

Web Site Excerpt

Site: Mitchells of Virginis

URL: <http://mitchells.elementfx.com/index.html> (no longer available, information obtained via Internet Archive Wayback Machine from 31 Aug 2016 capture)

Information

POWHATAN L. MITCHELL

Born 1813 and died 1865.

Powhatan married Angelina Watkins in 1840. At that time he lived in a household of women: one between 5 and 10, another was a teeneager, his wife and another woman between 20 and 30, and two women over 60. He also had 5 slaves and was a farmer.

Powhatan and Angelina had 3 children; Bolling in 1844, Virginia in 1850 and Isabelle in 1854. Both girls ended up marrying brothers, sons of Maurice Morris.

In 1850 Powhatan purchased 150 acres at the corner of the James and Pedlar rivers. At that time His mother-in-law, who was 60 years old, lived with him and his wife and son. Powhatan then owned 9 slaves, 7 of them were mulattoes ranging in age from 1 to 21.

Then in 1859 Powhatan sold the ferry business with 1 1/4 acres for 8 acres. In the 1860 census it shows a family by the last name of Day living with them. I have never figured out who these people are.

In 1862 Powhatan purchased 126 acres from George Burkes, land which bounded with the land he already owned.

Both Powhatan and his wife died at the end of the Civil War, in 1865. Their property was split up between the 3 children with Bolling receiving 126 acres, 71 acres at the corner of the rivers to Isabelle and her husband Shelton Morris, and 119 acres with "mansion" to Virginia and her husband George Morris.

Julius Lester took former slaves interviews registered at the Library of Congress an wrote a book with their quotes titled "TO BE A SLAVE". Following is an interview of a former slave of Powhatan:

My master's name was Powhatan Mitchell and he lived at Perch, Virginia, right at the mouth of the Peddler River. At that time ol' Master had a ferryboat and three farms. He was a Whig who owned slaves, but was against slavery.

He took me on his knee when I was about three and a half years old, and gave me his birthright. He called up an old sow that had thirteen pigs all different colors. He said, "You see them pigs there? They are all different colors, but all have the same mother and all are brothers and sisters." Then he called up his son and said, "This boy is your brother. I am the daddy of you both. You are to call me Papa henceforth. You are to call this brother of yours, not master, but brother.

Never call no white man master. For all are brothers and equal. Black is as good as white. So always keep courage and never back off from a white man. Treat all men alike and call all girls

Miss, white and black; but call all men just what they call you. Always be honest and just and upright before all men. When you finish a day's work, get money for it and never take provisions or chattel. If you need provisions or chattel, get the money and buy them."

From that day to this I called ol' Master, Papa. I followed his instructions. I have always been honest, just and have contended for what was rightfully mine. I have never feared no man, white nor black.

Byrl Anderson

Library of Congress

I also believe that the mulatto Thomas Mitchell living next door to Bolling Mitchell in the 1880 census was a son of Powhatan Mitchell.

[Wife and children of Powhatan.](#)

Angelina Watkins was born in 1817 and died 1865. She was the daughter of Nancy. Her father had died by time she married Powhatan. I can not explain why she had so few children, but it may have something to do with the reason Powhatan fathered slaves.

[Bolling Lewis Mitchell](#)

Born 28 November 1844 and died 29 April 1926. He has his own page here.

[Virginia Ann Mitchell](#)

Born in 1850 and died in 1893. She was 15 when her parents died and 17 when she married George Salling Morris. They had 8 children.

Virginia inherited 119 acres with the house, from her father. Her husband was the brother of her sister, Isabelle's husband.

[Isabelle \(Belle\) Mitchell](#)

Born 11 October 1854. She was only 11 when her parents died. George S. Feagans was appointed her guardian with Shelton Morris acting as his surety. She later married Shelton Morris when she was 17. They had 5 boys and 1 girl.

In 1870 she was living with her brother Bolling and his new family. In 1910 she was widowed and living with 2 of her grown children, Emmet and Dollie.

[BOLLING LEWIS MITCHELL](#)

Bolling and Mary AnnBorn 28 November 1844 and died 29 April 1926.

Died at the age of 82. Received 126 acres from his fathers estate on August 11, 1873.

