

WHITLOCK MOUNTAINS OF ARIZONA

George and Gladys Whitlock of Mesa, Arizona sent in a very interesting item (X2139) that confirmed how the Whitlock Mountains in Graham Co., Arizona got their name.

On March 27, 1864 James H. Whitlock, Captain, Fifth Infantry, California Volunteers made the a report to his superior officer. The following is taken from that report.

Together with 56 men, a guide, scouts for a total of 61 men, 2 wagons and teams loaded with rations for 30 days left the post. Half of the men mounted and the balance were foot soldiers. In search of marauding Indians they travelled down the Gila. After five days, Captain Whitlock crossed a rocky and rough cragge mountains. Then they came out on a open plain. When they found a fresh pony track it was about 4: PM The army guide and scout said that they could soon expect to find the marauders. Captain Whitlock ordered a 'dry Camp' and sent s scout to discover water. In Captain Whitlock's written report he described out Mount Graham as Mount Gray and Sierra Bonita.

The scout sent out by Whitlock returned to the 'dry camp' with the information that the had discovered an Indian camp of about 250. It was about 4: AM when the scout gave Whitlock the information. Whitlock continued in his report that the Captain and his soldiers were put into a moving action within two minutes. Just as the savages were awakening from their slumbers, between daylight and sunup, Whitlocks command charged the Indian Camp. The fight lasted about one hour. "At the end of which I had in my possession the entire Indian 'campoody' with all its property, including 45 head of horses and mules. There were the dead bodies of twenty-one Indians" The report continued, "I am satisfied that as many as thirty Indians were killed in this fight. Some of my men fired as many as eighteen shots from their Minnie muskets.

I could form no idea how many of those wretches went away with holes in their hides, but suffice it to say a great many. On our side some of the men had arrows in their clothing but no man's skin was broken." Whitlock determined the Indians to be from the Chiricahua Apache tribe. Whitlock determined that the fight took place about perhaps thirty-five miles northwest of Fort Bowie, at the sough end of a range of mountains called and referred to by the army as the Sierra Bonita range."

Later the area in army maps and verbal discussion, "Where Whitlock had his Indian battle." Thus we discover the Whitlock mountains, Whitlock Cienega were named for James H. Whitlock, Captain, Fifth Infantry, California Volunteers in 1864.

We have some information about this James H. Whitlock but are not sure which family he belong to. The Record of California Troops - Company F mentions the company was raised in Quincy, Plumas County, by Capt. James H. Whitlock, and was mustered into the United States service at Camp Union October 23,1861. The New Mexico Historical Review, Vol.43 mentions Captain James H. Whitlock, Company F, 5th Infantry to command of Fort West September 28, 1863. There is reference to Capt. James H. Whitlock in Arizona Territory Apr.7,1864. The Official Army Register lists James H. Whitlock, Brevet-Major March 13,1865 Ca Inf 1st Reg 5th Reg.

Our thanks to George and Gladys for this item and if others can add to the story please let me know.

Sources: UBC68,142,143; R211; X2139