

**HISTORY AND FAMILY OF BENJAMIN THOMAS  
MITCHELL**

*Benjamin Thomas Mitchell was born in, Munsey Township in Lacombe County, Pennsylvania, on January 12, 1816, a son of Abraham Mitchell and Anne Colpetser.*

*Abraham's parents were William Mitchell Jr. and Mary Brown.*

*His brothers and sister were: William, Levi, Ohio, Ester, Jenny — Jeremiah, Samuel, & Thomas*

*Benjamin was married to Sarah Greisback on April 27, 1835. She was born on June 9, 1817 and she was sealed to him by proxy on the 17th day of Januarys 1845. They had 3 children:*

*Benjamin F. Mitchell June 7, 1836 Ohio*

*Sarah Jan Mitchell XXX 9, 1838 Indiana*

*Emely Mitchell July 12, 1841 Indiana*

*He was married to Lavina Bachwalter on October 10, 1843. She was born on January 28, 1821, in Chester County, Charlestown Township, Pa. She was sealed to him on January 17, 1845. They had 8 children:*

*Joseph Smith Mitchell October 28, 1844 Illinois*

*Percis Mitchell November 27, 1845 Nebraska*

*Herman Heber Mitchell October 19, 1847*

*Nebraska*

*Jerome K. Mitchell July 23, 1850 SLC Utah*

*Rachel Mitchell July 20, 1855 SLC Utah*

*Martha Ann Mitchell January 16, 1853 SLC*

*Utah*

*Margaret Mitchell April 7, 1857 SLC Utah*

*Haria Desert Mitchell November 4, 1860 SLC*

*Utah*

*He was sealed to:*

*Caroline Conrad on January; 17, 1845. She was born on Sept 18, 1825. They had 2 children:*

*Amanda Elizabeth Mitchell April 10, 1840 SLC*

*Utah*

*Zadock Mitchell May 7, 1851 SLC Utah*

*Lois Judd in Winter Quarter on Jan 1, 1848. They had 8 children:*

*Mary Judd Mitchell February 25, 1851 SLC Utah*

*Ruth Judd Mitchell February 25, 1851 SLC Utah*

*Daniel Judd Mitchell June 18, 1853 SLC Utah*

*Anny Judd Mitchell May 8, 1855 SLC Utah*

*Nathanil Judd Mitchell November 2, 1857 SLC*

*Utah*

*Fanny Judd Mitchell May 12, 1861 SLC Utah*

*Lucey Content Mitchell August 9, 1867 SLC*

*Utah*

*Byron Teancom Mitchell March 28, 1882 Kamas,*

*Utah*

*Mariah Day in Salt Lake City on June 30, 1851. They had 11 children:*

*Almeda Day Mitchell January 7, 1856 SLC Utah*

*Franklin Day Mitchell January 10, 1860 SLC*

*Utah*

*John William Mitchell Date not listed SLC Utah*

*Jadadia Milton Mitchell November 17, 1863 SLC*

*Utah*

*Benjamin Parley Mitchell March 6, 1863 SLC*

*Utah*

*Lois Lavina Mitchell March 28, 1866 SLC Utah*

*Roda Mitchell December 5, 1870*

*Burnetta Isabell Mitchell February 26, 1873 SLC*

*Utah*

*May Day Mitchell Date not listed SLC Utah*

*Birchie Day Mitchell Date not listed SLC Utah*

*Alomo Abraham Mitchell Date not listed SLC*

*Utah*

*Catherine Johnson on the 21 day of Dec. 1856. They had 11 children:*

*Rasana Mitchell December 4, 1857 SLC Utah*

*Tredrick Mitchell January 15, 1860 SLC Utah*

*Brigham Mitchell January 22, 1863 SLC Utah*

*Benjamin Parley Mitchell March 6, 1864 SLC*

*Utah*

*Mark Mitchell May 14, 1866 SLC Utah*

*Rozanna Mitchell May 8, 1868 SLC Utah*

*Anney Mitchell February 1, 1869 SLC Utah*

*Alace Sophia Mitchell September 13, 1872 SLC*

*Utah*

*Bernetta Isabell Mitchell September 13, 1872 SLC*

*Utah*

*Harry Mitchell Date not listed SLC Utah*

*Buddie Mitchell Date not listed SLC Utah*

*Susanne Huston on March 6, 1857. She was born in Stark County, Ohio on Feb 11, 1826. They had 7 children:*

