

BRAND WHITLOCK IN BELGIUM

Shown below is a stereo-scope of Brand Whitlock talking to President Wilson taken shortly after World War I.

On the back is: "19265 PRESIDENT WILSON AND BRAND WHITLOCK AT NIEUPORT, BELGIUM Perhaps the most interesting figure of the group before us is that of the slender American with sensitive, intellectual face who is engaged in earnest conversation the President. This man is Brand Whitlock, our fearless U.S. Minister to Belgium, from the beginning of the war until April 1917, when we entered the conflict against Germany. In 1914, Brand Whitlock, though only 45 years of age, was already a distinguished man in America, having been four times elected reform mayor of Toledo, Ohio, and having made a name for himself as a journalist and author.

When the Germans invaded Belgium, instead of retiring to France he remained in Brussels. Here he became the chief organizer and administrator of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, which undertook to care for the nearly 7,500,000 destitute people in the occupied territory. This Commission during the war expended upward of half a billion dollars for relief work in Belgium and shipped into the devastated areas of Belgium and France 4,500,000 tons of food. But far more than that, Whitlock made himself, frequently at grave personal risk, the champion of the helpless people against the overbearing and often brutal or stupid German military government. While maintaining official neutrality he was able by his fearless demands for justice from the invaders and his restraining influence upon the hot-headed Belgians, to save the latter from countless indignities. Brand Whitlock is a man of whom his countrymen will ever be proud, one who embodies all the best qualities of American manhood. By the Belgian people he is more loved and honored, probably, than any other man after King Albert himself. The Belgian Government conferred upon him the highest honor within its gift."

Joseph Brand Whitlock was born in Urbana, Ohio Mar.4,1869 and died in Cannes, France May 24,1934. He was the son of Rev. Elias D. Whitlock and Mallie Lavinia Brand. He married twice but had no children. This family is detailed on our WHITLOCK16 chart. Brand Whitlock wrote numerous books, of which we have the following in our collection: *The 13th District* 1902; *Her Infinite Variety* 1904; *The Turn of The Balance* 1907; *The Gold Brick* 1910; *Forty Years of It* 1914 *Belgium* 1918; *J.Hardin & Son* 1923; *Transplanted* 1927; *The Stranger of The Island* 1933. There is also a copy of Brand Whitlock's biography by David D. Anderson 1968.

Brand Whitlock was quite interested in his ancestors and we have copies of some of his original research. Included in this is a note to Brand regarding Bulstrode Whitlocke's Journal of the Swedish Embassy in 1653. It was first printed in 1772 and reprinted in 1843.

Lastly we have a couple of large medals (3" diameter), one silver the other bronze struck by the Belgians after the war to recognize Brand Whitlock's efforts on their behalf. One side surrounded by wheat on one side and oak leaves on the other, reads: A SON EXCELLENCE BRAND WHITLOCK LA BELGIQUE RECONNAISSANTE 1914-1915. The other side

around the profile of Brand Whitlock it reads BRAND WHITLOCK MINISTRE DES ETATS-
UNIS D'AMERIQUE A BRUXELLES