



*Silver on a chevron blue between  
three pellets, as many cinquefoils:  
a chief chequy gold and blue.*

Henry Hobson was the maternal grandfather of Colonel Miles Cary who was Tom Mitchell's 6<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. He was a prominent citizen of Bristol England. In the early 1600s Bristol was one of England's largest seaports. The records of Bristol show that Henry Hobson served as mayor and as an alderman of that city. His will and his funeral certificate from the College of Arms provided additional information for this summary. Henry Hobson died on 21 March 1635. He was a well-to-do innkeeper.

- I. Henry Hobson married Alice Davis, daughter of William Davis of the "Cittie of Bristol"  
Henry and Alice had three children.
- i. William Hobson, "who hath borne the office of Shreiff of Bristol, married Margaret Colston, daughter of William Colston of the said Cittie, merchant."
  - ii. Alice Hobson, ye eldest daughter of the said Henry Hobson, married to John Cary, sonne of William Cary, Alderman of the said Cittie. She was willed her father's license to sell wine in Bristol.
  - iii. Anne Hobson, "his youngest daughter, married to Thomas Jackson, Marchant, late one of the Shreiffs of said Cittie".

II. William Hobson was most likely an inn keeper like his father. His father did not bequeath any special property to William other than his scarlet gown. He gave a "massuage", dwelling place, to each of his daughters. It is possible that Henry had given William his share of his inheritance before his death. William married Margaret Colston, the daughter of a Bristol businessman. Hobson does not mention any grandchildren from this marriage.

- III. Alice Hobson married John Cary, a draper. Drapers were cloth merchants.  
Alice and John had seven children.
- i. Henry Cary
  - ii. Mathew Cary
  - iii. Richard Cary
  - iv. Miles Cary, Tom Mitchell's ancestor.

- v. Alice Cary
- vi. Honor Cary
- vii. Mary Cary

III. Anne Hobson married Thomas Jackson, a merchant of Bristol.

Thomas and Anne had four children.

- i. Thomas Jackson
- ii. Henry Jackson
- iii. Margarit Jackson
- iv. Anne Jackson

Henry Hobson bequeathed each of his male grandsons five pounds by his will. The money to be paid to them on their twenty first birthdays. His five grand daughters each received one hundred pounds. This to be paid to them when they were married or reached their seventeenth birthday. "All legacies to bear 5% interest from my death."

## Cary



Silver on a bend black  
three roses of the field  
on a canton of the second  
an anchor gold  
Crest—A swan proper

The Carys became part of Tom Mitchell's ancestral line when Elizabeth Cary married Richard Whitaker II in Warwick County, Virginia in 1740. Elizabeth and Richard were the grandparents of Wilson Whitaker Carter who was Tom Mitchell's maternal grandfather.

The Carys are an ancient family in England. The family is found living in Kari Castle in the parish of St. Giles in the Heath, near Launcheston in the *Domesday Book* around 1086 A.D. When the peoples of England began to use surnames in the Middle Ages, they often used the name of the place from which they came or lived. The name Kari or Cary comes from caer which in the Celtic language meant fortified place. The Celtic caer became Kari. Later it was Karry and finally Carye, Carey or Cary.

Through their recorded history the Carys were people of some substance. Their ranks included knights, barons, lords, members of parliament, government officials, merchants and large landholders. One married the sister of a Queen, Ann Boleyn, and their son was made a lord by his aunt, Queen Elizabeth I. [Family connections helped.] Our branch of the family became cloth merchants in Bristol, England. Several of these ancestors served as High Sheriffs, Aldermen and Mayors of Bristol.

Through the years all branches of the Cary family have been awarded very similar arms by the Heralds College. In England this is the official body that is responsible for checking family pedigrees, designing and awarding arms to those applying individuals who qualify.

In the *Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire* by Sir Bernard Burke, C.B., L.L.D., Ulster King of Arms, we find the lineage of the Cary family of Devon from whom our Cary ancestors were descended.

The CARY family had their residence, anciently, at Cockington, co. Devon. First known member of family is

ADAM DE KARRY, Lord of Castle Karry, in Somersetshire, m. Anne, dau. of William Trevet and was father of

JOHN KARRY, who, by Elizabeth his wife, dau. of Sir Richard Stapleton, had a son and heir,

WILLIAM KARRY who held the manor of West Polworth, co. Devon, at his decease, 31st of Edward I. (1303 A.D.) He m. Alice, dau. of Sir William Beaumont, Knt., and was father of

SIR WILLIAM KARRY, who m. the dau. of Sir John Arcdeacon, and had two sons, John (Sir), his heir and William (Sir), M.P. for Devonshire, 36th and 42nd Edward III., living 11th Richard II., d.s.p. The elder son,

Sometime in the 1300s a younger son of the Devon Carys moved to Bristol and founded a family of merchants. In the late 1600s the Bristol Carys were formally acknowledged by the Devon Carys as their kinsmen in certificates submitted to the Herald's College. The Carys that follow are not our ancestors but relatives, many of whom had such interesting lives that we will follow the lineage through the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

SIR JOHN CARY, Knt., one of the barons of the exchequer, temp. Richard II., (1377-1399) m. 1st, Agnes, dau of Lord Stafford, and 2ndly, Margaret, dau. of William Holwell, of Holwell in Devon, and widow of Sir Guy De Brian; by the latter he had issue, John Bishop of Exeter, anno. 1419, and an elder son, his heir.

SIR ROBERT CAREY, Knt., a person so valorous and skilful in arms that few presumed to enter the lists with him. Amongst his other exploits is recorded his triumph over an Arrogonian knight in Smithfield; upon which occasion he was knighted, and allowed to keep the arms of his vanquished rival--- namely "Three roses on a bend" (These same arms with minor variations were used by our Colonial American Cary ancestors and still borne by the Cary family in England today.)

Sir Robert, m. twice; by Margaret his first wife, dau of Sir Philip Courtenay, of Powderham, co. Devon, he left a son and heir,

PHILIP CAREY, Esq., of Cockington, who m. Christian, dau. and heir of William Orchard Esq., and by her (who m. 2ndly, William Portman Esq.) was the father of

SIR WILLIAM CAREY, Knt., an eminent Lancastrian, who upon the issue of the battle of Tewkesbury, 10th EDWARD IV., fled to a church for sanctuary, but was brought forth under promise of pardon, and beheaded. Sir William m. 1st, Anne, dau of Sir William Paulet, Knt. and from that marriage descended the Carys, who continued at Cockington and were ancestors of the Carys of Torr Abbey and Follaton, co. Devon. He m. 2ndly, Alice. dau of Sir Baldwin Fulford, Knt. and by her had a son,

THOMAS CAREY, Esq. of Chilton Foliot, who m. Margaret, 2nd dau. and co-heir of Sir Robert Spencer, by Eleanor his wife. dau. and co-heir of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, by whom he had two sons, viz.,

JOHN (Sir), who m. Joice, sister of Sir Anthony Denny, Knt., and left issue,

EDWARD (Sir), of Berkhamsted, who m. Catherine, dau. Sir Henry Knevet, and widow of Henry, Lord Paget, by whom he had,

HENRY, created Viscount Falkland, in the peerage of Scotland, a dignity still EXTANT.

WILLIAM, of whose line we treat.

The younger son.

WILLIAM CAREY, an esquire to the body to King Henry VIII., and a favourite of that monarch, m. Lady Mary Boleyn, dau. of Thomas, EARL OF WILTSHIRE, and sister of the unfortunate Queen ANNE BOLEYNE, and by her, who m. 2ndly, Sir William Stafford, Knt., had issue.

HENRY, his heir

Catherine, m. to Sir Francis Knollys, K.G.

He d. in 1528, being then of the bedchamber to the king, and was s. by his son,

HENRY CAREY, who soon after the accession of his first cousin, QUEEN ELIZABETH to the throne, received the honour of knighthood, and upon 13 January following (anno 1559) was elevated to the peerage, by letters of patent, as BARON HUNSDON, with a grant of the mansion of Hunsdon, co. Hertsford, and a pension of 4000 pounds a year. In the 5th of Elizabeth his lordship was sent with the order of the Garter to the King of France, then at Lyons; and five years afterwards, being governor of Berwick, he drove the insurrectionary Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland into Scotland; the former of whom he subsequently got into his hands and had beheaded at York. In the 29th Elizabeth, Lord Hunsdon was appointed general warden of the marches toward Scotland and lord chamberlain of the royal household. In 1588, the memorable year of the menaced Spanish invasion, his lordship had the protection of the queen's person, in the camp at Tilbury, and the command of the army for that purpose. He was likewise captain of the pensioners and a knight of the Garter. He m. Anne, dau. of Sir Thomas Morgan, Knt., of Arkestone, co. Hereford, by Anne his wife, dau. of Jean, Sire de Merode, and had issue,

I. George, his successor.

II. John

III. Edmond, who was knighted for his valour by the Earl of Leicester, in 1587. Sir Edmund m. 1st, Mary dau. and heiress of Christopher Croker, Esq. of Croft, co. Lincoln; 2ndly Elizabeth, dau. and co-heir of John, Lord Latimer and widow of Sir John Danvers, Knt.; and 3rdly, Judith, dau. of Lawrence Humphrey, D.D. and had three sons and two daus., and was s. by his eldest son,

Robert (Sir), a captain of horse under Horatio, Lord Vere of Tilbury, in the Netherlands, m. Aletta, dau. of Mynheer Hogenhove secretary to the States General, by whom he had three sons, HORATIO, Ernestus, and Ferdinand, and was s. by the eldest,

HORATIO, captain of horse in the service of King CHARLES I., m. Petrolina, dau. of Robert Conyers, Esq., and was father of

ROBERT, of whom hereafter, as 6th Lord Hunsdon.

IV. ROBERT, created Earl of Monmouth (See that dignity).

I. Catherine, m. to Charles Howard, Earl of NOTTINGHAM.

II. Philadelphia, m. to Thomas, Lord Scrope.

III. Margaret, m. to Sir Edward Hoby, Knt.

The illness which occasioned Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon's death is said to have arisen from disappointed ambition, in never having been able to attain the dignity of EARL OF WILTSHIRE. Fuller, in his "Worthies of England" relates that, "when he lay on his deathbed, the queen gave him a gracious visit, causing a patent for the said earldom to be drawn, his robes to be made, and both to be laid out on his bed; but this lord (who could not dissemble, neither well nor sick,) replied 'Madam, seeing you counted me not worthy of this honour while I was living, I count myself unworthy of it now I am dying.'" His lordship d. at Somerset House, 23 July, 1596, age. seventy-two, and was s. by his eldest son.

GEORGE CAREY, 2nd Baron Hunsdon, who had been educated for the public service from his earliest youth, and obtained in the lifetime of his father the honour of knighthood, for his distinguished conduct in the expedition made into Scotland, in the 13th of Elizabeth, under the Earl of Sussex. Sir George succeeded his father as captain of the band of pensioners, and was soon after made lord chamberlain and a knight of the Garter.

His lordship m. Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, Knt., by whom (who m. 2ndly Sir Thomas Chamberlain, and 3dly Ralph, Lord Eure) he had an only dau. and heiress,

Elizabeth, who m. Sir Thomas Berkeley, Knt. son and heir of Henry, Lord Berkeley, and d. 23 April, 1635.

*{ The tomb of Lord Hunsdon in Westminster Abbey is one of the largest and best maintained in the Abbey. Located in the Chapel of Saint John the Baptist, it is over thirty six feet high, the tallest in the Abbey. It rates a full page in the Official Guide of the Abbey }*

We will leave the Barons Hunsdons whose line became extinct in 1765 and return to our line, the Carys of Bristol.



During the rules of Henry VIII, Charles I and Oliver Cromwell the City of Bristol suffered a number of attacks and sackings. Many civil and church records were destroyed in the process. From the remaining incomplete records we find Carys in Bristol in public offices as early as 1313.

However because of the missing records a family pedigree could not be conclusively established which included these earliest Carys. The Heralds College pedigree for the Bristol Carys begins in 1492 for this reason. For brevity I have included only our lineal ancestors.

A more complete family pedigree may be found in Harrison Fairfax's *The Virginia Carys*, De Vinne Press, New York, 1919. This is the most completely documented genealogical history I have found for our Cary ancestors. Fairfax was a Cary descendant on both sides of his family

The evidence for the Cary line that follows comes primarily from these sources: The Wills of the Cary and Hobson families of Bristol, The Heralds College pedigrees of 1699, 1700 and 1701 for the Carys of Bristol, The *Great Red Book or Tolzey Book* of the City of Bristol, The Saint Nicholas parish registers, Bristol and the wills of Colonel Miles Cary I of Warwick, Virginia and his descendants. The Heralds College pedigree of 1699 includes our ancestors, Colonel Miles Cary I and his oldest son, Major Thomas Cary I.

#### I. WILLIAM CARY (1492-1572)

"the elder, dwelling upon ye Backe in St. Nicholas Parish in ye citty of Bristoll." He was sheriff of Bristol in 1532 and mayor in 1546 during the reign of Henry VIII. He had five children by two wives. The name of his 1st wife is unknown. He m. 2nd ? Agnes who died in 1559. By her he had Richard, "the younger, draper dwelling upon the Back in St. Nicholas Parish of the City of Bristol."

William died in 1572 and was buried in the Cary Family crypt in Saint Nicholas church in Bristol on 28 March 1572. He left a will dated 2 April 1571 and proved 10 June 1572. Will mentions son William, dau. Anne and son-in-law John Lacie. Also mentioned are Richard, William, Lettice, Elizabeth and Marye, children of his oldest son, Richard who had died the year before. See II., below.

#### II. RICHARD CARY (William<sup>1</sup>), (1515?-1570),

"the elder, of the City of Bristol, Merchant." Buried St. Nicholas Church 17 June 1570, leaving a will dated 11 June 1570 and proved 3 November 1570. Mentions sons Richard, William and Christopher, daus. Anne, Frances, Elizabeth, Marye and Lettyce Mellon. "To my father William Carye four hundred pounds which is a debt I owe unto him". Wife Johan was designated executrix. Brother William Carye and brother Robert Halton to be overseers. Witnesses Robert Holton and Christopher Pacey, Prebendary of the Cathedral Church of Bristol.

He m. 1st, Anne and by her had ten children. He m. 2nd, Joan, sister of Robert Holton, Chamberlain of Bristol, and by her had five children. Our ancestor, William, was from his first marriage.

III. WILLIAM CARY (Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1550-1633)

" the elder, of the City of Bristol, draper. He was baptized 3 October 1550 and left a will drawn on the day he died, 1 March 1633.

He was Sheriff of Bristol in 1599 and Mayor in 1611. He served as an Alderman thereafter. He m. 1st Elizabeth Goodale and by her had ten children including our ancestor, John. He m. 2nd, 1624, Mary, dau. of Gregory Llewellyn of Keynsham and by her had two children.

IV. JOHN CARY (William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1583-1661), draper, of Bristol.

He m. 1st in 1609 Elizabeth Hereford and had by her five children, three sons and two daus. He married 2ndly Alice Hobson, dau. of Henry Hobson, Innholder, Mayor and Alderman of Bristol. By her he had four sons, including our ancestor Miles, and three daus..

John Cary left no will but he and his children are mentioned in the will of his father-in-law, Mayor Henry Hobson, Henry Hobson's funeral certificate filed with The Heralds College and the Heralds College pedigrees of 1699 and 1701 for the Bristol Carys. The certificate was taken by George Owen, Yorke Herauld and signed by City Alderman and son William Hobson. Certificate also includes a tricking (heraldry sketch) of the Arms of Hobson of Bristol: Argent on a chevron azure, between three pellets, as many cinquefoils: a chief chequy or and azure.( See Hobson, page 45.)

V. Colonel MILES CARY (John<sup>4</sup>, of Bristol, William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1623-1667), of Windmill Point and Magpie Swamp, Warwick County, Virginia.

