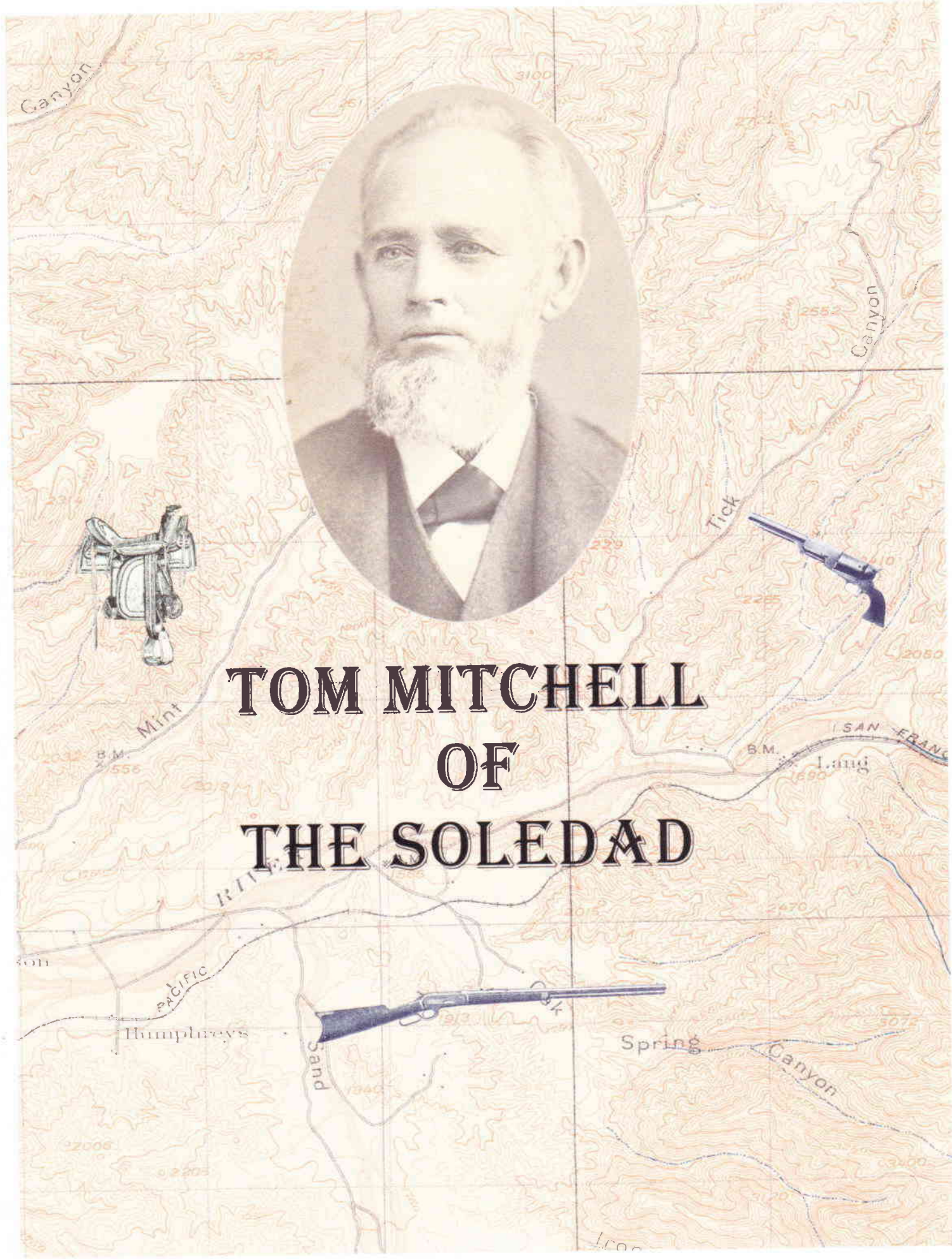




TOM MITCHELL OF THE SOLEDAD



TOM MITCHELL OF THE SOLEDAD

SOME OF THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

OF

THOMAS FINDLEY MITCHELL

OF

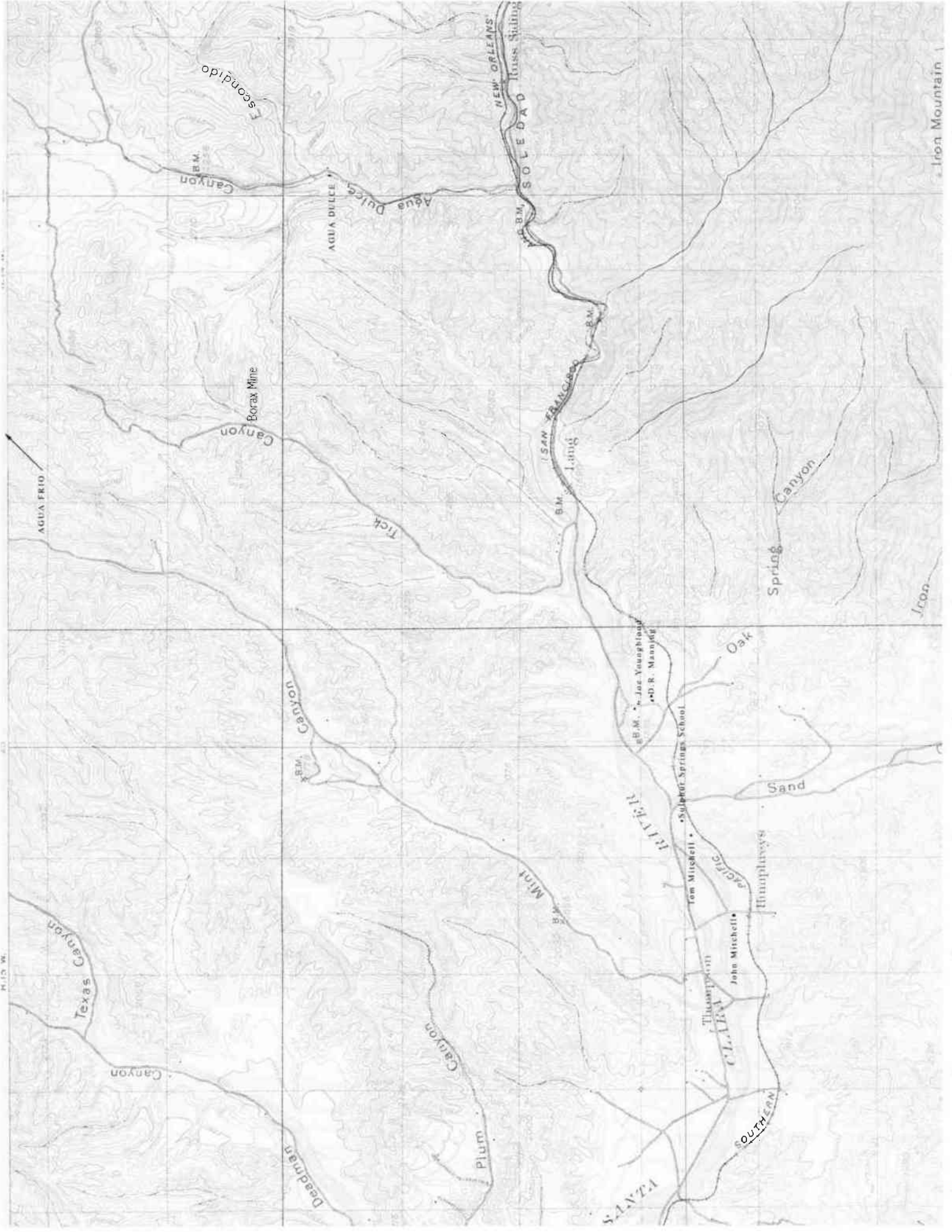
Soledad Township, Los Angeles County

California

by

Richard F. Mitchell

2002





THE SITE OF TOM MITCHELL'S HOME RANCH

This picture was taken some years after the ranch had been sold to a developer who had no interest in keeping it maintained.

The victorian house which was destroyed by the new owners and the old adobe which was moved to Newhall by the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society can be seen in the picture peeking through the trees.



**TOM AND MARTHA MITCHELL
ABOUT 1878**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The task of putting together this history of Tom Mitchell and his many ancestors would have been totally impossible for this writer to do alone. I was constantly amazed by the generosity of the many people who provided me assistance in gathering information for this project. I am deeply indebted to all the wonderful people that follow:

My late cousins Thomas and Albert Mitchell for getting me started on our Mitchell family history and making me promise to finish the project. Genealogists Janice Cloud and Mary Leigh Johnston, both wonderful teachers and guides, from the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society who managed to get me pointed in the right direction. Professor Emeritus, Richard Oglesby, former Chair of the Department of History and Dean of Instructional Development at The University of California, Santa Barbara for his professional advice and continued encouragement.

Cousin Darleen Helvey Zollinger who deserves special thanks for locating relatives who had answers we had been seeking for over twenty years. Cousins Karil Henneberger and Lee Baker for preserving and sharing the diary, family pictures and correspondence of Tom Mitchell's sister, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell and her daughter, Bettie Elgin Gilmer. Elgin relative, Frank Bumpas, of Burleson County, Texas who located the final resting place of our elusive ancestor, John C. Mitchell, the writer's great grandfather. Cousins Irvin and Barbara Jarrell for sharing their information, documents and photographs of James Wilson Mitchell and his family. Irvin and Barbara also did carefully documented research on our family in North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City. Cousin, Judge Melvin Whitaker of Palestine, Texas for sharing his research on the Richard Whitaker family of North Carolina. Carter cousin, Vernon Tapp, guardian of the Carter Cemetery in Fayette County, Tennessee for copies of Carter family documents including cemetery and Bible records. Mrs. Hubert H. Hunt of Salem, Arkansas, author of *The Whitaker Family A Goodly Heritage* for her information on the Carter family and her good wishes for our project. Whitaker cousins Jayne and Dick Boggs, Naperville, Illinois for sharing some of their research on Whitaker and Bouchier lines. James Elgin, of Wichita, Kansas, genealogist and author tracing our Elgin in-laws who shared information on the origins of the Elgin family.

Mable MacCall and the helpful ladies of the Layland Museum, Cleburne, Texas for providing pivotal information concerning James Wilson Mitchell, Tom Mitchell's older brother, and assisting my further research during my visit to the library and the Johnson County Recorder's Office in Cleburne. Francis Roi and her Query Committee of the Halifax County, North Carolina Genealogical Society who provided valuable information which enabled tracing our Whitaker ancestors in North Carolina, Virginia and England. Mrs. Bernice Cargill, Historian of Fayette County, Tennessee, who provided much needed information about Tom Mitchell's father, John C. Mitchell, while he lived in Fayette County and his subsequent move to Texas. Carter family genealogist, Dale M. Crawford, who shared his research on the Carter family in colonial America. Mark Wilborn for sharing information concerning his Branch and Flewellen ancestors who had lived on the land John C. Mitchell and Martha Carter purchased in 1820 in Robertson County, Tennessee.

Mr. Donaly E. Brice, Head Reference Specialist, Texas State Library and Archives who consistently provided truly outstanding service and support for our research. Miss Margaret Cook, Curator, Manuscripts and Rare Books, Earl Grey Swern Library, College of William and Mary for her most gracious assistance in locating Cary family documents. Frank D. Gatton, Assistant State Records Administrator, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History who went far out of his way to insure I

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received documents critical to our North Carolina research. Bill and Barbara Dunfee of Huntington, West Virginia for articles about the “other” Mitchell family in Bedford County, Virginia. Ellen A. Wandrei, Director of the Bedford City/County Museum, Bedford, Virginia for her search of records for our Mitchell family in Bedford and adjacent Counties. Molly Brown and Ruth Baker, Library Associates of the Austin, Texas History Center. Barbara Tull Dehle of the San Antonio, Texas Genealogical and Historical Society. Shirley Tomlin of The Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Sam G. Cook from the Albert Sydney Johnston Chapter No. 105 of The United Daughters of Confederacy in Texas for providing us information about Tom Mitchell’s niece, Bettie Elgin Gilmer.

I can truly say that while doing the research for this book that I never encountered a librarian that didn’t do his or her best to find the information I was seeking. I wish to thank the following libraries and their staffs who contributed so much to our efforts. The Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville; The Gorham-McBane Library, Springfield, Tennessee; Williamson County Library, Franklin, Tennessee; The Virginia State Library and Archives Richmond, Virginia; The Library of the University of California, Santa Barbara; The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Library, Santa Barbara; The Santa Barbara Public Library; The Latter Day Saints Family History Libraries of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, California; The Los Angeles Public Library; The Sons of The Revolution Library, Glendale, California; The McLennan County Library Waco, Texas; The Special Collections of Baylor University Library, Waco Texas; The San Antonio Public Library, Texas; The Daughters of The Republic of Texas Research Library, The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas; The Texas Medical Association Archives, Austin, Texas; The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco, Texas; Pioneer Hall and Ranger Museum, San Antonio, Texas; The Daughters of The American Revolution Library Washington, DC.

Others that I met or with whom I corresponded that contributed to our effort: Mitchell Keyes of Sadlersville, Tennessee who is the present owner of James Mitchell’s Family cemetery in Robertson County. Ann Chilton, Virginia researcher-author, Roanoke, Virginia; Cousin Orphelia S. Miller, Mableton, Georgia; Cousin Virginia Sells, Louisville, Kentucky; Whitaker cousin, Karin Covington.

In England: The helpful staff of the Society of Genealogist Library in London. Mr. Ray Barker Manager for The National Trust of Beningbrough Hall, East Riding, York, which was one of the last homes of our Bouchier ancestors and relatives. He gave the writer a personal tour of the estate on his day off and when the estate was closed to the public.

The friendly, efficient staff of the City Library of York who found the writer a quiet corner and delivered all their Bouchier family files to his table. Mrs. Thom, Librarian, and Mr. Jones, Assistant Librarian, of Gray’s Inn Library, London. The staff of The Royal Portrait Gallery, London.

Last, but certainly not least, are all my cousins who are descendants of Tom Mitchell and his siblings who carefully gathered the genealogical information about their families and permitted me to include it in this book.

INTRODUCTION

My interest in my family's history began as a childhood curiosity that was stimulated by listening to the recollections of my elders at family gatherings. As I became older my curiosity increased. Finally persuaded by the urgings of my late cousins, Albert and Tommy Mitchell, "to write it all down" I succumbed and set about discovering the roots of our Mitchell family in earnest. This effort has led me back through America's history to its first colonists and beyond to Norman England. It has been an extremely interesting learning experience.

I was quite surprised to find ancestors who had signed the English Magna Carta in 1216. Other ancestors were descended from the Kings of England. Many others had held important positions in the English Government.

