

James Steele Mitchell

First Lieutenant James Steele Mitchell (1845-1906) was born and raised in Hollidaysburg Pennsylvania. He joined the 84th Regiment of the Keystone state to fight for the Union in 1862. According to his death certificate he may have been underage at the time. He recorded his first 449 days of service in a diary that survives to this day. His engagements include many of the most decisive campaigns of the Civil War. After witnessing Lee's surrender, he became a teacher and longtime civilian employee for the United States Navy in California. He was



married to Carrie Louise Benson, a cousin of Brigham Young's Apostle, Ezra T. Benson (great-grandfather of Ezra Taft Benson, the thirteenth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1985-1994). The Mitchell family did not embrace the Mormon faith.

In 2013, a collection of Lt. Mitchell's personal effects and keepsakes was donated by his great-grandchildren, Mélisande Brown D'Alessio of Princeton Junction New Jersey and Denise Brown Cordero of Sequim Washington, to the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Anyone interested in the entire collection, including his service record and a full transcription of his diary, may view it at:

www.nccnewyork.com/Mitchell/JamesSteeleMitchell.htm