

# AMBROSE WHITLOCK

Lydia B. Bacon's journal gives us a window to look in on the hardships women encountered during the early settlement of the United States. Lydia accompanied her husband into the newly explored territory of Indiana in the early 1800's. Many times she was the only white woman in the settlement.

While at Vincennes in October 1811 she mentions she became friends with the wife of an officer named Whitlock. They chummed together for company and she comments on how kind Mrs. Whitlock was to her during their stay at Vincennes.

This Mrs. Whitlock was Elizabeth, the wife of Ambrose Whitlock. Ambrose was a Virginian born 1767-68 and we have yet to determine whom his parents were. We have assumed he is the Ambrose Whitlock who shows in the Charlotte Co., Virginia tax lists for 1791-93 as we know in 1794 he had volunteered from Huston's Kentucky Battery as a Private.

There were numerous Indian wars during this period and Ambrose was known to have served in several and was later involved in the establishment of Fort Washington at Cincinnati. In the early 1800's he had come to the attention of Thomas Jefferson and was appointed paymaster by him. In 1803-04 he established a command at Fort Knox and assumed that during this time he met and married his wife Elizabeth. She was born in Kentucky about 1784.

Ambrose had made the acquaintance of Governor William Henry Harrison and in 1811 was recommended by him to be placed in command of Fort Knox as District Paymaster. By 1819 Ambrose opened a land office in Terre Haute and is listed as one fo the founders of Crawfordville in 1823. It was at this time that he made the acquaintance of Dr. Williamson Dunn, later Judge Dunn and the families appear to have remained life long friends. Maria Dunn is mentioned in Ambrose's will.

About 1830 the Whitlocks left Crawfordville and settled in Montgomery County where Ambrose spent the remainder of his life. There do not appear to have been any children and Ambrose passed away in 1863 at the age of 96 after a long and eventful life. He was survived by Elizabeth, his wife of nearly sixty years.

I have only touched the basics of Ambrose's life in the article and I am sure as more Indiana information is received we will learn more about this very interesting Whitlock.

Sources:UBC85-95; X639/7; X903; X932/2; X945/2