



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION

Thelma and J.L. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

Est. 1997

This scholarship was set up to honor Thelma and J.L. Mitchell (parents of six sons and daughters, and their husbands or wives, who graduated from or attended Panhandle State University). Thelma was also a 1929 graduate with a degree in English, as well as three of her children. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell spent most of their years as farmers in this region. The Mitchell sons and daughters endowed this scholarship in loving memory of their parents.

Children: James Mitchell – Albuquerque, NM
Dwayne Mitchell – Spearman, TX - deceased
Maurice Mitchell – Turpin, OK - deceased
Auburn Mitchell – Austin, TX
Mignon Sullivan – Lewisville, TX
Evonne Roberson – Edmond, OK

The late Thelma (Sherrill) Mitchell was raised on her parent's homestead in the Dombey Community on the Texas Beaver county line just south of Turpin. She graduated from the Panhandle Agricultural Institute (a predecessor to Oklahoma Panhandle State University) in 1919. She received her teaching Certificate and immediately began teaching in one-room school houses in the Oklahoma Panhandle. She returned to Panhandle A&M at various times during the next few years and graduated with a bachelor of English degree in 1929.

She taught for seven years at various schools in Texas and Beaver counties. She also served as Principal at Adams Consolidated High School before retiring in 1931 to become a full-time homemaker. Leslie Mitchell was born in the Cookville, Tennessee area before coming with his parents to the Baker community in the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1916. He spent his remaining years as a farmer in the area marrying Thelma Sherrill in 1928. Thelma Sherrill and Leslie Mitchell met in 1915 at the Phoenix school, a one-room country school where she was teaching. The Phoenix school, razed around 1950, was equal-distance from the small towns of Baker, Hooker, Tyrone and Adams. Thelma and Leslie Mitchell raised six children, two daughters and four sons. Each of the children attended Adams High School. Five of the children, Maurice, James, Dwayne, Mignon and Evonne, graduated from Panhandle State, receiving bachelor degrees. The other Mitchell child, Auburn, attended Panhandle State for two years before transferring to Oklahoma State University. In addition, four of the Mitchell children are also married to graduates or former students of Panhandle State. Thelma and Leslie Mitchell were married for 54 years, until his death in 1982. She passed away in 1991.