

Henrietta Ambrose



Henrietta Ambrose was born in 1766, the daughter of John, Lord de Blacquiere and the actress Caroline Ambrose (1739-?). Her father asked two friends, Sir Richard Croft and Lord Denman to keep an eye on Henrietta and to help her if necessary.

Croft and Denman took their promise seriously and in 1773 took Henrietta away from her mother as they were concerned about Caroline's respectability. Henrietta was sent to live with her father's sister and her husband in Switzerland, but she returned to England when she was 16, where she became a governess. One of her pupils was a girl named Mary Spencer.

Years later, Mary Spencer was married to a solicitor in Cirencester called David Whatley. Dying, she asked Henrietta to visit her and made her promise to 'take her place and become a mother to her child'.

A couple of years later in 1803, Henrietta married David Whatley and moved to Cirencester. Henrietta and David had a daughter whom they named Mary 'Croft' Whatley, after one of Henrietta's guardians. Henrietta died in 1852.