*Thomas Hustan Mitchell January 22, 1858 SLC*

*Utah*

*Edward Hunter Mitchell August 17, 1859 SLC*

*Utah*

*Erastus Snow Mitchell November 22, 1862*

*Charles James Mitchell July 30, 1865*

*Lehigh Huston Mitchell September 7, 1866*

*Nephi Huston Mitchell September 7, 1866*

*His families consisted of 7 wives and 50 children.*

*His children are listed below in order of birth:*

<i>Benjamin F. Mitchell</i>	<i>June 7, 1836</i>
<i>Sarah Jan Mitchell</i>	<i>June 9, 1838</i>
<i>Amanda Elizabeth Mitchell</i>	<i>April 10, 1840</i>
<i>Emely Mitchell</i>	<i>July 12, 1841</i>
<i>Joseph Smith Mitchell</i>	<i>October 28, 1844</i>
<i>Percis Mitchell</i>	<i>November 27, 1845</i>
<i>Herman Heber Mitchell</i>	<i>October 19, 1847</i>
<i>**Jerome K Mitchell</i>	<i>July 23, 1850**</i>
<i>Mary Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>February 25, 1851</i>
<i>Ruth Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>February 25, 1851</i>
<i>Zadock Mitchell</i>	<i>May 7, 1851</i>
<i>Martha Ann Mitchell</i>	<i>January 16, 1853</i>
<i>Daniel Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>June 18, 1853</i>
<i>Anny Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>May 8, 1855</i>
<i>Rachel Mitchell</i>	<i>July 20, 1855</i>
<i>Almeda Day Mitchell</i>	<i>January 7, 1856</i>
<i>Margaret Mitchell</i>	<i>April 7, 1857</i>
<i>Nathanil Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>November 2, 1857</i>
<i>Rasana Mitchell</i>	<i>December 4, 1857</i>
<i>Thomas Hustan Mitchell</i>	<i>January 22, 1858</i>
<i>Edward Hunter Mitchell</i>	<i>August 17, 1859</i>
<i>Franklin Day Mitchell</i>	<i>January 10, 1860</i>
<i>Tredrick Mitchell</i>	<i>January 15, 1860</i>
<i>Haria Desert Mitchell</i>	<i>November 4, 1860</i>
<i>John William Mitchell</i>	
<i>Fanny Judd Mitchell</i>	<i>May 12, 1861</i>
<i>Erastus Snow Mitchell</i>	<i>November 22, 1862</i>
<i>Brigham Mitchell</i>	<i>January 22, 1863</i>
<i>Benjamin Parley Mitchell</i>	<i>March 6, 1863</i>
<i>Jadadia Milton Mitchell</i>	<i>November 17, 1863</i>
<i>Benjamin Parley Mitchell</i>	<i>March 6, 1864</i>
<i>Charles James Mitchell</i>	<i>July 30, 1865</i>
<i>Lois Lavina Mitchell</i>	<i>March 28, 1866</i>
<i>Mark Mitchell</i>	<i>May 14, 1866</i>
<i>Lehigh Huston Mitchell</i>	<i>September 7, 1866</i>
<i>Nephi Huston Mitchell</i>	<i>September 7, 1866</i>
<i>Lucey Content Mitchell</i>	<i>August 9, 1867</i>
<i>Rozanna Mitchell</i>	<i>May 8, 1868</i>
<i>Anney Mitchell</i>	<i>February 1, 1869</i>
<i>W Huston Mitchell</i>	<i>November 8, 1869</i>

<i>Roda Mitchell</i>	<i>December 5, 1870</i>
<i>Alace Sophia Mitchell</i>	<i>September 13, 1872</i>
<i>Bernetta Isabell Mitchell</i>	<i>September 13, 1872</i>
<i>Burnetta Isabell Mitchell</i>	<i>February 26, 1873</i>
<i>May Day Mitchell</i>	
<i>Harry Mitchell</i>	
<i>Birchie Day Mitchell</i>	
<i>Buddie Mitchell</i>	<i>September 13, 1876</i>
<i>Alomo Abraham Mitchell</i>	<i>March 1, 1878</i>
<i>Byron Teancom Mitchell</i>	<i>March 28, 1882</i>