Confederate Civil War Veteran, spent time at Point Lookout, Maryland as a prisoner of war. Private, Captain Kirkpatrick's Company, Virginia Light Artillery on Jan. 3 1863 as a private. At Battle of Wilderness, May1864, he suffered a wound to a finger. He was captured at Fisher's Hill - Sept. 22, 1864. After time in a Union POW camp (Point Lookout), he was exchanged 20 March1865. Possible home on sick furlough when Lee's army surrendered. He was eventually paroled.

In 1868 Bolling married Mary Ann Reynolds and she bore him 6 boys and 6 girls. Bolling was a farmer as you can tell from this only picture I have of him which shows a pig at his knee.

In the 1870 census of Amherst Co. Virginia "Boling" and his family were living next door to his sister and her family, Virginia Morris.

Then in the Amherst Co. VA, 1880 Census, Bowling Mitchell is living between his other sister's family, Isabella Morris, and a mulatto family of a former slave by the name of Thomas Mitchell, who is 2 years younger than himself.

In 1909 "Bowland L. Mitchell" filled out pension form no. 2: Application of soldier, sailor or marine for disability by reason of disease or the infirmities of age. It was approved. The writing is very difficult to read, but I could make out that he had wounded his left hand which "causes my fingers to be stiff" and was 65 years old.

14 May 1926 Heirs of Bowling L. Mitchell

P.P. Mitchell 56 - son - Naola
VA Sallie B. Hudson 54 - dau - Roanoke VA
C.W. Mitchell 52 - son - Lynchburg VA
Cornelia Tomlinson 50 - dau - Big Island VA
Estelle Tanner 48 - dau - Colemans Falls VA
Emma Hicks 46 - dau - Roanoke VA
Lillie Thomas 42 - dau - Lynchburg VA
Sidney B. Mitchell 40 - son - Lynchburg VA
C.C. Mitchell 38 - son - Naola VA
D.E. Mitchell 33 - son - Roanoke VA
Administrator Powhatan P. Mitchell
Wife and children of Bolling Lewis Mitchell

Mary Ann Reynolds was the first born of 8 children to Legrand Ferdinand Cortez Reynolds and Elizabeth Snyder on 5 December 1849 and died 12 November 1925. When the Civil War broke out she was just hitting puberty at the age of 12. Her father left to join the confederates in this war.

Mary Ann, also known as Molly, married Bolling when she was 19 and had the following children:

[Powhatan Pleasant Mitchell](#)

Born 19 Nov 1869 and died 29 July 1952.

Powhatan has his own page here.

[Sally Betty Mitchell](#)

Born 31 January 1872 and died 30 March 1950.

Sally married James W. Hudson and had 2 boys. In 1900 her sister Estelle was living with her and her family. After Sally's husband died, before 1910, she ran a boarding house to survive.

[Curtis William Mitchell](#)

Born 28 September 1873 and died 29 October 1942

Curtis worked for the railway in his early years, then became a farmer in Bedford County Virginia. He married Lessie Leftwich and they had a son. Gracie Mitchell used to call him uncle Cort. She said he went blind before he died.

Cornelia Elizabeth Mitchell

Born 12 September 1875 and died 11 November 1945.

Cornelia married Stephen Tomlinson and, according to Gracie Mitchell, had 6 children. The census records only show 4 children, though no census could be found for 1900 and 1910. Cornelia was a good hearted woman.

Anne Estelle Mitchell

Born 3 November 1877 and died 23 June 1966.

In 1900 she was in her parents census and her sister Sally. She may of been visiting one or the other. Soon after she married McLeod Tanner and had a baby girl in 1914. Anne lived 89 years.

Emma Virginia Mitchell

Born 12 January 1880 and died 13 September 1955.

The 1900 census show her to be living at home with her parents, but by 2 years later she is married to Neville Hicks and has had her first child. Emma had 9 children total and raised them in Roanoke Virginia. Her husband worked for the N & W Railroad.

Emma Hicks died at the age of 75 in Shelby Tennessee.

Minnie Lula Mitchell

Born and died 1882 - stillborn.

Lillie Lou Mitchell

Born 6 February 1884 and died 19 November 1976.

She married Harry Thomas in 1904 and gave him 7 children. In 1910 her husband was working as a manager of a dairy farm in Bedford County Virginia and she had already 3 children and a boarder living with them who worked the farm for them.