Baptized at All Saints' Church, Bristol, 30 January 1622. Emigrated to Virginia about 1645. Appears in records first on the bench of the Warwick County Court in 1652. Major 1654, Lieutenant Colonel 1657. Colonel and County Lieutenant 1660. Collector of the Tobacco Duties for James River, Escheator General for the Colony, Burgess 1660-1665, being member of the " Publique Committee" of the Assembly; advanced to the Council 1665. He was also a merchant and owned and operated a mill. Died in 1667 from wounds received while defending Fort Comfort from a raid by the Dutch Navy.

His will was dated 9 June 1667 and proved 21 June 1667. It provided generously for all his children. Oldest son Thomas, our ancestor, was given the plantations of Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point. Son Henry was given the plantation known as the Forest. Son Miles was given lands that became known as Richneck and son William, Skiffs Creek. His Bristol, England properties were to be sold and divided equally between his daus. Anne, Bridgett and Elizabeth.

His will also provided for education of his younger sons Miles and William with Miles to be educated in England. His four sons and three daus. were appointed as executors of his estate.

He m. (in Virginia circa 1646) Anne, dau. of Captain Thomas Taylor and by her had:

- i. Thomas, 1647?, of Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point
- ii. Anne, 1649?, unmarried
- iii. Henry, 1650?, of The Forest



iv. Bridget, 1652, m. Captain William Basset, of New Kent (Her great granddaughter, Elizabeth Basset, married Benjamin Harrison. Benjamin was a signer of The Declaration of Independence and their son, William Henry Harrison, was the ninth President of The United States.)

v. Elizabeth, 1653?, m. Emanuel Wills, of Warwick

vi. Miles, 1655?, of Richneck

vii. William, 1657?, of Skiffs Creek

VI. MAJOR THOMAS CARY (Miles<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1647?-1708), of Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point.

Thomas was employed as a teenage Captain for the construction of the fort at Point Comfort. He was third in command of Warwick militia at Governor Berkely's array for defense against the Indians in 1676. He was Captain, Major and Justice of the Peace for Warwick. He inherited Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point in his father's will and is believed to have carried on his father's mercantile business. He left a will recorded in 1708 naming his children

He m. not later than 1669, Anne, dau. of Captain Francis Milner, Sheriff and Justice of the Peace of Nansemond, and by her had:

i. Thomas, 1670, of Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point

ii. Miles Jr., of Potash Creek

iii. James, 1673?

iv. Milner

v. Elizabeth, m. Jones of Gloucester

VII. THOMAS CARY (Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Miles<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1670- after 1713), of Magpie Swamp and Windmill Point.

Affiliated with Quakers in 1698 and 1705 but was High Sheriff of Warwick in 1712-1713 so he must have left the Quaker fold

He m. Elizabeth Hinde of Elizabeth City and by her had:

i. Thomas, 1696? of Windmill Point

VIII . THOMAS CARY (Thomas<sup>7</sup>, Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Miles<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>), (1696?-1764), of Windmill Point. There is no information concerning his wife but his children are named in his will.)

i. Thomas, 1720, of Windmill Point, m. Martha Whitaker of Warwick County, Virginia.

ii. Elizabeth, 1725-1800, m. Richard Whitaker, 1720-1794, of Warwick County Virginia and Halifax County, North Carolina. (Tom Mitchell's ancestor)

iii. Martha ( d. 1762), m. Gough Whitaker, Halifax County, North Carolina.

IX. ELIZABETH CARY (Thomas<sup>8</sup>, Thomas<sup>7</sup>, Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Miles<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) (1725-1880)  
(See Whitaker I, page 40.).

## JAMES MITCHELL Sr. &amp; Jr.

Our attempts to research Tom Mitchell's line beyond his grandfather, James Mitchell Jr., have been frustrating. James left us few clues that help us trace his ancestors in his lengthy sworn statement to obtain his pension for his Revolutionary War service. That document tells us that he was born in Bedford County, Virginia 17 November 1754. It continues, relating his service in the Virginia Militia and the Continental Army. He stated "In the fall of 1776 he lived in the house of John Rodgers in the county of Bedford and the State of Virginia that he volunteered in a rifle company under Capt. Christofer Irvine." He mentions where he lived after he left the service. He went to Mercer County, Kentucky in the fall of 1781 and to Tennessee in 1807. [*From James Mitchell's files in the National Archives.*]

Family genealogists working on the Mitchell and allied families have come up with several scenarios concerning James Mitchell Jr.'s possible parents. Caldwell genealogists have documented a particular Caldwell family, tracing the line from Scotland to Northern Ireland, to Delaware, through Pennsylvania, Virginia and on to Kentucky. The writer believes their line is not too well supported when it gets in Virginia. However, several things mentioned by James Mitchell Jr. and the writer's father seem to tie in to their scenario.

This Caldwell-Mitchell tie-in is as follows. A John Caldwell married in Ireland a Margaret Phillips. They had five children before coming to America. They arrived in Delaware in 1727 moving to Pennsylvania and then into Virginia near the Roanoake River. John Caldwell's only daughter, Margaret, married a William Rodgers and by him had five children. He died in 1750. Margaret married as her second husband a James Mitchell. They had five children.

Margaret's brother, William Caldwell, had a daughter Martha who married a Patrick Calhoun in South Carolina. They had a son, John Caldwell Calhoun, who was very prominent in the US Federal Government for many years. He served as Vice President for John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. He served as Secretary of War and State as well as serving in the US Senate.

The source of some information comes from a letter written by John Rodgers, son of William Rodgers and Margaret Caldwell to a Caldwell cousin, Elias Caldwell, in the early 1800s. [*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 19, p. 92]

What ties this information to our line's James Mitchell Jr.? If the James Mitchell that married Margaret Caldwell is James Mitchell Jr.'s father, then James Mitchell Jr. and John Rodgers, the writer of the letter were half-brothers. We have included below some public documents that could support the Caldwell genealogists.

We have James Jr.'s sworn statement that he was living in the house of John Rodgers in 1776. On October 4, 1780 John Rodgers, Mary C. Rogers and Ann Rogers witnessed a will for John Wilkinson. James Mitchell, John Rodgers and Samuel Clayton furnished security. [*Bedford County, Virginia Will Book 1, p. 382*] An extensive search of Bedford County, Virginia records did not find any Rodgers in Bedford County other than those mentioned above.

In 1781 both James Mitchell and John Rodgers moved to Kentucky. [*John Rodger's letter and James Mitchell's sworn statement.*] John Rodgers writes in his letter that his mother's son, Robert, died in Kentucky. Court records of Mercer County, Kentucky show that [*"That the administration on the estate of Robert Mitchell, decd, is granted to Daniel Mitchell and George Shipley,*

*who entered into a bond of 1000 pounds with George Caldwell, James Mitchell and Adam Mitchell as sureties. Robert Caldwell, Abraham Irvine, John Cook and James Brumfield or any three of them, to make appraisal of the personal property of the decedent.” Mercer County, Kentucky Court Records, p. 308.] This document shows James Mitchell, two Caldwells, one Irvine and a Brumfield. James Mitchell Jr.s daughter. Betsy married Caleb Irvine and James Mitchell’s wife was Betsy Brumfield. Betsy Mitchell had a brother, James Brumfield.*

Going back to Margaret Caldwell’s niece Martha, mother of John C. Calhoun. James Mitchell Jr. and John Rodgers would be John C. Calhoun’s first cousins once removed. The writer asked his father on several occasions if we Mitchells were related to any well-known people. He always stated that Daniel Boone and John C. Calhoun were cousins and that we were related in some way to Zachary Taylor. The writer believes that Tom Mitchell must have passed this information on to his family as his children had little or no contact with other members of the Mitchell family. Tom Mitchell was twenty-five years old when John C. Calhoun died and should have known who his living cousins were.

What we have learned so far is not enough to accept the James Mitchell Sr. in the Caldwell scenario as our James Mitchell’s father but it certainly stimulates further detailed research to locate more pieces of the puzzle.

At the time James Mitchell’s father settled in Bedford County it was on the frontier. Bedford County was carved out of Albemarle and Lunenburg Counties in 1753. That was a year before James Mitchell was born. The land records of the two counties mentioned reflect only one land transactions by a Mitchell before Bedford County was established. A James Mitchell sold four hundred and fifty acres to Field Jackson on the banks of the Roanoke River in 1750. By the 1770s Mitchells were so numerous in Bedford County that our ancestors cannot be sorted out from the rest of the Mitchells who were living there.

Further, these Mitchells, many probably related to each other, used the same given names. Johns, James, Roberts, Samuels, Daniels, Enoses, Williams and Thomases abound in Bedford County records. We found no will for James Jr’s father. A James Mitchell Sr. is found in the records but no will or estate records could be located for him. At that time junior did not necessarily imply that junior’s father had the same given name as junior. Frequently “junior” was tacked on to the youngest member of a surname group to identify the younger of two people with the same given names and surnames who were living in the same community. Senior might have been a cousin, an uncle or not even related, they just had the same given and family names. When James Mitchell Jr. moved to Kentucky in 1781 we find him mentioned in court records and as a surety in marriage bonds associated with a Robert, a Daniel and once an Adam Mitchell. However both Robert and Daniel Mitchells continue to appear in Bedford County, Virginia records long after James Jr. went to Kentucky.

Let’s take the problem a bit further. In June of 1775 in Bedford County a Daniel Mitchell writes his will. “Lend my beloved wife Mary Mitchell my lands and stock of every kind and all my estate both real and personal during her life and after my decease. My Executors sell the whole of the said estate and let it be divided equally amongst all my children. (Children’s names not given). No help for our search here.

Executors: my brother Robart Mitchell and Michael Pruitt.

Witnesses: Charles Cobbs, Daniel Mitchell, and Thomas McCowan

Proven: 25 September 1775 by oaths of Charles Cobbs and Daniel Mitchell.

Security: James Mitchell and Charles Cobbs.

There are two Daniel Mitchells mentioned in the will. Our James Mitchell would not be twenty-one until November of 1775 so the James Mitchell mentioned in the will was

probably someone else. We will show when we discuss James Mitchell in Kentucky that he was associated in matters brought before the court with a Robert Mitchell and a Daniel Mitchell. Further James and his wife's family, the Brumfields, were involved with several Pruitts in Kentucky. As we mentioned above, Daniel and Robert Mitchells appear frequently in Bedford County records long after our James Mitchell has settled in Kentucky. Daniel's will was proved in September of 1775, which indicates he died not long after he wrote his will. The estate seems to have been closed in 1788. Mentioned in this last action were Michael Pruitt, Michael Prewitt Junr., Daniel Mitchell, John Mitchell, Marry Mitchell, John Rodgers, Sheriff Stephen Coggins and others. Our ancestor, James Mitchell, mentions in his 1832 sworn statement, below, that he was living with Mr. John Rodgers in 1776.

We tracked down several of James Mitchell Jr's. descendants in Kentucky and Georgia but they were not able to provide us with any information beyond that which we had already acquired from other sources. Our queries to the Bedford County Historical Society and the Bedford County Genealogical Society brought no further information. The Bedford City\County Museum made a document search of not only Bedford County but checked the personal property tax roles of twelve other counties in that part of Virginia for us. Their search turned up little additional information. All of these Bedford organizations referred us to the recognized genealogical expert in the area, Ann Chilton. Mrs. Chilton could offer us no suggestions beyond what we had done.

Our searches through Bedford County records from 1753, when the county was formed, well into the 1820s reflects a number of Mitchells living in the county. The 1810 US Census list most of them on two census sheets indicating that the majority of the Mitchells were living in the same part of the county. Pension applications by Revolutionary War veterans from Bedford County include two Mitchells: A Samuel Mitchell, born in Bedford County on 5 November 1759 and a John Mitchell born there on 3 November 1760. Our ancestor, James Mitchell Jr., was born there on 17 November 1754 as noted above. The Samuel Mitchell stated in his pension claim that his birth date was entered in the family bible but that it had been carried to Kentucky by his brother years before. Without additional proof, this Samuel could have been James' brother, a relative or just had the same surname.

A petition filed on 17 May 1774 for incorporation of The Peaks of Otter Presbyterian Church was signed by a number of Mitchells; two Roberts, two Daniels, Joseph, James, Andrew, Enos and Stephen. A Petition for Division of Bedford County, dated 21 November 1781, includes James, two Roberts, Enos and four Johns.

The Mitchell's that remained in Bedford County after James moved to Kentucky appear regularly in the records of the county court. Several served as grand jurors. A Robert Mitchell was the clerk of the Bedford County Court. Samuel and Daniel served as militia officers. Enos was qualified as a surveyor, John was appointed constable. William was appointed coroner and later held some county office, which put him in charge of appointing people to carry out all manner of tasks for the county court and county government.

We suspect that our James was probably related to a number of the Mitchell's we have mentioned but we have not found sufficient documentation for us to establish their precise relationship or where any had come from before settling in Bedford County. The Scots-Irish immigrants like the Mitchells in Bedford County left Northern Ireland and entered the Colonies mainly through Philadelphia. Most settled in Pennsylvania for a while and then moved on west following the open lands of the frontier.



One such family was a Robert Mitchell and his wife Mary Enos who came to Bedford County from Pequea in Pennsylvania. He was the father of thirteen children including a James Mitchell. This James graduated from Hampton Sydney College and was an ordained Presbyterian minister. He is found in Bedford County records as the Rev. James Mitchell. He may be related but is definitely not our ancestor. He was born in Pequea, Pennsylvania on 29 January 1747 and his career is well documented by the Presbyterian Church and researched by some of his descendants with whom I have corresponded. The Enos Mitchells we find in Bedford County records are probably descendants of the above Robert Mitchell and Mary Enos.

We have learned little of James' early life. I'm sure that his family's life on the frontier was rather primitive with few of the amenities found in eastern Virginia. James had some book learning as he signed his own name in documents and in his pension application he used military terms in their proper context to explain his experiences during his service in the Revolutionary War.

In his pension application James says that he was living at the home John Rodgers when he volunteered for a tour in a rifle company under the command of Captain Christofer Irvine to fight against the Cherokees in the fall of 1776.

This campaign lasted about three months. We summarize below the narrative from Kegley's Virginia Frontier. *"Early in the year it was certain that the Cherokees were preparing for war. They had struck all the western settlements. Col. William Christian authorized a campaign against the Cherokees on 25 July 1776. Troops began assembling in August. By October enough troops had gathered at The Great Island of The Holston to spare an army of two thousand troops to invade the Cherokee Towns. Some two weeks were spent burning Indian cabins and destroying crops. This foray enabled Col. Christian to secure a favorable peace. Returning to The Great Island he left a garrison there and returned home disbanding all his troops by Christmas."*

On 1 January 1777 James Mitchell enlisted in the Army of the United States in the Continental Line for a term of three years. His story is best told in his own words. Below is James Mitchell's statement for his pension. This copy obtained from The National Archives in Washington.

## STATE OF TENNYSEE

### ROBERTSON COUNTY

On this ninth day of August 1832 personally appeared before me **Milton Bourne** justice of the peace in the county and state aforesaid James Mitchell a resident in the County of Robertson and state of Tennysee,

on his oath

and after being duly sworn according to law, doth^ make the following statement.

That in the fall of 1776 he lived at the house of John Rodgers in the County of Bedford and State of Virginia that he volunteered in a rifle company under Capt. Christopher Irvine and served a tour of two or three months against the Cherokee Indians. Col. Christian was first, and I think Col. Russell was second in command.