## **JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN THOMAS MITCHELL**

**I was born in Munsey township Lacomine County Pennsylvania in the year of 1816. My father's name was Abraham; his father's name was William, he was of Irish Parentage. My mother's maiden name was Anne Colpetser, she was of German Parentage**

**When I was about 2 years old, father moved to Ohio on the Western Reserve where I was raised in the backwoods without a chance of an education. At the age of 17 I purchased my tools of my father and went and learned the stone-cutter's trade. At 20 I married Sarah Griesback in April 1835 and the 15th day of June following I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints by Brother Millit. About a year after that I sold my property (*located in Akron, Portage County, Ohio consisting of a little over one acre was sold to his father for \$500.00 on September 12, 1836*) and sent some means by John C. Singletary Jr. to Missouri, to buy land. That fall I started the move to Missouri for the next season, but on account of the river being so low I was compelled to stop at Madison, Indiana. Before spring the word came that the Saints were driven out of Missouri and scattered. For some time I was unable to learn where they located a gathering place, in the mean time, I moved to Marton County Iowa and bought a farm and made some improvements for about two years. Then Brothers Litts Hederson came along and told me the Saints place of gathering was at Nauvoo, Illinois. In the Spring of 1841 , I moved to Nauvoo, where I went to laying bricks for Laws and others because the Temple committee wouldn't give me work at stone cutting until Brother Joseph told them to push the Temple even if they had to send to Quincy**

**for Stone cutters. I then got work and labored constantly until it was finished. I got my Endowments and sealing in the fall of 1845.** (Even though they knew they were going to have to abandon Nauvoo they placed such a high value on getting their endowments and sealings, work that could only be done in a Temple, that they completed the doomed Temple.)

**While living in Nauvoo in 1843, I met with a heavy loss, the companion of my youth, who had born me three fine healthy children, died of measles on the 23rd day of August 1843. I married Lavine Bachwalter on October 10, 1843.**

**After laboring constantly by day and standing guard at night to keep our enemies at bay, they succeeded in killing the Prophets, Joseph & Hyrum and driving the saints from Nauvoo in 1846.**

**I started to the west, not knowing where I was going, but made it to a settlement on the Missouri River called Winter Quarters, where we stayed two winters and one summer. While tarrying there I made nine trips to Missouri for goods and provisions, raised a crop, made an outfit for the mountains and buried a child.**

**I started in the spring of 1848 to the valley of the Great Salt Lake, was made Captain of Ten and arrived in September of the same Year.** (His arrival in September indicates that he was in the Company led by Brigham Young that made the 1034 mile journey. Thomas Bullock recorded 86 traveling days with an average of 12 miles a per day; 36 days lay still for a total of 122 days from Winter Quarters to Great Salt Lake City. In Brighams division there were 397 wagons, 1229 souls, 74 horses, 1275 oxen, 699 cows, 184 loose cattle, 411 sheep, 141 pigs, 605 chickens, 37 cats, 82 dogs, 3 goats, 10 geese, 2 beehives, 8 doves and a solitary crow.)

**I helped to survey the Great Salt Lake City and built a house the same fall before harvest came in. I with my family, lived for about two Months with bread stuff. We dug root and greens from the canyons.** (The winter of 1847 was mild; therefore the emphasis in 1848 was on getting crops planted rather than building homes. A lot of the people planed to spend the winter of 1848 in their wagons. The winter of 1848 was harsh and cold with lots of snow. Provision were short in 1848, by the spring of 1849 they were desperate. Therefore they survived by going to the canyons to dig roots. They also ran out of coffee and had to substitute roasted barley.. postum was born.) **I was cutting stone of the Council house and public works until the 6th of September, 1852 when I was called to take a mission to Novia Scotia and British America.**