Lillie Lou helped her brother, Powhatan, with some housekeeping when he was between wives and had small children, between 1906 and 1908. Her niece remembers that she used to "talk alot, and fussed and complained". Her grandson through her youngest daughter remembers "she wasn't the nicest person in the world. She lived in Lynchburg and I remember visiting Grandma Thomas in a little nothing of a house on a hill. I still remember her face and somewhere there's a picture of her and I sitting on her front porch swing. I still remember the smell of her house and the shed in back Emmett and I used to play in. I must have spent some nights there, because I remember us walking to the store up the street. She lived to a ripe old age also, if memory serves me." Lillie Lou was 92 years old when she died.

Sidney Bolling Mitchell

Born 17 September 1884 and died 22 August 1969 in Lynchburg, Virginia.

In 1920 in Bedford Co. VA Sidney and his brother Powhatan bought land near Lynchburg thinking their children would want to move closer to the city to get jobs.

Sidney married Cora Hackworth and had a son he named Junior. He was a farmer.

Charlie Cleveland Mitchell

Born 8 September 1887 and died 27 September 1961.

Charlie married Myrtle Saunders and had a daughter. He was a repairman of airbrakes on the railway.

Robert Wilbur Mitchell

Born 24 September 1889 and died in 1891.

David Edward Mitchell

Born 24 Sep 1889 and died 15 May 1968 in Salem Virginia.

David married Mary Wood and they had a girl and 2 boys. He was a big man, weighing 300 pounds.

When he married her he was 28 and she was 16. David was a farmer.

POWHATAN PLEASANTS MITCHELL

Born 19 November 1869 and died 29 July 1952.

In 1893, when Powhatan was 24 years old, he married Willie Reynolds, who was only 17 years old at the time. Powhatan was a farmer then.

Five years later, in 1898, he purchased 80 acres "near the mouth of Pedlar River, adjoining the lands of B.L. Mitchell (his father), etc." In all, he had 120 acres. Tobacco and corn were his cash crops.

Willie gave birth to 2 boys and 3 girls. The 4th girl died in 1906 and 6 months later, Willie herself died. Powhatan was left with 5 children ranging in ages from 2 to 11 years. His sister Lillie Lou came to live with him and help him out until he met and married Lillie Coral Carter in 1908.

Lillie's mother died when she was 10 years old. Since she was the oldest of her 5 other siblings, she had to step up and help her father with raising them and keeping the house while he worked the farm. Then when she was 21 her father died and she had to finish raising her siblings by herself. Within the next 8 years I suppose she felt her job with them was done, because it was then, in 1908, that she married Powhatan Mitchell - a man 11 years her senior with 5 small children of his own. Over the next 15 years, she gave birth to 8 children, 1 of them dying at birth. My mother was the baby of all these children.

In Amherst Co. VA in 1920 Powhatan bought 40 acres "not far from James River and near the ferry at Pearch." This land belonged to his brother, Charles C. Mitchell. Twenty five years later he sold this land to his son-in-law C.T. Hamilton and John R. Marten. Grace remembers carrying tubs of tomatoes up the hill from a piece of land her father owned apart from the family farm.

This same year in Bedford Co. VA Powhatan bought two parcels of land totaling 31.2 acres next to his brother Sydney Bolling Mitchell. Four years later he sold it for \$1000 less than he paid for it. His daughter Mabel said she was young but she remembers her father and his brother talking alot about buying some land near Lynchburg because they felt sure their children would want to get jobs in town and they were ready to sell the farm.

He built his own house and liked to hunt and fish. He was very much the boss of the house. He didn't drink much and never in the house (out of respect for his wife). He was a stubborn man. His house was renovated (plumbing, heating, electricity, etc.) and was struck by lightning in the 1970's and burned to the ground.

In 1951 Powhatan sold the farm (83 acres) to Malvin T. and Pidgie S. Wooldridge because he was too sick to work on it. He died a year later. Lillie lived another 5 years.

The homestead

Gracie remembers:

My father built the house we lived in. I lived there 21 years. There were lots of outbuildings. There was a corn house and a jack house and a hen house and 2 barns. We had a spring house where we put our butter and milk in. My father built them all. He owned 120 acres. When he sold the property the house was still standing. They must have tore down the other buildings.