The s)\ Mitchell doth further state on his oath, that on the first day of January in the  
he in the Continental line  
year 1777^ enlisted in the army of the United States ^ under Capt. George Lambert in the  
County of Bedford state of Virginia for the term of three years. I served under Col  
Abraham Brufort also a Col \_\_\_\_\_Davis and a Col. \_\_\_\_\_Ball. I have a distinct  
recollection of an officer much beloved by the men whose name was Samuel Jordan Cavel,  
whose title ran thus---- Maj. of the tenth Virginia regiment, Maj. of Brigade, Brigade  
inspector, sub-inspector and Adjutant General. My Captain George Lambert was broke of  
his commission for stealing a hat. I think that Archibald Moone succeeded Capt. Lambert  
who I believe was my first Lieutenant, Andrew Rodgers was my second Lieutenant, he  
(Rodgers) resigned his commission afterwards 12 or 15 months. (Rodgers is dead, his name  
can be found on the pension roll, embraced under the act of 1818. When I first joined the  
service I belonged to the fourteenth Virginia but was afterwards reassigned to the tenth.

was

When I joined the regular army we were marched to Dumfries Va. and ^ inoculated with  
the smallpox, from Dumfries we marched to Alexandria Va. (Now in the District of  
Columbia) at which place we remained some weeks until we got well of the smallpox or  
sucume?, from thence we marched through Georgetown and other places not now  
recollected, and early in the month of June 77 we joined the main army under the command  
of Genl. Washington in the state of N. Jersey, about which time I think that La Fayette  
received from Genl. Washington the command of a Maj. Genl.

The first winter we lay at Valley Forge in the state of Pennsylvania. I was in the battle of  
Monmouth under Genl. Lee on the 28th of June 1778. The following winter we lay at  
Middle Brook in the state of New Jersey not far from New Brunswick. During the year of  
79 we were marched to many places, but I couldn't state with any precision the names of  
them.

In the fall ● beginning of winter, 79 we had built our winter huts in the vicinity of Trenton  
N. Jersey but received orders for those whose term of service would expire on the first of  
January following would be marched to Philadelphia at which place many of the soldiers  
were discharged, myself and others were retained for the purpose of guarding some  
prisoners to Fredericktown in the state of Maryland at which place I received an honorable  
discharge for three years of service. I received my discharge from a Col. (Probable Maj.)  
Hill, his christian name I cannot recollect.

I disposed of my discharge for a trifle after an Act of Congress making provision for the  
Officers and Soldiers of The Revolution who had received their wages in depreciated  
currency.

In the spring of 1781 I volunteered in Bedford County Virginia in a rifle company; Jacob  
Moone was my Captain, Benjamin Rice was first Lieutenant, and myself first sergeant. We  
were under the command of Col. Charles Linch until we joined Genl. Greene, we marched  
to Guilford Courthouse in the state of North Carolina. I was in the heat of that battle on  
the 15th of March. My Capt. (Moone) was killed. Benj. Rice succeeded him and I was  
promoted to Ensign.

At this battle the British took the field but soon left it. We forced them nearly to their  
shipping but could not get another fight out of them. The Virginia Volunteers left Genl.  
Greene with the regulars and returned home. I think I served about two months on the  
tour. During the summer of 81 I served another tour of a few weeks and the same fall I



TOM MITCHELL OF THE SOLEDAD

moved from Bedford County Va. to what is now Mercer County Kentucky, where I had many little skirmishes with the Indians.

In 1807 I moved from Mercer County Ky. to Robertson County Tennysee my present residence. Should I live to the 17th day of November next I shall be 78 years of age; Springfield my county seat is a distance of fifteen miles from me. A greater distance than I have traveled for several years. I think I could travel that far but it would be attained with much inconvenience. Such being the case, I have made my declaration before a justice of the peace who constituted one of the judges of our county courts and submit it to the department with such other evidence as I have teen able to procure, as I \_\_\_\_\_ of no papers that would go to establish my claim.

I hereby relinquish every claim to pension or annuity except the present, embrace in an Act of Congress passed on the 7 June 1832 and do further declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn and Subscribed  
to before me date above  
written, **Milton Bourne P.**

s./ James Mitchell

I hereby certify that I believe that the foregoing statements in the declaration made by James Mitchell to be true\_\_date above written

**Milton Bourne**

James Mitchell participated in two battles both which the Americans lost. Monmouth was lost because Major General Charles Lee had no faith in his troops and had no plan for the battle. Washington arrived on the scene in time to save the situation from becoming a disaster. The weather was so hot that there were as many casualties on both sides from heat prostration as bullets. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was one of a number of battles lost by a brilliant American commander, Major General Nathanael Greene who was winning his campaign against British General Cornwallis through a series of battles which were decimating the British forces through battles of attrition. At Guilford Courthouse the day was saved by the determined stand of the Virginia Militia who stood toe to toe with the British regulars. James Mitchell Jr. was made an officer of the Virginia Militia on that battlefield that day.

In his sworn statement above, James Mitchell made particular mention of a Major Clavel and his many titles. The title of Brigade Inspector was a position set up in the Continental Army as a result of Baron Von Steuben's reorganizing and training the American Continentals beginning at Valley Forge. James Mitchell must have received that training under Von Steuben at Valley Forge. Major Clavel probably did too. Von Steuben is credited for turning the rag tag American forces into a skilled professional army. Charles Kuralt in his mini series on the Revolutionary War noted that the stubborn stand of the Virginia Militia at Guilford Courthouse was due to the large number of Continental Army veterans in the Virginia militia units in that battle.

Mrs. Ophelia Scott Miller, a 3d great grand daughter of James Mitchell, in her application for membership in the Daughters of The American Revolution notes the following. "When Lafayette visited the United States years after the close of the War, James Mitchell was asked to come to Philadelphia and visit him and he did." Lafayette's triumphal return to the United States seems to have been a yearlong love feast between the Frenchman who came to help the colonist in their fight for their freedom and the American people. That James Mitchell, then 71, was willing to make the long hard trip to Philadelphia to see Lafayette is an example of the respect and love Lafayette engendered in the Americans. At the end of the Battle of Monmouth in which both James Mitchell and Major General Lafayette had participated, Lafayette slept on the ground among the exhausted American soldiers.

Lafayette came back to the United States in 1824. What follows is taken from a history textbook of the 1880s. "Accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, he arrived at New York where he met with a brilliant reception. Proceeding on a tour through the United States, he was everywhere received as the "Nation's Guest." For more than a year, his journey was a complete ovation---a perpetual and splendid pageant. "The people appeared delirious with joy and with anxiety to hail him, grasp him by the hand, and shower attentions and honors upon him. As he passed through the country, every city, every village and hamlet, poured out its inhabitants to meet him. Celebrations, processions, dinner, illuminations, bonfires, parties, balls serenades, and rejoicing of every description, attended his way."

There is an interesting tradition among James Mitchell's descendants that James was a cousin of Colonel Daniel Boone and that he went to Kentucky with Boone. We have not been able to establish a family relationship between Boone and James Mitchell.

However Boone was actively recruiting settlers for Kentucky when James went there. James also settled in the same general area where Boone lived in Kentucky so he may well have gone to Kentucky with Boone on one of Boone's frequent trips back to Virginia where he was serving as a legislator. However James states that he settled in what is now Mercer County, Kentucky. The largest settlement in that area was Harrodsburg, which lies a few miles southwest of Lexington. Boone's settlements were east and a bit north of this location. We haven't confirmed or refuted either of these family traditions yet.

From James statement we learn that he went to Kentucky in the fall of 1781 and that he had "many little skirmishes with the Indians". An early twentieth century history of Mercer and Boyle Counties by M.T Daviess gives some idea of life in Kentucky in the early 1780s. From it we can see that James Mitchell's life was not easy. The one hundred acres of land that he received for his three years service probably had to be cleared of timber and other vegetation before he could "make a crop". Some of the felled trees had to be fashioned into timbers to construct a dwelling for shelter. Indian attacks on isolated settlers were so frequent that the settlers often lived in stations which were log structures grouped together encircled by a wall constructed of logs set on end into the ground. The stations were in effect small crude forts. These stations provided protection from Indian attacks and gave the settlers fortified locations where a number of families could defend themselves. Harrodsburg, a major station, was established in 1774. Around Harrodsburg were a number of smaller stations. Brown's Station was located six Miles east of Harrodsburg. Fountain Bleau Station was located three miles southwest of Harrodsburg on the Bohontown Pike. William Mc Afee had a station one mile west of Harrodsburg. Trigg's Station was five miles northeast of Harrodsburg while Wilson's Station was three miles southwest of Harrodsburg. (Apparently near Fountain Bleau Station.) Six other stations in the vicinity of Harrodsburg are mentioned without any directional reference to the location of Harrodsburg. In part Daviess says this about life in the stations.

*"These stations were centers in which families could gather for mutual protection; the men gradually extending out their farming operations as safety permitted. The more daring and restless sometimes made homes prematurely, and frequently had to retire into the Stations, and often the people in the Stations had to crowd into the stronger forts of which Boonesboro, Harrodsburg and Logan were for many years most secure. Life in these Stations was almost inconceivably hard and rough. The first settlers were not as a mass like the half-kilted hardy Scotch Clans. Many had been lords of Manors in the Old Dominion who had bob-nobbed with Lord Fairfax, and whose dames in stay and hoop had been led down the regal halls of the Belvidere "at Richmond on the James", through the stately minuet by Lord Dumore, the King's colonial governor. To such as these, to any, even to the poor Diana's who first came out, this life must have been worse than Hebrew bondage on the green banks of the Nile.----These foremothers now struggled bravely to gather round them some rude comforts and conveniences of life, and to implant correctly moral principles and knowledge of polite usage's of society in their children, and they succeeded. But the existence of such furniture and clothes and modes of society as they had known were for a long time only traditional things to their children who lived on in health and happiness all unconscious of their privation.*

*Dirt floors, or worse, puncheons, which means split logs with all their prickly splinters for little cold bare feet; a log cut out for a glassless window; bear skin curtains to separate into apartments and stick chimneys in constant danger of burning is a description of the early homesteads. Into this uncomfortable habitation the whole family and often a stranger crowded, barring all possibility of privacy,---".*

It is interesting to see that in spite of a lack of most of the amenities of civilization and the constant threat of hostile Indians, law and order came to Kentucky with the settlers. The courts and law of Virginia were present and functioning on the Kentucky frontier. In those times the courts handled many functions. Private citizens were assigned a number of tasks to accomplish that were for the common good. From Mercer County Court records we learn some of the court assigned matters that pertained to James Mitchell and his relatives.

James Mitchell to Betsey Brumfield, with William Whitehead as surety, 6 January 1787. Consent of Robert Brumfield for his daughter, same date, witnessed by John Berry and Thomas Pittman.

From page 254, Archibald Bilbo, William Bilbo, William Brumfield and James Mitchell or any three of them to divide and set apart to Anne Durham, Late Anne Berry, her dower as widow to John Berry dec'd.

Again from page 254, Richard Berry and Daniel Mitchell are appointed Guardians to Rachel Berry and Peggy Berry, orphans of John Berry dec'd. And they entered into bond of 500 Pounds with Anthony Prewitt and Edward Willis as their sureties.

Will of Robert Brumfield, (James Mitchell's father-in-law.), 7 February 1790, proven October 1794. Children: Job, William, James, Edah Prewit, Susan Richardson, Mary Prewit, Elizabeth Mitchel, Sarah and Rachel. Executors: son James, son-in-law John Richardson. Witnesses: Vincent Wren, Cloe Latimore and Agnes Mc Laughlin

Page 363, On the motion of Robert Mitchell, it is ordered that David Knox, Thomas Crawford, and Archibald Bilbo be appointed Commissioners to convey to Joseph Campbell, James Mitchell and Robert Mitchell certain lands sold to them by James Brumfield dec'd, agreeable to obligatory writings.

Page 369, The last will of Job Brumfield, dec'd, was proved by James Mitchell, Samuel Dougherty and Thomas Whitewall, witnesses thereto, and ordered recorded. Administration granted to John Latimore and William Brumfield, Executors named in the will, and they entered into bond of 1200 pounds with James Mitchell and Anthony Price as their sureties. James Clark, William Dougherty, John Durham and John Bottom, or any three of them to make appraisal of the personal property of the decedent.

Page 308, Administration on the estate of Robert Mitchell, dec'd. is granted to Daniel Mitchell and George Shipley who entered into a bond of 1000 Pounds with George Caldwell, James Mitchell and Adam Mitchell as their sureties. Robert Caldwell, Abraham Irvine, John Cook and James Brumfield to make appraisal of the personal property of the decedent.

Page 407, The persons appointed to view a way for a road leading from John Coulter's to James Copeland's, report: that beginning at John Coulter's, thence through the lands of Henry May, John Jones, Vincent Corchran, Julius Howard, Joseph Campbell, James Mitchell, William Brumfield, Charles Riles, Stephen Stemmons, John Pipes, and to James Copeland's, the way should be established. Ordered that the same be established and that the overseer through whose precinct the road runs be appointed overseer of same.

Page 416, Administration on the estate of Thomas Harbison, dec'd. is granted to Agnes Harbison and John Harbison, who entered into bond of 1000 pounds with Samuel Ewing and John Cochran as their sureties. Jerimiah Briscoe, Robert Mitchell, James Mitchell and William Bilbo, to make appraisal of the personal property of the decedent.

William Lee to Jean Mitchell with Samuel Lee as surety, 11 February 1792. Robert Mitchell gave consent for his daughter, same date, Witnessed by James Mitchell and Samuel Lee.

John Latimore to Tabitha Brumfield, with James Mitchell as surety. 23 April 1798.

These few records seem to show a grouping pattern around James Mitchell apparently involving blood relatives, many in-laws, a consequence of his marriage to Elizabeth, (Betsy), Brumfield and friends or neighbors from Bedford County. Some of the names found in this Kentucky grouping were also found in Bedford County, Virginia. We see two of the daughters of Robert Brumfield marrying Prewits. A Thomas Pitman was found in both counties as was Abraham Irvine. There is a long connection between James Mitchell and Irvines. From his pension statement we see that James served in Christopher Irvine's Company in the Cherokee Campaign in 1776. Abraham Irvine appears in court documents in both Bedford and Mercer counties. James Mitchell's will mentions his daughter, Betsey E. Irvine. From this it seems quite probable that James Mitchell did not just pick up his rifle strike out by himself for "Kaintuck" but was part of a group that left Bedford County to settle in Kentucky. Some, like James, may have been awarded land in Kentucky for their service in the Revolutionary War. Others may have just wanted some elbowroom. The Brumfield family does not appear to have been from Bedford County but the rolls of The Virginia Continental Line include several Brumfields who could have gone to Kentucky from elsewhere in Virginia to collect their bounty land.

Most of James Mitchell's children were born in Kentucky so when he moved from Kentucky to Tennessee it must have been quite a task with household goods and seven children. The writer has traversed much of the ground from Kentucky to Robertson County, Tennessee and is of the opinion that the broken terrain in many places would have made the Mitchell family's move very difficult.

James acquired over four hundred acres along the Elk Fork of the Red River near the Todd County, Kentucky border and about forty miles northwest of Nashville. It is beautiful rolling country cut by the Red River and its tributaries. James' holdings were near the present community of Sadlersville. By the time his grandson, Tom Mitchell, was born James had built a "flouring mill", a distillery and facilities for curing tobacco. As for the whiskey, it was much easier to move a few barrels of whiskey to market than haul all the grain it took to make the whiskey.



A turn of the century Tennessee writer would note the seventy-five whiskey distilleries in the county produced the renowned Robertson County Tennessee Sour Mash Whiskey which could be had in the best bars in London and Paris.

Robertson County has been the largest producer of Dark Burly Tobacco for well over a century and there are still numerous tobacco warehouses in Springfield, the county seat. The principal crops then were much the same as today, tobacco, corn, wheat and livestock.

It is interesting to note that a number of James Mitchell's neighbors were from Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Elias Fort, a neighbor of Tom Mitchell's grand parents and great grand parents in North Carolina moved close by to James Mitchell on the Elk Fork. The Fuquas also close neighbors of James appear to be from the same part of North Carolina. One of the younger Forts in Tennessee was named Joel Battle Fort. Tom Mitchell's great grandmother's sister, Tempy Whitaker, married Joel Battle in North Carolina. In 1820 James Mitchell's oldest son, our ancestor John C. Mitchell, and his wife Martha Carter bought land a few miles from James Mitchell on Caleb's creek from her cousin, Louis H.B. Whitaker who lived in either Edgecombe or Halifax County, North Carolina. Louis Whitaker had inherited the land from his grandfather, John Branch. who owned thousands of acres in Tennessee.

