Jr., to Cumberland County; John back to Halifax. William Arnold, married to Mary Davenport, apparently sweated it out in Randolph, but moved to Lauren County, South Carolina, in 1789.

After Cornwallis surrendered and the post-Revolution turmoil in Carolina had subsided, Francis, Jr., and John returned to Randolph County, where John quickly gained political prominence, was appointed a Justice of the Peace and one of the Magistrates holding Randolph County Court, by the Governor. If I recall correctly, he was Sheriff for a year or two.

John was a wheeler and dealer, prospered from his political offices, obtained a number of land grants, then unfortunately allowed his greed to exceed his good judgment. In the early 1790s, by political persuasion at which he was adept, he obtained State appointment as Land Entry Taker, which

gave him control of all vacant lands in Randolph. As manager of the Entry Book, he determined who got what vacant lands and collected all Entry Fees, which, after taking a small percentage for his services, were to be remitted to the State Treasurer. The job involved handling a substantial sum of money

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for those days.

Later legislative and court proceedings revealed that John had conspired with Obediah Fuqua, a Virginian, to take up all of the good land left in the County, with the intent to make those who wanted Randolph lands to go through Fuqua and pay him for the privilege of obtaining a land entry from Arnold. He also failed to remit to the State Treasurer any of the entry fees that he had collected. In 1795, John Arnold was indicted by North Carolina General Assembly for Conspiracy, Land Fraud, and Embezzlement. John, alerted by friends in Raleigh, fled to South Carolina before the Randolph Sheriff received the State Warrant to take him into custody. As Entry Taker, John had posted a bond, signed by his cousin Captain John Davenport and his brother Francis Arnold among others. Davenport, to avoid being sold out to pay the Entry Fees that his cousin had embezzled, quickly followed Arnold to Laurens County, South Carolina. Francis Arnold, a straight shooter, who was a planter with no political ambitions, and no more than a bystander to John's shenanigans, tried to work his way through his liability for John's crimes, but ultimately was picked clean, and moved, a poor man, to Laurens County, South Carolina, also.

Yes, John Arnold was a public official in North Carolina, a public official who fled the State to avoid being arrested for Conspiracy, Land Fraud, and Embezzlement. During his halcyon days in Randolph, he had borrowed heavily from Jacob Hoover, a miller and merchant, and a grandfather of mine. Jacob, being a shrewd man who knew what kind of man John Arnold was, and who had his own information sources at Raleigh, heard about John's indictment by the General Assembly as soon as, if not before, John did, and immediately called in all of his notes and mortgages on John. When the State of North Carolina came looking for the assets that Arnold had left behind, there were none because Jacob Hoover had taken everything, including John Arnold's house and lot in Asheboro. That house and lot remained in the Hoover Family until the Civil War, I understand.

If you're interested in the earlier days of these Arnolds, their early Virginia presence is included in "The Pamunkey Davenport Chronicles," a CD published by the Pamunkey Davenport Family Association, Robert L. Davenport, Coordinator, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. You should be warned that John Arnold came by his casual approach towards the Law genetically. His grandfather Francis Arnold, Jr., was constantly in the sights of the Spotsylvania Sheriff for forty years for one reason or another--mostly having to do with money, but also for not attending Church.

John Scott Davenport
Holmdel, NJ