I learned of Jabez Whitaker who was an officer of the London Company of Virginia that established the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. He was our ancestor through Tom Mitchell's mother's family. He came to America in 1619. His older brother, the Reverend Alexander Whitaker had come to Jamestown in 1609. Alexander Whitaker converted the Indian princess, Pocahontas, to the Christian Faith and had baptized her. I discovered Colonel Miles Cary, who came to Virginia in 1642. He was an ancestor of the Presidents Harrison and other eminent Virginians. He was killed defending Virginia from the Dutch in 1669. I read the statement of Tom Mitchell's grandfather, James Mitchell of Virginia, made before a magistrate in Robertson County, Tennessee, to claim his pension for his Revolutionary War service in the Continental Line. He said in part. "The first winter we lay at Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania.---I was at the Battle of Monmouth under General Lee.---We marched to Guildford Court House. I was in the heat of that battle. " My Captain, Jacob Moon, was killed and Benj. Rice succeeded him. I was promoted to ensign." I have seen the report of Captain "Big Foot Wallace's operations against the Indians with his twenty-two man company of Texas Rangers. It was contained in President Filmore's report to Congress of December 2, 1850. Tom Mitchell from Tennessee was one of the Texas Rangers in that company.

We read about the Jamestown Colony and the story of Pocahontas in our grammar school histories. We all know of the terrible winter General Washington and the Continental Army spent at Valley Forge. The Texas Rangers are a part of America's frontier legend. Now we know that those events are part of our family's history as well as a part of our national heritage. Tom Mitchell and his ancestors were players in those events.

When I asked my father, Frank Mitchell, about our family's history he told me what little he knew but always added that I should contact his cousin, Mitchell Davis, an attorney and judge in Cleburne, Texas, who had a written history of the Mitchell family. Later on, during World War II, we were stationed in Texas and my father reminded me again to contact Mitchell Davis. I was too busy to follow up on his suggestion. Years later, when I finally had the time, I tried to contact Mitchell Davis but was not able to locate him. I put my curiosity and my search aside once more.

Later while we were visiting Janet Pelz, the widow of an old college friend, Janet mentioned that her brother had just moved from California to Cleburne, Texas. Cleburne had been the home of Tom Mitchell's older brother, James Wilson Mitchell. I asked Janet if she would ask her brother to see if there was an historical or genealogical society in Cleburne. I soon received a note from her brother, Karsell, with the address of the Leyland Museum in Cleburne. My letter to the museum brought in return large manila envelope bulging with information about James Mitchell and his family. The envelope was filled with articles, newspaper clippings, census enumerations and city directories. From one newspaper article I learned that Mitchell Davis had passed away in 1938. This was why I had not been able to locate him. Another article, written in 1960 reported the demolition of the Judge Davis home to make way for a new housing development. Judge Louis B. Davis was the father of Mitchell Davis and the son-in-law of James Wilson Mitchell. The article mentioned that Judge Davis' daughter, Mary Davis Jarrell, lived in Fort Worth. I checked the Fort Worth telephone directory on the chance that she might have some relatives still living there. There were only two Jarrells listed a Mary Jarrell and an Irvin Jarrell Jr. Assuming the Mary Jarrell in the article had surely passed on, I called Irvin. He was the great grandson of James Wilson Mitchell. The Mary Jarrell was his mother. I had made my first breakthrough.

Irvin told his mother of my call and she said "Well finally after all these years." She then related to Irvin the details of her visit to Tom Mitchell's ranch near Los Angeles when she was a very little girl. Mary Davis passed away in 1989. She was one hundred years old.

Irvin, a lawyer, was also very interested in our family history. He had also been told that his uncle, Mitchell Davis, had a written history of the Mitchell family. Irvin searched his uncle's papers very thoroughly but did not find the history. Irvin learned from his mother another blow to our research. James Wilson Mitchell's wife burned all of his personal papers after he died. That dashed all our hopes of finding any extensive historical records in that branch of the family.

Without either the family history or James Mitchell's papers our next best bet was Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Elgin, the sister of James and Tom Mitchell. Irvin made a number of trips to places where she had lived in Texas. He found a great deal of information concerning her son, Captain John E. (Jack) Elgin and a bit about his sister Elizabeth, (Bettie) Elgin Gilmer but learned nothing about our real objective, the parents of James, Elizabeth and Tom Mitchell.

Irvin and his wife, Barbara, toured the South visiting places where our Mitchell family had once lived. They went to Halifax, North Carolina, where James Mitchell was born and Robertson County, Tennessee where Mary Elizabeth and Tom Mitchell were born. Irvin searched out court and land records with his lawyer's thoroughness locating information that has proven invaluable in continuing our search.

In 1989 Irvin developed leukemia which he battled courageously. While settling his mother's estate and continuing his family research. He passed away in May of 1990, just a few days before we were to get together for our first face to face meeting in Fort Worth. I have missed his great enthusiasm, humor and inquiring mind.

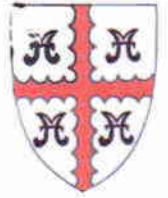
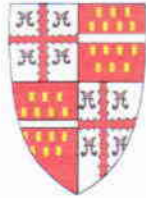
From our telephone conversations and his many witty letters I am certain Irvin was a cousin that the California branch of the family would have enjoyed.

I met with Irvin's wife, Barbara, and son, Rusty, in 1991. Among the many things that Barbara mentioned was how much Irvin enjoyed getting out to their ranch to ride his horse, hunt and fish. His love of these activities certainly paralleled those of many of his Mitchell cousins. For my part, Irvin uncovered key documents without which putting this

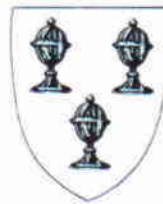
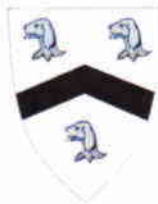
family history together would have been far more difficult. I only wish Irvin could have seen this project through to its completion.

Some years later my cousin, Darleen Helvey Zollinger, a second great grand daughter of Tom Mitchell, finally made the connection on the Internet with the descendants of Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, Tom Mitchell's sister. Her descendants had Mary Elizabeth's diary, school workbook, family letters and photographs. These two wonderful sisters, Karel Henneberger and Lee Baker, living on the East Coast shared this material with us. In July of 1998 Lee Baker flew to California to attend a Mitchell family reunion held on the grounds of The Santa Clarita Historical Society in Newhall. In 1999 Darleen scored on the Internet again and obtained the answer we had all been seeking for years, the final resting-place of Tom Mitchell's elusive father, John C. Mitchell. She located William Frank Bumpus who is related to the Elgin ancestors of Dr. John Elgin, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell's husband. This very gracious and helpful gentleman who lives in Burleson County, Texas, volunteered to find out what happened to John C. Mitchell. We had our answer in days. John C. Mitchell died in September of 1868 and is buried in Tanglewood in Lee County not far from his farm in Burleson County, Texas. This new infusion of information about our family has allowed us to fill in many blanks and confirm other information we had acquired earlier

Putting this family history together has been truly a wonderful adventure and I have had the great pleasure of meeting or corresponding with a number of exceptional and gracious relatives.



A Few of
Tom Mitchell's
English Ancestors



TOM MITCHELL OF THE SOLEDAD

PART ONE

THE ANCESTORS OF TOM MITCHELL

PART ONE IS PRIMARILY A NARRATIVE HISTORY OF TOM MITCHELL'S ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS TO INCLUDE TOM'S CHILDREN. IT ALLOWS NON-GENEALOGISTS TO GET THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FAMILY WITHOUT GETTING DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE FORMAL GENEALOGICAL PROCESS.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF OUR ENGLISH ANCESTORS

We will begin learning of Tom Mitchell's family by acquainting ourselves with some of his earliest ancestors. He had a great number as most of us do. We have made no attempt to mention them all. The ethnic origins of the Mitchell family are primarily Scots and English so we have limited ourselves to a few families representing the various classes of English society that made up Tom's background from small landowners to kings.

We made an effort to include more than just a list of Tom Mitchell's ancestors and the dates and places where they had lived. We have added historical information to breathe life into our ancestors and give the reader an understanding of the social, economic, political and religious forces that shaped our ancestor's lives.

It may seem that to the reader that we have chosen only the history of our upper class ancestors. However, they were the classes of English society for whom the most records and other information still exists. It was very important for them to keep accurate records concerning their families, their lineages and their marriages. This information was important to retaining their status in their society. Being certain that their children married into the "right" families and not beneath their class was critical to maintaining their good fortune. The majority of records that have survived to modern times concern the Royal Family, lords and ladies, knights, the landed gentry and affluent businessmen. There are numerous pedigrees, documents of the time, arms awards from the Heralds College and family histories of the these classes while much less information exists for the working classes.

Tom Mitchell's 2nd great grandparents, Richard Whitaker and Elizabeth Cary were descended from the Plantagenet Kings of England, numerous members of the nobility, the landed gentry, clerics and merchants. The Plantagenet Kings were descended from the Dukes of Anjou who were in turn descended from William the Conqueror who came to England in 1066.

England in the Middle Ages, (1095-1536), can best be described as land in the turmoil of many great changes. [*G.M. Trevelyn in his Shortened History of England summarizes the period. "The spirit of medieval Europe was not static but dynamic. The best and the worst of the Middle Ages were that they were full of wolfish life and energy. Their sins were the vices not of decrepitude but of violent and wanton youth. We should think of the medieval era not as a fixed state but as a living process; we should not conceive it as a motionless picture in a Morris tapestry, but as a series of shifting scenes, some brilliant, some terrible, all full of life and passion."*]

Much of the English youth and passion were spent in continuous rounds of war. On the British Isles the English were battling the Scots to their north, the Welsh in the southwest and attempting to control Ireland. If that weren't enough, they were frequently fighting the French, Spanish and Lowlands rulers on the continent of Europe. Our Plantagenet ancestors and relatives even carried out a bloody war among themselves, The War of the Roses.

The great English landowners that furnished the troops and often lead them in battle in these numerous wars emerged as a powerful upper class. Many of these magnates, as they were often called, were also related to the king. Among the upper classes the name of the game was getting and keeping power, status and wealth. A nobleman attempting to improve his lot had to be in good standing with the king and his councilors. He could do this through his presence in court, filling government posts or contributing troops and his personal leadership to fighting in the king's army. It also helped to be either a member of

The royal family or marry a royal prince or princess. This latter path greatly improved the lives and status of our Bouchier ancestors and Cary relatives.

While the noblemen were away fighting, their wives were doing their best to find the most prestigious marriages they could arrange for their children. They of course were hoping for a match with an heir or heiress from a prominent noble family with great wealth or influential connections with the king or members of his court.

The kings and the queens were also working on schemes for their children. They not only had to consider the wealth and prestige of possible spouses for their children but more importantly, to arrange a marriage that would gain an international political goal. In this scheme played out by kings and nobles it is easy to see that brides' and grooms' personal desires in their marriages were of little consequence. Often marriage pacts would be arranged between families or nations when the bride and groom were only children. This method of arranging marriages did not always make for the most loving and stable households.

There were a number queens of England who were not English. One King, George I, was a native born German who could not even speak English. The practice of royal marriages to bolster Great Britain's international political position continued into the 20th Century. At the beginning of World War I the King of England, the Czar of Russia and the Kaiser of Germany were all first cousins and Queen Victoria of England's grandchildren.

Living in a society with these parameters often forced those who wished to improve or maintain their position and status to be willing to do almost anything to achieve their ends. This included murder, treason, lying, cheating and stealing, as we shall see. An upper class member of this society was further pressured by the power of the early kings and/or their advisors to strip nobles of their titles, property and their lives on whim, which happened to some of our ancestors and relatives.

[Although the English Kings relinquished some power when the barons and clergy with the support of the common people forced King John I to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, the Kings still retained enough power and influence to hold life or death control over their subjects and their property. Later with the growing power of Parliament, power blocks developed in and out of Parliament often to the peril of other nobles and even the kings themselves. The Church also controlled great wealth and exerted influences far beyond religious matters. The Chancellors of England for generations were highly placed members of the church. Our ancestor's brother, Cardinal Thomas Bouchier served as Chancellor of England and was also a Member of Parliament.]

The practice of primogeniture, by which the eldest son inherited all the lands and titles on the death of his father also created stresses and strains. The younger sons could be left penniless and without a roof over their heads. It also put the oldest son in jeopardy of being done in by his younger brothers for his inheritance. Some fathers gave property and other assets to their younger children before they died but the titles and lions share of the estate went to the oldest son. In contrast, our ancestor Miles Cary, in Virginia, made a very equitable distribution of his assets to all his heirs and made them all executors of his estate, male and female alike.]

The above explanation does not begin to enumerate all the complexities of medieval England or the many challenges to life and limb that our ancestors and relatives faced during this chaotic period in history. If you comprehended that life was not easy, and most lived in constant danger you can begin to see what living in those times would be like.

We will begin with our royal Plantagenet ancestors.



THE PLANTAGENET KINGS OF ENGLAND

The Plantagenets were ancestors of Tom Mitchell through the Bouchier family, several of whom married Plantagenet princesses. (See Bouchier page 12) Having royalty among ones' ancestors is not particularly unique. There are many millions of people in the United States who are also descended from the Plantagenets including George Bush and General Colin Powell. The Plantagenet Kings of England were descended from William the Conqueror and the Norman invaders who came to England in 1066 with him. Serious historians often refer to several of William's descendants as the Angevin kings or belonging to the House of Anjou.

[The name, Plantagenet, was not used by any member of this family as a surname until it was adopted by Richard, Duke of York in the early 1400s. He was the father of Kings Edward IV and Richard III. In medieval times' people did not have family names but were often referred to by their place of birth or their occupation. For example the sons of King Edward III, (1327-77), even though princes, were all called by the place of their birth. Lionel of Antwerp, John of Gaunt, Thomas of Woodstock etc. When they were made dukes they were usually referred to by their particular dukedom. Lionel, Duke of Clarence, just as Clarence, John, Duke of Lancaster as Lancaster and Thomas, Duke of Gloucester as Gloucester. For those trying to sort out to what specific individual an author is referring, this practice can be maddening. This custom continues today. One must know the precise time period being discussed to determine the individual baron, earl or duke's family and given names. For example, for many generations our ancestors, the Bohuns were the Earls of Hereford and Essex. The male line became extinct with the father of Eleanor de Bohun who married Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, sixth son of King Edward III. Thomas succeeded to the Earldom when he married Eleanor as she and her sister were the only heirs of her father. The Earldom of Essex was later conferred on Sir Henry Bouchier, the oldest grandson of Eleanor de Bohun. The earldom remained in that branch of the Bouchier family until Anne Bouchier, sole heir of the last Bouchier Earl of Essex, married Sir William Parr. The Earldom passed to Parr in his wife's name during the reign of King Henry VIII. During Henry VIII's daughter's reign, Queen Elizabeth I, the dignity of the Earldom of Essex belonged to the Devereux family. In contrast, the Howard family, descendants of our ancestor, Elizabeth Tylney, have been the Dukes of Norfolk since 1483. However even in this case knowing the time frame is essential to learn which Howard is the Norfolk being discussed.]