**On September 15, 1852 I started with about eighty missionaries, one woman and a child to cross the plains.** (Benjamin left behind three wives, one of which was 5 months pregnant another just conceived and 11 children.) **Had a prosperous journey and landed in the settlements on the Missouri River at Plattsville and made our way down the country to St. Joseph, called on members of the Saints by the way. On November 14, 1852 took passage on the steamer Clarry with Captain Chevar to St. Louis. We arrived on Nov 21, 1852 at three o'clock A.M. and stayed four days at the residence of Sister Sanders and Bradley. I attended meeting at Concert Hall where Brother Orson Pratt addressed a large congregation on the Plurality of Wives.**

**On the 24<sup>th</sup> I was appointed to contract steamer passage to Cincinnati for fifteen Elders. I got passage on**

the steamer Hamburg, left the wharf at four o'clock P.M. On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> by the request of the passengers and captain, I, followed by Malon Atwood, preached to a large audience. We arrived at Madison, Iowa on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Were visited by brothers at Sippio and called on George Griesback in Veron. Stayed two nights and one day and pursued my journey, arriving in Cincinnati on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December. Stayed with my sister-in-law two days and then took care for Cleveland, Ohio. I found Brother Parsel in Ohio City, stayed one week, and preached twice. I then went to Kirkland where I was sick with ague (a malarial fever) in the face about two weeks. I then traveled and preached through six different counties, and baptized Orval Siman and wife Marta, Jane Pepper Saerusia and Charles Pepper in South Kirtland, Ohio.

Took the cars from Boston on March 29, 1853. In Buffalo, the cars flew the track, but did no serious damage. At o'clock the same night the train ran over a cow throwing the tender and the hind cars off the track, smashing the latter into fragments, the Passengers all escaped with their lives though some had bruised heads and shins. The conductor hired some men to clear the tracks and we went. Landed in New York April 2<sup>nd</sup> at ten o'clock and pursued my journey to Boston, arrived next day and met Brother Jesse Crosby who was returning home. Stayed three days, then left for Tarmough aboard the packet Oregon, Captain Churchel, and landed in Yarmouth Harbor April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Stopped at Mr. Shows, Cranberry Head, and rested a few days. Preached in a new hall built by a few individuals and called Mormon Hall. Brother Robinson and myself

traveled around the coast to east. Came to Jubohue and found no chance for preaching for thence, to Salmon River and still got nothing there. From there to Guskin Village, and found a Mr. Harding that had charge of the chapel Billage, and tried to get to preach in, but was refused. He shook like an aspen leaf and acknowledged that the very sight of the Mormons exerted him. He went around stirring up the people against us, so we got no chance to preach.

We pursued our journey and washed our feet and bore testimony against them. Came to Argyly Bridge and stayed the night with Mr. Orrum a Baptist minister, was very coolly and badly *treaded*. Sunday morning traveled four miles, got a Baptist meeting house to preach in. At two o'clock found that Orrum was fooling us. He left his own appointment and raised a roughhouse, said that if Joseph Smith had been in that country he would himself send him to the mad house. We were turned out of the doors in a tremendous snow storm.

We traveled five miles and stayed the night with a Mrs. Tenicas a Catholic at Pudince. From there to Boynton, stayed with Paul Crowels but could get no opening. Went over to Cape Island, traveled over it and preached twice. The pastor sent a message and closed the door against us. We went and talked with him, but got no chance to stay. We determined to leave, returned by the way of Oakland Park to Cranberry Head where we continued our labors in the Mormon Hall.

Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>, I baptized and confirmed Asel Porter, then went to Beaver River, found no opening and was threatened with tar and feathers. The brother that we called upon said he dare not ask us in on account of his

wife being opposed. We fasted until we returned to Mr. Show's the same night, we went to the sea side and washed our feet and bore testimony against them before our Father in Heaven. There we meet some brothers from Halifax and had a council and divided into districts and companions, it fell to me to go to the Condadys alone, being an odd one, I stayed till in May then got a passage to Boston aboard the Oregon. Was six days out, two in head wind and fog, landed June 4th in Boston. Put up with Rs. Rice. Worked two weeks cutting granite for Mr. Richards and got some clothing. Presided over meeting, preached and administered the Sacrament on Sunday. Left there in good spirits. From that point to Grovel, stayed two days and then returned to east Boston and Brookland South Boston. Went to see Bunker Hill Monument, left July 6th enroute for Canada by the way of Springfield.