James Mitchell married Elizabeth, Betsey, Brumfield in Kentucky 6 January 1787. According to his will James and Betsey had three sons and four daughters. We know little about his daughters other than their names. His oldest daughter was Mary E. Mitchell who married Thomas Williamson who is mentioned in James' will. Mary died in August of 1834 at age 44 and was buried in the Williamson cemetery near the intersection of Robertson County, Montgomery County and the Kentucky State line. His next oldest daughter, Betsey E. Mitchell, married Caleb Irvine. A Thomas W. Irving is buried in the Mitchell Family cemetery. He was born 5 July 1810 and died 7 April 1829. He could have been the son of Betsey Irvine. We did learn that Caleb and Betsey Irvine had a son, Caleb, who served in the Mexican War and later on the Western Frontier. Tabitha Mitchell was James' third daughter who was not married at the time of James Mitchell's death. It seems she may have married her brother-in-law, Thomas Williamson as his second wife. He married a lady who was named Tabitha.

*(In the effects of Mary Davis Jarrell, a second great granddaughter of James Mitchell were two very old photos one of a man and one of a woman. Each was labeled on the back T. Williamson).* His fourth daughter was Susan Mitchell Prince. We have made no particular effort to trace the descendants of James Mitchell's daughters. Apparently all of James' descendants eventually left Robertson County. The writer could not locate any in 1990 when he visited Robertson County.

James Mitchell died on 18 May 1835 and was buried beside his Betsy in the Mitchell Family Cemetery. Their children placed fine marble matching headstones on their graves. James obituary was carried in the National Banner and Nashville Whig, Friday, 29 May 1835. It mentions he fought in the Revolutionary War.



THE BRUMFIELD FAMILY

The Brumfield family of Virginia and Kentucky became part of Tom Mitchell's family when his grandfather, James Mitchell, married Betsy, (Elizabeth), Brumfield in Mercer County, Kentucky on 6 January 1787.

Descendants of our James Mitchell Jr. and the Brumfields have traced the Brumfield family back to the British Isles in the mid-17th century. A James Brumfield born around, 1650, probably in England, was found first in Rappahanock County, Virginia. He married a Pessie or Pesshee Sutton. James and Pessie had six children of record.

- i. Robert, born 1677
- ii. Martha, born 21 September 1680
- iii. Isabel, born 20 December 1682
- iv. James, born 29 March 1685
- v. Ann, born 12 June 1686
- vi. William, born 21 July 1689

His son James, our ancestor, was born in Amelia County, Virginia on 29 March 1685. He married Elizabeth about 1716 probably in Lunenburg County, Virginia. James and Elizabeth had five children including our ancestor Robert.

- i. William, born about 1718. Died in Charlotte County, Virginia about 1799
- ii. John
- iii. James, born about 1724
- iv. Robert, our ancestor, born about 1724-died 1794

Robert Brumfield was born about 1724. He married Susannah and they had nine, or possibly ten children. They moved to Mercer County, Kentucky about 1780. Robert Brumfield mentions nine children his will, which was drawn on 7 February 1790. The will was presented in court in October 1794.

- i. William, died about 1819 at Doctor's Fork, Kentucky
- ii. Job, married Elizabeth Latimore in 1788. He died in March 1798
- iii. James married Joanna Berry. She died before January 1796
- iv. Tabitha married John Latimore in 1797 (See below)
- v. Edah, married Isham Prewitt Jr. in 1774. Died in Mercer County, Kentucky
- vi. Susan, married John Richardson
- vii. Mary, married David Prewitt in 1789
- viii. Elizabeth, (Betsey), our ancestor, was born 11 September 1763-died 11 September 1828. Married James Mitchell Jr. in Mercer County, Kentucky 6 January 1787.
- ix. Sarah, married Jacob Latimore in 1792
- x. Rachael, married a Mr. Major

Three sons, Job, James and William, are named in Robert's will. His six daughters named were Edah Prewit, Susan Richardson, Mary Prewit, Elizabeth Mitchel, Sarah and Rachel. Mercer County court records show that Robert Brumfield consented to his daughter Sarah's marriage to Jacob Lattimore on 30 June 1791. We found no record of Rachel's marriage. Other Mitchell-Brumfield family genealogists include a Tabitha Brumfield in Robert Brumfield's family. She was not mentioned in Robert's will, above. A Tabitha Brumfield married a John Latimore in Mercer County on 23 April 1798 with James Mitchell as surety. In 1797 John Latimore and William Brumfield were appointed Administrators of the will of Job Brumfield with James Mitchell and Anthony Price as their sureties. We cannot say for certain, based on documents we have reviewed that Tabitha was the above Robert Brumfield's daughter.

Mercer County Court records show that Robert Brumfield formally consented for his daughter, Elizabeth, to marry James Mitchel. A William Whitehead was surety and John Berry and Thomas Pitman were witnesses. James and Elizabeth were married by B. J. Smith.

*[Information supplied to Darleen Zollinger by Dora Luten Ball, a Mitchell-Brumfield descendant, fills in some of the gaps in our Brumfield genealogy but also raises questions needing further documentation]*



JOHN C. MITCHELL

Tom Mitchell's father, John C. Mitchell, has been a difficult subject to trace. From his tombstone, the US Census and information supplied by his siblings we learned that he was born in Mercer County, Kentucky about 1795 to James Mitchell Jr. and Betsey (Elizabeth) Brumfield. Both of John's parents were originally from Virginia according to information supplied by their female descendants to gain admission to The Daughters of the American Revolution. In James Mitchell's 1832 application for his Revolutionary War pension, he stated that he moved with his family from Mercer County, Kentucky to Middle Tennessee in 1807.

We know little of John's early life or schooling. His younger brother, Robert B. Mitchell, claimed to have been largely self-taught. Robert must have learned well, as he was a surveyor, county magistrate and postmaster. These positions all required a reasonable degree of literacy and mathematical knowledge. Frank Mitchell stated that his father, Tom Mitchell, said that his father was a minister as well as a farmer. So far in our research we have found no evidence to confirm that he was a minister. His step-daughter, Sarah McCardle, married a John W. Porter who was originally a farmer but in the 1880 census is listed as a Minister of the Gospel. This is as close as we have gotten to finding a man of the cloth in this branch of the Mitchell family so far.

It is very likely that John C. Mitchell served in the Tennessee Volunteers during the War of 1812. A John C. Mitchell served in the Sumner County Regiment. Sumner County, Tennessee, is the next county east of Robertson County. We have made this assumption because from 1812 until 1840 we have found only two John C. Mitchells appearing in Tennessee records and the US Census. Our John C. Mitchell always used his middle initial and always gave his county and state of residence in all documents that we have found. The other John C. Mitchell was a young Methodist circuit minister, who came of age after 1830 and died of tuberculosis in 1840 before the 1840 census was taken.

We have no information concerning John from his war service in 1813 until John C. Mitchell and his wife Martha W. Carter of Robertson County, Tennessee appeared in court in Halifax County, North Carolina in 1820 to claim Martha's share of her mother's dower lands and her share of her deceased father's estate. Martha's mother was the widow of

Wilson Whitaker Carter of Halifax County. Martha and John's oldest son, James Wilson Mitchell, was born in Halifax County in April while they were in North Carolina. James Wilson Mitchell told his descendants that his parents returned to Tennessee when he was an infant.

*[We have not yet learned how John C. Mitchell living in Robertson County, Tennessee and Martha W. Carter living in Halifax County, North Carolina met. The question might be more easily answered if we had been able to learn the maiden name of Martha's mother. At least three North Carolina families who were close neighbors of Martha's parents in North Carolina moved to or owned land in Robertson County, Tennessee. One family, that of Elias Fort, was a close neighbor of both Wilson W. Carter and his Whitaker cousins. Wilson's aunt, Tempy Whitaker, married Jethro Battle whose daughter is believed to have married a Fort who went to Tennessee. A Jethro Battle Fort lived near the Mitchells in Robertson County. If Martha Carter's mother, Mary J. was related to one of these families that moved to Tennessee, Martha could have visited her relatives and met young John C. Mitchell while there. On the other hand, John might have journeyed to North Carolina with one of his neighbors who was going to visit his North Carolina kinfolk. In either case it was a long hard journey from North Carolina to Middle Tennessee in the early 1800s but either John or Martha must have made the trip.]*

With the proceeds from the sale of Martha's share of her father's estate John C. Mitchell purchased six hundred and sixty acres from Martha's distant cousin Louis H.B. Whitaker who had inherited the land from his grandfather, John Branch. The land was in Robertson County, Tennessee on Caleb's creek about ten miles from John's father's home on the Elk Fork. John Branch with his brother William owned over ten thousand acres in various parts of Tennessee.

John and Martha lived in Robertson County from 1820 until about 1833. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born on 21 January 1821. Their son and our ancestor, Tom Mitchell, on 24 December 1825. Land records in Robertson County show that John C. Mitchell started disposing of his lands there in 1829. In 1833 he bought a portion of the Samuel Polk property adjacent to his brother-in-law, Burrows Carter, in Fayette County, Tennessee. This land was located about nine miles north of Somerville, the county seat.

John C. Mitchell apparently became a successful cotton planter. Fayette County Court Records show that John served on jury duty, committees to lay out and oversee the repair of roads and other civic duties. His oldest son James Wilson Mitchell was sent off to college and all appeared to be going well for the family.

However John Mitchell's fortune seemed to have reversed quickly. His wife, Martha, died soon after the birth of their son Robert. President Andrew Jackson's earlier misguided fiscal policies led to a national recession in the early 1840s. To make matters even worse the English, who were a major market for Mississippi Valley cotton, dropped the price they were paying for American cotton from fifteen cents a pound in 1840 to eight cents a pound by 1845. As a practice most cotton planters depended on the banks and moneylenders to keep them going between crops. Early in the 1840s there was so little profit in cotton that the planters could no longer repay their loans. Between 1840 and 1845 the principal case load of the Fayette County courts was suits brought by lenders against planters for non-payment of loans.

John C. Mitchell appeared in court a number of times as a defendant in such suits.

Unfortunately for him, many of the suits appear to involve friends and relatives whose loans he had co-signed. He appeared to answer suits along with his brothers-in-law Burrows Carter and Wilson W. Carter II. Young Wilson Carter died in his twenties during this mess. The court records do not tell us how John solved his financial problems. He owned considerable land and the 1840 US Census shows him owning forty-nine slaves.

John and Martha had four children

- i. James Wilson Mitchell, ( 8 April 1820-9 January 1901 )
- ii. Mary Elizabeth Mitchell,( 29 January 1821-20 September 1916
- iii. Thomas Findley Mitchell, ( 24 December 1825-24 December 1907 )
- iv. Robert Mitchell, ( - 1847 )

In 1843 John C. Mitchell of Fayette County married Anna C. MacCardle of New York. Anna was a widow with two daughters, Caroline and Sarah. John's children began leaving home about the time of this second marriage. James Wilson left for Texas in 1842. Thomas and Robert left in 1843 and Mary Elizabeth in 1844. Court records show that John was still living in Fayette County as late as 1847 when he was called for jury duty.

In her diary, for 1848, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Elgin, John's daughter who was then living in Austin, Texas, made this entry. "8 May, received a letter from Independence saying that father and his family have arrived at that place." Independence is in Washington County east of Austin. By 1850 John had apparently settled in Burleson County near Lexington. He and his family were enumerated there in the 1850 census along with his new son, Francis L. Mitchell, who was Tom Mitchell's half-brother. Francis Mitchell was six years old at the time of enumeration.

John, Anna C., Caroline McCardle and Francis L. Mitchell appear in the 1860 US Census. John declared his worth to be in excess of \$15,000. It is interesting to note that James Wilson Mitchell was living in Burleson County in 1850 and again in 1858 after having gone back to Tennessee and teaching school in nearby Kentucky. From Mary Elgin's diary it appears James may have returned to Tennessee to assist his father in his move to Texas. She writes on 23 April "received a letter from James. He arrived in Washington on the thirteenth, father has not got there yet." In September of 1853 J. C. Mitchell and J. W. Mitchell were appointed by the court to appraise the estate of James Castleberry, deceased. John C. Mitchell later was appointed by the court to act as Mrs. Castleberry's attorney-in-fact. He made a number of appearances in court in this capacity. In the US Census of Burleson County for 1860 both John C. Mitchell and James W. Mitchell were found in the Lexington Post Office area just four census sheets apart. [*A letter from Dr. John Elgin, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell's husband, written to an unnamed aunt, mentions that he and Mary Elizabeth made frequent trips to visit Mr. Mitchell. We assumed that this was to visit Mary's father as they referred to Mary's brother James Wilson as Jamie.*] Burleson County land records show that John C. Mitchell and James W. Mitchell both owned land described as "on the waters of the East Yegua about 20 miles S.81° W. from Caldwell". The land that John C. Mitchell purchased from John Newton in 1855 was a tract containing more than one thousand acres.

We could find no records of sale of this land by neither John C. Mitchell nor his second wife, Anna. In 1860 and 1862 James W. Mitchell sold two parcels in this area but the legal descriptions of the properties he sold do not match those of his father's 1855 purchase.

John C. Mitchell listed his occupation as a farmer in the 1850 and 1860 US Census. He was living in the vicinity of the town of Lexington according to the Census. The 1870 Census shows that Anna C. Mitchell and her daughter Caroline were living with her daughter Sarah who married John M. Porter. In the 1880 census the family was found living in Bell County, Texas, with Anna C. Mitchell listed as mother-in-law and Caroline as a sister-in-law. The probate and other court records of Burleson County do not reveal a clue as to the whereabouts of John C. Mitchell or his young son, Francis, who was fifteen in 1860 when last enumerated.

Burleson County land records show that John C. Mitchell purchased land from Mary A. Castleberry on 16 September 1853 and from John Newton on 2 May 1855 as mentioned above. We found no records of sales of the land by either John C. Mitchell or his wife Anna C. Mitchell. We have recently learned, May 1999, that John C. Mitchell died on 18 September 1868 and is buried in the Hugh Wilson Cemetery at Tanglewood, Texas which is about five miles north of Lexington in Lee County.

His epitaph reads:

JOHN C. MITCHELL DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPT 18. 1868 IN THE 73RD  
YEAR OF HIS AGE IN HOPES OF A GLORIOUS IMMORTALITY.

John and Anna had one son of record.

i        Francis L. Mitchell, (Abt 1844-)



## THE CARTER FAMILY

The Carters of Virginia and North Carolina were the family of Tom Mitchell's mother. His father, John C. Mitchell of Robertson County, Tennessee, married Martha Wilson Carter of Halifax County, North Carolina, about 1819.

A number of genealogists searching this Carter family suggest that our Carter ancestors hailed originally from Kings Langely, Herts, about twenty-five miles northwest of London, England. Records of Carters in this area go back to 1361. While some Carter family historians have speculated on possible family lines from 1361, we are on somewhat firmer ground by beginning with John Carter, father of Thomas Carter I, below.

The first Carter in this line was a John Carter who was born about 1574 in London. John was married twice. We do not know the name of his first wife but his second wife was Bridget Benion. They had at least three sons who lived to adulthood. Robert, John and our ancestor, Thomas I. Thomas Carter I was born in London, England in 1610. He was the son of John Carter, a vintner in the Parish of Christchurch, Newgate Street. In his 1630 will John Carter mentions sons Thomas and John. Thomas and his younger brother John left England on 10 August 1635 embarking on the ship Safety for Virginia. Thomas eventually became a planter in The Isle of Wight County. While it is believed by some that this John was Col. John Carter of Corotoman and father of Robert King Carter who was in his lifetime the wealthiest and one of the most powerful men in Virginia. This assumption cannot be documented.