WILLIAM I (1028-1087) We will begin our line with William I, called William the Conqueror. William was descended from the Viking freebooters who raided and later settled northwestern France. The Normans were Scandinavian by descent but had lived in France long enough to adopt the French language and many French customs. When William I conquered England he unified the country by placing of his Norman followers in key positions and giving the Norman nobility most of the great estates. He confiscated the land from the Anglo-Saxons and parceled it out among his Norman followers. He also replaced most Anglo-Saxon administrators with Normans.

William, The Conqueror was the only son of Robert the Devil, Duke of Normandy, and although illegitimate he succeeded his father to the dukedom. William was a ruthless ruler but he provided England with an efficient government. His Domesday survey provided the first comprehensive inventory of the land and the inhabitants of England.

William married Matilda, daughter of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders. She was 6th in descent from Alfred the Great, King of Wessex (871-899) and sometimes-styled King of England. William I was succeeded by his middle son, William II, known as William Rufus.

WILLIAM II, (1056-1100) When word of William I's death reached his sons in Normandy, William Rufus rushed to England arriving there before his two brothers. He seized the royal treasury and had himself crowned King. William was a tough soldier. One historian characterizes him as "ruthless to the point of cruelty, recklessly greedy, cynically jovial and much admired by his knights." William Rufus was killed in 1100 in a "hunting accident". His body had hardly hit the ground when his younger brother, Henry, who was in the hunting party, dashed off to Winchester to seize the royal treasury and was chosen king the next day.

HENRY I, (1070-1135) William II was succeeded by his younger brother, Henry. It is said that King Henry heaped lavish rewards on the man who "accidentally" killed his brother. Henry was a good politician and competent administrator. He could be very ruthless. He had two of his granddaughters blinded in retaliation for their father's poor treatment of hostages. In 1124-5 he had all makers of coinage in England mutilated without trial to discourage their successors from falsifying the coinage. He defeated his older brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy at the battle of Tinchebrai in 1106. He then seized the Duchy of Normandy for himself and imprisoned Robert for the rest of his life. Robert died at the age of eighty.

Henry I married as his first wife, Matilda, daughter of Malcom III, King of Scotland. Matilda died in 1118 and he married second Adelicia, daughter of Geoffrey, Duke of Lower Lorraine. Henry had three legitimate children. One died in infancy, his son William died at sea. His daughter Matilda married Henry V, Emperor of Germany.

Henry persuaded his nobles to swear to support his daughter Matilda as his successor. However when Henry died his nephew, Stephen of Blois, on learning of his uncle's death, sailed at once for England to claim the throne. He seized the royal treasury at Winchester and was crowned on 22 December 1135. The Pope confirmed him in early 1136. The Pope's confirmation relieved the English nobles of their oath to support Matilda.

STEPHEN, (1104-1154) Matilda challenged King Stephen's rule at once. By this time her husband Henry V of Germany had died and Matilda was now the wife of Count Geoffrey of Anjou. Stephen was apparently a smooth talking likable chap with great courage but little follow-through. Stephen spent most of his reign fighting with and maneuvering against the forces of Matilda with neither side winning. This state of affairs kept the country in a state of constant anarchy. Stephen's son, Eustace, died before his father and when King Stephen died the throne passed to Matilda's son Henry.

HENRY II, (1133-1189) Henry II was a winner. He ruled an empire greater than any English king before him did. As heir to his mother and Stephen he held England and Normandy. As heir to his father he held Anjou and Touraine; as heir to his brother he held Brittany; as husband of Eleanor, the divorced wife of King Louis VII of France he held Aquitaine, the major part of France. He was the first and greatest of three Angevin kings of England. Not only was he King of England but a major player in the affairs of the continent. From the first he was determined to maintain and assert his rights in all of his lands as well as re-institute the centralized power of his grandfather, Henry I in England. One of his most lasting works was improving the English legal system. He focused his attention on laws, courts, policing and legal procedures. His government was concerned with establishing and maintaining order throughout England.

The later part of Henry's reign was marred by his quarrels with his former Chancellor, Thomas Becket. In 1162 Henry appointed Becket to be Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry had assumed that Becket would continue in his former roles and be supportive of his policies. Becket instead became a militant defender of Pope Gregory VII's attempts to make the church supreme over the lay world. These two old friends became bitter enemies and Henry finally had Becket murdered. Becket's murder turned many of the English people against Henry. Seeing that he had lost popularity with his people, his sons and wife tried to overthrow him. It is said he died a bitter disillusioned old man.

Henry married Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the most powerful women in medieval Europe. Their children and grand children became kings and queens of most of the countries between England and Jerusalem. His son, Richard I, succeeded Henry.



RICHARD I, (1157-1199)

Richard I, known as Lion Heart or Coeur de Lion, spent little time being King of England. He is characterized by one writer as "the complete cosmopolitan military adventurer--tough, glamorous, a brilliant general and a restless wanderer." During his ten-year reign he spent a total of five months in England.

Richard married Berengaria, daughter of Sancho VI, King of Navarre. Berengaria never came to England and Richard spent most of his time with the guys fighting in France, Sicily and Palestine. They had no children and his brother John of Lackland succeeded Richard.

JOHN (1167-1216) John's rule was a disaster, much of it not his own doing. His brother, Richard, had neglected many important matters in the kingdom leaving John faced with staggering debts, internal strife in England and assaults on his empire on the continent. He did his best to overcome these challenges with indomitable vigor and great ability. In his attempts to maintain his position he quarreled with the church and many members of the nobility. The Pope excommunicated him and in 1215 his nobles forced John to agree to their list of conditions set forth in a document now known as the Magna Carta. Some historians say that John did not get the credit he deserved for being a brilliant field commander in war, a pioneer of naval defense and an energetic administrator. Whatever King John's abilities, he and his brother Richard lost much of the empire ruled by their father, King Henry II.

John first married Isabella, daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester. They were divorced in 1199. He married next Isabella, daughter of Aymer Taillefer, Count of Angouleme. By his second wife he had two sons and three daughters. His oldest son, Henry, succeeded him.

HENRY III (1207-1272) Henry III was only nine when he became king. His advisers managed to bring order out of the chaos that had plagued his father. Most of his reign he spent in a struggle with the nobles who were determined to control the powers of the crown. As a result of the noble's actions the absolute power of the king was changed to accommodate the principle of consultation with the nobles. This led in 1258 to a settlement known as the Provisions of Oxford, which established a council of barons to regulate the King's government. A civil war broke out in 1264 and King Henry lost the first battle. In

1265 King Henry's only son, Edward, soundly defeated the rebelling barons and their leader Simon de Monfort was killed.

Henry married Eleanor, daughter of Raymond, Count of Provence. They had one son, Edward, who succeeded to the throne.

EDWARD I (1239-1307) Edward I is considered by historians to have been the ideal medieval king. He was tall, strong and handsome with a great regal bearing. He spoke well and forcefully and tried to live by the ideal of Christian knighthood. During his reign Wales was annexed to the English crown. In honor of the occasion he made his first born son the Prince of Wales' a practice which is continued by the English royal family today. His attempts to bring Scotland under English control were not successful. He is remembered as an able administrator, a great lawgiver and a statesman that was respected throughout Europe.

Edward married as his first wife, Eleanor, daughter of Ferdinand III, King of Castile and Leon. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of Philip III, King of France. He died in 1307 on his way to do battle with the Scots and was succeeded by his son, Edward II.

EDWARD II (1285-1327) The Encyclopedia Britannica opens its discussion of Edward II with this short sentence. "King Edward II's reign was almost an unmitigated disaster--He inherited none of his father's strengths and seemed to have developed his own weaknesses." The Scots soundly defeated him and barons in Parliament continued their fight to reduce the powers of the king. His French born wife even raised an army and with Roger Mortimer overthrew the him. He was put in prison and eventually killed.

Edward married Isabella, daughter of Philip IV, King of France. They had one son and two daughters. Edward II was succeeded by his son, Edward III.



EDWARD III, (1312-1377)

Edward III is the last English king in Tom Mitchell's line. We are descended from his youngest son, Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. Froissart the Chronicler of the One Hundred years Wars and at one time a clerk in the service of Phillipa of Hainault, wife of Edward III wrote this of Edward. "The English will never love and honor a king unless he be victorious, and a lover of arms and war." Edward became king in 1327 when he was fifteen. His mother, Queen Isabella, and her lover Roger Mortimer controlled the country. Mortimer who was unable to fight the Scots and defend English holdings in France made peace with both. He gave away English claims to vast lands in France and recognized Robert Bruce as King of Scotland with complete independence from England. In 1330, Edward became thoroughly disgusted with how his mother and Mortimer were handling the affairs of state and took over the government. Mortimer was killed and Edward "retired" his mother and locked her up in a castle. He turned his efforts to fighting the French who were threatening the remaining English possessions in France. In 1340 he won sea battles against the French at Sluys and in 1350 against Castile at Winchelsea. On land he defeated the Scots at Halidon Hill in 1333 and at Nevilles Cross in 1345. The King of Scotland was captured at Nevilles Cross. In 1346 he defeated a large French army at Crecy. In 1356 his son, Edward The Black Prince, destroyed the French and their continental allies at Poitiers capturing the King of France and many of his nobles. Edward had become the greatest warrior king in

Europe. In his old age, he died at sixty-five, he lost much of his touch. He was no longer able to work with Parliament and he lost battles on land and sea. In 1369 his Queen, Phillipa, who had been his strong helpmate died. It is said he finally died alone and his mistress snatched the rings off his fingers before she left.

Edward married Phillipa of Hainault and Holland in a marriage arranged by his mother and Roger Motimer as a political move. Unlike many arranged marriages of the period, Edward and Phillipa were a devoted couple. They had six sons, five who lived to become adults.

- i. Edward, Prince of Wales, married Joan, daughter of Edmond, Earl of Kent.
- ii. Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence, married 1st, Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Ulster, 2nd, Violante, daughter of Galezzo Visconti, Duke of Milan.
- iii. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, married 1st Blanche, daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, 2nd, Constance, daughter of Pedro III, King of Castile, 3d, Katherine, daughter of Sir Payne Roet.
- iv Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, married 1st, Isabel, daughter of Pedro III, King of Castile, 2nd, Joan, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Kent.
- v. Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, our ancestor, married Eleanor de Bohun, daughter and heir of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex, Hereford, Northampton and Constable of England.



THOMAS OF WOODSTOCK (1354/5-1397)

Thomas was born at the royal manor at Woodstock, now the site of Blenheim Palace, seat of the Dukes' of Malborough. Thomas was pledged in marriage to Eleanor de Bohun (1359-1399), the eldest daughter of Humphrey de Bohun while she was still a minor. In April of 1374 the King gave him custody of nine manors in several counties in England and various fees that had been granted by the King to Humphrey de Bohun, Eleanor's deceased father. In 1376 he was appointed Constable of England, a dignity that been held by the Bohun family for generations. He was called to Parliament in the same year as The Constable of England. He was knighted 23 April 1377. After his nephew, Richard II succeeded to the throne; Thomas was appointed Constable of England during the pleasure of the King. He carried the scepter and the crown at the coronation of Richard II. When his wife became of age in 1380 she received her portion of the Bohun estates and Thomas was created Earl of Essex, a dignity that had been the Bohuns for many years. In the same year he commanded a force in France hoping to engage the French but they refused him battle. Returning to England he was given the tasks of putting down peasant uprisings and presiding over trials as Constable. He was made Duke of Gloucester in 1385.

In the following year he led the opposition to some of the King's advisors and earned the lifelong enmity of the King. In 1387 Thomas, along with the Earls of Arundel and Warwick, charged the King's advisors with treason. Later that same year they defeated forces under the King's advisors in a battle in Oxfordshire. They then moved to London and took the Tower and King Richard II. The King agreed to the demands of Gloucester and his supporters.

Thomas continued to serve the King on various missions but when King Richard II married the child princess, Isabel of France in 1396, he could take no more. He pleaded

illness and returned to his country home. King Richard continued to give away the hard-earned conquests of Edward III to the French. Thomas met with Warwick, Arundel and other nobles to plan a way to neutralize King Richard. The Earl Marshal, Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, who was at the meeting betrayed them to the king. Moving quickly the king visited Thomas at his estate in Pleshy where he joined Thomas for dinner and then arrested him. Thomas was spirited out of England to Calais where he was murdered by the King's henchmen. Thomas' body was brought back to his wife, Eleanor, for burial. He was buried in St. Edmund's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. Later King Edward IV moved his remains to the Confessor's Chapel beside his mother's tomb. His wife Eleanor is buried in St. Edmond's Chapel one tomb away from our ancestor. and her great-grandson, Sir Humphrey Bourchier.

Froissart reports a conversation that occurred between the Duke of Gloucester and Sir John Lackingham, a follower of the Duke. Lackingham later related the conversation to Froissart. It gives some insight into the Duke's, views, personality and his frustrations with his nephew, King Richard II. [*“Those frivolous French got themselves thoroughly smashed in Hungary and Turkey. Foreign knights and squires who go and fight for them don't know what they are doing, they couldn't be worse advised. They are so over-brimming with conceit that they never bring any of their enterprises to a successful conclusion. That was proved often enough in the wars my royal father and my brother the Prince of Wales had with them. They could never capture a castle or win a battle against us. I don't know why we have this truce with them, for if we started the war again- and we have perfectly good reason for doing so--we should make hay of them. Particularly at this moment, when all their best knights are dead or prisoners. And the people of this country want war. They can't live decently without it, peace is no good to them. By God, Lackingham, if I live a couple of years longer in good health, the war will be renewed. I won't be bound by treaties and promises--the French never kept any of theirs in the past. They used fraud and trickery exactly as it suited them to steal back the domains in Aquitaine which had been made over to my royal father by an absolutely binding peace treaty. I pointed that out to them several times at the meetings we had with them outside Calais. But they answered me in such smooth and flowery language that somehow they always managed to fall on their feet and I could never persuade the King or my brothers to believe me. Now, if there were a strong king in England today who really wanted a war to recover his rightful possessions, he could find a hundred thousand archers and six thousand men-at-arms all eager to follow him over the sea and risk everything in his service. But there isn't one. England hasn't a king who wants war or enjoys fighting. If she had, things would be different....*

“I am the youngest of King Edward's sons,” the Duke of Gloucester went on, “but if I was listened to I would be the first to renew the wars and stop the encroachments we have suffered and suffer every day, thanks to our simplicity and slackness. I mean particularly the slackness of our leader the King, who has just allied himself by marriage with his principal enemy. That's hardly a sign that he wants to fight him. No he's too fat in the arse and only interested in eating and drinking. That's no life for a fighting man, who ought to be hard and lean and bent on glory. I still remember my last campaign in France. I suppose I had two thousand lances and eight thousand archers with me. We sliced right through the kingdom of France, moving out and across from Calais, and we never found anyone who dared to come out and fight us.”]