Daddy used to put his drinking stuff in the corn house. His toddy. He never brought it to the house. There never was electricity while I was living there. Went to spring for water. Brought it up in buckets. We cooked on a wood stove and no air, no fan. It was a dark kitchen. When you ironed you had to put the irons on the stove and by the time you got to the clothes, the iron was cold.

We had 3 bedrooms upstairs, and downstairs a living room and dining room and kitchen. They were all big in size. A lot of my brothers and sisters were married and gone before I was even born. The out house, they would build big holes in the ground and put a building over it. They never emptied it. We used to wipe our butt on the sears roebuck catalog. For sanitary napkins we used rags. You had to wash it out and hang it up when you took it off.

We had fireplaces. Daddy got a regular stove to heat the place. It just heated the dinning room and a fireplace in the living room. We had 2 different chimneys. If it was hot in the summer time, we would close the curtains to cool the room so when daddy came in for lunch, it wasn't so hot. In the summer time, the rooms upstairs were so hot you couldn't hardly breathe.

No telephone or nothing. We didn't have a bathtub, just washed out of a washpan. We bathed every once in a while, but not every day. Every Saturday night. There was no deodorant.

Milking the cows was the big job. We had horses and chickens and pigs and dogs and cats. We had about 8 or 10 cows. Tiddly winks was a sweet chicken. I would go outside and he would jump up on my shoulder. Then he got so he was pecking at the other chickens and momma said he's gotta go. I said he can't go. So Mabel said she would eat him. So that night I kissed him real good and put him in his bed and the next day he was gone. We would have 2 big hogs at a time. I remember we had a box for scalding them in. Daddy had the box and shared it with the neighbours. Black people would take the chittlings. We'd make liver pudding. We had a cider mill and we made cider, but not liquor.

Cash crop was corn and tobacco. We made 46 thousand hills of tobacco. We planted 730 hills one day real quick cuz daddy wouldn't let us go out until we finished. Momma used to sell butter. She sold it to her children, Lola and Vera and all them. She used the money to buy coffee and sugar. We grew wheat and had to take it to the mill to be grind up.

When we went to church we had to take our shoes off when we got home. It was the only pair of Sunday shoes we had, so you couldn't ruin them. My daddy used to say I wish I could buy you a corner in that church, cuz my momma wanted to go all the time.

Momma had problems with her eyes, but daddy never did. She had a big thick bible she used to sit up in the window and read that.

We had shotguns and rifles all over the house. I always thought that all men should have a rifle, pocket watch and a knife, cuz all my brothers and father had one. They fished and hunted all the time. They hunted rabbit and squirrel. I used to eat them both. I never did like squirrel much. I never ate possum or deer. Daddy used to have traps. He'd go out every morning to his traps for his rabbits. We had a certain tree we'd put a nail in and hang them up and skin 'em.

First wife Willie Burtha Reynolds and children

Willie was born 1 February 1877 and died September 1906, 6 months after she gave birth to a stillborn girl they named Willie Alexandria. It is assumed she is buried on the farm in the family burying plot. In fact, Powhatan had 2 children that died at birth, one boy and one girl, and both of them were named Willie.

Esmond Guy Mitchell

Born 1895 and died 1930.

Esmond never married and died at the age of 37. He enjoyed playing the guitar and worked in a shoe factory. He saved his money and had to quit early because of his crippling rheumatism. He soon had to move in with his sister Earl, who kept him until his money ran out. He then moved back home and was kept in the living room for six years. When he died his legs had drawn up so tight that they had to break them to put his body in a casket. He is buried on the farm in Naola, Virginia. Esmond had his insurance already made out to the undertaker, so the family would not have to do anything. He was a 7th day Adventist and they used to come sit with him every Saturday and read to him from the bible.

Bertha Earl Mitchell

Born 10 May 1898 and died 13 February 1943.

Earl married William Curtis Swisher and gave him 4 girls and 1 boy. The boy died when he was 10 years old. She lived in the country and sold milk for a living. She kept her sick brother Esmond for a while.

Wealthy Edward Mitchell

Born 2 May 1899 and died 31 Aug 1972.

Wealthy married Hattie Pride White in 1923 and they had 1 girl and 2 boys.

He worked as a locomotive fireman and then a locomotive engineer for Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company for 44 years. Wealthy died of emphysema.

Vera Victoria Mitchell

Born 18 August 1902 and died 18 September 1980.

