

# The Ancestry of James Matlock Kitchens

## from New Archival and Genealogical DNA Research

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### **Introduction**

Research into the origins of James Matlock Kitchens (1796–1868) has been at a standstill for many years, seemingly stuck at a set of assumptions that have become traditional, namely that the father of James Kitchens was one Christopher Kitchens (born ca. 1770 in Virginia) who appears in James Kitchens' household, aged 80 and blind, on the 1850 census of Walker County, Alabama. This Christopher Kitchens appears in no other primary sources, in Alabama, Tennessee, or Virginia, and likely never existed. In this article, we sought to reexamine and dispel these traditional assumptions and discover the true ancestral path of James Matlock Kitchens using both DNA research and primary sources.

Our DNA research on several descendants of James Matlock Kitchens has established definitively that James Matlock Kitchens was a member of Y-DNA haplogroup T-FTF24495, subclade of T-M70, and connected to a Kitchen family in Grainger County, Tennessee, with origins in Bedford and Henry counties, Virginia. Through autosomal triangulation and clustering, we have determined that James Matlock Kitchens was the son of John Kitchen, a Virginia Revolutionary veteran, who was born 1757 in Bedford County, Virginia, and died 1847 in Anderson County, Tennessee. Records place John Kitchen in Tennessee by 1797, having come from Virginia about 1795–1796.<sup>1</sup>

### **Review of Prior Research**

James Matlock Kitchens was born in 1796 in Tennessee.<sup>2</sup> Around 1814, he married Sarah Brown, with whom he would have at least twelve children.<sup>3</sup> About 1817, he migrated with his family to Lawrence County, Alabama, and entered 160 acres of government land on 9 Sep 1818, about three miles southeast of Speake, and about two miles west of Friendship Church. In 1829, he

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<sup>1</sup> This article is in many ways a sequel to research we have previously collaborated on with regard to James Matlock Kitchens' wife, Sarah (Brown) Kitchens, and her parents, William Brown and Mary (Ogle) Brown. Though I have not yet written up an article on the Brown-Ogle research, this article will refer to some of that research's conclusions.

<sup>2</sup> Both the 1850 and 1860 censuses place James Kitchens' birth in Tennessee. 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Walker County, Alabama, District 11, page 293B (NARA Roll M432\_16); 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Walker County, Alabama, Western Division, page 767 (NARA Roll M653\_26).

<sup>3</sup> Tradition is firm and universal that James's first wife was Sarah (Sally) Brown, and reported by J. M. Dombhart in 1937 (see below). Several of Sally's siblings were known to family tradition. Other research by these authors into DNA and primary sources has established that Sarah Brown was the daughter of William Brown and Mary Ogle.

relinquished this land and moved six miles south, where he settled in the southeastern corner of the county, about two miles southwest of Basham's Gap.<sup>4</sup> Kitchens appeared on the 1820 state census in Lawrence County,<sup>5</sup> as well as the 1830 federal census.<sup>6</sup> He was commissioned a justice of the peace for Lawrence County in 1824.<sup>7</sup> About 1836, James Kitchens joined a number of other nearby families and migrated south about thirty-five miles to Walker County, settling west of Jasper.<sup>8</sup>

Kitchens entered his first Walker County tract of government land in 1836, less than a mile from where he would one day be buried.<sup>9</sup> James Kitchens' first wife, Sarah (Brown) Kitchens, passed away in 1842 and was buried in what is now known as the Kitchens-Brown Cemetery.<sup>10</sup> Sometime between Sarah's death in 1842 and December 1850 (the enumeration of the 1850 census), James married his second wife, Syntha, whose maiden name is lost to us due to the destruction of early

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. Original Tract Book, Volume 306, Page 84, shows James Kitchens' original entry on 9 Sep 1818 in NW ¼, Section 2, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, from Huntsville Meridian, as assignee of Presley McLemore, which he later relinquished. His 1829 and 1834 patents are Accession Number CV-0128-335, Document Number 2643, Huntsville Land Office, patent assigned to James Kitchens on 22 Dec 1829 for 82.01 acres in Section 35, Township 7 South, Range 6 West, from Huntsville Meridian; and Accession Number AL1260.080, Document Number 5232, Huntsville Land Office, patent assigned to James Kitchens on 10 Sep 1834 for 41 acres in Section 35, Township 7 South, Range 6 West, from Huntsville Meridian. These lands were located approximately at 34°18'37.7"N, 87°08'11.3"W. See <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

<sup>5</sup> 1820 State Census of Lawrence County, Alabama (Huntsville: Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, 1977), 17, on Ancestry.com at [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/26315/images/dvm\\_LocHist011137-00013-1](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/26315/images/dvm_LocHist011137-00013-1), or Alabama, U.S., State Census, 1820-1866, [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1576/images/31075\\_174441-00147](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1576/images/31075_174441-00147) (where Lawrence County is mislabeled as Franklin County).