From his personal knowledge of Gloucester, Froissart recorded these impressions in different volumes of his *Chronicles*. “he was much beloved by the Londoners for his valour, prudence and steadiness; was proud and presuming in manner, and little agreeing with the King's counsels, was not a complacent advisor to the King. When giving his opinion, it must be implicitly followed, for he would not suffer any contradiction; was obstinate in his opinions. Many were pleased with his death because of his severe and rough manners.” Froissart also mentioned that Thomas was heard to say that his wife's sister should become a nun so that he could inherit the entire Bohun inheritance. However Thomas' older

brother, John of Gaunt arranged for his son, Henry Earl of Derby, to marry Mary de Bohun. Henry became King Henry IV. and Mary de Bohun's son became King Henry V.

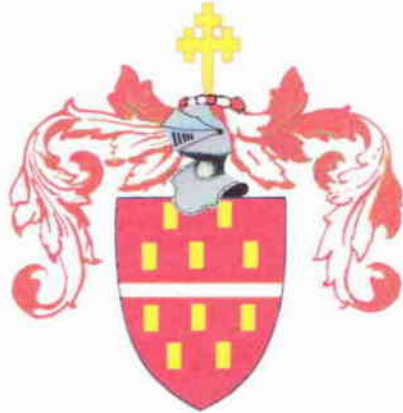
Thomas and Eleanor de Bohun had four children

- i. Anne, who married 1st. Thomas, Earl of Stafford, 2nd Edmund, Earl of Stafford and 3d, William Bouchier, Count of Eu, our ancestor.
- ii. Humphrey, Earl of Buckingham, who died mysteriously before becoming of age.
- iii. Joan, betrothed to Gilbert Talbot but died 16 August 1400 unmarried
- iv. Isabel, who became a nun in the Minroesses, Aldgate.

ANNE PLANTAGENET (1380?-1438) Anne was the eventual heiress of her father. She married 1st Thomas, Earl of Stafford. He died leaving Anne childless and she married his brother, Edmund Earl of Stafford. Edmund was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury leaving a son. Anne married as her third husband our ancestor, William Bouchier, Count of Eu in Normandy. She died in 1438 and was buried at Lonthony Abbey. Her son by her second marriage was the first of a long line of Dukes of Buckingham. (See Bouchier pages 13 & 14.) for her children by William Bouchier.)

It is interesting to note that the Bouchier grandchildren of Eleanor de Lovaine and William Bouchier who were entitled to quarter Plantagenet in the right of their mother quartered Lovaine on their arms but apparently never Plantagenet.

Lobaine



Shield a fess silver between ten billets
gold three two three and two
Crest A cross crosslet fitchre gold

The Lovaines were the Dukes of Brabant and Counts of Louvain. They were ancestors of our Bouchier line. Brabant and the city of Louvain lay in parts of what are now Belgium and Holland. It included the cities of Ghent, Brussels, Louvain and other centers of commerce. Louvain was the center of the wool trade in central Belgium. In the 1300s the guild of weavers had over 2,400 members.

From *The Complete Peerage of G.E.C.* and *Encyclopedia Britannica* we have put together a short summary of this branch of the Lovaine family that came to England.

I. Godfrey De Lovaine, younger son of Godfrey III, Duke of Brabant and Count of Louvain spent most of his life in England during the reigns of King John and King Henry III, 1199-1226. Godfrey was apparently the original immigrant. He was custodian of the castle of Eye which his half-brother, Henry, now Duke of Brabant had acquired through his wife who was the granddaughter of King Stephen of England. In 1212 King John sent Godfrey on a political mission to Duke Henry. Godfrey married Alice, widow of Ralph de Cornhill and daughter an heiress of Robert de Hastings about 1199. Godfrey died before 26 April 1226.

II. Matthew De Lovaine succeeded his father. On 26 April 1226 King Henry III took Matthew's homage for 10 knight's fees held in chief. His uncle, Henry Duke of Lothier and Marquis of the Roman Empire, confirmed to him the honor of the castle of Eye as his father, Godfrey had held it. In June of 1242 he was summoned with horse and arms to join the King at Saintonges. He married Muriel whose parentage is unknown. He died before June 1258. His wife was still living in 1275.

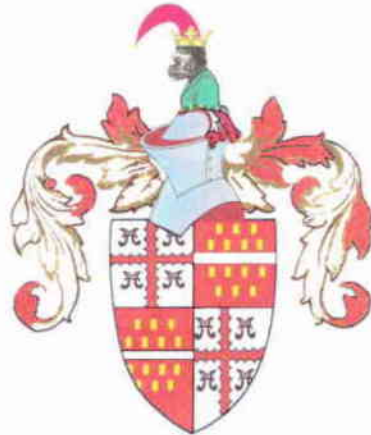
III. Matthew de Lovaine succeeded his father. King Henry III took his homage on 26 November 1261, when he was twenty-four years of age. The relief for his lands held in chief

was 100 Marks. He held Easton near Dunmow, as head of his barony. He was also steward of the Eye. He died early in 1302.

IV. Thomas De Lovaine, Matthew's son and heir, was a minor at his father's death. He was born in Beldeston Suffolk and baptized in Chelsworth church. His wardship and marriage were granted to Mathew de Mont Martin. He was passed through several wardships before coming of age in 1315. He saw military service against the Scots in 1316. He was with the King at the Battle of Boroughbridge, 16 March 1321. In 1324 he was described as a knight and was summoned to attend the Great Council at Westminster.. He made a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1332. He married Joan of unknown parentage. She died in 1318. Sir Thomas died 9 April 1345.

V. John De Lovaine succeeded his father, Thomas. He was 27 years of age. He did homage to King Edward III and received livery of his father's lands 15 May 1345. He married first Joan, of unknown parentage. He married second, Margaret, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas De Weston. John died 30 January 1346/7 without a male heir. He was succeeded by his daughter Eleanor. The male line became extinct in England with the death John De Lovaine

Bourchier



1st and 4th quarterly, silver a cross engrailed red between 4 water bougets black Bourchier. 2nd and 3d red. billets gold. a fess silver. Lionine.

Crest—A Saracen in profile proper, on his head a ducal crown with a red pointed cap

The Bourchier family became part of Tom Mitchell's line when Mary Bourchier married young Jabez Whitaker in England about 1618. Mary and Jabez were the ancestors of Richard Whitaker of Warwick County, Virginia and Halifax County, North Carolina who was Tom's mother's ancestor. The first Bourchiers were found in England living in Halingsbury, Essex in the Domesday Book around 1086. Halingsbury was referred to as Halingsbury Bourchier. The Bourchiers were one of the wealthiest and most powerful families in England from the reign of King Edward I to Oliver Cromwell, (whose wife was Elizabeth Bourchier). They intermarried with other powerful nobles and princesses of the ruling Plantagenet family. During this time Bourchier family members filled some of the most important posts in the kingdom.

The family name is spelled in a number of ways in English documents. Some of the variations include Burser, Burrer, Bouchier, Bourgchier and Burgchier. It has been spelled either Bourgchier or Bourchier for the last several hundred years. The English, with their knack for shortening place and family names in their spoken language, call it Burser, as in purser. The present day National Trust staff at Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire, which was one of the last homes of our Bourchier line, pronounces the name as bough-chur. The origin of the name has not been established but is believed to be Norman.

We begin the Bourchier line in the time of King Edward II (1307-1327) when Sir John de Burser or Bourchier, son of Robert de Bourchier and his wife Emma, of Stansted in Halstead, Essex, was a knight and one of the justices of the King's bench (1321). He married Helen; daughter of Walter de Colchester and by her had two sons. Robert, our ancestor, and John.

Robert de Bouchier, Lord Bouchier, succeeded his father. In 1330 he obtained a royal charter to hold court in Halstead. In 1334 he was made Chief Justice of the King's Bench. On 14 December 1340 he was made Lord Chancellor of England. Later he requested permission to make Halstead a castle. Subsequently he became distinguished in arms serving under Edward, The Black Prince, at the battle of Cressy, 26 August 1346.

He married Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Thomas Prayers, of Sible Hedingham, Essex, by Anne, daughter of Henry de Essex, Baron of Raleigh, Standard Bearer of England. By Margaret he had two sons, John and William, our ancestor. He died of the plague in 1349 and was buried at Halstead.

[The above Bouchier line does not agree with that of several Whitaker family authors who begin the line with a Sir Bartholomew Bouchier. The writer does not find that line of descent in either Bank's or Burke's Extinct Peerages. It is also not given in The Complete Peerage by G.E.C.. They all show that Sir John Bouchier, above had a son Bartholomew who died without a male heir. It seems reasonable that he could not have been our ancestor.]

William married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Lovaine of Sussex. The Lovaines were an ancient family in England and were descended from Godfrey III, Duke of Brabant and Count of Louvain who lived in the late 1100s. Brabant was an ancient Duchy located in parts of present day Holland and Belgium. Eleanor was born at Little Easton, 27 March 1345. Her father died 30 January 1346. This branch of the Lovaine family became extinct with the death of Eleanor's father, Sir John de Lovaine. Sir William Bouchier married Eleanor before June 1359. Sir William died in 1365 and was succeeded by his son William.

Sir William Bouchier was made Constable of the Tower of London and created Count of Eu in Normandy by King Henry V. He married Anne Plantagenet, widow of Edward, Earl of Stafford and eventually the sole heir of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester and sixth son of Edward III, King of England. *[Anne's male issue by Edward Stafford, her deceased husband, were the Earls of Buckingham.]*

William and Anne had four sons and one daughter.

- i. Henry Bouchier, Earl of Eu, later Earl of Essex. Married Elizabeth, sister to Richard, Duke of York who was father of King Edward IV.
- ii. William Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarren. Married Thomasine, daughter and heiress of Richard Hanckford Esq. by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of Fulke Fitz-Warine, 7th and last Baron of that family.
- iii. Thomas Bouchier, Bishop of Worcester, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Bishop of Ely, Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England, and Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. Supported York during the War of the Roses. He Crowned King Edward IV, King Richard III, and King Henry VII. He married King Henry VII to Elizabeth of York, which brought together the warring houses of Lancaster and York and effectively ended the War of the Roses.

iv. Sir John Bouchier, our ancestor, 1st Baron Berners. See below.

v. Anne Bouchier, married John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

[At one time all of the above Bouchier brothers were serving together in Parliament] Cardinal Bouchier appears as himself in Shakespeare's Richard III.

Sir John Bouchier, Baron Berners, was the fourth son of Sir William Bouchier, Earl of Eu and Anne Plantagenet, granddaughter of King Edward III. He was knighted 19 May 1426 by the Duke of Bedford and was summoned to parliament from 26 May 1455 to 19 August 1472. In 1455 he became Lord Treasurer to King Henry VI. He was made a Knight of the Garter, England's highest order of knighthood, before 23 April 1459. From 17 December 1461 until 1474 he was Constable of Windsor Castle. He married Margery, widow of John Ferreby and daughter and heir of Sir Richard Berners of West Horsley, Sussex and Phillipe, daughter of Sir Edward Dalynryde. Sir John died in 1474 and was buried in Chertsey Abbey, Surrey. His widow died in December of 1475.

Sir John and Margery had four children.

- i. Elizabeth Bouchier, married Sir Robert Welles, sole heir to Lord Welles and Willoughby.
- ii. Sir Thomas Bouchier, married Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Charlton.
- iii. Anne Bouchier, married Sir Henry Neville, son and heir to George, Lord Latimer.
- iv. Sir Humphrey Bouchier, the eldest son and our ancestor.

Sir Humphrey Bouchier married Elizabeth Tilney, daughter and heir to Sir Frederick Tilney of Boston, County Lincoln. Sir Humphrey was killed fighting on the Yorkist side at the battle of Barnet on Easter day, 14 April 1471. Sir Humphrey was buried at Westminster Abbey in the Chapel of Saint Edmonds. His tomb originally bore his bronze effigy in armor but it was carried off by vandals. His tomb still has its original mantling with Saracen's head crest, his shield of arms and heraldic badges. Close-by, one tomb intervening, is the tomb of his grandmother, Eleanor de Bohun, Duchess of Gloucester, wife of Thomas of Woodstock.

Sir Humphrey and Elizabeth Tilney had three children.

- i. Margaret who married 1st John Sandys and 2nd Sir Thomas Bryan.
- ii. Anne who married Sir Thomas Fiennes, Lord Dacres of the South.
- iii. Sir John Bouchier, 2nd Lord Berners, our ancestor.

Sir John Bouchier 2nd Lord Berners was born in Tharfield, Hertfordshire about 1649. He succeeded to the Barony of Berners upon his grandfather's death in 1474. He was seven years old at the time. His mother, Elizabeth Tilney, married as her second husband Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk and was the ancestress of the succeeding Dukes of Norfolk and the grandmother of the unfortunate queens of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, who both lost their heads.

[In addition to the death of, our ancestor, Sir Humphrey Bouchier at Barnet, his cousin, Sir Humphrey Bouchier, Baron Cromwell, the 3d son of Henry, Earl of Essex was also killed and Thomas Howard, who would become the second husband of our ancestress Elizabeth Tilney, was severely wounded.]

Sir John faced a number of difficulties in his early life. He lost his father in 1471 fighting for King Edward IV when he was a young child. The King, apparently to make amends for Sir Humphrey's death, arranged a marriage between Sir Humphrey's widow, Elizabeth Tilney and Sir Thomas Howard. *[Elizabeth Tilney owned a number of valuable properties which was not lost on Sir Thomas].* Sir Thomas' father, Sir John Howard, had not yet inherited his share of the vast Mowbray estates to which he was co-heir so the Howards were not particularly wealthy.

Sir Thomas Howard and his new bride took up residence at Ashwellthorpe in Norfolk, a property belonging to Elizabeth Tilney, Sir John Bouchier's mother. In 1475 Sir Thomas Howard accompanied King Edward IV to France to negotiate with King Louis. When he returned from France Sir Thomas requested dismissal from King Edward's court. His stated reasons were "to look after his wife's property and attend to the education of his step-son as well as his own children." *[Sir Thomas often referred to the young Baron Berners as his son.]* His real reason for his request was that he was very disheartened with the growing influence and arrogance of the queen consort's family, the Woodvilles.

In 1482, when he was fifteen, Sir John Bouchier was married to Katherine Howard, his step-aunt and his stepfather's half sister. It is most probable that this was an arranged marriage made for economic and political reasons and not for love. In 1483, Richard, Duke of Gloucester seized the throne of England to curb the power grab of the Woodvilles and further his own personal aims. With Richard III's ascension to the throne Sir John's stepfather and his father-in-law finally received the hereditary titles and land that had been withheld from them by King Edward IV. Sir John Bouchier's father-in-law, Sir John Howard, was made Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal of England. His stepfather was made Earl of Surrey. The Howard's good fortune and Sir John Bouchier's, to some extent was short lived. In 1485 King Richard III was killed at Bosworth Field. Sir John Howard, Duke of Norfolk was killed fighting beside his king. Sir Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, was seriously wounded at Bosworth and only saved from execution on the spot by some of his friends who had joined the future King Henry VII's victorious Army.

