

UPDATED OCTOBER 7, 2008

MITCHELL PUTMAN

of GONZALES COUNTY TEXAS

Mitchell Putman was a son of William Putman and Mary Mitchell of Union County, South Carolina. Mitchell was born in Union County on February 18, 1794. He was married several times. Prior to his first marriage, he fought in the War of 1812 in Captain James Woods' South Carolina Militia, and his pension papers are on file in Washington.

He first married Sarah Elizabeth Dollar in Laurens County, South Carolina on November 13, 1815 and they soon moved to Bedford County, Tennessee where their first child, William, was born in 1817.

Elizabeth died in Tennessee and Mitchell and his brother Reuben who had come with him, moved to St. Clair County, Alabama. Mitchell fought in the Indian Creek War in Alabama in the early 1820s.

There in St. Clair County, he married his second wife, Rebecca Hall, on October 29, 1826.

The family returned briefly to South Carolina to visit family and while there in 1828 his second child, Mary Jane, was born. They were back in Benton County, Alabama where James was born in 1830 and Sarah Elizabeth in 1832.

In 1833, the family headed west into Texas and were there by 1834 when Rhoda was born. They, like most early settlers in Texas settled in the southern Brazos area between Houston and the Gulf. By 1835 he had settled in Austin's Colony, founded by Stephen Austin.

Mitchell fought in the Texas War of Independence from February 29, 1836 until June 1, 1836. As a result he was given several bounty land grants totaling some 650 acres. In 1851 he received another 1200 acres in Gonzales County based on his service in the Battle of San Jacinto where he served under General Sam Houston, who verified his pension request on November 15, 1870. It was from that document that I get his date of birth. He was wounded in the arm in the San Jacinto fighting.

He moved his family to Gonzales County in 1838 and remained there all his life.

Rebecca, his second wife, died in Gonzales County on June 10, 1846 at the age of 44. He married (I think) to Susannah Adkins in Comal County, Texas on September 26, 1847. She too died and he married Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd on September 30, 1848. She was born in 1814 and died in February 1859, and Mitchell then married, for the last time, Mrs. Lena 'Laney' Caraway Carpenter, widow of Wiley Carpenter, on May 31, 1860.

Mitchell Putman died on March 11, 1887 at the age of 93.

The following are the children of Mitchell Putman. William's mother was Elizabeth Dollar Putman and the rest were children of Rebecca Hall Putman.

One researcher has mentioned that there were four children who were taken by the Indians. If

this is the case, there must have been more children that I do not have a record of. I believe that James, Rhoda, Lucy and Sarah were taken in a raid by Comanche Indians on December 9, 1838.

In another article, we get this story. *“After the Texas Revolution and during the period of the Republic, 1836 to 1835... Gonzales County found it's military requirement increased as the Indian threat became more intense.*

On December 9, 1838 while Mitchell Putman was residing two miles below Gonzales on the Guadalupe River, a band of Comanche Indians carried off four of his children: Rhoda, age seventeen; James, ten; Elizabeth, six; and Juda, two. At the same time the Indian group carried off Matilda Lockhart, age thirteen, daughter of Andrew Lockhart, a neighbor, and killed the four year old daughter of another neighbor. The children had been in the woods gathering pecans when the Indians appeared. James and Juda Putman were restored to their parents within a few months. Elizabeth was kept for two years when her father had to trade a gray mule for her. Rhoda eventually married an Indian and became a member of the tribe, but twenty-seven years later returned to her parents.”

Mostly the same except the daughters. Not really sure which version is correct.

The children were:

William Putman

William Putman was born in Bedford County, Tennessee in 1817. He was married twice. He appears in the 1850 Census with a wife, Elizabeth born in 1827 in Tennessee. There is a record where he married Adeline Dulcena Gipson/Gibson in DeWitt County, Texas on July 1, 1847 (must be 1857). Adeline was born in Indiana in 1830 and appears with Bill in 1860. There was a gap in the children from 1853 to 1858 so Elizabeth must have died around 1853-1855.

They lived in Gonzales County through the 1870 census and then moved to Kendall County, Texas where they remained the rest of their lives.

Adeline died on January 20, 1886 and is buried in the Jones Cemetery near Curry's Creek, Kendall County. William died in 1921 at the age of 104 years. Family members confirm this rather respectable age.

Their children were:

WILLIAM PUTMAN born in 1848 and died in the early 1850s.

SARAH ELIZABETH PUTMAN born 1849 and married to Edward F. Wilson on June 24, 1871.

MARY JANE PUTMAN born 1850 and married to Francis Kaiser.

SAMUEL H. PUTMAN born December 23, 1850. He married Mary Elizabeth 'Minnie' Chew. They were in Llano County in the 1920 census. Minnie is widowed in Llano in 1930. He had two sons:

George Leslie Putman born in 1880. Still at home in Llano County in 1920 and 1930. In 1930 he is listed as being widowed.