<sup>6</sup> 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Lawrence County, Alabama, page 275 (NARA Roll M19\_1).

<sup>7</sup> Ancestry.com, Alabama, U.S., Civil Appointments, 1818-1939, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/49019:60923>.

<sup>8</sup> Some notable other families to make this migration were Brown (the family of Kitchens' wife Sarah), Hamilton (the family of his son-in-law H. W. Hamilton), Irwin (with whom a brother-in-law, Thomas Brown, had intermarried), Sparks (with whom Kitchens' daughter Frances intermarried), and Dutton (with whom Kitchens' daughter Elizabeth intermarried, and also intermarried with the Irwins, Browns, and Sparks).

<sup>9</sup> Accession Number AL3570.409, Document Number 10141, assigned to James M. Kitchens on 10 Sep 1838 for 80.5 acres in Section 12, Township 14 South, Range 8 West, from Huntsville Meridian. The tract book, which Dombhart cites, gives the date 14 Sep 1836 for Kitchens' first payment on the land.

<sup>10</sup> These birth and death dates of James and Sarah (Brown) Kitchens are cited by Dombhart in his biographical sketch. He does not name their exact origin, but gives a general citation to "Kitchens Family Records" and the "Bible of C. C. Kitchens." That the dates were at least held in family tradition is evident by the circa-1930s photos of wooden grave markers for James and Sarah, giving the dates "1796-1868" and "1796-1842", and a 1910 reference by a grandson, J. S. Kitchens, which refers to James Kitchens' death date by year and month. J. Sim Kitchens, "Words to Voters," *Daily Mountain Eagle*, 2 Nov 1910.

Walker County marriage records. She probably was a widow, and James and Syntha had no children.<sup>11</sup>

In 1844, Kitchens and other members of his family became charter members of Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church near Jasper, and in 1845, he was ordained as an elder of the church and served as its pastor for twenty-two years, until his retirement in 1867.<sup>12</sup> He died in 1868, and was buried beside Sarah at the Kitchens-Brown Cemetery.

One of the chief sources for the life of James Matlock Kitchens is John Martin Dombhart's *History of Walker County (Alabama): Its Towns and Its People* (1937). Dombhart's work is a valuable compilation of the county's history and records, and he was in a unique position to have access to information about the Kitchens family: his second wife was Vera Lee Kitchens (married 1934), great-great-granddaughter of James Matlock Kitchens, by a family line that had preserved its family bible, and had also kept a constant tradition of the pastorate of the Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church.<sup>13</sup> Though Dombhart's biographical sketch of James Matlock Kitchens contains several factual issues, and its iconic status has itself contributed to the languid state of research on this family, it nonetheless offers several facts that were crucial in our discoveries:

JAMES MATLOCK KITCHENS, born in Tennessee on August 7, 1796, was, according to daily tradition, a descendant of Henry Kitchens, of Virginia, who sat in the first House of Burgesses, which met in 1619. In 1812 James Matlock Kitchens, then but sixteen years of age, came to Alabama with a brother, George Kitchens, and an uncle, James Acuff, and settled in what is now Lawrence County. About 1836 he came to Walker County, and on September 26, 1836, he entered government land in Section 12, Township 14, Range 8, about two miles west of Jasper.

Mr. Kitchens was a well educated man for his day and time, a successful farmer, and, in addition, was a prominent and well known Primitive Baptist minister. On July 6, 1844, he helped to constitute the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, and in May 1845, he was ordained a regular minister of that church by Elders Robert Guttery and John M. Barton. He served as pastor of the church for twenty-two years, until December 1867, when ill health caused his resignation. He died on March 23, 1868, after an honorable and well spent life.

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<sup>11</sup> Syntha survived James, and was still living in 1880. Many researchers conflate James Kitchens' two wives and identify Syntha as "Sally Cyntha Brown," but there is no question that Sally (Brown) Kitchens died in 1842 and Syntha was James's second wife.

<sup>12</sup> Dombhart, citing the "Sulphur Springs Church [Minute] Book."

<sup>13</sup> Vera was the daughter of Elder Wiley Leander Kitchens, granddaughter of Elder Jesse Simeon Kitchens (J. Sim Kitchens in the citation above) and great-granddaughter of Christopher Columbus Kitchens (the C. C. Kitchens whose bible he cited), who had been a deacon of the church.