Several months after Bosworth both the dead Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Surrey were attainted for treason and stripped of all honors, titles and property. Sir Thomas Howard, Sir John Bouchier's stepfather was imprisoned in the Tower. The vast Howard fortune was confiscated and the new King's henchmen even tried to seize Sir John Bouchier's mother's property. She was left destitute and had to depend on her son and friends for food. His mother-in-law, the former Duchess of Norfolk was left in more dire straits and all had to depend on Sir John's small income for their survival.

Sir John Bouchier was not implicated in the alleged treason of his in-laws and eventually joined King Henry VII's court. His acceptance by the King most likely stemmed from Sir John's participation in an aborted revolt to put Henry on the throne of England some years earlier when Sir John was only fifteen.

Sir Thomas Howard was confined to the Tower for almost three and one half years before he was released. On his release he was restored to the earldom of Surrey. A few of his estates were returned to him. At this time the King was in need of well-experienced military leaders to command his armies. Sir Thomas Howard was more valuable to him on the battlefield than rotting in the Tower of London.

Sir Thomas paid back the King well for his release. As commander of the English army, Lieutenant General, he totally destroyed the army of the Scots at Flodden leaving King James IV of Scotland dead the battleground. A grateful King Henry awarded Sir Thomas and his heirs with a special honourable augmentation to the Howard arms, which is still born as part of Howard arms by the Howard family today.



Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners was distinguished as a soldier, courtier, diplomat and a writer of some note having translated Froissart's *Chroniques* and a number of other French works into English. He was made a Knight of the Bath, at that time England's second highest order of knighthood, on 17 January 1477/8. He was summoned to parliament from 14 October 1495 until 9 August 1529. In 1513 he was at the capture of Therouenne, and soon after was made Marshall of the Earl of Surrey's army in Scotland. In 1514 he went to France as Chamberlain to the Princess Mary, wife of Louis the XII. Princess Mary was the sister of King Henry VIII. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1516 to 1527. He was at the great spectacle, the Field of the Cloth of Gold with King Henry VIII in 1519/20 and served as the Lord Deputy General of the Marches and City of Calais from 1520. He died in Calais 19 March 1532/3 and was buried there in the parish church of our lady St. Mary the Virgin as instructed by the terms of his will.

[The current edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica still credits Sir John "for his translations from French of Jean Froissart's Chroniques in which the style matches Froissart's fresh and energetic simplicity. Jean Froissart (b.1333? Valenciennes, Brabant--d. 1400/01, Chimay, Hainaut), European poet and court historian whose Chronicles of the 14th century remain the most important and detailed documents of feudal times and the best contemporary exposition of chivalric and court ideals." Sir John's work encompassed six volumes of Froissart's observations of events and personal interviews with major players and other participants of the Hundred Years War. "Froissart cites exact dialogues and all available facts allowing the reader to draw his own conclusions." Sir John's translation of Froissart is still used today.]

Sir John married Katherine, only child of John Howard, 1st Howard Duke of Norfolk and his second wife, Margaret, widow of John Norreys, esquire, and widow of Nicholas Wyfold Lord Mayor of London. Margaret was the daughter of Sir John Chedworth.

Sir John Bouchier and Katherine Howard had three daughters. At this point some confusion arises concerning Sir John's marital status. Some historians claim that he divorced

Katherine Howard and married Elizabeth Bacon. Others say Elizabeth Bacon was a concubine and that his children by her were illegitimate.

By Elizabeth Bacon he had four children,

- i. Humphrey Bouchier,
- ii. George Bouchier,
- iii. Ursula Bouchier,
- iv. James Bouchier, our ancestor.

Sir John recognized all of the four children above in his will. His complications with his marriage are not fully explained by history but it is possible that King Henry VIII, Parliament, or the Church became involved preventing his divorce. Sir John's surviving daughter, Joan, by Katherine Howard was married to Edmund Knyvett, Sergeant Porter to King Henry VIII. Immediately after the death of Sir John in 1532, Henry VIII granted a special livery to "Edmund Kynvett, Esq. and his wife Johane, dau. and heir of John Bouchier, Knt, Lord Berners" not only of the manors settled on Joan but of her deceased sister Mary as well. Further Sir John's will, written on 3 March 1532, seems to indicate that Katherine Howard was still his wife. He appointed his half brother, Lord Edmund Howard, whom he refers to as "my brother" overseer of his will.

Allen states that Sir John was not actually referring to Lord Edmond Howard as his brother but "(his wife's brother)". Sir John's wife, Katherine, was not Lord Edmond Howard's sister; she was his aunt, sister to Sir Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey who was Lord Edmond's father. Elizabeth Tilney was the mother of both Lord Edmond Howard and Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners.]

His oldest son, our ancestor, James Bouchier did not succeed to the Barony of Berners. The Barony of Berners was left dormant for almost two hundred years. When it was revived it was granted to the descendants of the Kynvetts who were descended from Joan Bouchier, daughter of the last Lord Berners, Sir John Bouchier. The Barony of Berners existed through the twentieth century and the holders of that dignity still trace their lineage back to our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners.

In the 1988 *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry*, written by Thomas Woodcock, Somerset Herald and John Martin Robinson Fitzlan Pursuivant Extraordinary of the English College of Arms, is the following comment from page 127 "Seven instances of illegitimate children bearing their father's quartered arm with some mark of distinction were noted in the Chapter Book in 1717/18. These were Richard and Walter de Cornwall, natural sons of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the children of John of Gaunt by Catherine Swinford, Edward IV's son Richard Plantagenet, the natural sons of John Bouchier, Lord Berners who bore Bouchier, Loveyne, and Berners quarterly with a baton sinister Gules overall." From the above it appears something came amiss with Sir John's divorce from Katherine Howard which did not allow his sons to inherit his titles or Noble's status.

[Divorces were not always easily obtained. A Bouchier family example illustrates this. A distant cousin of Sir John, last Lord Berners, Anne Bouchier the daughter and sole heir of Sir Henry Bouchier last Bouchier Earl of Essex is a case in point. Anne, a very wealthy heiress, was married to Sir William Parr, Baron Kendall, on 9 February 1526 in a marriage arranged by Parr's mother Maud and the King. It

seems that Anne was not too enthralled with young Parr and after a few years she left him saying that she was "going to live where she listed"(wished) On 17 April 1543 Sir William persuaded Parliament to pass an act which declared Anne's children bastards and incapable of inheriting. In this same year Sir William became Earl of Essex and acquired all of Anne's vast estates. His sister, Catherine Parr, married Henry VIII and became Queen of England. 1543 was a very good year for the fortunes and prospects of Sir William Parr. In 1552, as a leader in Parliament, he was finally able to get another act passed by Parliament, which annulled his marriage to Anne Bouchier. Anne was given a small allowance and her former sister-in-law, now Dowager Queen, made her a place for her in her household so that she would have a place to live.

If it took over twenty years for the brother of the Queen and a leader of Parliament to divorce his errant wife, you can understand why Sir John Bouchier might have failed to complete his divorce from Katherine Howard. Sir John's half-brother, Sir Thomas Howard, 3d Howard Duke of Norfolk, tried for many years to divorce his second wife for good reasons which were common knowledge and failed many times.. Even King Henry VIII and his advisors found it more expedient to behead Sir John Bouchier's nieces Queens Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard rather than to try to divorce them. Then there is the possibility that Sir John never tried to divorce his wife, Katherine Howard.]

James Bouchier, son of Sir John Bouchier and Elizabeth Bacon was a man at arms at Calais and later Lieutenant of Hambleton. *[There is some disagreement among historians regarding the location of Hambleton. Some writers have placed it in Yorkshire and others say he was Lieutenant of Ambleteuse, which was a fortified town on the coast of France near Calais. In that his father, Lord Berners was Lord Deputy General of Calais and its marches for many years, the latter seems more likely].*

James Bouchier met and married Mary Banester in Calais where her father Sir Humphrey Banester was posted. Through this marriage their descendants inherited the estate of Beningbrough, eight miles northwest of the city of York. Sir John gave his son James the manor of Haughton and several other estates in Staffordshire sometime before his death in 1532/3. These properties were not mentioned in Lord Berner's will *[These gifts fit in with the properties that Lord Berners gave his two daughters by Katherine Howard. They are not mentioned in his will but are mentioned in King Henry VIII's liverery to Lord Berner's daughter Joan and her husband.]*

James Bouchier and Mary Banister had three children.

- i . Sir Ralph Bouchier our ancestor
- ii. Arthur Bouchier, who married Catherine, daughter of William Jones.
- iii. Mary Bouchier, who married Nicholas Yeatsworth.

Sir Ralph Bouchier of Beningbrough, York County, married 1st, Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham and 2nd, Christian, daughter of Rowland Shakerley. Elizabeth Hall was the mother of his six children. Our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, was the second son of Sir Ralph and Elizabeth Hall.

Sir Ralph inherited the estates in Staffordshire on his father's death and lived there until about 1570. His mother, Mary Banester was the sole heir of her brother, John Banester.

John Banester purchased Beningbrough in North Riding, Yorkshire from the Crown in 1544. Sir Ralph inherited Beningbrough on his uncle, John Banester's death in 1556. Sir Ralph leased out the property for some years finally moving to Beningbrough somewhere between 1563 and 1570.

Sir Ralph built an Elizabethan style manor house on a slight rise overlooking the Ouse River. He sold his holdings in Staffordshire and purchased a number of properties in North Riding and East Riding, Yorkshire. Sir Ralph served as Justice of the Peace for Yorks from 1573. Was High Sheriff of Yorks in 1580; Member of Parliament for New Castle on the Lime from 1571 until 1583. He was knighted in 1584. He served as Knight for Yorkshire from 1588 to 1592.

Sir Ralph Bouchier married 1st, Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham and 2nd, Christian, daughter of Rowland Shakerly. Elizabeth Hall was mother of all his children.

Sir Ralph and Elizabeth Hall had six children.

- i. William Bouchier, married Katherine, daughter to Sir Thomas Barrington.
- ii. Sir John Bouchier, our ancestor, married the daughter of George Verney
- iii. Bridget Bouchier
- iv. Ursula Bouchier
- v. Lucy Bouchier
- vi. Catherine Bouchier

By this generation our Bouchier ancestors and relatives had become affluent and influential country squires. Along the way, like many others of the landed gentry the Bouchiers had become Puritans. Queen Elizabeth reluctantly tolerated Puritanism as long as it did not threaten her position as head of the Church of England. However with the coming of the Stuart kings the royal attitude toward Protestants and Puritans in particular stiffened. The conflicting views between the Stuart Kings and our Yorkshire relatives would eventually shape the futures of both families.

Shepard's *History of Kirby Underdale*, 1928, throws considerable light on our Bouchier ancestors in Yorkshire. Our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier was the second son of Sir Ralph Bouchier and Elizabeth Hall. Sir Ralph was apparently well off. His oldest son, William was to inherit Beningbrough and Sir Ralph purchased the manor of Hanging Grimston in East Riding, Yorkshire from Lord Brockhurst in 1575 for our ancestor, Sir John. He also purchased additional land in the parishes of Kirby Underdale, Painsthorpe and Uncleby at the same time.

Shepard says of the manor of Hanging Grimston. "The Manor House, called locally the "Castle" stood in a fine but rather inaccessible position high on the steep hillside not far from the top of Hanging Grimston. It must have commanded very extensive views of the Vale of York."

He goes on to say that the manor is long gone but the site is marked uneven ground, the spring which provided water to the manor and the foundations of the many cottages that surrounded it.

Our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, is said to have engaged in a number of businesses as well as being a landowner. The Register of Gray's Inn shows that Sir John Bouchier, second son of Ralph Bouchier of Beningbrough, Yorkshire, Knight admitted November 23 1584. We do not know if he was called to the bar or not. Many young men who did not intend to become lawyers attended the various Inns of the Court to become familiar with the law as it applied to other occupations. Sir John was knighted at Whitehall 2 July 1609. He married Elizabeth Verney and apparently maintained residences in Lambeth Parish, County Surrey near London and in Hanging Grimston, East Riding York.

Sir John Bouchier and Elizabeth had eight sons and four daughters.

- i. Ralph Bouchier
- ii. Richard Bouchier
- iii. Robert Bouchier
- iv. Henry Borchier
- v. George Bouchier
- vi. James Bouchier
- vii. William Bouchier
- viii. Verney Bouchier
- ix. Katherine Bouchier
- x. Lucy Bouchier
- xi. Elizabeth Bouchier
- xii. Mary Bouchier, our ancestor, who married Jabez Whitaker

[Allen states that all of Sir John's son were knighted "as shown by the records of Gray' Inn.." The records sent to the writer by the Librarian of Gray's Inn do not support Allen. Their records show that that our ancestors, Sir Ralph Bouchier, his son Sir John Bouchier, and Sir John's nephew, Sir John Bouchier the Regicide were all knighted. Two widely recognized listing of all the knights knighted in Great Britain contain the same information. It is possible that Henry Bouchier, listed above as a son of Sir John Bouchier, was knighted. A Henry Bouchier was knighted 5 November 1621 at Theobalds. From William Shaw's The Knights of England.]

Sir John Bouchier made several investments, which initially held considerable promise. Subsequent actions taken by the Crown contributed to his eventual financial ruin. In 1607, early in the reign of James the First, Sir John and several other Yorkshire squires obtained a monopoly from the Crown to set up and operate an alum mining operation. They borrowed money from some London business men and began to develop their operation. Two years later, in 1609, the Crown took over their operation. The Crown promised to pay them an annual income but did not. The action against Sir John and his fellow investors was taken for two likely reasons.

King James was a bad money manager forcing him to get money from any source he could. Worse, King James despised Puritans which Sir John and his fellow investors were. Sir John also invested in The London Company of Virginia, that established the Colony of Virginia. In 1624 the Crown took over the operation of the colony leaving the investors out in the cold.

To pay off his debts Sir John sold most of his Yorkshire properties. The records show that that the lands of Sir John Bourchier were placed in trust and sold in 1621 and 1623 to William Rolfe, Esquire and Sir William Cockayne. In spite of his misfortune he managed to send at least seven of his sons to Gray's Inn to get a proper legal education. Sir John died in Lambeth Parish, Surrey in 1626.

