

Stephentown, August 26th 1844

Honored Sir,

It is with grief and indignation, not to be described that I am obliged from a sense of duty to my dishonoured country, to my insulted neighbours, to my abused parents, and to myself; that I now take the liberty humbly to petition you as our protector, to deliver us from a state of anarchy and confusion; from the hands of wicked and violent men.

The idea of breaking down Mr. Van Rensselaer and thus saving a few dollars seems to have engrossed the wole [sic] attention of the Anti-Renters; religion, temperance, and politics are scarcely heard of. Whenever we see men combining to break down the laws of the state it aught to give us alarm for the consequences. Of such combinations you have been informed.

But I fear the half has not been told.

Not only do they insist and abuse those improved by Mr. Van Rensselaer, but also private persons, because they have raised their voices against such riotous and unlawful proceedings are threatened, insulted, and outrageous.

Of short time since seven or eight of the disguised villains called Indians came to my fathers house at ten o'clock in the evening for the express purpose of giving him and myself a coat of tar and feathers. They found the doors fastened. They requested us to open them; which we refused.

They then threatened to break down the door, and showed us their rifles and pistols at the window.

We armed ourselves with clubs and told them that if they came in it would be at the peril of their lives.

After more than an hour spent in this kind of conversation, finding that we were determined not to yield without coming to blows, they fired two guns and withdrew. They have threatened to come again with a larger force.

When they meet me in broad day they shake their hatchets over my head, and present their swords at my breast. They have outraged others by pursuing them in the night and presenting pistols at them. Even those who have said nothing cannot escape if they refuse to cry down with the rent. An aged Scotchman having refused to gratify them in this respect; because he had no rent to pay, and knew not whether it was right or wrong; was draged [sic] some distance toward the woods and at last compeled [sic] through fear of worse treatment to obey. The drunken vagabond Leonard has respected a number from their lands; my father among the rest; and has sold one of his lots to a neighbor. What is to be the result I know not.

But one thing seems self evident; if the time has come when a ? fool of riotous men can set the laws of the land at defiance, with impunity, there is an end of our liberty.

As for the law, the Anti-renters are so bold as to tell us (if we attempt to reason with them) that there is none, 'tis nothing but the shadow and they care not for it. And why? Because the sheriff can do nothing

if he would, and the Governour will not do any thing because he is the holder of rent land' and is determined to do nothing till he is satisfied in regard to the title.

Thus giving us to understand, that you are well pleased with their proceedings.

Of late they have let out their real design; and they now come boldly forward, and say they will pay no more rent whether the title be good, bad, or indifferent.

Considering the fatal consequences which may result from so flagrant violation of law; I would intreat [sic] you to delay no longer. As you love your country, and respect its just and righteous laws; as you value the welfare of people, and as you value your own character, and above all as you revere the authority of him who rules on high, come forward with that energy which the case demands, and show the world that there is yet law, and yet one man who will put it into execution.

Your most humble servent [sic]

Samuel P. Rollo.

.....
From

http://books.google.com/books?id=lnYtAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA46&lpg=PA46&dq=samuel+rollo+%2B+stephentown+ny&source=bl&ots=opwnldGyYx&sig=glup5wib33qK9Wp8ZDjSSc7bfSs&hl=en&sa=X&ei=noc6VJ7ZK9LbsATW_YGADA&ved=0CB4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=samuel%20rollo%20%2B%20stephentown%20ny&f=false

A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Alexander Rollo of East Haddam, Conn., 1685-1895, with Biographical Notes. By John Hollenbeck Rollo, 1896.

Samuel Post Rollo, brother of the preceding [Eber Myers Rollo, a Congregational clergyman and President of a college in Greenbush NY], became a Methodist clergyman and preached at Stephentown, N.Y. He seems to have been a man of wide culture. He interested himself in Genealogical researches, at one time, and had collected material for a history of the Rollo family. After his death the MSS, were mislaid, and thus was lost the patient labor of years.

.....
From <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/cemr6.htm>

Born 08 Nov 1822; died 26 Oct 1858; buried at Stephentown Presbyterian; died in Denver, Colorado

Apollos and Elizabeth Rollo may be parents. Apollos b. 1776 d. 20 Feb 1852 (75 yrs); Elizabeth 20 Aug 1778 to 27 Jan 1859