Thomas Carter I married a woman believed to be Elinor and they had at least one son, Thomas II.

Thomas Carter II was born in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia, about 1650. Thomas participated in Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. As a result he had his property taken away and was condemned to death. However he threw himself on the mercy of the King and signed an oath of allegiance to the King, thus continuing our Carter line as well as President Jimmy Carter's.

Thomas married Magdalen Moore, the daughter of George Moore, Justice of the Isle of Wight Court, in 1673.

Thomas and his wife Magdalen Moore had at least six sons.

- i. Joseph Carter
- ii. Jacob Carter
- iii. Issac Carter
- iv. James Carter
- v.. Moore Carter I, b. about 1680, Isle Of Wight Co. Virginia, d. 1739/1740 Bertie County, North Carolina. See Carter-VI.
- vi. John Carter d. 1736 Bertie County, North Carolina.

Moore Carter I was born in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia circa 1680. Moore Carter first appears in North Carolina in 1720 when he bought 200 acres from John Dickenson in Albemarle County. This land was located on the north side of Cattawaskey Meadow. Moore Carter died in 1739-1740. His wife Jane was given administration of the estate by the Bertie County Court in May of 1740. In 1741 the estate was distributed to Moore Carter's heirs, his widow Jane; sons Jacob, Kindred, Issac, and Moore; daughters, Susannah and Katherine; and granddaughter, Patience O'Quinn. In 1742 Jane Carter sold to Jacob Carter, her son, "my whole right of third of the plantation formerly belonging to my husband Moore Carter, DEC's. on Catawhiskey Marsh".

Moore married Jane, believed to be Kindred, before 1720.

He and his wife Jane Kindred had six children.

- i. Jacob Carter, b.abt 1720, m. Sarah, d. 1797 Nash County, North Carolina.
- ii. Isaac Carter, b. circa 1721, m. Ruth, d. after 1763 North Carolina.
- iii. Kindred Carter, b. before 1728, m. Mary Brown, d. 1777 in North Carolina.
- iv. Moore Carter d. after 1741.
- v. Susannah Carter.
- vi. Catherine Carter m. 1st: William Knight, 2nd: Bryan O'Quinn, 3d: James Jones.

*It must be explained that the Carter lineage above is not completely documented. It is the best that a number of Carter genealogists have been able to reconstruct from existing records. From my research I am convinced that our family in North Carolina must be a part of the above Carter family. The heirs of our ancestor, Jacob Carter, included a Kindred Carter, a Jacob Carter, and a Moore Carter. These are all names found in the family above. We must be related. We have not found out precisely how.*

Jacob Carter is first found in the records of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, in 1739 when he witnessed the sale of 640 acres on the north side of Fishing Creek by William Spier to James Sanders. On 8 November 1754 a Jacob Carter of Edgecombe County bought 341 acres "on the north side of the Tar River joining Harrell and the river". The sale was witnessed by Kindred Carter. On 28 November 1758 a Jacob Carter of Edgecombe County bought 300 acres on the north side of Fishing Creek, joining Beaverdam, Watson and Thomas Hart. On 26 October 1774 a Jacob Carter of Northampton County bought a tract of 200 acres "on Swift Creek between Thomas Bryant & William Henry". In the 1790 Census there were four Jacob Carters living in the Halifax District. The heirs named in one of these Jacob Carter's estates links him with both Moore Carter of Northampton and Bertie Counties and our ancestors Cornelius, and Wilson Whitaker Carter, of Halifax County.

In 1797 Jacob Carter died intestate in Nash County, North Carolina. On 13 November 1797 George Foreman, believed to be Jacob's son-in-law made an inventory of Jacob Carter's estate.

On 7 December 1798 George Foreman presented the "Account of sale of the Estate of Jacob Carter Dec." to the court. In February of 1805, Nathaniel Perry, husband of Polly Carter, "a daughter of the said Jacob" petitioned the Nash County Court that five commissioners be appointed to divide the lands of Jacob Carter among his heirs. On 25 February 1805 the commissioners' division of lands was presented in court. The lands were distributed to nine heirs of Jacob Carter: Jane Chapman, Polly Perry and Crissie Foreman (daughters of Jacob and who are listed in our ancestor Cornelius Carter's will as his sisters.) Wilson W. Carter (grandson of Jacob and grandfather of Tom Mitchell). Five heirs were under twenty one years of age: "Neely?, Cornelius Carter, Betsey Carter, Kindred Carter, Moore Carter and Jacob Carter".

The court records do not show the relationship of these five minor heirs to Jacob Carter, deceased. The male's names have all appeared before in the Carter line. Moore Carter was the name of Jacob Carter's father. Cornelius,(Neely) was the name of Jacob's long dead son and father of Wilson Whitaker Carter. Kindred was the name of Jacob's brother who died in 1777. All the heirs shared equally in the division of the lands.

Jacob Carter and his wife had four children of record.

- i. Cornelius, m. Martha Whitaker, d. 1775.
- ii. Crissie, m. George Foreman.
- iii. Jane, m. Mr. Chapman.
- iv. Molley (Polly), m. Nathaniel Perry.

*[There are some indications that there may be another generation between the Moore Carter who moved to North Carolina in 1680 and our Jacob Carter and the Kindred Carter whose will was written in Edgecombe County 14 May 1777. Burke's Presidential Families of the United States shows President Carter's line of descent through the same Moore Carter that is in our line. However the President claims descent through Moore Carter's son Isaac while we are descended from Isaac's brother, Jacob. The President's line goes from Moore to Isaac to Kindred who died in Columbia County, Georgia. It seems possible that the Georgia Kindred Carter was Isaac's son and the Kindred who died in Edgecombe County was the uncle of the Georgia Kindred. The Jacob Carter, above, who died in 1797 could have been a grandson of Moore Carter I rather than his son. There was certainly enough time from Jacobs's birth, about 1720, until his death in 1797 for another generation to have been born.]*

*[The Kindred Carter of Edgecombe County had a daughter, Penelope, who was the wife of, Cary Whitaker, the son of Richard Whitaker II and brother of John Whitaker III who was the guardian of Wilson Whitaker Carter I. John's son Dr. Cary Whitaker was the guardian of Wilson Whitaker Carter II and his sister Mary Ann Carter].*

Cornelius Carter was a young planter who lived in the vicinity of Fishing Creek in southern Halifax County, North Carolina. Cornelius died in 1775. He was survived by one son, Wilson Whitaker Carter. Cornelius appears to have been a successful planter owning a number of slaves. In his will, which was filed in the Halifax County Court in February 1776, Cornelius gives his minor son, Wilson Whitaker Carter, all of his estate except for the loan of a slave. "I lend to my Father my Negro Fellow named Squire ten years".

If son Wilson Whitaker Carter did not reach maturity or died without issue, Cornelius' estate was to be divided equally between his sisters Crisse Carter, Janey Carter and Molley Carter. He directs that the building "he is about" is to be continued by his executors. He wills that his son shall go to school from age nine to sixteen and be brought up at the discretion of his executors. His good friends John Whitaker and Robert Ward" were named executors of his estate.

He married Martha Whitaker, daughter of Richard Whitaker II and Elizabeth Cary. Her parents were reared in Warwick county, Virginia. Richard and Elizabeth were married in Virginia around 1745 and moved to North Carolina soon after.

*[Sarah Cantey Allen in Our Children's Ancestry, Grace Hunt in A Goodly Heritage, and a Miss Jewel Whitaker all state that Richard Whitaker II's daughter, Martha, married Wilson Carter. The mismatched time frame in which these people would have had to have lived to make Martha Whitaker Wilson Carter's wife and the recorded wills of Cornelius Carter and Richard Whitaker II show that Martha Whitaker had to be the mother of Wilson Carter, not his wife. Allen and Hunt based the marriage of Martha Whitaker to Wilson Carter on the recollections of a Miss Jewell Whitaker made one hundred fifty years or more after the marriage.]*

Cornelius and Martha Whitaker had only one child of record.

- i. Wilson Whitaker Carter b. circa 1770 in Halifax County, m. circa 1789 Mary J.\_\_\_\_\_, d. between 1817-19, Halifax County.

Wilson Whitaker Carter was born in Halifax County some time between 1770 and 1774 to Cornelius Carter and Martha Whitaker. His mother, Martha, died before her husband Cornelius so apparently Wilson was raised by his executors. In the 8 October 1789 will of Richard Whitaker II, father of Martha Whitaker above, his first bequest was to his grandson, Wilson Whitaker Carter, who was left "one negroe Boy Ben and one bed and furniture." In the 1790 US Census of Halifax County, young Wilson is listed with the executor of his father's estate, John Whitaker III, in a manner to indicate that John Whitaker III was his guardian. John Whitaker III was a son of Richard Whitaker, above, and the brother of Wilson's mother, Martha Whitaker.

Wilson Whitaker Carter married a Milly, Mary, or Polly J.\_\_\_\_\_about 1789. He appeared to have been a successful planter owning a large number slaves. Halifax County Court records show that between 1808 and 1817 Wilson W. Carter was The High Sheriff of Halifax County. In 1815 he served in the North Carolina House of Commons as one of the two representatives from Halifax County. Wilson Whitaker Carter died intestate between 1817 and 1819. His widow, Mary J. remarried a Joseph Wilkinson about 1819 and her dower lands from her late husband's estate were divided into fourths in 1820. Martha Wilson Carter and Burrows Carter each receiving one fourth interest in a tract of land of more than 550 acres which was adjacent to the land of Dr. Cary Whitaker. Dr. Cary Whitaker was a son of John Whitaker III, Wilson Whitaker Carter's uncle.

During the November Sessions of The Halifax County Court of 1820, Court appointed commissioners James Grant, R. Fort and Jethro Parker divided the lands of Wilson W. Carter, deceased. The heirs of Wilson W. Carter I were given as Burrows, Patsey

(Martha), Mary and Wilson W. Carter. Wilson W. Carter II and Mary Ann Carter were minors at this time.

In 1822 the Halifax Court ordered Wilson W. Carter's estate settled and appointed guardians for his two minor children, Wilson Whitaker Carter II and his sister Mary Ann Carter. In 1824 Dr. Cary Whitaker was appointed the children's guardian and he made reports to the court through 1830 concerning his charges' estates.

Wilson and Mary (Polly) J. Carter had four children.

- i. Martha Wilson Carter, b. early 1790s, Halifax County, North Carolina m. John C. Mitchell about 1819, d. about 1835, Fayette County, Tennessee.
- ii. Burrows or Burrus Carter, b. 16 April 1797, Halifax County, North Carolina, d. 31 December 1876, Fayette County, Tennessee.
- iii. Wilson W. Carter II, b. 4 June 1811, Halifax County, North Carolina, d. 7 January 1845, Fayette County, Tennessee.
- iv. Mary Ann Carter, b. after 1800, Halifax County, North Carolina. d. unk.

Martha Wilson Carter was the oldest daughter of Wilson Whitaker Carter and Mary J. or Polly J.-----. She was born in Halifax County, North Carolina circa 1790-95. She married John C. Mitchell from Robertson County, Tennessee, circa 1818-1819. Martha and John had four children. Their oldest son, James Wilson Mitchell, was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, while she and her husband were in Halifax claiming her fourth share of her mother's dower lands and other property from her late father's estate. Martha and John Mitchell sold her fourth interest in the dower lands to Lewis H. B. (Henry Branch) Whitaker for one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars on 14 September 1820. On the same day, John C. Mitchell purchased from Lewis H. B. Whitaker for twelve hundred dollars, six hundred and fifty acres lying along Caleb's Creek in Robertson County, Tennessee. This land was willed to Lewis H. B. Whitaker by his grandfather, John Branch of Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1810. Caleb's Creek is about ten miles from John C. Mitchell's father's holdings along the Elk Fork of the Red River.

Burrows Carter also sold his undivided one-fourth interest in Mary J. Carter Wilkinson's dower lands to Lewis H. B. Whitaker. Burrows Carter's son, in a 1924 newspaper interview, stated that his father and his father's brother-in-law, John C. Mitchell, moved to Middle Tennessee around 1820. James Wilson Mitchell who was born in North Carolina said his family moved to Tennessee when he was an infant.

Martha W. Carter and John C. Mitchell had four children of record. (See John C. Mitchell, page 67.).



## ROBERT B. MITCHELL

Robert Brumfield Mitchell, James Mitchell's second son, and Tom Mitchell's uncle, was born in Mercer County, Kentucky on 5 January 1798. He came to Robertson County with his family in 1807. According to the Mitchell Family write-up in *Goodspeed's History of Tennessee*, Robert was largely self-educated. He was a fine mathematician and was a surveyor. He served as a magistrate in Robertson County for twelve years and also served as the postmaster at Mitchellville. While pursuing these endeavors he operated a distillery and flouring mill on the Elk Fork. He also continued his farming operations and owned the first portable grain thresher in both Robertson and Weakley Counties where he later moved. He also owned the first steam mill in Weakley County. He was a member of the Weakly County Agricultural Society and in 1860 he won the premium, (prize), for best agricultural essay and his farm took the premium for best cultivation in the same year. Robert Mitchell lived successively in Robertson, Weakly and Obion Counties. He died on 9 April 1862.

Robert married Margaret C. Linebaugh who lived on a nearby farm. Margaret was born on 23 December 1815 in Russellville, Kentucky and died on 19 April 1846. She is buried in the Mitchell Cemetery on Hoofus Hollow Road. Her obituary appeared in *The Nashville Whig* in the Thursday, 30 April edition. Robert and Margaret had four children. *The Daughters of the American Revolution Cemetery Records for Robertson County, Tennessee*, (p. 252. Item 17-2 Mitchell Cemetery), shows the burials of an infant daughter of R.B. and M.C. Mitchell who died on 16 July 1836 and that of infant son who died on 25 November 1837. Their third child, son Robert H. Mitchell was born on 8 January 1844 at McConnell, Tennessee. McConnell is located in northwestern Weakly County about 35 miles from the Mississippi River. We have no information about their fourth child.

Robert H. Mitchell attended Andrew College in Trenton, Tennessee. At the age of eighteen he joined Company H, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry under Colonel W. H. Jackson. He served during the entire Civil War and was in thirty-three engagements. He married Margaret O. Major, daughter of the Rev. J. M. Major. Robert and Margaret had four daughters. Goodspeed notes that "Mr. Mitchell is a Democrat and belongs to the K. of H. He owns 647 acres of land on which is erected a commodious and beautiful residence. He and his wife are members of The Methodist Episcopal Church South and are among the prominent families of the county." Robert H. Mitchell lived in Obion County whose western border lies a short distance from the Mississippi River.

We have been in contact with a descendant of Robert H. Mitchell, Mrs. Ophelia Bayer Scott Miller Jr. who lives near Atlanta, Georgia. She was not able to provide much additional information concerning her Mitchell ancestors but promises to send us anything significant, which she may learn in the future.



## SAMUEL FINDLEY MITCHELL

Samuel Findley Mitchell, the third son of James Mitchell and Elizabeth Brumfield, was born in Mercer County, Kentucky in 1806. It seems probable that Tom Mitchell's middle name came from this uncle's middle name. (We have yet to learn where the name Findley name came from.) From James Mitchell's will we know that Samuel Mitchell was given one third of his father's land. Robert B. was given two thirds as our ancestor, John C. Mitchell, had sold his interest in his father's estate to Robert before James Mitchell drew up his will. Robert and Samuel were the executors of their father's will. In 1841 Samuel married Mary Elizabeth Linebaugh, sold his holdings to his brother Robert and moved west to Missouri. We have not found out where in Missouri Samuel and his family lived. Their daughter, Virginia West Mitchell, gave her place of birth as Missouri.