[The records concerning Sir John's wife raise some yet unanswered questions. The Parish records of Kirby Underdale, where Sir John lived in Yorkshire, show that an Elizabeth Warne, wife of Sir John Bourchier died there in 1612. Further that Mistress Warne, mother of Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Bourchier died there in 1613. In Yorkshire Fines, 1623. 21 Jas.1 !, one of the documents of their sale lists Sir John Bourchier Knt. and Elizabeth his wife def.(deceased) . Allen in Our Children's Ancestry notes a reference, P.C.C. Admen Act Book 5, April 1626 which states "Commission granted to Mary Bourchier, alias Whitaker, wife of Jabez Whitaker, daughter of Sir John Bourchier, late of the Parish of Lambeth, County Surrey, deceased to administer the goods of said deceased, Dame Elizabeth Bourchier, relict having renounced. It is possible that Sir John may have remarried or that the Kirby Underdale or Allen's references were in error. The writer was always puzzled why Sir John's sons were not appointed to administer their father's estate rather than daughter Mary who may still have been in Virginia. A possible explanation is that his sons were still trying to avoid his creditors. One of his sons, Richard of Newton on the Ouse, near Beningbrough, is mentioned in a 1638 Chancery bill. "He is said to have sold his patrimony and taken refuge in privileged places in hope of avoiding his creditors. He had largely inherited his financial problems from his father, Sir John Bourchier who died heavily indebted in 1626." J.T. Cliffe in his The Yorkshire Gentry, University of London, 1969, notes that "no section of the Yorkshire Gentry was entirely immune from the economic ailments of the period. Even if a gentleman had both the capacity and the determination to surmount financial hazards he still needed a reasonable share of good fortune."]

Mary Bourchier, is presumed to have been born in Hanging Grimston about 1600. She married Jabez Whitaker, youngest son of Dr. William Whitaker, Master of Saint John's College Cambridge, before 1619. Mary and Jabez had one child who was mentioned in the records of the London Company of Virginia. Sir John Bourchier wrote to the Council requesting that his son-in-law, Jabez Whitaker, be allowed to return to England." Sir John Bourchiers request by letter for his Sonn Whittakers returne for England who (as he saith) intendeth not to stayer any longer from his Wife and Child whom he means to leave behinde him, than he can furnish himselfe with necessaries, is referred to the former Comittee to be considered of." Mary Bourchier joined her husband Captain Jabez Whitaker in Virginia in 1622. She appeared with Jabez before the Council to swear that a certain letter to her father was not written by her and was a forgery.

[Our information concerning Mary Bourchier comes primarily from the records of the London Company of Virginia, Allen's Our Children's Ancestry and some incomplete and unverified family group

sheets from The Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The Reverend Shepard in his listings of Sir John's family taken from Kirby-Underdale,s parish records does not mention Mary Bourchier. Shepard also includes Dugdale's enumeration of the Bourchier family made during his visitation to Yorkshire which doesn't mention a Mary. Shepard does point out that the parish records and Dugdale's enumeration do not agree in all respects. The London Company records would appear to be indisputable. Both mention Sir John Bourchier, his daughter Mary and Mary's husband Jabez Whitaker. The writer examined the parish records of Kirby Underdale on microfilm. The tops and bottoms of most pages have faded to a point of being unreadable and entries for Mary's' birth and christening could easily have been in unreadable portions.]

Mary Bourchier and Jabez Whitacre had one child of record.

- i. Presumed to be William Whitaker

Our Bourchier relatives lived at Beningbrough until 1827. Our ancestor, Sir John Bourchier's older brother, William, was to inherit Beningbrough on his father, Sir Ralph Bourchier's death. Sir Ralph died in 1589 but William was declared insane the same year.

The property passed to William's oldest son Robert. Robert died unmarried when he was sixteen. The property passed on to Robert's younger brother John who was a minor and jurisdiction of the property came under the control of The Court of Wards.

This young John Bourchier was the nephew of our ancestor Sir John Bourchier, the father of Jabez Whitaker's wife Mary. He was born about 1590. His mother was Katherine Barrington, a daughter of Sir Thomas Barrington, a leader in Parliament and relative of Oliver Cromwell. John was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1610 and he was knighted in 1619. He spent much of his early life battling with The Court of Wards over his estate. A contemporary described Sir John as "a serious person, an open professor of religion.". From other sources we learn he was a Puritan, eccentric, highly irascible and determined to fight for his rights and beliefs regardless of the consequences.

Sir John began a long battle with King Charles I and his representative, Thomas Wentworth, in 1628. Wentworth persuaded the King to create a one thousand acre fenced deer park in part of the ancient Royal Forest of Galtres, which abutted Sir John's lands. Sir John contended that this action infringed on common rights to the forest long held by the Bourchiers, their predecessors and adjacent landowners. He accepted ninety-five acres of moor land to compensate for his loss but was not satisfied with the arrangements. He continued to lodge complaints against the Crown. Finally in 1633, knowing that King Charles would be hunting in the park, he brought the matter to a head. He tore down a number of the fences to make his point. He was brought before the Council of the North, fined eighteen hundred pounds and imprisoned for almost a year. Seven years later Wentworth, now the Earl of Strafford, was charged with treason. One of the cases that was presented against Wentworth at his trial was Sir John's dispute over his rights in the former Forest of Galtres. Wentworth was found guilty and beheaded.

Sir John supported the Parliamentary cause from the onset of the civil war. He organized local militias and served on the Committee of the Northern Association of the Defense of Yorkshire.



BENINGBROUGH HALL





Looking southwest toward the River Ouse.



One of the many beautifully panelled rooms in Beningbrough Hall.

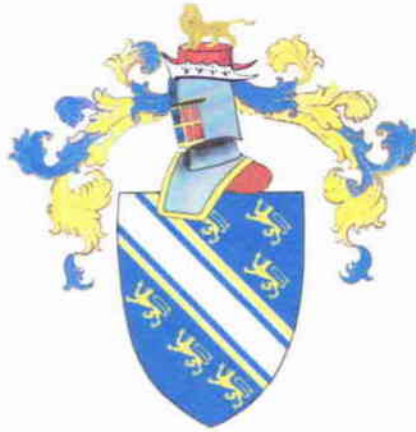
In 1645 he was High Sheriff of Yorkshire and a member of the Long Parliament from 1647. On 27 January 1649 he was one of the forty-nine judges who sentenced King Charles I to death. His signature is one of the first on the death warrant. At the Restoration Sir John was one of the Regicides to be tried and executed. However he died of natural causes while his case was still pending thus depriving the Crown of the pleasure of executing him. To the end he maintained the justice of King Charles' condemnation. "I tell you it was a just act: God and all good men will own it."

Beningbrough remained in the Bouchier family until 1827 when the last Bouchier descendant bequeathed it to the Downay family. Seven generations of the family had lived at Beningbrough. Five would serve as High Sheriffs of Yorkshire. Four were knighted. Several more were admitted to Grays Inn and many attended Cambridge University.

Beningbrough Hall, built by John Bouchier, High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1716 is now part of The National Trust. In the Trust Guide to Beningbrough Hall is this comment: "it is one of the most remarkable Baroque houses in England, standing proud on a flat landscape, the facades in bright red brick ornamented with stone. The interiors richly carved and furnished." Many rooms on the top floor are paneled with the oak paneling carefully taken from the original Elizabethan manor built by Sir Ralph Bouchier in the late fifteen hundreds. On the wall in the grand entry is a large inlaid wooden Bouchier knot bearing the initials of Sir Ralph and his first wife, Elizabeth Hall. This like the oak paneling had been brought from the original manor house.

Throughout the hall are over one hundred portraits of people who lived during the period that Beningbrough was built and flourished. The collection is from the National Portrait Gallery in London. Four are of our relatives who once lived at Beningbrough. Around the great house are beautifully landscaped gardens, woods, picnic and other recreational areas. The original estate has shrunk from over seven thousand acres to less than four hundred but the fields are still tilled and cattle and sheep graze in the green meadows. Best of all is that Beningbrough Hall is now open to the public to be enjoyed by all the people of England.

Bohun



Blue on a bend silver between two cottises and six lions rampant gold.
Crest—On a chapeau red turned up ermine a lion statant guardant and crowned gold.

The Bohun, Earls of Hereford, Essex and Northampton and hereditary Constables of England were ancestors of our Bouchier line. Eleanor de Bohun, oldest daughter of the last Humphrey de Bohun in this line married Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of King Edward III. Thomas seems to have succeeded to the Earldom of Essex and the Constablership of England in the right of his wife. She and her younger sister, Mary, were Humphrey de Bohun's co-hiers. Eleanor married the son of a king and Mary married The Earl of Derby who became King Henry IV, unfortunately after her death.

From *Burke's Peerage*, *The Complete Peerage* of G.E.C. and G.M. Trevelyan's *A Shortened History of England* we have pieced together a brief sketch of the Bohun family.

The Bohuns, pronounced as bone or Boone, were Normans who are believed to have come to England with William the Conqueror, The first Humphrey de Bohun, known as *Humphrey with the beard*, was a kinsman of William the Conqueror.

The Bohuns soon became powerful Marcher Lords controlling a large area along England's border with Wales. While the Anglo-Saxon English did not put up a prolonged defense against the Normans after the Battle of Hastings, the pastoral, mountain and forest living Welsh in the west and the Scots in the north fiercely resisted any attempts by the Anglo-Normans to subjugate them. After a number of costly and unsuccessful campaigns the English kings placed a number of powerful lords with their private armies along its borders to act as buffers between agrarian England and the wild tribes. The border lands at that time were called marches, from the French. These lords are referred to in history as the Marcher Lords. These Marcher Lords operated almost independently from the Crown by maintaining their own private armies and eventually carving out parts of borderlands as

their own domains. Once they seized land the Marcher Lords built castles and imported farmers and craftsmen to colonize their conquests. The Bohuns were some of the most powerful of these Marcher Lords.

They controlled an area that included the present Shires of Glamorgan, Monmouth and Brecknock. Their domain also include portions of the Shires of Hereford and Camarthan. It was an area roughly bounded on the south by the Bristol Channel, on the north east the River Wye and on the west and northwest by the Tywi and its tributary the Ifron.

The family was powerful not only because they were Marcher Lords but they were good politicians and arrangers of good marriages. They intermarried with the royal families of England, Wales and Scotland so they were very well connected in many centers of power.

The Bohuns flourished from the 1000s until 1372 when the male line became extinct with the death of the last Humphrey de Bohun who died in January 1372. His lands and titles passed to his two daughters, their husbands and descendants. Eleanor de Bohun's husband, Thomas of Woodstock, acquired the office of Constable of England and the Earldom of Essex. In 1384 King Richard II assigned Mary de Bohun and her husband, The Duke of Derby, the fees for the Earldoms of Hereford and Northampton. After Thomas of Woodstock's murder in 1397, the Earldom of Essex seems to have been held in abeyance although his daughter, Anne continued to be paid "the fee of Essex". In 1421 King Henry V made a final partition of the fees from the earldoms. He took the fee of Essex himself as the heir of Mary de Bohun, she was his mother, and gave the fees of the Earldoms of Hereford and Northampton to Anne, widow of the late Sir William Bouchier. Anne's oldest Bouchier son, Sir Henry Bouchier, was created Earl of Essex in 1461. Ann's son, Humphrey Duke of Buckingham, by her first husband, Sir Edmund Stafford, was acknowledged the hereditary Lord High Constable of England in 1483.

The Bohuns were not only Marcher Lords on the English border with Wales but were also deeply involved in service to the English kings and the politics of the day.

I. Humphrey de Bohun, (living in late 1000s), *with the beard*, was the founder of the family in England. He was a companion in arms and kinsman of William The Conqueror who became King William I of England. This Humphrey was made Lord of Taterford which is located in Norfolk.

II. Humphrey de Bohun, called *The Great*, (living early 1100s) married Maud, daughter of Edward Saresbury of the family that became the Earls of Salisbury. The Bohuns apparently acquired large land holdings in Wilts through this marriage.

III. Humphrey de Bohun, (died 1187), Was Steward and Sewer to King Henry I. He married Margery, daughter of Milo de Gloucester, Earl of Hereford and Lord High Constable of England. He supported Empress Matilda and her son, Henry, against King Stephan. During reign of King Henry II Humphrey accompanied Richard de Lacy, Justice of England, with a powerful army that laid waste to Scotland. He was a witness to the agreement that followed between William, King of Scots and King Henry II.

IV. Humphrey de Bohun, () Earl of Hereford, High Constable of England in the right of his mother. Married Margaret of Scotland, widow of Conan Le Petit Duke of Brittany and Earl of Richmond and sister of Prince Henry of Scotland.

V. Henry de Bohun, (1220), Earl of Hereford, hereditary Constable of England. He took part in the Baron's Revolt against King John. He was one of the twenty five lords appointed at Runnymede to enforce the Magna Carta. He married Maud, sister and eventual heir of William Mandeville, Earl of Essex and daughter of Geoffrey FitzPeirs Earl of Essex and his first wife, Beatrice, daughter of William de Say of Kimbolton Hunts and Saham, Norfolk. He was also the nephew of King William, The Lion, King of Scotland.

VI. Humphrey de Bohun, (1275), Earl of Hereford and Essex, Constable of England. Was Marshal at the wedding of King Henry III of England. Was godfather of Henry's son, Prince Edward. In 1237 he made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. In 1250 he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He served in many important positions for the Crown. He married Maud, daughter of Ralph, Count of Eu. He was succeeded by his grandson Humphrey de Bohun VII. (Our ancestor Sir William Bouchier would become Count of Eu some years later.)

VII Humphrey de Bohun,(1297), He married first, Eleanor, daughter and co-heir of William de Briouze of Brecknock and Lord of Abergavenny. He married second, Joan, eldest daughter and co-heir of Robert de Quincy, youngest son of Saher de Quincy, Earl of Winchester by Helen, daughter of Llywellyn AP Jorwerth, Prince of North Wales.

VIII. Humphrey de Bohun, (abt1249-1298), Earl of Hereford and Essex, Constable of England. Was grandson and heir of Humphrey de Bohun VI, being son and heir of Humphrey de Bohun and his first wife Eleanor de Brouze. During the life of his grandfather he served as his deputy in the Constablership of England. He managed to keep himself in the royal doghouse by defying the king on several occasions. Humphrey, along with the Earl of Norfolk was deprived of his offices for a period of time by the King. He married Maud de Fiennes , the daughter of Enguerrand de Fiennes. He died at Pleshy 31 December 1298.

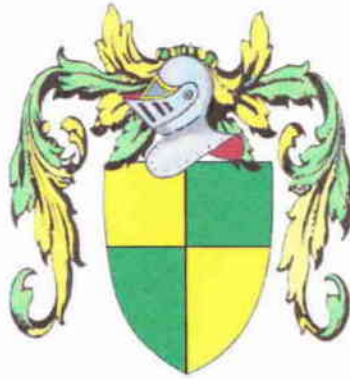
IX. Humphrey de Bohun, (1276-1321), Earl of Hereford and Essex and Constable of England. He married Princess Elizabeth, widow of John Holland, Count of Holland and Zeeland and daughter of King Edward I by his first wife, Eleanor, daughter of King Ferdinand III, King of Castile. He was killed at Boroughbridge on 16 March 1321/2 while trying to force his way over a heavily defended bridge.

X. John de Bohun, (1306-1335/6), Earl of Hereford and Essex and Constable of England. He was the oldest surviving son of Humphrey IX. He was knighted with King Edward III 1 February 1326/27 and spent much of his life in service to the Crown. In 1330 he made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostelo He married first Alice, daughter of Edmund Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel. Second, Margaret, daughter of Ralph Basset, Lord Basset of Dayton. He died 1335/6.