James Matlock Kitchens was married to Sally Brown, evidently in Lawrence County, in 1813. Sally Brown was born September 16, 1796, and died December 16, 1842. She was a sister to Thomas Brown and also a sister to Francis Brown, the wife of J. D. Randolph, all of whom were charter members of the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church.<sup>14</sup>

This sketch will serve as an embarkation point for the rest of this exploration of his history.

### **James Matlock Kitchens [was] born in Tennessee ...**

Dombhart evidently did not have access to the 1850 manuscript census returns, so the statement that Kitchens was born in Tennessee represents a valuable family tradition. The 1850 and 1860 census records on which Kitchens appeared do confirm that he was born in Tennessee.

Elsewhere in the family tradition, the statement has appeared, of unknown origin, that James Matlock Kitchens was born “in Jefferson County, Tennessee, on the French Broad River near Dandridge.” I find the quote given in a 1987 article in the *Sparks Family Association Quarterly* 138, so it at least predates the Internet.<sup>15</sup> Though the origin of this information is unknown, James’s birth in Jefferson County, Tennessee, has come to be widely accepted in online family trees.

### **In 1812 James Matlock Kitchens, then but sixteen years of age, came to Alabama ... and settled in what is now Lawrence County.**

The lands that became Lawrence County and Morgan County, Alabama, were not opened for settlement until the U.S. treaty with the Chickasaw tribe of 20 Sep 1816.<sup>16</sup> Though it is possible there was the stray white settler prior to this, I know of no other confirmed early settlers in the area where James Kitchens settled until about 1818. By the indications of his own children’s birthplaces, it appears James Kitchens did not come to Lawrence County until about 1817. His oldest documented child, Mary (Kitchens) Hamilton, was born 20 Oct 1814 in Tennessee. His oldest son John Kitchens, per his obituary, was born 23 Aug 1816 in White County, Tennessee. His next daughter, Elizabeth (Kitchens) Dutton, was the first to be born in Alabama, born 22 Aug 1817.

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<sup>14</sup> John Martin Dombhart, *History of Walker County: Its Towns and Its People* (Thornton, Arkansas: Cayce, 1937), 235–257. The Dombhart text is available on both Ancestry and FamilySearch. See <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/22993/>; <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/10230> (accessed 11 Apr 2024).

<sup>15</sup> Paul E. Sparks, “Thomas Sparks of Early Lawrence and Walker Counties, Alabama,” *Sparks Family Association Quarterly* 138 (1987), 3042–3056, accessed online at the Sparks Family OnLine, <https://www.sparksfamilyassn.org/pages/138-A.html> on 19 Apr 2024.

<sup>16</sup> See TNGenWeb, “Indian Land Cessions in the American Southwest,” <https://www.tngenweb.org/cessions/> (accessed 8 Apr 2024).

**[He came to Alabama] with a brother, George Kitchens, and an uncle, James Acuff.**

The fact that George Kitchens was James's brother is another assumption that has generally been accepted in the family tradition. Though in James's biography, Dombhart asserts that George was James's brother, in George's biography, he appears less certain. "George Kitchens, thought to be a brother of James Matlock Kitchens..." Of George, he offered as a source only the Walker County tract book, naming George's entry into Walker County land on 14 Sep 1836, the same day as James. He gave no family information and appears to have had no contact with known descendants.

We can find no other record of James Acuff in Walker County, Alabama, or Lawrence County before it; but the name Acuff does appear in connection with the Kitchens family in at least one Walker County record: the founding charter of Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, cited by Dombhart, at which, in addition to James Kitchens and other members of the Kitchens, Hamilton, and Brown families, one Susan Acuff is listed as a charter member. The full list includes:

- Elder Eli Safford, named as first pastor
- Elder John M. Barton
- John D. Randolph
- Frances Randolph [*née* Brown, wife of John D. Randolph, sister of Sarah (Brown) Kitchens]
- James Kitchens
- William Kitchens [son of James Kitchens]
- Christopher C. Kitchens [son of James Kitchens]
- Sarah Kitchens [*née* Taylor, wife of Christopher C. Kitchens]
- Thomas Brown [brother of Frances (Brown) Randolph and Sarah (Brown) Kitchens]
- Lovey Brown [*née* Irwin, wife of Thomas Brown]
- Harvey W. Hamilton
- Mary Hamilton [*née* Kitchens, wife of Harvey W. Hamilton, daughter of James M. Kitchens]
- Susan Acuff
- Nancy Dill<sup>17</sup>

Who was Susan Acuff? Did James Kitchens have an uncle named James Acuff? These questions connect to the mysterious "Christopher, inmate," age eighty and blind, who was living in James Kitchens' household on the 1850 census.