William Brady Putman born in 1883. Still at home and married to a Mary in 1920 and 1930. His widowed mother and brother George are with him.

ELIZA REBECCA PUTMAN born 1851. Married a Texas Ranger, Gerry Jones.

ANGELINE FRANCES PUTMAN born August 31, 1855. Married Henry Clinton Williams on November 22, 1882. Henry was born in Scott County, Mississippi on May 4, 1851, and died in Thelma, Bexar County Texas October 9, 1930. Angeline died in Bexar County Texas January 4, 1940. He was a trail driver and a rancher. Their children, all born in Thelma, Bexar County Texas, were:

Clara Rebecca Williams born September 6, 1883 and died April 13, 1975. She married Gustav Adolph Seiler January 13, 1906. They lived in San Antonio.

Mary Frances Williams born March 10, 1886 and died February 8, 1965. She married Kaywood Ingersoll Sudduth. They lived in San Antonio. She was a teacher at Trinity University.

Elizabeth Adeline Williams born April 6, 1899 and died March 20, 1920. She married Henry Martin Curry in 1915. They lived in Thelma, Bexar County, Texas all their lives.

Nellie Williams born in 1892 and died in infancy.

Waymon Putnam Williams born February 26, 1893 and died September 29, 1959 in Cibolo, Bexar County, Texas. He married Jennie Marie Collins on October 7, 1917 in San Antonio. He later married Mollie Smith.

Scott Mitchell Williams born September 13, 1895 and died July 23, 1968 in Castroville, Texas. He married Dollie Irene (Rena) McCann October 18, 1925.

Henrietta May Williams born November 9, 1898 and died March 2, 1983. She married John Rainey.

ALICE PUTMAN born April 6, 1857. A nurse and never married. She is in Blanco County in 1900 and in San Antonio, Bexar County in 1910 through 1930. She died there October 27, 1940.

JAMES MITCHELL PUTMAN born May 12, 1859. He never married. He was a Texas Ranger. There is a story of the longhorn steer branded MURDER. At a roundup two men disagreed over the ownership of an unbranded steer. A shooting occurred resulting in one death. The cowboys branded Murder on one side of the steer and the date on the other. The Rangers were called in and Ranger James Putman dispatched the murderer with his Winchester. The steer ran wild for years but was finally taken to market at the request of the murdered mans' son. As he got older, he moved in with his brother in law, Henry Williams near San Antonio. His health failed and he committed suicide by shooting himself on December 19, 1923.

WILLIAM H. PUTMAN born 1862. I have one note saying he was single and a druggist in Kendall County, but I never find any census listings for that county. He is probably the William in Presidio County in 1910 and in Dickins County in 1920. If so, then his wife was Dolly M. Ellis born in 1872 and they had these children:

Lelia Putman born in 1888.

Austin Putman born in 1890.

William Putman born in 1892.

Claudia Putman born in 1894.

Velma Putman born in 1896.

Lloyd Putman born in 1904.

Lowell Putman born in 1906.

Kelley Putman a son born in 1910.

TEMPERANCE ROSALEE PUTMAN born January 8, 1864. Married J. Scott Gourley.

RUFUS PUTMAN born in March, 1867. He married Cora Johnson, born September 1870 in Texas. In 1900 they were in DeWitt County, Texas and in 1910 in Schleicher County with these children. Cora was widowed in Bexar County in 1920 and back in Schleicher County in 1930.

Clarence Putman born August 24, 1896 and died in San Angelo in July 1972.

Lois Putman born in 1901.

Annise Putman born in 1909.

ABNER PUTMAN born in November 1871. He married Martha Hickson and later married Theda Hussey. In 1900, he and Martha are in Custer County, Montana with the following two children. They are divorced in Custer County in 1910. Then in 1920 he is in Prairie County, Montana with Theda. This was a second marriage for both, as Theda had these children with her: Effie Kenney born in 1900 and married a McCracken who died, William E. Kenney born in 1905 and Ernest Kenney born in 1911. Martha was remarried to Charles Egle in Custer County and has the kids with her. Most moved on to Pasadena California. The Putman children were:

Pinkney Allen Putman born July 23, 1897. In 1920 he is still in Custer County and is boarding. He will change his name to Percy G. Putman and will marry Edith Folsom and in the 1920s move to Coleville, Washington. He will later go to Pasadena, California by 1930, and die in San Bernardino March 27, 1971.

Lawrence Earl Putman born November 23, 1897. He was in Pasadena California in 1920 and 1930. He is married to a Ruth there. Her name may be Hunt, but she was married before so it may be a married name. He died in Los Angeles September 7, 1953.

Mae E. Putman born April 19, 1901 and died in Los Angeles January 23, 1994. She married a Meyer.

Warren C. Putman born June 28, 1906. He was with his mother in 1920 and with his brother Frank in Pasadena, California in 1930. He died in Los Angeles March 20, 1963.

Franklin J. Putman born February 28, 1910. He is in Pasadena like everyone else in 1930. He died in San Francisco March 24, 1987.

