Katherine Hu

**John Carmichael**

**Chester County, Pennsylvania**

**May, 1776**

**Objective:** To resist British tyranny through a lawful, biblically justifiable war

**Summary:** I am a reverend who believed that violence and war were sometimes necessary as a means of self-defense. I preached and wrote against British policies while serving in Chester County, Pennsylvania. My sermons persuaded my congregation to join the American cause.

**Professional Experience:**

**Major Accomplishments:**

1775 Preached “A Self-Defensive War Lawful” at Lancaster’s

Presbyterian Church before Captain Ross’ militia and had it

circulated as a pamphlet

**References:**

**Summary of Position:**

The British have oppressed the Americans, who are innocent and obedient to the Crown. British treatment is comparable to slavery and the British are beating down American trading cities. Americans have done all they could to reach a reconciliation with the mother country, but this has proved impossible. As such, with the British continuing to behave tyrannically, colonists must defend their liberties and engage in a lawful, self-defensive war against the British. War against oppressors is biblically justified and necessary to purge the evils of the British from the world, but Americans must behave like good Christian soldiers. American soldiers should heed God and the church and avoid abusing their power, like the Red Coats do, or making false accusations. Americans should not hate the British and be willing to reconcile. Those who are anti-war should not be forced to fight, but should be prevented from helping the enemy. War is horrible and should be avoided if possible, but is sometimes necessary. British treatment of the Americans is making reconciliation impossible, so Americans must wage war against British tyranny and form their own country. Americans, who are righteous and innocent, have the right to purge the world of tyranny. They should pray to God, who will surely help them against the British, since they are innocent. When America becomes independent, it should be a great Christian empire with a Protestant King and principles of liberty and religion that allow all Christians to live in peace.

**Bibliography:**

Carmichael, John. *A Self-Defensive War Lawful*. John Dean, 1775.

Bender, David L., editor. *Opposing Viewpoints in American History Volume I*. Greenhaven Press, 1996.