XI. Humphrey de Bohun, (1361), Earl of Hereford and Essex and Constable of England. Was the brother of John, above. He granted the Constablership of England to his brother, William, Earl of Northampton. Died at Pleshy unmarried on 15 October 1361. He was succeeded by his nephew, Humphrey, son of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton.

XII. Humphrey de Bohun, (1372)) Earl of Hereford, Essex and Northampton and Constable of England. Served the Crown on many overseas diplomatic missions. Served in France with John, the Duke of Lancaster. Married Joan, daughter of Richard Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel. He died without a male heir. His co-heirs were his daughters Eleanor, our ancestress, and Mary. (See Thomas of Woodstock, page 7)

Berners

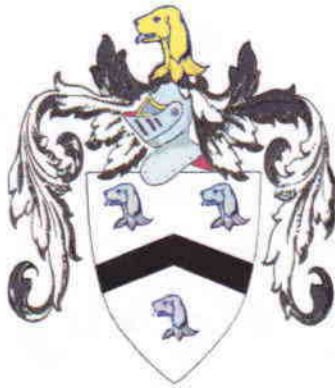


Gold and green quarterly

Tom Mitchell's ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, 1st Baron Berners married Margery, widow of John Ferreby and daughter and heir of Sir Richard Berners of West Horsely, by Phillipe, daughter of Sir Edward Dalyngridge. From *The Complete Peerage and the Moor Papers* we have traced the Berners line back to 1314.

- I. Sir Edmund Berners (1314-) was living in 1314. He married Alice or Amy.
- II. Sir John Berners (-1341) married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Stoner.
- III. Sir John Berners (-1362).
- IV. Sir James Berners (-1388) married Alice. Was a counsellor to King Richard II. Was beheaded in 1388.
- V. Sir Richard Berners (-1421) married Phillipe, daughter of Sir Edward Dalyngridge. He was often referred to as a Baron of the realm but was never called to Parliament.
- VI. Margery(-1475) Married first John Ferreby. Married second Sir John Bouchier, K.G. who became the first Bouchier Baron Berners.

Hall of Grantham



*Silver on a chevron between
three talbots' heads erased black.*

Crest—A talbot's head erased gold.

Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham in Linconshire was the first wife of our ancestor, Sir Ralph Bouchier, of Beningbrough, West Riding, Yorkshire.

The Halls were considered an ancient family in Grantham. During the reign of Elizabeth I the family was headed by Gervase Hall. We presume he was the ancestor of Francis Hall.

Several Hall families living in the twentieth Century trace their lineage back to Francis Hall of Grantham. These families included a number of military men including two major generals. Several served as high sheriffs of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. A number of Hall families in England still use the arms of Francis Hall of Grantham.

Tilney



Silver a chevron between three
Griffin's heads erased red.
Crest- A griffin's head erased red

The Tilney's were a very old family in England and were most likely Norman. Thompson's *History and Antiquities of Boston*, written in 1856, gives us the following information concerning the Tilney line of descent. He believes that the first member of the family to arrive was Frodo who came to England in the time of Edward the Confessor, (1042-1066). Frodo later gave lands to Bury St. Edmonds where his brother, Baldwin, was Abbot.

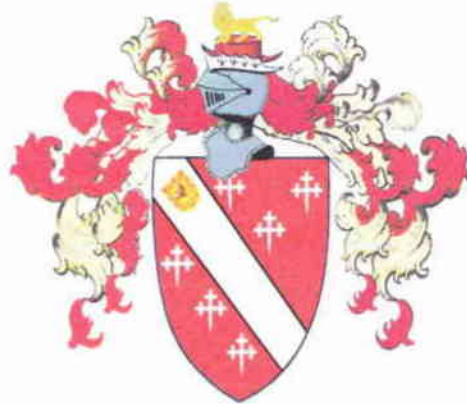
- I. Frodo, (living in the mid 1000s.).
- II. Alan de Tilney, living during the reign of King Stephan,(1135-1154).
- III. Adam de Tilney, living during the time of King Henry II, (1154-1149).
- IV. Sir Frederick de Tilney of Boston, living during the reign of King John, (1199-1216).
- V. Sir Philip de Tilney, living during the reign of King Edward I, (1272-1307).
- VI. Sir Frederick de Tiney, living during the time of Edward II and III, (1307-1377).
- VII. Sir Philip de Tilney, living in the time of King Henry IV, (1399-1413).
- VIII. Sir Frederick Tilney of Boston who married Margaret, the daughter and co-heir of Sir John Rocheford.

IX. Sir Philip Tilney of Boston,(died 1453), married Isabel, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmond Thorpe of Ashwell by a daughter of Lord Scales.

X. Sir Frederick Tilney who was buried at Ashwell Thorpe. He married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Lawrence Cheyney. Their daughter and heir was Elizabeth Tilney, our ancestress, who first married Sir Humphrey Bouchier. (See Bouchier, p.). She married second Sir Thomas Howard, the 2nd Howard Duke of Norfolk. (see Howard p.33).

As mentioned elsewhere, Ashwellthorpe is one of the residences of the present Baroness Berners who is a descendant of Sir Humphrey Bouchier and his wife, Elizabeth Tilney.

Howard



Red a bend between six crosslets fitchee silver. On a bend of the original Howard coat, an estutcheon gold, a demi lion rampant pierced through the mouth with an arrow, within a double tressure flory counterflory red.

Crest- On a chapeau red turned up ermine a lion statant guardant tail extended gold ducally gorged silver.

Tom Mitchell was not descended from the Howard family but several of his Bouchier ancestors married Howards. Our ancestress, Elizabeth Tilney, married Sir Thomas Howard, the 2nd Howard Duke of Norfolk, as her second husband. Her first husband, Sir Humphrey Bouchier, was killed at the battle of Barnet in 1471. Elizabeth Tilney became the ancestress of all the succeeding Dukes of Norfolk. This marriage made for some interesting family relationships, which could be somewhat confusing to the reader. Sir Humphrey Bouchier's son, Sir John Bouchier, last Bouchier Baron Berners, married Katherine, the daughter of Sir John Howard, 1st Howard Duke of Norfolk who became Elizabeth Tilney's father-in-law. Sir John Bouchier's wife was his stepfather's half-sister and his father-in-law was his stepfather's father. It follows that that Katherine Howard was his aunt by marriage and his stepfather, Sir Thomas Howard, was also his brother-in-law by marriage. This could become confusing.

The Howards are a very ancient family in England who trace their line back to the Saxons. In *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage* we find the following: "The Ducal and illustrious Howards stand, next to the Blood Royal, at the head of the Peerage of England, and represent a family undoubtedly of Saxon origin. The first Howard or Hereward was living in the reign of King Edgar 957 to 973, and he was a kinsman of Duke Olsac and that his son Leofric was the father of Hereward who was banished by the late Conqueror."

We will not cover the entire Howard line from the 900s but skip ahead from the banished Hereward to the early 1400s to the father of Sir John Howard, the 1st Howard Duke of Norfolk, Sir Robert Howard. Sir Robert Howard (died 1436) married Margaret de Mowbray, daughter of Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk and his wife Elizabeth who was the daughter and co-heir of Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel and co-heir of John de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. This fortuitous marriage of Robert Howard to Margaret Mowbray led to the Howards eventual acquiring the titles and a large portion of the vast land holding of the de Mowbrays. Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, was the son and heir of John, Lord Mowbray, by Elizabeth, who was the daughter and heiress of John, Lord Seagrave and Margaret Plantagenet who was the daughter of Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, Earl Marshall of England. He was a son of King Edward I of England and his wife Margaret, who was the daughter of Philip le Hardi, King of France.

His son Sir John Howard who was made Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshall in 1483 succeeded Sir Robert Howard. This Sir John Howard was the father-in-law of our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, last Bouchier Lord Berners. During Sir John Howard's long life he served in many important positions for the Crown. He was Captain General of His Majesty's Forces at Sea, Treasurer of His Majesty's Household, Deputy Governor of Calais and Lord Admiral of England, Ireland and Aquitaine for life. He was a staunch supporter of the Crown and died fighting at the side of King Richard III at the battle of Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485. His son, Sir Thomas Howard, who married our widowed ancestress, Elizabeth Tilney, succeeded him. In November of 1485 both the deceased Sir John Howard and his son Sir Thomas Howard were attainted for treason by parliament who confiscated their lands, titles and honors. Their crime was supporting King Richard III who was the king until his death at Bosworth.

Sir Thomas Howard was imprisoned in the Tower of London for three years. King Henry VIII released him from prison in 1489 and restored his title as of Earl of Surrey. In 1510 he was made Earl Marshal of England for life. As Lieut. General, Sir Thomas defeated King James IV of Scotland at the Battle of Flodden on 9 September 1513. The Scottish monarch was killed in this battle. For this victory King Henry VIII awarded Sir Thomas a special honourable augmentation to the Howard arms celebrating the defeat of the Scottish army. That augmentation is borne to this day on the arms of the Dukes of Norfolk and other Howard descendants. Sir Thomas Howard filled many important posts during his life.

On 1 February 1514 Sir Thomas was finally made Duke of Norfolk. He continued to hold a number of positions of great trust. He had married our ancestor, Elizabeth Tilney on 30 April 1472. Elizabeth died on 4 April 1509. He married as his second wife Agnes Tilney who was a first cousin of the late Elizabeth. Between the two Tilney Duchesses he fathered over twenty offspring a number of whom lived to maturity. He was humorously accused of creating his own House Of Lords. He created eleven. Distinct Howard families. They rose into the peerage with the titles of Norfolk, Nottingham, Bindon, Northampton, Efrick, Norwich, Suffolk, Berkshire, Carlisle Stafford and Effingham. Lord Howard of Effingham, as Admiral of the Royal Fleet, destroyed the Spanish Armada in 1588

Sir Thomas died at Framlingham Castle on 21 May 1524. He was about eighty years old. It is said that his funeral was one of the last noble's funerals to be conducted with the pomp and ceremony of the Middle ages. He lay in state for a month at Framlingham Castle and then was moved over twenty miles to Thetford Priory for burial. His body was accompanied by nine hundred mourners. It was a tremendous spectacle.

He was succeeded by his oldest son, Thomas Howard, who was our ancestor, Sir John Bouchier, last Bouchier Lord Berner's half brother. He was born in 1473. Like his father he held a number of important posts under the Crown. He served under his father in Scotland. He was the Captain of the vanguard at the battle of Flodden and was rewarded by being made Earl of Surrey. Some writers credit him as devising the battle plan that led to the defeat of King James of Scotland there. He was knighted by his father 30 September 1497. He was made a Knight of the Garter in April of 1510. This is the highest order of knighthood conferred by England. He served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord High Treasurer, Lieutenant General of the Army against Scotland and headed many diplomatic missions abroad. He headed the opposition against the new faith, (Protestantism). Most of the Howards have remained Catholics. He was deeply engaged for many years holding his position in Court. He was able to maneuver two of his nieces, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard into marriages with King Henry VIII. Both of these marriages ended with the beheading of these queens, as we know. The Duke presided over the trial of Anne Boleyn and tearfully condemned her to death. He doggedly dealt with his many strong enemies in Court including the Vicar General Cromwell, Cardinal Wolsey and the Seymours.

His son and heir, Henry, Earl of Surrey was attainted for treason and put to death in The Tower. His crime was to make a sketch of his arms and include a quartering of the arms of King Edward the Confessor. The Duke was attainted in January 1546/47 and all his honors forfeited. He was sentenced to death for putting the Arms of England on the first quarter of his shield instead of the second quarter. However King Henry VIII died the day after the death sentence was handed down and the Duke was not executed. He remained a prisoner in the Tower during the entire reign of young King Edward VI, from 1547 until 1553. The day the new Queen Mary entered London the old Duke was released from prison and fully restored to all his titles, honors and property. He died 25 August 1554 at eighty years of age. Some historians consider that by birth, the Howard Dukes of Norfolk were just as eligible to sit on the throne of England as some of the York and Tudor Kings they served.

Henry, Earl of Surrey was attainted and beheaded for doing really nothing. His Mowbury ancestors had been given the right to quarter the Confessor's arms. He and his father just lost their political battle with the Seymours. King VIII was old, feeble and easily influenced by the power seekers in his court. His young, sickly son, Edward, was maternally a Seymour and the Seymour family was positioning itself to become the power behind the throne of England. They did everything they could to discredit the Howards and anyone else who stood in their way. Today the drawing of a penciled sketch of Howard arms that included the arms of The Confessor seems a very insignificant cause to take a man's life. The sketch was stolen from his home by a servant in Howard's employ and passed on to Howard enemies. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey was well educated and a poet of some note. Many current anthologies of English literature contain examples of his writings. His portrait even hangs in the new Getty Museum in Westwood, California. Over the years the Howard family filled many important positions for a number of English monarchs. Sir John Howard, the first Howard Duke of Norfolk, 1483, was constable of Norwich Castle, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk counties and Treasurer of the Royal

TOM MITCHELL OF THE SOLEDAD

Household. He later was made General of the King's forces at sea and Deputy General of Calais and its marches. He was made Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal in 1483. He was made Lord Admiral of England. He died at Bosworth Field in the lead of the archers and foot troops which he commanded. He was sixty years old.

His only son, Sir Thomas Howard, Step-father of Tom Mitchell's ancestor Sir John Bouchier, last lord Berners was Lord Treasurer and as a Lt. General destroyed the army of King James of Scotland at the battle of Flodden. King James was killed during the battle.

His brother, Sir Edward Howard was Standard Bearer of England and Admiral of the Fleet. He was killed while boarding a French ship off Brest.

The third Duke, Thomas, half brother of Sir John Bouchier,, served in Scotland under his father. He was General of the Army in Spain, Lord High Admiral of the navy and general in charge of the Armies in Scotland.

However, in spite of their troubles through the years, the Howards have prevailed and the present Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, is a descendant of our ancestress, Elizabeth Tilney, Duchess to the 2nd Howard Duke of Norfolk.

Nowell



Silver, three covered cups black.

Crest: An arm embowed in
armour. In the hand a flaming
bomb all proper

The Nowells were the ancestors of Tom Mitchell's Whitaker line. They were noted living in Lancaster during the reign of King Edward the First, 1272-1307.

Combining information from *Burke's Landed Gentry* and Sarah Cantay Allen's *Our Children's Ancestry* we developed the lineage that follows.

I. Roger Nowell, Lord of Rede m. Eleanor, daughter. and co-heir of Richard Fitton of Great Harwood and Martholme.

Roger and Eleanor had two sons.

- i. Adam, his heir
- ii. William of Little Merely

II Adam Nowell was living during the 7th of Edward I.
He was the father of John Nowell.