Samuel and his family returned to Robertson County in 1859 and purchased ninety-three acres from the estate of Robert Shanklin. Here he built a spacious two-story home. In *Robertson County's Heritage of Homes* it is described as an imposing Greek Revival mansion. It had an extended portico supported by four Doric columns. The writer learned of the home from Mitchell Keyes, (no relation), who currently owns the land where the Mitchell Family cemetery is located. He said the home had been built by skilled slave labor with double brick walls. The mansion burned to the ground two years before our visit to Tennessee. When we visited the home site we found that the bricks were gone, sold to a builder. All that remained were the four huge stone columns lying on the ground surrounded by the pecan trees that Samuel was said to have brought with him from Missouri in his saddlebags in 1859.

Samuel lived in this home until his death in 1896. His wife Mary lived in the home until her death in 1907. Samuel and Mary Elizabeth had a number of children, one of whom was Virginia West Mitchell. I have been in contact with a descendant of Virginia's, Virginia Bailey Fuqua Sell who lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Virginia West Mitchell Fuqua is buried in the Mitchell Cemetery. Several natives of the area said that a grandson of Samuel Mitchell, a Richard Mitchell, had been the United States Marshall at Springfield, the county seat.

Samuel and Mary Elizabeth Linebaugh had ten children

- i. Ann F. Mitchell, (1841-unk), married a Mr. Ingram.
- ii. Margaret T. Mitchell, (1844-19 June 1894), married JT Hollis.'
- iii. Susan Mary Mitchell, (1847-1920), married Richard B. Brevard.
- iv. Thomas James Mitchell, (1 July 1850-23 April 1889), married Carrie.
- v. Ellen C. Mitchell, (11 August 1853-1 July 1893), unmarried.
- vi. Adie J. Mitchell, (5 June 1857-10 June 1909), unmarried.
- vii. Fannie Mitchell, (abt. 1860-unk).
- viii. Robert L. Mitchell (abt... 1863-unk).
- ix. Lizzie Findley Mitchell, (1865-unk).
- x. Virginia West Mitchell, (30 Sept. 1854-14 July 1890), married Burwell Grubb Fuqua.



C. Henderson

THE SAMUEL FINDLEY MITCHELL HOME

This home was built in 1860 near Sadlersville in Robertson County, Tennessee. It was destroyed by fire in late 1980s



JAMES WILSON MITCHELL

James Wilson Mitchell, Tom Mitchell's older brother, was born in Halifax County, North Carolina on 8 April 1820. His parents, who gave their home as Robertson County, Tennessee in North Carolina land records were in North Carolina to settle James' grandfather, Wilson W. Carter's, estate. (See John C. Mitchell, page 67.)

Family tradition among James' descendants is that James said his parents moved back to Tennessee when he was an infant to a place near the Tennessee-Kentucky line opposite Todd County, Kentucky. This would place the location to which the family moved in Robertson County, Tennessee, near the holdings of John C. Mitchell's father and brothers.

Some time in the early 1830s James' father, John C. Mitchell, moved with his family to Fayette County, Tennessee. He purchased land adjacent to his brother-in-law, Borrows Carter. These holdings were about nine miles north of Somerville the Fayette County seat. We have learned nothing of James' childhood. Family tradition among the descendants of James Mitchell and Tom Mitchell is that James went somewhere to college. James great-grandson, Irvin Jarrell, a Fort Worth attorney, said that he was always told by the older members of his family that James had gone to medical school but had chosen not to practice medicine. We do know that Tom and James' sister Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Elgin, married a medical doctor and her husband's youngest brother was also a doctor. Both doctors Elgin died in their thirties. We have no way of knowing if their early demise influenced James' decision not to pursue a medical career.

James left Tennessee in 1842 and went to Texas, settling in Washington County where he taught school. [*Small world story. The estate records of William S. Townsend, the writer's wife's 2nd great grandfather, show the payment of a tuition voucher to J. W. Mitchell for the tuition of William S. Townsend's children. The writers grand uncle was his wife's' great grandfather's teacher.*] James gave up teaching long enough to participate in the ill-conceived Somerville Campaign against Mexico in October of 1842. He served as a private in Captain P. H. Coe's Company of the 1st Regiment of the Southwestern Army of the Republic of Texas commanded by General Somerville. It was a miserable campaign carried out over inhospitable terrain. The troops were plagued by torrential rains that turned the whole countryside into a quagmire. They spent more time getting their horses and other equipment out of the mud than fighting. He received a certificate of Public Debt of The Late Republic of Texas for \$67.50, on 31 October 1850. He finally received his pay June 19th 1852. Copies of his discharge and other documents are in Appendix A, Summary of Family Members, Military Service.

By this time James appears to have moved from Washington County to Burleson County as some of his paperwork for his military pay was prepared and notarized there in 1852. It is even possible he may have been living with his father, John C. Mitchell, who had settled in Burleson County after coming from Fayette County, Tennessee in 1848 as shown by the 1850 US Census and Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Elgin's diary. According to Irvin Jarrell's chronology of his great grandfather, James bought 320 acres in Bell County on the Leona River from a Mr. Duncan for \$125 in 1855.

In 1857 James returned to Tennessee. In 1858 he went to Todd County, Kentucky and taught school for six months. While there he married Maria Mourning Isbell, daughter of George Isbell and Mourning Daniel, on 29 January. He returned to Texas, living in an area between Caldwell and Lexington in what is now Lee County where he farmed. Their daughter, Cora, was born there on 1 December 1859. In 1860 he and his wife, Maria, sold this property which was located on Allen's Creek, a tributary of the East Yegua. Their land was located about 20 miles south, 83° W., of Caldwell and contained 440 acres. They moved from Burleson County to Austin County where he was living when he sold the last parcel of his Burleson County property on 20 October 1862. This property was described as being in the Milam District of Burleson County on the waters of the East Yegua about 21 miles S., 81° W., from Caldwell, being part of the C.W. Guthrie Survey Containing 220 acres. Of interest, James Mitchell's father purchased 1009 acres on the waters of the 1st or East Yegua in 1855. Properties of John F. Guthrie and C.W. Guthrie are mentioned in that property's description.

In 1863 James accepted a 1st Lieutenant's commission in an Infantry company of the 23d Battalion of Texas State Troops in Washington County. Governor Lubbock signed his commission. In 1865 he traded for land in Wise County sight unseen. The family found that the Indian threat was so great that he moved to Tarrant County near Fort Worth. In August of 1867 he bought 10 acres on the waters of the West Fork of the Trinity River for \$125.00 and taught school in White Settlement. In 1869 he moved to Cleburne to teach at the Baptist Institute. Later he taught in the Cleburne public schools.

James Mitchell's daughter, Cora Mitchell Davis, provided some information about her family to students in the Cleburne High School for a history project in 1931. The Layland Library and Museum in Cleburne provided two of the student themes. Sara Francis Tibbs wrote this account. "A few months after the arrival of The Reverend J.R. Clark, Mr. J.W. Mitchell, the father of Mrs. L.B. Davis drove into Cleburne in a surrey followed by a wagon which held their worldly goods. They were emigrating from White Settlement six miles west of Fort Worth, where their short stay after moving from Decatur convinced them that they desired a locality less frequented by the Indians. Very soon after their arrival in town, Mr. Mitchell was engaged by the Board of Trustees to assist the Reverend Jerry R. Clark at the Cleburne Institute. The Mitchells found Cleburne to be a village of about three hundred inhabitants, the place at that time resembling, however, a forest more than a town. The streets had not yet been cleared of the original trees of the Cross Timbers the drivers of surreys and ox wagons being thus tested. The business section consisted of four general merchandise stores, a small shack for a post office, (located on the opposite--on the West--the present site of the Main Street Methodist Church, a mill, a gin, and a lumber mill etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell had one daughter, Cora, who married the Honorable L.B. Davis. Mr. L. B. and Mrs. Cora Mitchell Davis had a son and a daughter: Mitchell Davis, attorney in Cleburne, and Mary, Mrs. I.W. Jarrell of Fort Worth."

A second theme by an unnamed student related this account. " Mrs. L.B. Davis, formerly Miss Cora Mitchell was born near Caldwell, Texas on December 1st, 1859. Her father, Mr. J.W. Mitchell, was born in North Carolina on April 8, 1820; however, he was reared from infancy in Tennessee. At the age of twenty-two he came to Texas and married Miss Maria Mourning Isbell. When Mrs. Davis was about one and a half years of age, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell moved by wagon and team from Caldwell to Austin County. On this trip Mrs. Mitchell tried her first cooking. As she had always been accustomed to slaves she had never cooked before. A few years later they moved to Decatur. Here the Indians were so hostile that the family again moved, this time to White Settlement six miles west of Fort Worth, which is now Lake Worth. Their last move was to Cleburne in 1869."

James taught at the Cleburne Baptist Institute for about four years and then taught in the Cleburne public schools. In 1875 he opened what he called a" stationary and book store at 13 West Square across the street from the Johnson County Court House. The writer's father, Frank Mitchell, visited Cleburne with his father in October of 1889. He stated that his Uncle James also had a drug store along with a bookstore. The directories of Cleburne show that James operated only a stationery and bookstore. However, a photograph of James Mitchell's store supplied by Irwin Jarrell, James great grandson, shows a portion of the store filled with assorted bottles and jars. So Frank Mitchell could have been correct.

James Mitchell and Maria Isbell had one daughter.

.i Cora Mitchell, (1859-194\_) m. Lewis Blackburn Davis

James Mitchell died on 9 January 1901 of pneumonia in Cleburne, Texas.





CORA MITCHELL

Cora Mitchell was Tom Mitchell's niece by his older brother, James and his wife, Maria Mourning Isbell. Cora was born in Caldwell, Texas on 1 December 1859. She married Lewis Blackburn Davis (6 January 1845-30 August 1910) in Cleburne Texas. Davis attended Kings Institute in Georgia before enlisting in Jackson's Division that was part of the Army of Virginia. Davis served in many campaigns and was wounded severely at the Battle of Manassas. After the war he taught school and moved to Texas. Here he studied for the bar and became a very successful lawyer and county judge.

Cora and Lewis had two children.

- i. James Mitchell Davis (27 July 1880-27 April 1938)
- ii. Mary Davis, (20 August 1887-1988)

James Mitchell Davis graduated from Baylor University and The University of Texas. He began his practice of law in 1901 in Cleburne. He practiced law and served as a county judge until his death in 1938. He never married.

Mary Davis married Irvin W. Jarrell and lived in Fort Worth until her death in 1988.

Mary and Irvin had had one son, Irvin W. Jarrell Jr.. Irvin grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Southern Methodist University. Irvin was a lawyer and businessman. Irvin served as a Naval Officer during World War II. (See Appendix A.) He married Barbara Cullum, his college sweetheart.

Irvin and Barbara had two children.

- i. Irvin W. Jarrell III
- ii. Katherine Jarrell.

JAMES MITCHELL'S  
STATIONERY AND BOOKSTORE



13 West Square  
Cleburne, Texas  
About 1887





**CORA MITCHELL DAVIS, LEWIS BLACKBURN DAVIS AND JAMES MITCHELL DAVIS**

Cora Mitchell was Tom Mitchell's niece. Lewis and James were  
both lawyers and both served as Johnson County Judges.



(1845-1910)  
Lewis Blackburn Davis  
Judge Davis was a nephew-  
in-law of Tom Mitchell





MARY ELIZABETH MITCHELL

Mary Elizabeth Mitchell was Tom Mitchell's older sister and the only known daughter of John C. Mitchell and Martha Wilson Carter. Mary Elizabeth was born in Robertson County, Tennessee on 29 January 1821. We know little of her early life but by fifteen Mary was attending school in Kentucky. Mary was apparently a bright child and good student. In her copybook-diary she made this entry for June 22nd, 1836. She copied her school report card.

*Russelville, Kentucky*

*June 22th 1836*

*Miss Mary E. Mitchell during the session commencing in  
February & ending in June 1836*

*She is entitled to the first honours in the first class of  
Grammar---, History ( modern, moral and ancient)----  
Arithmetic & Spelling. Second honors in the first classes  
Philosophy--- Rhetoric & Geography and advances from the  
second to the first class in Chemistry which is equal and equivalent  
to an honour.*

*Henry Hunt*

*Russelville Ky.*

Mary Elizabeth's obituary states that she went to school in Bowling Green, Kentucky so she may well have completed her education there.

*Through the diligent pursuit of information regarding the Mitchell family by the writer's cousin, Darleen Helvey Zollinger, we have learned more about Mary's early life than any of her siblings. Darleen located Karel Elgina Henneberger and her sister, Joanna Leona Baker, who are direct descendants of Mary Elizabeth Mitchell through her grandson John Elgin Gilmer. Leona had in her possession the trunk of Mary Elizabeth Elgin's daughter, Bettie Elgin Gilmer, the mother of John Elgin Gilmer. It contained Mary Elizabeth's copy book-diary, some family pictures and letters from and to Mary. It has been kept as a family treasure all these years and is shared now with the rest of the family by these gracious caring ladies.*

Mary Elizabeth's diary provided answers to several family mysteries. The writer and other family genealogists could not find in public records when her father, John C.

Mitchell, moved from Fayette County, Tennessee to Texas. In April of 1848, Mary and her husband, Dr. John Elgin were living in Austin, Texas. She writes:

"23 April received a letter from James. He arrived at Washington on the 13th, father has not got there yet." (Washington County, Texas)

"8 May: received a letter from Independence (Texas) saying that father and his family had arrived at that place."

"10 May: Finished Bets dress, very busy expecting to start to Washington soon have not received any letter yet."

"13 May: have not received a letter from father yet."

"28 May: started down to Washington today." (Independence, Texas is about fifty miles from Austin.)

"29 May: Dr. Elgin's horse very lame, stayed at Cunninghams, had a good supper, feel very tired."

"30 May: started early Dr. Elgin's horse gave out, dinner at Earl Timons, stayed all night at Townsands, a wasp stung me, not a very good house."

"31 May: an early start, beautiful road, dined at Tellbers, arrived in Independence, this evening met with Father and all the family. They have all changed very much as well as myself, bittle? is a very sweet little fellow. I never had the pleasure of seeing him before." (Mary must be referring here to her half brother, Francis L. Mitchell, who would have been about four years old.)

Mary Elizabeth, whose life began so auspiciously was soon one filled with many disappointments and tragedies. She lost her mother sometime after 1830.

In 1848 she lost her youngest brother, Robert Mitchell. She writes: "February 1st 1848. I received a letter from James which makes me feel melancholy. It brings the unwelcome tidings of a brother's death. He died in a foreign land with no dear friend or sister to smooth his dying pillow if he were so fortunate as to have one. My poor brother we shall never meet again in this world. I pray to God we may meet in heaven where fighting will be no more." (It is probable that her brother, Robert Mitchell, was killed in the Mexican War.)

Her marriage to the up and coming young Doctor Elgin in 1844 ended with his death in 1851, just seven years after their marriage. The Elgins seemed to have moved in the best circles in Austin. Many of the people she mentions frequently in her diary were the movers and shakers of Austin and Texas. The loss of her husband changed her life from that of a prominent doctor's wife to a widow with two very young children to support and rear. It is possible that she may have received some help from her father

who lived in Burleson County, Texas at this time, from her brother James and Dr. Elgin's younger brother, Robert Morris Elgin.

Mary Elizabeth made no long entry in her diary concerning her husband's death. Just four lines of verse.