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<sup>17</sup> Dombhart reads "Hancy", but this is probably Nancy Dill, born 1784, wife of William Dill, a close neighbor to the Kitchens and Hamilton families on the 1850 census. The Dills were also kin to the Randolphs, the mother of John D. Randolph being a Dill.

## Christopher Kitchens?

The 1850 census of Walker County, Alabama, along with the 1860 census, is notoriously sloppy, full of misspellings, barely legible handwriting, poor delineation of households, and other mistakes. James Kitchens' household is a particularly egregious example, with serious consequences for researchers of the family.

28		James Kitchens	54	m	Bapt Clergyman	100	Tenn		
29	333 333	Synthia	54	f			Geo ✓		
30		Matlock	19	m	Leamer		Ala		
31		Samuel	18	m			Ala		
32		Sarah	16	f			Ala		23
33		Jeatha	12	f			Ala		12
34		Milinda	10	f			Ala		9/6/16
35	<del>334</del> 334	Christofer inmate	80	m			Geo ✓		Blair

Figure 1. Household of James M. Kitchens, 1850 federal census, Walker County, Alabama.

It is clear enough that the enumerator intended to mark James Kitchens as the head of the household, since he is the only one given a surname, even though he listed the dwelling and household numbers on the next line, next to James's wife. For the last member of the household, the enumerator appeared ready to start a new household, but changed his mind. "Christofer, inmate" is scrawled, with the Ancestry.com transcription actually making "In Mate" the man's surname. Elsewhere on the 1850 Walker County census, the word "inmate" is marked next to nonnuclear members of households in the archaic sense of "occupant" or "boarder".

Because only one surname is listed for the household, Kitchens, many researchers have assumed that this man is "Christopher Kitchens", aged 80, and assumed on top of this assumption that Christopher Kitchens must be James Kitchens' father. Somewhere along the course of being passed among online family trees, "Christopher Kitchens" even picked up a middle name, "Matlock", becoming "Christopher Matlock Kitchens" and even acquiring an occupation, as a Baptist clergyman like his son.

None of these facts has any basis in primary sources. The only records that appear from a search of either Ancestry or FamilySearch, relating to a man named Christopher Kitchens, in Virginia, Tennessee, or anywhere in the United States, prior to the twentieth century, are this very record, and records relating to Christopher Columbus Kitchens, James Matlock Kitchens' son born in 1827. Not a single record of a Christopher Kitchens prior to this 1850 census listing has come to light. Yet out of this one record, James Matlock Kitchens developed a father, "Christopher Matlock Kitchens", who has become ubiquitous in online trees, and a mother, "Elizabeth Acuff"—

apparently from the presumption that if James Kitchens had an uncle named James Acuff, his mother must have been an Acuff.<sup>18</sup>

James Acuff seems just as absent from the records of every place James Kitchens lived as Christopher Kitchens. But who does appear is Christopher Acuff. Christopher Acuff appears together with James in an 1834 estray record in Lawrence County, Alabama, in which James Kitchens “took up” two stray steers.<sup>19</sup>

Christopher Acuff does not appear on the 1840 census in either Lawrence County or Walker County. But in James Kitchens’ household on the 1840 census in Walker County, two older adults are listed: a white male aged between 70 and 79, and a white female aged between 70 and 79. If Christopher “Kitchens” on the 1850 census is actually Christopher Acuff, then the older couple in 1840 are probably Christopher Acuff and his wife, perhaps the Susan Acuff of the Sulphur Springs Church.

Did James Kitchens have an uncle named James Acuff who came to Alabama with him? The absence of any identifiable record of a James Acuff makes this appear unlikely. But the presence of Christopher Acuff with James Kitchens in Lawrence County, and then an elderly “Christopher” later living in his household in Walker County, suggests that perhaps it was Christopher Acuff who was his uncle, with the first name confused and lost over the course of oral history. Once again, Dombhart did not have access to the 1850 manuscript census returns and had no knowledge of a “Christopher Kitchens.”

Following the trail of Christopher Acuff took us back to White County, Tennessee. This dovetails with the prior research we have done on the family of James Matlock Kitchens’ wife, Sarah Brown: for White County, Tennessee, is also where the Brown family was living before coming to Alabama. In the same tax district of White County where Sarah’s Brown and Ogle families lived, on the waters of Cane Creek, lived Christopher Acuff, and nearby, a man named Jesse Kitchen.