Mary Jane Putman

Mary Jane or really Margaret was born in Laurens County, South Carolina on August 2, 1828 while the family was back home visiting. She was the eldest child, and was not taken by the Indians. She kept house for her father until she married.

She married Grover S. May in Gonzales County on May 17, 1847. They took land next to her father's farm, and lived there all their lives. She died in 1912.

They had three sons and three daughters.

James Henry Putman

He was born in St. Clair County, Alabama in 1830. He was at home at age 20 in the 1850 census and was in Guadalupe County for the 1860 census. At that time his wife was a widow Maria E. Nash born in Tennessee. In 1870, he is married a second time with a wife named Eliza E. born in 1846. He seems to have only one child, a daughter Sarah by the first marriage. I do not find him in 1880.

He married Maria Nichols, widow of Michael Nash on May 3, 1852. Maria was born in Tennessee in 1829, and came with her parents George Washington Nichols and Mary Ann Walker to Texas in 1835. She married James Nash October 2, 1845 in Gonzales.

James married a second time on April 13, 1868 to Elizabeth E. McGenty in Gonzales County and there were no children in that marriage.

He was one of the children taken by Comanche Indians in 1838. He learned their language and spoke fluently. He escaped and was home by the 1850 census.

He had one child:

SARAH E. PUTMAN born in 1854. She married A. J. Harrison on August 18, 1871.

Sarah Elizabeth Putman

Sarah was born in Benton County, Alabama on May 25, 1832. She married George Daniel Mitchell in Gonzales County on December 7, 1848. By the 1880 census, she is widowed and back living with her folks. At that time she had William and a Catherine living with her. Catherine may have been William's wife.

She was another of the children taken by Indians, but was returned to her home in 1840 after a year of captivity.

Sarah died in Wrightsboro, Gonzales County on December 8, 1919.

The children of George and Sarah Elizabeth Mitchell were:

WILLIAM THOMAS MITCHELL born 1851. His wife was Catherine.

MALISSA E. MITCHELL born 1854.

R. J. MITCHELL born 1856. He died young, I believe.

SARAH A. MITCHELL born 1859.

GEORGE D. MITCHELL born 1862. He married Adeline Hobbs. He was a Baptist minister.

Rhoda Putman

She was born in Texas in 1834 and was a child taken by Indians. When her brother James returned in the 1840s, he told that she had been killed or at least had died.

Juda Lucy Putman

Lucy was born in Texas in 1836 and was another child taken by Indians.

She was finally returned by a Judge some 27 years after being taken hostage. She was only two and a half years old when taken and almost thirty years old when she was reunited with her family.

She married Richard W. Gipson in Gonzales County on November 3, 1866. They had three sons and a daughter.

Here is some info sent me by a descendant in 2006. It fills in the 'gaps' nicely:

“However, I do know about Juda Lucy because I have met my cousin (only after my story was published in the Dallas Morning News in June 2000 by Kent Biffle). My cousin lived with Juda Lucy when he was little. Anyway, from an what-I-believe-to-be pretty accurate account of the children done by a relative and obtained from the Archives at the Alamo of the DRT, Juda Lucy was 21/2 when captured. She had yelled for help from Matilda Lockhart and the Indians picked up both of them. From a descendant of Margaret Jane I found she was up in a tree at the time. Matilda and the childrens' mothers were in the house for a sewing visit. Juda Lucy kept being traded north to different Comanche groups until she ended up in Missouri where an Indian trader, Captain John Chenault found her with the Comanches. He traded for her and took her to St. Louis and educated here. Following the Civil War in 1865, he had political differences in St. Louis and came to Gonzales, Texas where he had relatives. By a miracle, this was Lucy's home and by a birthmark and family resemblance, Mitchell Putman recognized her as his daughter. There was a lawsuit over her, but she was recognized as Mitchell's daughter. He gave to her and her husband Richard some of the land he received from the Texas army and they lived at Dripping Springs, Texas, where they are buried.”

“For your information, Matilda Lockhart was the only captive to be brought into the Council House Meeting at San Antonio in March 1840 – two years after her capture. Her nose had been burned off. She was awakened every morning to hot coals. She only lived about 2 more years. The Texans went up in arms when no other captives were brought in and killed about 30 Comanche, of which 12 were chiefs. The Comanches went on rampage and looted and burned - in particular Linville. About 1000 Comanche eventually met up with 500 Texans (men and boys) and the Texas wiped out all the Comanche. This was the Battle of Plum Creek. In the essay from the Alamo she author mentioned Mitchell was a hero of this Battle. In a book about the Comanche, it talks about the man who fired the first shot of the battle and killed a Comanche chief. I believe this was Mitchell Putman. Also at the battle were Archibald Gibson and James Gipson (brothers with the same problem with spelling the name as Putnam/Putman).”

Henry Putman

He was born in 1844. He was in the 1860 census at age 15, but I do not find him again. I assume he died, possibly in the Civil War.