Vera married Elber Bob Hogan and had 2 girls. She was "thrifty" and a big woman. Vera was a seamstress and strong churchgoer. She was also allergic to flowers.

Lola May Mitchell

Born 11 April 1904 and died 12 December 1992.

Lola married Clarence Hamilton and they had 1 stillborn boy. She was a good hearted woman, very large in size. She outlived her husband by 13 years and used to board people in her house. She also once worked at a shoe factory.

Willie Alexandria Mitchell

A girl born and died 24 March 1906 and buried on the farm in Naola, Amherst, Virginia.

Second wife Lillie Coral Carter and children.

Lillie

They had a radio with a big battery underneath it. Lillie used to listen to Young Doctor Malone and every Saturday night, The Grand Ole Opry. Every Christmas Lillie would go to town with a big black leather bag and buy oranges and fruit to put in the stocking. The last year Gracie lived at home, mother and daughter picked 25 bushels of potatoes.

She was very subservient. Read the bible every day (each evening to the children). She had cataracts. She had long black hair which she would plaid down her back. She had a doctor for birthing her first child and last child. All the others were done by a midwife.

North West Roanoke, A beautiful and most impressive ceremony was performed at the Carter home 1812 third avenue when Miss Carl Carter was united in marriage to Mr. P.P. Mitchell a prominent farmer of Amherst County, and the bride a popular lady of North West. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C.H. Cannon, Paster of Grace Methodist Church South. The bride was attired in cream silk with hat and gloves to match and carried white carnations. Miss Willie Carter sister of the bride was maid of honor, wore white silk and carried pink carnations. Mr. Sidney Mitchell, brother of the groom, was best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Cora Hackworth with Mr. Russell Carter, Mr. Monte Hackworth with Miss Lucy Dooley, Mr. Frank Thomas with Miss Eugie Carter, Mr. Melvin Carter with Mrs. Florence Brown. The Parlor was decorated with evergreens and roses. Miss Gracie Buford played Lohegrin's wedding march. After the ceremony all repaired to the dining room where a most sumptuous supper was served. There were about seventy-five invited guests present. Later Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell left for the home of the groom in Amherst County. Where they will reside in the future. They have the best wishes of a host of friends.

Melvin Adie Mitchell

Born 6 Jan 1910 and died 31 Oct 1983.

Melvin married Sarah Cochran and had 3 sons. He later divorced her and married Hazel Jamison.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a strong churchgoer. Melvin joined the Navy and later became a butcher.

Willie Edward Mitchell

Born and died in late 1910.

Powhatan Hubert Mitchell

Born 28 Aug 1911 and died 18 Jan 1973 in Polk Co. Florida.

Powhatan went by the nickname of Tan and his father went by the nickname of Ped. Tan married Grace Iola Scott and had 2 sons.

He was a mechanic and migrant worker. He picked oranges in Florida and apples in Virginia. Tan smoked cigarettes and drank alot. Him and Grace divorced and she later remarried.

[Mabel Magdellen Mitchell](#)

Born 6 June 1913 and died 22 May 2010. She was almost 97 years old.

Mabel married Victor Owen Ware and they had no children. Owen was 91 when he died in 2001. They were Presbyterian.

Mabel worked at Blair Laboratory for 43 years.

[Rachel Lucille Mitchell](#)

Born 23 June 1915 and died 14 June 1976.

Lucille married twice, neither marriage went well. First to Lyle Masters and secondly to Richard Tate. Lucille had no children.

She worked as a waitress all her life and saved her money and paid for her house. She developed colon cancer and made out her will to leave the house to her sister Helen, and then it was to go to the church. She left Richard \$1. Her second husband, Richard (who was a painter when he worked) fought the will and won 1/3 of the money from the sale of the house. Lucille left her car and deep freezer to her sister Gracie. Despite her sad home life, Lucille was a very easygoing, lighthearted person. A joy to be around.

[Mildred Ann Mitchell](#)

Born 19 April 1917 and died 9 April 2001.

Mildred married Ed North and I believe they divorced. They had a stillborn son. She then married Charles Mulholland and had a son and daughter.

Mildred's nickname in her youth was Bob. Her husband Charles went by the name of Weedie.

[Gracie Edna Mitchell](#)

Born 23 March 1923 and died 26 August 2006.

Gracie was my mother and has her own page here.

She married twice, having a daughter by her first husband and son and daughter by her second husband.