

## William David & Hannah Maria Christiansen Mitchell



**William David Mitchell**

William David and Hannah Maria Christiansen Mitchell had nine children. All children were born in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho. The eldest son, William Wesley settled in the Stevensville, Montana area and was a very successful honey farmer. Eight children are buried in the Shelley Hillcrest Cemetery.

Memories of Hannah Christensen Mitchell and William David Mitchell as told to me by my Mother Helen Mabel Mitchell Tracy Shipley Browning.



**Hannah Marie Christiansen**

Hannah was the wife of William David Mitchell and the grandmother of my Mother Helen. Her memories were from the age of three, Hannah held "tea parties" each afternoon with Helen and Charlotte. Charlotte was Hannah and William's daughter. Charlotte was about eight years old at the time, Hannah would bring out a small China tea set, a gift from a Japanese friend. The set included both a small tea pot and small round cups without handles. This kind of tea set is used in formal Asian tea ceremonies. Hannah, Helen and Charlotte would take a teaspoon full of white sugar and slowly submerge the spoon into the freshly brewed tea. Then the tea drinkers would put the sugar into their mouth and savor the sweet flavored tea sugar as long as possible.

The Christensen family sailed to America from Denmark. Hannah's father died at sea and was given a sea burial. Arriving in America Hannah, Hannah's Mother, Aunt Tina and another sister passed through Ellis Island and then walked to Utah using push carts. They did not have oxen, covered wagons or horses to help them travel. No information is available on any brothers or their traveling companions.

Grandfather William or Uncle Will as he was called was not a tall fellow. He was about five feet eight inches and supported a large handle bar mustache. It was the trend of the time. Will was a farmer who raised hogs and grew sweet clover. He was quite successful and was able to build a large home painted white with amber trim. The ranch house later burned down and was not rebuilt according to best accounts in later years. Grandpa Will suffered from poor eye sight. Helen spent a lot of time in the garden with Grandpa thinning the carrots and other plants. Helen's Grandfather crawled down the garden rows as he thinned the vegetables and pulled weeds. William and Hannah had a small two room house behind the big ranch house. Son Wes, wife Doll Betty, children Helen and Russell lived in the two-room house before moving into the town of Shelley. The family lived on the river ranch until Helen was about seven. Wes's brother Havre and sister (Aunt) Charlotte

lived in the two room house after Wes and Doll moved to Shelley. There is a picture of the ranch house in a photograph with James Mitchell and Wes

Mitchell standing at the side of a new 1918 Dodge touring car which James recently purchased. According to Helen's brother Norman Wes had just arrived home on furlough or perhaps after serving in World War L James Mitchell, was the original member of the Mitchell family. He migrated from Scotland to Idaho and settled on a 375 acre farm by the Snake River.

Grandfather Wes's brother Havre used Beechnut chewing tobacco and spit into an old-fashioned brass spittoon. One time Russell and Helen borrowed a piece of chewing tobacco and chewed and spit themselves into quit a tummy ach becoming very green "around the gills". Both were cured of smoking or chewing tobacco the rest of their days.

Havre died some years later when the Frasier dam collapsed near Spenser, Idaho. Havre was camping with the Jensen brothers when the dam broke. Unfortunately it was at night and only the Jensen brothers survived. Havre had a broken leg at that time and was unable to swim to safety. Grandpa Wes brought the body home for burial. Havre left no children.

Williams' daughter Charlotte and Helen had baby doll type dolls that they played with in Charlottes bedroom on the second floor of the big ranch house. The girls would go into Hannah's bedroom to admire the big brass bed belonging to Hannah and William. Russell and Charlotte used to snare or shoot rabbits along the river that the evening family meal. Charlotte worked at an air plane assembly plant as "Rosie the Riveter" in San Francisco during World War II. She married a Bill Owens and raised a son and daughter. Bill and Charlotte moved to Kentucky where they lived the rest of their lives.

Helen remembers Grandpa Will making pig tale soup when he slaughtered pigs. He used pink dried

beans in the soup. Helen thinks the pink beans are unavailable these days. Helen always got the tail to chew on and remembers it was quite chewy and very tasty.

The memories of Helen's childhood were told to me at Easter time 2010. My only hope is that I was as accurate as possible recording her thoughts. Mother Helen will be ninety years in July of 2010. Respect submitted by Sandra lee Tracy Spidell daughter of Helen Browing.

Walter Scott and Rachell Nelson Terry Mitchell  
1 May 2010

Walter Scott and Rachell Nelson Terry Mitchell had six children. All children were born in the Shelley, Idaho area. The descendants are dispersed in Oregon, Washington and California. I was unable to locate any descendants.

*Left to Right, William Wesley Mitchell and William David Mitchell, Norman D. Mitchell's father and grandfather*