*"But short was my loved Angels' stay  
A little while to mortal given;  
He called, whom we must all obey  
He visits earth-----his home is Heaven  
Mary E. Elgin"*

In an interview with Grace Miller White of *Frontier Times*, Mary Elizabeth's son, Captain Jack Elgin, in explaining his interest in politics, said this, which also tells us something of his mother's resourcefulness. "Actually, he said, he thought his interest in politics must have begun before he was born, since so many political campaigns were initiated and conferences held within the walls of his mother's home, and there he became first acquainted with the political leaders of the time. The home was next door to the Missouri House, the second most important hotel in Austin. The leading hotel was Swisher's Tavern, and these two hotels furnished accommodations for the two contending political parties, the so-called Houston and Lamar factions. It seems the Lamar group favored the Missouri House. In the winter when the legislature was in session it was Mrs. Elgin's custom to rent most of her house to the hotel. Consequently many an important conference was held in her home. Minutes of such meetings were kept in longhand and Mrs. Elgin who was a rapid and accurate writer, was often called upon to write down the minutes, to draw up resolutions, or to make notes of the proceedings. Thus as he said, the young man was nurtured in a political atmosphere" Undoubtedly both renting rooms and assisting the lawmakers added to Mary's income in her trying times.

In later life her daughter, Bettie Elgin Gilmer and son, Captain Jack Elgin, were both married twice and both lost both their spouses. Bettie Gilmer lost her only son from her first marriage, William Ford, from illness, and her youngest son, Merrick Gilmer, in a train wreck.

Mary Elizabeth's copy book-diary stops after her husband's death and was never continued. Her letters to her children and grandchildren were always positive and filled with encouragement. One relationship that appears to have been constant was with her sister-in-law, Mary Ann Elgin Hill, whom she refers to in her diary as "my sister". While Mary was keeping her diary she often mentions her sister and the things they did together. From the 1850 US Census we know that Mary Ann was living with Mary Elizabeth and Dr. Elgin in Austin. In 1889 when her brother, Tom Mitchell, was visiting Texas, Mary Elizabeth Elgin and Mary Ann Hill made sworn statements to correct an error Tom Mitchell had made on his Mexican War Pension application. The statements were made before a judge in McClennan County on the same day. Mary Ann Hill stated that she was Tom's older relative and had often visited in his father's home.

Mary Elgin lived in Austin for about twenty years. She then moved to Waco. We do not know if she lived alone or with her daughter, Bettie Gilmer.

We know that Bettie's husband, James Blair Gilmer, was a lawyer who lived in Waco. We also know that Mary's son, Jack Elgin, attended Waco College and later set up an insurance business, a land office and bought the *Waco Examiner*, which he published for several years. Mary was apparently still living in Waco in 1888 when she brought two of her grandsons, John Elgin Gilmer and James Blair Gilmer, to California to visit her brother, Tom Mitchell. Mary and her grandsons enjoyed their stay and she wrote some of their experiences and her observations in a letter to her daughter Bettie in Waco.

*Kent Sept 22*

*Dear Bettie*

*We arrived home last night at 7 O'clock. Was glad to find letters from you and Mr. G. to the children, we had a fine time at the 1888 Beach. Elgin had a glorious time splashing in the water. Blair was the first man to want his bathing suit on, went wading in bravely the first day, after that he would not go in, said he would rather go to mommy & daddy's home and go in the big bath tub. I think the big waves and the roaring scared him but he got very fond of running in the water, just covering his feet until he saw a wave coming and then he would dart out. But he talks big about his bathing. The nights and mornings were getting to cool so we left Monday -----Had a delightful time, was at Wilmington San Padra. W. is a pretty village 3 miles from Long Beach. San Padra is a dirty sandy place but is a shipping point. The inhabitants seem to be principally Mexican or Chinese. -----We were nearly all day in Los Angeles as we went down, went to some of the stores, dentist, to the bank, to a Restaurant for lunch and then to a picture gallery. Then we went out on the cable street car to a park where they had a small lake---Of course they were delighted but they thought it mighty funny for the car to go along without any horses.*

*Los Angeles is bigger than Waco and has some magnificent business houses. I do not think the residences are so handsome,*

*though as we came back we went in another part of town where there were some splendid residences, the grounds around the residences are beautiful, the hedges and flowers are so pretty. Geraniums seem to grow spontaneously. -----They say there are trees in California but I have seen very few of them. The whole county is laid out in town lots with a stick at each corner with a rag on it and with tall ones with names of streets and avenues but no houses on most of them. In going from Los to Long B. we passed through the Fruit region for about 12 miles, 'twas just like a narrow street with a hedge on each side with water running by. Everything is watered here by irrigation. If Texas was irrigated like this county it would be far ahead of this* (Said like a true Texian.)

Later in life Mary Elizabeth Elgin moved from Waco to San Antonio where she lived with her son, Captain Jack Elgin, and grandson James Blair Gilmer. She continued writing to her family until she was in her early nineties. Her neat precise hand had become a bit wobbly. She used lined paper now with the lines far apart so her writing could be twice as large as before, probably so she could see that she had it right. She recalled little stories for her great grand children and gave advice to their parents explaining how to teach their children to talk. She bragged a bit, "If I were there I'd have her talking in three or four months." She was referring to her great granddaughter, Elgina, who had just been born in Pennsylvania.

In 1916 time finally quenched Mary Elizabeth's great spirit and she left her family to join her "loved Angel." Her grandson, James Blair Gilmer, in San Antonio sent a brief telegram to his older brother, John Elgin Gilmer, in Philadelphia.

San Antonio Tex 823 AM  
September 20 1916  
JO. Gilmer 5110 Chestnut ST Phila PA

BOMMA DIED EIGHT O CLOCK THIS MORNING BURIAL  
AUSTIN TOMORROW.

James B. Gilmer

On her tombstone in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, where Mary Elizabeth lies beside her husband's grave, her family inscribed this one line epitaph.

"SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD



”

## THE ELGIN FAMILY

The Elgin Family of Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee and Texas was the family into which Tom Mitchell's sister, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell married. Mary Elizabeth married Dr. John E. Elgin in Fayette County, Tennessee in 1844. Shortly thereafter they moved to Texas where they lived for the rest of their lives.

This family of Elgins is believed to have been originally from Northern Scotland. There is a town of Elgin located in County Moray near Moray Firth in northeast Scotland. It is believed by some Elgin family genealogists that the family went from Northern Scotland to the north of Ireland and thence to America. The first Elgin identified in America with this particular family was a George Elgin who appears in the records of Charles County, Maryland in 1702. He married Elizabeth Adams and had five sons and two daughters.

Their son George Jr. was born in Charles County, Maryland about 1710. He married Susanna Masten before 1753. George Jr. died in Charles County in 1777 leaving a will. George and Susanna had five sons and two daughters.

Their son, John Elgin, was born in Charles County, Maryland around 1750. By the 1770s he was living in Buckingham County, Virginia where he supplied a horse and wagon to the militia during the Revolutionary War. In 1785 he purchased land on David's Creek in Buckingham County. In 1787 he married a young Quaker girl, Elizabeth Bumpass. John moved his young family to Wilson County, Tennessee in 1804. He died the next year leaving Elizabeth with five young sons to fend for herself. In 1828-29 the entire family moved to Hardeman County, Tennessee. Elizabeth died there in 1836. Several members of this Elgin family moved to Washington County, Texas in about 1840.

John and Elizabeth's son, William Bumpass Elgin, was born in Buckingham County, Virginia in 1788 and moved with his family to Wilson County, Tennessee in 1804. William studied religion and graduated with a Doctorate of Divinity from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1810. He served as a circuit minister for a few years after that. He married Elizabeth Ann Morriss of Wilson County Tennessee 1 November 1814.

Dr. William B. Elgin died in 1834. His obituary in The National Banner and Nashville Advertiser read, "Elgin, Dr. William B, In the Meridian of his life and usefulness died in Hardeman County, Tennessee on Saturday, September 6, 1834." His wife, Elizabeth Ann Morriss died in April of 1836. Their uncle, Edmund D. Travers and his wife Nancy Morriss who was Elizabeth Ann Morriss' sister reared their children. At the time of Dr. William B. Elgin's death in 1834 young John E. Elgin was about eighteen, Mary Ann Elgin was eleven, Robert Morriss Elgin was eight and Thomas was five. The Travers must have given the children an excellent education as John Edward and Thomas became medical doctors and Robert Morriss was successively clerk of Washington County, Texas, the Chief Clerk of the Texas Land Office and later Land Commissioner of the Houston and Central Railroad. The town of Elgin, Texas is named for Robert Morriss Elgin.

William B. Elgin and Elizabeth Ann Morriss had three sons and three daughters

- i. John Edward Elgin, m. Mary Elizabeth Mitchell
- ii. Robert Morris Elgin, m. 1st Priscilla Henderson, m. 2nd Lucy Wilson Shegog
- iii. Thomas Elgin
- iv. Mary Ann Elgin, m. 1st Walter Harvey, m. 2nd Washington Lafayette Hill
- v. Unknown daughter

**JOHN EDWARD "CAPTAIN JACK" ELGIN**



**PHOTO-OP ON THE ROCKS**

This appears to be a Elgin-Mitchell outing. Not all the people were identifiable.

From left to right--Maria Mourning Mitchell, possibly Bettie Elgin, Cora Mitchell,  
John Edward Elgin, James Wilson Mitchell, three unidentified ladies.





**JAMES BLAIR GILMER, Sr.**



**BETTIE ELGIN GILMER**



**MERRICK, JOHN EDWARD AND JAMES BLAIR GILMER**  
The sons of Bettie Elgin Ford Gilmer and James Blair Gilmer, senior.

vi Unknown daughter

*William's marriage to Elizabeth Ann Morriss is part of a coincidence that shows how small the country was then. Elizabeth Ann Morris was the daughter of Edward Morriss and Elizabeth Cary Whitaker. Elizabeth Cary Whitaker's parents were Richard Whitaker and Elizabeth Cary of Fishing Creek, Halifax County, North Carolina. The writer and his great aunt, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, who married William and Elizabeth Elgin's son, Dr. John E. Elgin, were also descended from Richard Whitaker and Elizabeth Cary. See Whitaker, See page 39. Richard Whitaker and his wife, Elizabeth Cary, were Dr. John E. Elgin's great grandparents and Mary Elizabeth Mitchell's 2nd great grandparents.*

*Dr. John E. Elgin's grandfather, the Rev. Edward Morriss was General Washington's chaplain at Valley Forge. Mary Elizabeth Mitchell's grandfather, James Mitchell Jr., was at Valley Forge as a soldier in the 14th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line during that same horrible winter. The writer is indebted to James Elgin of Wichita, Kansas for his excellent research in establishing the ancestral line of William Bumpuss Elgin and his forebears.*

Dr. John Edward Elgin was born in Smith County, Tennessee in 1815 and grew up in Smith and Hardeman Counties. John left this area for his education and completed his medical studies under the tutelage of a doctor in Fayette County, Tennessee. It was probably during his stay in Fayette County that he met his wife-to-be, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, the daughter of a planter who lived near Somerville, the county seat of Fayette County.

W. S. Lacy, Minister of the Gospel married John and Mary on 10 October 1844. Sometime during this same year Dr. Elgin and his wife moved to the town of Brenham in Washington County, Texas.

*John Elgin and his younger brother Robert Morris Elgin must have gone to Texas on a scouting trip or to visit their Washington County relatives in 1842. The records of the Texas State Library and Archives show that both brothers participated in the Woll Campaign in the fall of 1842. The documents provided this writer included sworn statements from other participants in the campaign vouching for the Elgin brothers participation and Public Debt vouchers from The Late Republic of Texas signed on the Sixth day of July 1854 awarding John and Robert each fifteen dollars for their services to the Republic.*

Dr. and Mrs. Elgin lived in Washington County for about two years and then moved to Austin in 1846 where he went about setting up his medical practice. He ran the following notice in The Texas Democrat of Austin, Texas.

"Dr. J. E. Elgin RESPECTFULLY tenders his services to the citizens of Austin and surrounding country, in the Practice of Medicine in all its various branches. His services can be commanded any hour, day, or night, in the city or in the country. Office on Pecan Street, next door below Zillars".

The US Census for 1850 shows the Elgin household in Austin consisting of John Elgin 34, (physician), his wife Mary 27, Elizabeth Elgin 3, Mary Harvey 27, Robert M. Elgin 24 and Thomas Elgin 21. All are shown as being born in Tennessee except three year old Elizabeth who was born in Texas. *[This enumeration for Dr. Elgin's household seems to show that he had assumed responsibility for his two brothers and one of his three sisters, Mary Ann Elgin Harvey. We have been in contact with two descendants of this Elgin family who have done extensive family research. Neither seems to know what became of Dr. Elgin's other two sisters.]*

From *Aesculapis on the Colorado, The Story of Medical Practice in Travis county to 1899* by Dr. James Coleman, p. 23. "The city government gained a new charter with the assumption of statehood and Dr. Samuel G. Haynie was elected to serve two terms as Mayor in 1850-

1852. Doctors F. T. Duffau, John E. Elgin, James Holiday, R. N. Lane and M. A. Taylor served as aldermen. The same source notes in 1851 doctors John E. Elgin and S. D. Mulloomy formed a partnership.

Frank Brown in his *Annals of Travis County and the City of Austin* noted on p. 6, "John E. Elgin an excellent physician who came to Austin from Washington County in 1846 died at his residence on east Pecan Street, June 11, 1851 at the age of 35 years. He was the older brother of Robert M. Elgin, now of Houston. A younger brother, Dr. Thomas Elgin died a few years ago at Harrisburg, Texas where he had moved from Austin to practice his profession."

Dr. John E. Elgin and Mary Elizabeth Mitchell had two children of record.

- i. Elizabeth Ann Elgin, m. 1st Captain William F. Ford, m.d 2nd James Blair Gilmer.
- ii. John Edward, Captain Jack, Elgin, married Hedwig Schramm .

Elizabeth Ann (Bettie) Elgin was born in Austin, Texas 19 August 1847. She married William F. Ford in Austin, Texas on 8 January 1870. (Register No. 575, Benj. A. Rogers Officiant. Dr. Love, Mrs. Elgin and Molly Green witnesses.) William Ford, apparently weakened by the rigors of four years of war in The Army of Northern Virginia died of pneumonia on 8 March 1873.

William and Bettie had one son.

- i. William F. Ford II.

William Ford II was born between 1870 and 1873. From family reports he was not a healthy child. The writer's aunt, Minnie Mitchell, recalls that William, whom she said was a very nice young man, spent some time at her father's home in the Soledad. William was sent to California in the hope that the climate would improve his health. She went on to say that his condition did not improve and he returned to Texas where he died at an early age. Elgin family genealogists put his death sometime before 1904.

The writer has in his library a battered volume of young William F. Ford II's *Government Class Book*, by Andrew W. Young, printed in 1885 by Clark and Maynard, New York. William was a bit of a doodler. Besides practicing his signature many times in a large flowing script, there are sketches of an elaborately bearded, dignified man wearing pince-nez and labeled "Prof. Doolittle". He also wrote the following date: "Jan. 25th, 1886 A. D. Waco, Texas". There is a William F. Ford buried with Bettie Ann Gilmer, Merrick Gilmer, and several J. B. Gilmers in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

Bettie Elgin Ford married next James Blair Gilmer in Brooklyn, New York on 3 October 1877. James Gilmer, like Bettie's first husband, was also a Confederate veteran having served as a soldier in Poages Virginia Battery (also called Rockbridge Artillery) from March 31, 1862 until he was paroled at Appomattox Court House April 9, 1865. The Gilmers apparently lived in Waco where James Blair Gilmer practiced law. He died on 3 February 1897. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery with Bettie and several of their children.

Bettie Ann Elgin and James Blair Gilmer had at least four children.

- i. John Elgin Gilmer
- ii. James Blair Gilmer
- iii. Merrick Ford Gilmer
- iv. Infant Gilmer



John E., Captain Jack, Elgin was born on 31 July 1850 in Austin Texas. [ *In a letter to an unnamed aunt written 25 December 1850, Dr. Elgin mentions "that my boy is five months old named Jack, not John so recorded in the same old book."* ] Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Elgin seems to have raised her two children on her own. Jack mentions in one of his many articles in *The Frontier Times* that while the Texas Legislature was in session that his mother rented rooms to the legislators and often kept the minutes of committee meetings and prepared other documents for the law makers. Captain Jack wrote that family friend, Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar, once President of Texas, introduced him to mathematics.

