

Mary Tiffin Worthington Macomb (1797-1836)

Mary Worthington was the first child of Thomas and Eleanor Worthington. She was born in Berkeley County, (West) Virginia a year before the family relocated to the Northwest Territory. Unusual for girls in the early 1800's, Mary and her sister Sarah were well educated in boarding schools in Kentucky and Maryland. At the Academy for Young Females in Baltimore, they received their fashionable training in parlor manners of society. Mary attended one of Dolly Madison's tea parties at the White House.

In 1816 Mary married David Macomb, a young army officer. Her father strongly opposed the marriage, and wrote in his diary that the pair was basically strangers. The marriage started well, and Macomb managed Worthington's mill and they lived in a house he owned. Problems soon followed. Macomb did not manage the mill well and lost his place. He was in debt and the family moved to Adena as their belongings were auctioned off. Macomb made plans to move to Florida, while Mary and her children remained behind for some time with Sarah and her family. These stays with family cause much friction until Mary left for Florida in 1826.

Life was primitive there and the family's financial difficulties continued. Mary wrote home that she feared for her children's educations. She wrote to her brother Albert: "We stand in slippery places," as he also had not found a good place in life and they both felt forsaken by their parents.

David Macomb was lured from Florida to what he thought would be a better life in Texas. It was on that trip that Mary became ill and never recovered. She was 39 years old and had given birth to seven children, two of whom died. Her husband, despondent and ill, committed suicide a year later and the two were buried in the "wild woods of Texas." Their graves were never located.

After Mary's death, three of her children came to Adena and received care and educations from their grandmother Eleanor and Aunt Margaret.