[*There is a possibility that Adam had a son, Roger, father to John Nowell below. Burke and Allen disagree. He would have m. Grace, dau. to John Townley and Isabell Sherburne.*]

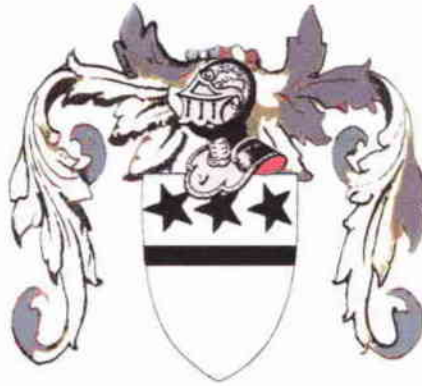
III. John Nowell was m. twice. He m. 1st Dowsabel Hesketh. He m.2nd Elizabeth Kay and by her had seven children.

- i. Roger Nowell
- ii. Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Paul's.
- iii. Laurence Nowell, Dean of Litchfield.

- iv. Robert Nowell, Atty. for Court of Wards.
- v. Nicholas Nowell
- vi. Elizabeth Nowell, m. Thomas Whitaker. 1530.
- vii. Margaret, mother to Woolton, Bishop of Exeter.

IV. Thomas Whitaker and Elizabeth Nowell were the parents of William Whitaker, Master of St. John's College at Cambridge.

Townley



Silver a fess black three
mulletts in chief of the second

The Townleys were the ancestors of the Whitaker family who in turn were ancestors of Tom Mitchell's mother's family. From Burke's *Landed Gentry* the first member of this family found was Spartlingus who was the first Dean of Whalley in 896. His descendant Peter De Tunlay was the first use the Townley arms. Richard de Townley was made Sheriff of Lancastershire in 1375 by John of Gaunt, son of King Edward III. A Sir John Townley was Sheriff of Lancastershire from 1531 to 1540.

In 1445 John Townley married Isabel Sherburne. Their daughter Grace, married Roger Nowell. Their son had a daughter, Elizabeth who married Tom Mitchell's ancestor, Thomas Whitaker.

Charles Townley passed on to the British Museum an outstanding collection of Greek and Roman Statuary. A Sir Charles Townley was a member of the College of Arms serving as Clarenceux and Garter Kings of Arms from 1751 until 1774.

Whitaker



Black three mascles silver.
Crest A cubit arm in armor,
the hand grasping a flaming
sword all proper

The Whitaker Family of Virginia and North Carolina became a part of Tom Mitchell's line when his father, John C. Mitchell, of Robertson County, Tennessee married Martha Wilson Carter of Halifax County, North Carolina. Martha's grandmother was Martha Whitaker, the daughter of Richard Whitaker. Martha's Carter's father was Wilson Whitaker Carter. His father, Cornelius Carter, married Martha Whitaker about 1770 in Halifax County, North Carolina. Wilson was their only child of record. Both Cornelius and Martha were deceased by 1776. Local genealogists say it is very probable that they were victims of the small-pox epidemic that swept through the Carolinas in 1775-76.

Whitakers were found living in England when William the Conqueror ordered the Domesday Book survey around 1086 A.D. A Sir Simon de Whitaker was listed as living in Warwickshire. English records show a number of Whitakers who were knights living in the twelve and thirteen hundreds. The exact origin of the Whitaker name is not known. Some believe the family once lived at a place somewhere in England called the white acres. The name itself is found spelled in a number of different ways. In old English it was spelled Hwitaecer and Quitaker. Later it was spelled Whitacre. In the early 1600s when our first Whitaker ancestors came to the Virginia Colony it was spelled Whittakers. The spelling Whitaker is found in Lancashire in the late 1700s.

Our Whitaker ancestors came from the Cliviger Township of the Parish of Whalley in Lancashire. Their ancestral home was called The Holme and it lies about 24 miles from Manchester and is 240 miles north northwest of London. In 1959 The Holme estate included some 850 acres but The Holme and most of the land was sold in that year

A Genealogical and Heraldic History of The Landed Gentry of Great Britain by Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms gives us the beginnings of our Whitaker Lineage.

THOMAS WHITACRE, b. circa 1504 (son of RICHARD WHITAKER, of Holme, living at Burnley, 1545, who s.to Holme on the death .s.p. 1527, of his elder brother, John, grandson of THOMAS WHITACRE, who d. 1529, great-grandson of ROBERT WHITACRE, and great great grandson of THOMAS WHITACRE, living 1431) m. Elizabeth, dau. of John Nowell, of Reade, and d. 1588 having had issue,

- i. Robert
- ii. Richard
- iii. William, DD, Master St. Johns College, Cambridge, b. 1457, d. 1595.

[*The above Burkes pedigree follows only the senior Whitaker line from this point on. Our ancestor, Dr. William Whitaker, was the third son and was not followed in this Burke's pedigree. For continuity the entire Whitaker line is shown below from Thomas I to Martha Whitaker, Tom Mitchell's great grandmother.*]

- I. THOMAS WHITAKER found living at the Holme, 1431.
- II. ROBERT WHITAKER (*Thomas*¹) found living 1480.
- III. THOMAS WHITAKER, (*Robert*², *Thomas*¹) (1458-1529).
- IV. RICHARD WHITAKER, (*Thomas*³, *Robert*², *Thomas*¹) living in Burnley in 1543. Succeeded to The Holme in 1527.
- V. THOMAS WHITAKER, (*Richard*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Robert*², *Thomas*¹) (1504-1588)
Thomas Whitaker V married. Elizabeth Nowell, the daughter. of John Nowell, Esquire, of Reade, 3 February 1530.

Thomas and Elizabeth had three children of record.

- i. Robert
- ii. Richard
- iii. William, our ancestor.

- VI WILLIAM WHITAKER, D.D. (*Thomas*⁵, *Richard*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Robert*², *Thomas*¹), (1548-1595)

Dr. Whitaker was educated at Cambridge University. He served as Regius Professor and master of St. John's College. He was successively appointed canon of Norwich Cathedral and chancellor of St. Paul's in London by Queen Elizabeth I. He was a renowned theological scholar, Calvinist and prolific writer. He remained master of St. John's College until his untimely death in 1595. Dr. Whitaker is buried in the Chapel of St. John's College, Cambridge, England.

Dr. Whitaker married 1st a Miss Culverwell, daughter. of Nicholas Culverwell. He married 2nd Joan (Taylor) Fenner, the widow of Dr. Dudley Fenner. By these two wives he had seven children.

- i. Alexander, *The Apostle of Virginia*.
- ii. Susannah, married Mr. Lathrop.
- iii. Samuel
- iv. William
- v. Richard, bookseller and printer in London.
- vi. Frances
- vii. Jabez, lineal ancestor of Tom Mitchell.

It cannot be determined with any certainty which of Dr. Whitaker's wives was the mother of each of his seven children. However Alexander's mother was Miss Culverwell and Joan Fenner was the mother of Jabez.

VII. CAPTAIN JABEZ WHITAKER, (*William⁶, Thomas⁵, Richard⁴, Robert², Thomas¹*)

Jabez Whitaker was the youngest son of the Reverend William Whitaker, D. D., Master of Saint John's College, Cambridge and his second wife, Joan Fenner. He was born several days after his father's death. Jabez married Mary Bouchier sometime before 1619. He left his young wife and son in England and came to the Jamestown Colony as an officer of the London Company which had been organized to found and administer the colony.

Jabez was the second member of his family to come to Jamestown. His oldest brother, the Reverend Alexander Whitaker, M.A., had come to the Colony about 1610. He instructed the prisoner, Indian Princess Pocahontas in the English language and Christianity. He eventually baptized her. There is a painting in the Capitol rotundo in Washington, DC memorializing this event. In the spring of 1717 the Reverend Alexander Whitaker, called "The Apostle of Virginia" died in a boating accident crossing the James River.

Jabez Whitaker was apparently an effective leader of the Colony. He established what is believed to be the first hospital in North America and organized farming operations for the part of the colony for which he was responsible. He was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1623-24, a member of the Council and a Captain of the Company's men. Jabez Whitaker died in 1626 without returning to England.

The Records of The Virginia Company of London indicate that Jabez's wife, Mary, joined him in the Virginia Colony in 1622. In April of 1625 Jabez and Mary appeared before The Counsel during an investigation involving a Captain Nathaniel Butler. It seems that Butler forged a letter and sent it to Mary's father complaining about the administration of the colony. Mary's father, Sir John Bouchier, was an investor in the colony. Mary swore before The Counsel that she did not write a certain letter to her father, Sir John Bouchier. "It was none of her doing nor direction." It is very possible that she returned to England soon after that because in April of 1626 a commission was granted to Mary Bouchier, alias Whitaker, wife of Jabez Whitaker, daughter of Sir John Bouchier late of the Parish of Lambeth, County Surrey, deceased, to administer the goods of the late deceased, Dame Elizabeth Bouchier, relict having renounced.

Jabez and Mary had one son of record.

- i. William Whitaker, our ancestor.

VIII. LT. COLONEL WILLIAM WHITAKER (*Jabez⁷, William⁶, Thomas⁵, Richard⁴*)

Thomas³, Robert², Thomas¹)

William Whitaker was born in England about 1619 to Captain Jabez Whitaker and Mary Bouchier, the daughter of Sir John Bouchier and Dame Elizabeth Bouchier. The Bouchier line is discussed in detail separately, (See page 13). William came to the Virginia colony presumably to secure his late father's and grandfather Bouchier's interests in the Jamestown Colony. (Sir John Bouchier was an investor in the London Company that provided funds for the colonization.) Colonel William Whitaker was " Viewer of the tobacco Crops" for Warwick County. He was a member of the House of Burgess from 1649 to 1659. In 1659 he was a member of the Council. In 1656 he is noted as Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel in Colonial records. There is no record of whom he married.

He had two sons of record.

- i. William
- ii. Richard, our ancestor.

IX. CAPTAIN RICHARD WHITAKER I (*William⁸, Jabez⁷, William⁶, Thomas⁵, Richard⁴, Thomas³, Robert², Thomas¹*)

Richard Whitaker was a planter in Warwick County, Virginia. Colonial records show that he had the title of Captain, probably in the Colonial Militia. He served as Sheriff of Warwick County and served in the Virginia House of Burgess in 1685, 1688, 1691 and 1696, the year he died.

There is no record of whom Richard married. As far as can be determined he had only one son.

- i. John Whitaker

X. JOHN WHITAKER I (*Richard⁸, William⁸, Jabez⁷, William⁶, Thomas⁵, Richard⁴, Thomas³, Robert², Thomas¹*.)

John Whitaker, our ancestor, married Martha Gough, the daughter of the Reverend William Gough and Alice Thacker of James City County, Virginia

John and Martha Gough had seven sons and one daughter of record.

- i. Richard Whitaker, our ancestor, married Elizabeth Cary
- ii. Gough Whitaker married Martha Cary.
- iii. Robert Whitaker married Sarah.....
- iv. James Whitaker married Catherine Wiggins
- v. John Whitaker married Olive Taylor,
- vi. William. Whitaker married Catherine Wiggins
- vii. Dudley Withaker married Mary Pearce
- viii. Martha Whitaker married Captain Thomas Cary

XI. RICHARD WHITAKER II (*Richard¹, John¹⁰, Richard⁸, William⁸, Jabez⁷, William⁶, Thomas⁵, Richard⁴, Thomas³, Robert², Thomas¹*.)

Richard Whitaker and Elizabeth Cary were the parents of Martha Whitaker. Richard was born in Warwick County, Virginia in 1720. His wife, Elizabeth Cary, was born there in 1725. Elizabeth Cary came from a distinguished Virginia and English family which is covered separately. (See Cary, page 47). They were married in 1740 and moved to North Carolina in the early 1740s. Richard's brothers, John and Robert Whitaker, of Warwick

County, Virginia bought land in Edgecombe County, North Carolina along Looking Glass Pond on 19 October 1744. Richard Whitaker was a witness to this transaction.

Richard and Elizabeth purchased a plantation on Fishing Creek about six miles east of the present town of Enfield, the county seat of Edgecombe County. Just south of Enfield is the town of Whitakers on North Carolina State Route 301 that was named for the Whitaker family. Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe County in 1758. Many of the Whitakers lived in the part of Edgecombe County that was included in the new Halifax County although some still owned lands in Edgecombe County.

Colonial records show that Richard Whitaker was involved local government as well as being a planter. He served as a Captain of Colonial Militia and was one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and later a member of Edgecombe County's six man Grand Jury.

Richard and Elizabeth Cary had seven children.

- i. John married Christian, (Kitty) Benton, the daughter of Colonel Benton.
- ii. Cary Whitaker married Saley K. Carter.
- iii. Anne Whitaker married the Reverend John Pope.
- iv. Elizabeth Whitaker married Edward Morris.
- v. Mary,(Tempey), married Jethro Battle
- vi. Richard III.
- vii. Martha, our ancestor, married Cornelius Carter.

When John Whitaker's sister Martha and her husband Cornelius Carter died records show that Martha's brother, John Whitaker, was named an executor of Cornelius Carter's will and apparently acted as Wilson Whitaker Carter's guardian as well. John Whitaker is worthy of mention not only because he was the guardian of Tom Mitchell's great grandfather, Wilson Whitaker Carter, but for the responsible positions he held in the community. John Whitaker served in the North Carolina House of Commons during the period 1778 to 1785. He was appointed by the Carolina Legislature as a Colonel to command the Halifax Regiment during the Revolutionary War. After The Revolutionary War, in 1792, President Washington appointed him as "Inspector of the Revenue for Survey No. 4 in the district of North Carolina". He also appears to have served as a Justice of the Peace in Halifax County at some time as indicated by North Carolina state records.

John Whitaker and Christian (Kitty) Benton had seven sons and three daughters. Their oldest son Eli Benton Whitaker was a lawyer and according to Lucien Whitaker, Brigadier General in the state militia. Eli Benton Whitaker's first wife was Martha Branch, the sister of John Branch, Governor of the States of North Carolina and Florida, a United States Senator and Secretary of the Navy for Andrew Jackson. His career as a cabinet officer was short lived as he and his wife objected to the alleged shady background of the Secretary of War's new wife. President Jackson asked for John Branch's resignation along with those of most of the other objecting cabinet members. However, that is another story that has been better told elsewhere. John Branch Sr. was Sheriff of Halifax County. His son-in-law, Eli Benton Whitaker was named one of the executors of his estate along with John Branch's sons John and James.

John Whitaker's son, Cary Whitaker, was a medical doctor and a leader in the Methodist Church. He served as court appointed guardian for Martha Wilson Carter Mitchell's young brother and sister after their father's death.

XII MARTHA WHITAKER (*Richard*⁰, *John*⁹, *William*⁸, *Jabez*⁷, *William*⁶, *Thomas*⁵,
*Richard*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Robert*², *Thomas*¹.)

Martha Whitaker m. Cornelius Carter about 1770. She predeceased her husband who died in 1776. They had only one child of record.

- i. Wilson Whitaker Carter, (Aft. 1770-1818-19). (See Carter, p.70)