From my father, Captain Jack's first cousin, and James Elgin, an Elgin genealogist, of Wichita Kansas I learned that Captain Jack was a quite a character. According to several "vanity publications" he first graduated from Waco College in engineering and worked for the railroads surveying land and railroad rights of way. Because much of his work was in areas frequented by hostile Indians he was made a Captain of Minute Men to organize his crew to fight and defend themselves from attack. According to one writer he received his commission from Governor, Edmund J. Davis, Texas' only carpetbagger governor which caused Captain Jack considerable discomfort as no one thought it any honor to accept anything from Governor Davis. During this time Captain Jack also opened a General Land and Insurance Agency in Waco. Part of his business was operating a branch agency for Houston and Texas Central Railroad lands. He also owned and published the Waco Examiner.

In 1876 he left this business to study law at The University of Virginia. He was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1882 and practiced law in Waco for ten years. He served on the commission that combined Waco and Baylor Colleges. Later he served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Baylor University. Active in politics he was an ardent anti-prohibitionist and an advocate of building a deep-water port for the gulf coast of Texas. He moved to Rockport on the Gulf to better plead this latter cause. While living there he was able to interest the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the House Finance Committee in the project. He wrote the Deep Water Resolution that secured U. S. Government support for the deep-water port at Galveston. After a bitter split with the Democratic Party, Jack supported Teddy Roosevelt for President and once ran for Governor of Texas as a Republican.

In 1905 Captain Jack Elgin moved to San Antonio where he lived and practiced law until he died there on 23 September 1938. (The writer was interested to note in material collected from a number of sources, that in Captain Jack's last year he wrote and delivered lengthy addresses to the convention of ex-Texas Rangers and to The West Texas Historical society, he was eighty-eight years old.

John E. Elgin married Hedwig Schramm on 24 December 1899 in Seguin, Texas. They had no children.



THOMAS FINDLEY MITCHELL

Tom Mitchell died on the morning of 24th of December 1907 in Los Angeles County, California. He was in his home in Soledad Canyon pulling on his boots and looking forward to seeing all his family later in the day. They would be gathering to celebrate his birthday. Tom Mitchell became eighty-two on the day he died.

He died at the end of America's great Westward Expansion and was the last of a family of pioneering settlers to know the frontier and the West as it had really been. His first American forefathers had come to America at Jamestown before 1620. In the intervening years some, like he had, made their way west across the Continent. During his lifetime he had seen America move from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. He saw the railroads span the United States from coast to coast. He had looked on while the Central Pacific Railway was built through the front yard of his lonely outpost in Soledad Canyon. He had stood close by while a Golden Spike was driven at Lang, in Soledad Canyon, finally linking Los Angeles by rail to the rest of the United States. The Wright Brothers made their flight at Kitty Hawk four years before his death. The telegraph and telephone had been long developed and electric power was in widespread use.

The American Frontier, in which Thomas had grown up, was all but gone. It was being replaced by thousands of growing communities many with a semblance of law, order and the amenities of America's growing technology. His descendants would not have to be on constant guard against hostile Indians and wild animals or want for proper schools for their children. He had truly lived through and been a part of some of America's most significant and exciting times.

Thomas Mitchell, who was called Tom by family and friends, was born in Robertson County, Tennessee, on 24 December 1825, the second son, to John C. Mitchell and Martha Wilson Carter Mitchell. John C. Mitchell, who was born in Kentucky in 1795, had come to Robertson County with his father's family as a youth in 1807.

Around 1833 Tom's father sold his holdings in Robertson County and moved with his family to join his Carter in-laws now living in Fayette County, Tennessee. Mitchell family tradition is that Toms' father would not send him to college as his older brother James Wilson had been. In view of the depressed state of the area's economy when Tom was ready to go to college, his father was probably not financially able to send him. Compounding the situation, John C. Mitchell married Anna C. McCardle, a widow from New York City, in 1843. Family tradition is that she did not approve of sending young Tom to college.

Family tradition also holds that the new step-mother, Anna, was the major cause for John C. Mitchell's children leaving their home in Tennessee. Tom Mitchell and his younger bother, Robert, left home about 1843 and went to Texas. This venture led to one of the family mysteries. According to family tradition, Tom and Robert somehow became separated during the journey to Texas and Tom never saw or heard from Robert again. From our research we now believe that Robert Mitchell was killed in the Mexican War.

According to a sworn statement made by Tom's sister, Mary Elizabeth, Tom was living in her home in 1847 when he joined the Mounted Texas Volunteers for service in the Mexican War. Tom enlisted in Captain Shapley Prince Ross' Company of Texas Mounted Volunteers on 10 November 1847. Ross' Company was one of a number of companies assigned to Colonel Bell's Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers. These troops were in the service of the United States Government with the mission of protecting the western frontier of Texas from marauding Indian bands. Tom's Service Record shows that during his service in Ross' Company he was stationed at Waco Village, Old Waco Village, Bosque River and Bosque Station. We have no information of any battles or engagements in which he may have participated. He was mustered out of the service at Bosque Station, Texas on 10 December 1848, in the grade of sergeant.

Frank Mitchell maintained that his father, Tom Mitchell, had served in the Texas Rangers after the Mexican War. The US Census of 1850 for Texas shows Tom serving as a Ranger in Captain "Big Foot" Wallace's Ranger Company at Fort Inge on the Leona River. This lonely spot was an Army post southwest of San Antonio. Captain Wallace's mission was to protect Texas frontier settlements from raiding Indians. The Texas State Adjutant General's Office was destroyed by fire in 1855 and was not able to provide details of Tom Mitchell's Ranger service because the records of Captain Wallace's Ranger Company were among those destroyed in the fire.

The Texas State Archives does confirm that Tom Mitchell was a Ranger in Captain Wallace's Ranger Company. Official US Government operational reports to The Congress and "Big Foot's" recollections of the Company's activities during 1850 are included in Tom's Mitchell's military records in Appendix A.

History has left ample evidence that young Tom served under two of the most experienced and famous Indian fighters in Texas history. William A. "Big Foot" Wallace became a legend during the Mexican War and continued his daring exploits as a Captain of Texas Rangers. Shapley Ross was born on the Kentucky frontier, like Tom's father, and served as a Ranger Captain before and during the Mexican War. Later he served with distinction as an Indian Agent. His son, Sul Ross, was a governor of Texas. Another Captain in Bell's Regiment was Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar who had served as a President of the Republic of Texas and was an old friend of the Elgins, Tom's sister and brothers-in-law.

Older family members living in California often said that Tom Mitchell served under Sam Houston during the Mexican War. This is historically incorrect. Sam Houston commanded Texan Forces at the Battle of San Jacinto in April of 1836, some years before Tom came to Texas. Tom was only eleven years old in 1836. During the Mexican War Sam Houston was serving as a United States Senator from Texas.

Tom left Texas in 1852 by clipper ship and came around Cape Horn to California where he set out to make his fortune in the gold fields. Having only moderate success in the gold fields he returned to his family's business of ranching. He first settled in the Simi Valley, near Los Angeles, and tried his hand at raising sheep. Tradition holds that his flock became so bountiful that his cattle raising neighbors suggested he should move elsewhere for the good of his personal welfare as well as that of his sheep.

Being a prudent man in the face of overwhelming odds, Tom sold off his sheep and moved to the solitude of Soledad Canyon where his only neighbors were Indians, grizzly bears and mountain lions. He seemed to have thrived in this hostile environment and became prosperous enough to take a wife. On 19 January 1865 he married Martha Catherine Taylor in San Gabriel, California. It apparently took several years more for Tom to tame the wilderness sufficiently to make a safe home in the canyon for his young family.

Tom and Martha had six children.

- i. Mary Elizabeth, born 22 December 1865, died 3 July 1881.
- ii. Thomas born, 27 June, died 29 September 1875.
- iii. Frank Ambrose, born 14 November 1870, died 13 February. 1951
- iv. Francis Anne, born 24 April 1873, died 15 November 1907
- v. John Wesley, born 6 September 1875, died 16 February. 1947.
- vi. Mini Ivy, born 27 July 1881, died 17 March 1972.

According to his children, Tom's first house on the ranch was a miner's cabin that he bought in Tehachapi. He tore it down and hauled it to the ranch where he set it up as a shelter against the elements. It quickly became too small for his growing family so he built a large adobe. Frank Mitchell, his son, said the adobe bricks for the new home were made by a crew of local Mexican laborers who were also digging a well for domestic water at the Mitchell home. The clay in the bricks came from the water well as it was being dug. When the walls were up, a sturdy gabled roof with long redwood shakes completed the adobe home. There is no record of the size of the original adobe but I can remember playing on the remains of the walls when I was a young child. My best guess would be that the adobe was about twenty feet wide and fifty or sixty feet long. The only photographs I have seen of the adobe show just a part of the structure, so its size could not be determined.

In 1888 Tom and Catherine built their final home. It was a fine two story Victorian style house with a large kitchen, pantry and washroom, the latter with a fine marble sink. A master bedroom, dining room and parlor completed the first floor. The second floor had three bedrooms and a low-ceilinged storage area. The house was originally built about three feet above the ground with wooden stairs leading up to the kitchen, side porch, and front porch. In later years Walter Murphy, Minnie Mitchell's husband, lowered the house on to a concrete foundation and removed much of the Victorian trim including the COL. T.F. MITCHELL above the stairs to the front porch. The interior moldings, window and doorframes and banisters were all carved from clear redwood heartwood. The exterior clapboard siding was also fine quality redwood.



The old house is gone now, knocked down and ground up by a developer's bulldozer while members of the local historical society pleaded with them not to destroy it. The society had planned to add it to their historical park in Newhall.

Tom Mitchell's regrets for not having gone to college made him a lifelong advocate of schools and education. There were numerous examples of the value of education within his family. His sister, Mary, married John Elgin, a medical Doctor. John Elgin's younger brother, Thomas, was also a medical doctor. Her son, Jack Elgin, had college degrees in engineering and law. Tom's brother, James, had gone to medical school but chose not to practice medicine. He became a successful schoolmaster and businessman. James' daughter, Cora, married Louis B. Davis who was a lawyer and a judge in his later life. Cora's children both went to college and her son, Mitchell Davis, became a lawyer and judge like his father.

As his children came of school age, Tom went about setting up schools for his children and others in the area. According to articles in the *Newhall Signal*, Tom Mitchell and Sanford Lyon established the first school at Lyon's Ranch near Newhall in the 1870s. The school used a converted bunkhouse on the Lyon Ranch for its classroom. Tom Mitchell and Sanford Lyon apparently paid the teacher, a Miss Kate Caystill, themselves. Miss Caystill boarded with the Lyons during the school year. Toms' oldest daughter, Betty, (Mary Elizabeth), lived with the Lyons to be close to the school. Tom Mitchell and Sanford Lyon were the school trustees. Tom Mitchell and John Lang established a school in Soledad Canyon at the Mitchell adobe. This school was the beginning of the Sulphur Springs School District.

Tom Mitchell gave several acres for the Sulphur Springs school site and served as a school trustee for a number of years. In later years Tom's sons, Frank and John Mitchell, also served as trustees for the school district.

Tom Mitchell was not able to send his boys, Frank and John, off to college which probably pained him greatly. He did send his daughter, Minnie, to a business college in Los Angeles. Tom did provide his children with musical training.

Frank and John received violin lessons and Minnie learned to play the piano. Although I have no proof, daughters Betty and Frances Ann probably received musical training as well.

Tom undertook several different agricultural enterprises to earn money. He raised cattle, bred and trained horses and kept bees. Each of these endeavors was very dependent on the same variable weather patterns that are experienced in Southern California today. In years of plentiful rainfall the Santa Clara River flowed above ground all year long and could be used to grow irrigated crops and pasture. In years of lean rainfall the Santa Clara was a dry riverbed and native grasses were stunted and provided little feed for livestock. During these same dry periods the flowers of the native chaparral contained little nectar for Tom's bees.

Tom and his neighbors took full advantage of the Santa Clara River when it flowed. Tom Mitchell, D.R. Manning, Joseph Youngblood and probably John Lang all filed for water rights on the river. Tom, Manning and Youngblood all built extensive ditching to take water from the river and irrigate their crops. However Tom did his neighbors one better. He secured several of the most reliable water sources in the area so that his livestock would have water and some feed even in the driest of years. These were the Agua Dulce, sweet water, and the Agua Frio, cold water, named in Spanish for the characteristics of the waters that were found there. The Agua Dulce holding was some two hundred and forty acres that included several flowing springs in what is now called Agua Dulce Canyon, just below the junction of Escondido Canyon with Agua Dulce.



The Agua Frio was a large flowing spring in Mint Canyon whose cold waters came from deep under Chicalopis Mountain. With these dependable sources of water and some feed, Tom could carry the nucleus of his herds through even the driest years. These same locations were also good places for his bees, which required reliable water sources to produce their honey. In all Tom owned well over one thousand acres of land selected to provide water and food for his enterprises. Much of the surrounding lands were open rangeland and he could run his cattle from the edge of the Mojave Desert on the east to Spanish Land Grant lands on the west that began near the present day Owens Valley Aqueduct near Honby.

Tom marketed some of his beef directly to the mining communities in upper Soledad Canyon and on the Mojave Desert. Without the benefit of the railroad in the early days, he would drive his fattened cattle to the mining communities. There he would butcher the beef on site and sell it directly to his consumers. He carried on this practice for a number of years as my father, Frank Mitchell, told me of making such trips with his father as a boy.

We do not know how many cattle Tom normally ran in his stock raising operation. Histories of Los Angeles County variously report that he was the largest shipper of honey in the county; that in 1888 he had six hundred colonies or stands of bees; that he shipped forty tons of honey a year. In later years he was not able to sustain this level of honey production because of droughts and a moth that fed on the young bees.

What of Tom Mitchell the man? He was a Southerner and from all reports carried himself in the courtly manner of that part of America. He and Martha were known as gracious hosts. Florence Manning, the writer's mother, told of the many Sunday afternoons they spent at the Mitchells. Tom and Dennis Manning, would engage in heated political arguments while the ladies would talk and children would enjoy themselves playing in the yard. Tom did have a temper as evidenced by his leaving his father's home. He was also quite unhappy over something when the Census Enumerator interviewed him for the 1870 US Census. He told the enumerator that he was born in Prussia and that both his mother and father were German. He was apparently still peeved when he provided the information for Lewis' *History of Los Angeles County* in 1878. He said he was of German extraction. However in the 1880 census he was apparently his old self again as he now reported that he was born in Tennessee, his father in Kentucky and his mother in Virginia. (Tom's older brother, James Wilson Mitchell, always correctly gave North Carolina as his mother's birthplace.)

Physically, Tom was a small man by today's standards. In February 1896 when he took a physical examination for his Mexican War pension he was five feet four inches tall and weighed one hundred and twenty eight pounds. I recall my father, Frank Mitchell, saying that his father was about five feet five inches tall and wore a size six boot. Tom described himself as having a fair complexion with dark gray eyes and dark hair. The only picture of Tom as a young man clearly shows his dark hair.

My father said that his father never had a sick day in his life but according to his medical examination for his veteran's pension, Tom had an enlarged heart and an old compound fracture of his left tibia that had not been set properly which should have caused him much pain. He apparently just didn't complain about his infirmities.

## MITCHELL ADOBE

Early 1900s

In the early 1870s a room in this adobe had been used as a school room.  
Its was the first school in the Soledad.



Sulphur Springs School in the late 1920s



## MITCHELL SCHOOL

Named in honor of Tom Mitchell, the writers grandfather.



The writer's son and grandson.







ALBERT AND TOMMY MITCHELL  
At school named for their grandfather.  
About 1978





TOMMY, RICHARD AND ALBERT MITCHELL  
On Old Pinto  
About 1920