Traveled through Albany, Redding, Syracuse, Utica, Little Falls and Buffalo. Preached and baptized on Sunday and baptized John Darley. From there over to *Canada, but no chance to preach as the country was in a state of excitement owing to the Father Gavoty riot in which the Queen's regulars shot several persons down in the street. I returned to Buffalo and from there to Kirtland, traveled throughout the state on Ohio and labored and transacted some business. Had a lot of wagons made at Charles Wightman's shop for a small company of immigrates to leave in the spring. On the 9th day of March, baptized at Adron, Summit County, two persons by the name of Catherine Barris and Rachel Herinland.*

*Left Kirtland 6th of April for Bluff City in the charge of Father Dixon's family and landed at Rock Island*

*on the 12<sup>th</sup>, stayed about eight days fitting up teams for the plains. During that time the cholera broke out and we lost four of our number, but soon as the camp began to move the sickness ceased and we had no more sickness or death in the camp during the journey Batham and his Charlotte. With nineteen wagons and fifty-four head of oxen and horses we journeyed across the plains, arrived in the valley the 5th day of Aug 1855 without loss of oxen.*

*Soon after I arrived, I went to work at stone cutting for Brigham Young and in a few days was set as a foreman over the stone cutters at the public works and continued my labors as such.*

*I was appointed Bishop Protem over the 15th ward about the 1st January 1857. Since which time I have been acting in the business of the ward and overseeing the stone cutting for the temple at cottonwood and in this city until the move south. (U.S. President Buchanan issued orders to General Harney, then passed to General Johnson, "Johnson's Army", sending 2500 troops to Utah to install a new Governor and restore "order". Brigham, concerned that they would once again be driven from their community ordered the evacuation of Salt Lake Valley with a moved to Utah Valley for a short time. Preparations were made to burn Salt Lake Community to the ground rather than let their enemies take it as had been done in Far West, Missouri and Nauvoo Illinois.) After retuning, was released from the Bishopric by the Ordination of Andrew Cunningham, continued in charge of the cutting of the stone for the City Hall until finished. I then took a job on the temple cutting rock at 70¢ a foot but the hands demanded 80¢ a foot or six dollars a day which I was compelled to give them or stop the work.*

**In 1866 I took a job of the cutting of stone for building the Husey and Dahler Bank, completed it and went back to the temple work and remained there since. When work was going on, I was building for myself and jobbing for others occasionally as opportunity permitted, cutting ninety-six runoff millstone, large and small. I then went back and worked on the railroad cutting stone till completed the fall of 1874. I then sent two of my boys to cut stone on the St. George Temple continuing on the Temple myself until the Spring of 1875 when myself and two boys were called on to work on the big Co-op building, all the time-being supervised by the Council of the First Presidency.**

**I took three thousand shares in the Z C M I co-op while laboring on the Temple for two years with cash or store pay, but becoming destitute of clothing and provisions for by families I was compelled to sell co-op stock to Brigham Young and H. Clawson at a sacrifice of one half, or fifty cents on the dollar to get bread and clothing for my families. When the church furnished me any coal on our work, they required five dollars cash on a ton as freight or we must go without.**

**I will now take my families to settle on a farm, as I am now told I can go to the country and make a farm when I am about worn out.**

**Journal Copied off of Grage Morrison's typing 6/62**

**By Leroy Welch 8/66**

**Minor editing and formatting by Lon Welch 2005**

**Benjamin Thomas Mitchell stood 5'10" tall, he had gray eyes & brown hair. He worked hard all his life, was devoted to his families and his church. He died March 9<sup>th</sup>, I do not have the year of his death but his last child was born in 1882 when he was 66 years of age.**

**Jerome K. Mitchell, the 8<sup>th</sup> child of Benjamin T. Mitchell, was the father of Margaret Elizabeth Mitchell who married David Carruth December 29, 1897. David and Margaret were the parents of my mother, Dora Dean Carruth Welch.**

**Lon Welch**