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<sup>18</sup> Proponents of “Christopher Kitchens” as father of James Matlock Kitchens cite an 1854 U.S. land patent in Walker County, in the name of Christopher Kitchens, as proof of Christopher’s existence; but an 84-year-old blind man would not have been patenting new land. This record without a doubt belongs to Christopher Columbus Kitchens, James’s son, and is adjacent to later land patents in the name of Christopher C. Kitchens.

<sup>19</sup> FamilySearch.org, “Mixed court records (Lawrence County, Alabama), 1818–1950,” <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1419991>, at Film #2428334, Image Group Number (DGS) #7738222, Image 1075, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C914-LZRH?i=1074&cat=1419991> (accessed 3 May 2024).

## Acuff and Kitchen(s) in White County, Tennessee

In addition to the findings of the Brown-Ogle research, White County, Tennessee, already appeared as a lead in the history of James Matlock Kitchens. An obituary tribute to James's son, John Kitchens (1816–1870), states:

John Kitchens was the son of the Rev. James Kitchens, was born in White county, Tenn., on the 22nd day of August 1816, moved to Lawrence County near Oakville, with his Father, when a small boy, and has lived near the small place ever since.<sup>20</sup>

So three separate leads—the birthplace of John Kitchens, the location of the Brown and Ogle families, and now Christopher Acuff—lead back to White County, Tennessee, as almost certainly a place where James Matlock Kitchens lived before coming to Alabama.

William Brown, father of Sarah (Brown) Kitchens, came to White County from Grainger County, Tennessee, by about 1811. Jesse Kitchen first appeared on the tax list in White County in 1812, and Christopher Acuff in 1813. All three families held land on Cane Creek, tributary of the Caney Fork River. By the birthdate of James Kitchens' oldest daughter, Mary (Kitchens) Hamilton, on 20 Oct 1814 in Tennessee, we can surmise that James Matlock Kitchens married Sarah Brown about 1813–1814, probably in White County.

### White County, Tennessee, Tax List 1811 Captain Isaac Prewet's Company of Militia

Brown, William	267 acres	Cane Creek
Brown, Joseph		
Brown, Isaac	100 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, John	150 acres	Caney Fork
Ogle, Hercules	150 acres	Caney Fork
Ogle, Hercules	180 acres	Caney Fork

### White County, Tennessee, Tax List 1812 Captain Isaac Prewet's Company of Militia

Brown, William	267 acres
Brown, Isaac	100 acres
Brown, Joseph	
Kitchen, Jesse	
Ogle, Hercules	
Ogle, John	150 acres
Ogle, Hercules Jun.	180 acres
Ogle, William	
Ogle, Hercules	

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<sup>20</sup> C. Gibson, "Tribute of Respect," *The Moulton Advertiser*, 22 Jul 1870, page 2; available on Newspapers.com, and clipped at <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-moulton-advertiser-john-kitchens/145669537/> (accessed 19 Apr 2024).



**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1813**  
**Captain Isaac Prewett's Company of Militia**

Akef, Christopher		
Brown, William	167 acres	Brown's Cove
Brown, Joseph	20 acres	Smith's Cove
Brown, Isaac	100 acres	Cane Creek
Kitchen, Jesse	28 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Senr.	182 acres	
Ogle, William		
Ogle, John	150 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules	126 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres	Cane Creek

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1814**  
**Captain Isaac Prewett's Company of Militia**

Acuff, Christopher		
Brown, Isaac	100 acres	Cane Creek
Kitchen, Jesse	38 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Sr.	111 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Wyatt		
Ogle, Hercules	182 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, John	100 acres	
Ogle, William		

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1815**  
**Captain William Denny's Company of Militia**

Acuff, Christopher		
Brown, Isaac	100 acres	Cane Creek
Kitchen, Jesse	26 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Senr.	182 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Junr.	111 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, John	100 acres	Cane Creek

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1816**  
**Captain William Denny's Company of Militia**

Acuff, Christopher		
Brown, Isaac	120 acres	Cane Creek
Kitchen, Jesse	28 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Senr.	182 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Jr.	112 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Wyatt		
Ogle, John	98 acres	Cane Creek

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1817**  
**Captain Jesse Scoggon's Company of Militia**

Acuff, Christopher		
Brown, Isaac	120 acres	Cane Creek
Brown, Joseph		
Kitchen, Jesse	28 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Jr.	120 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, John	98 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules Senr.	116 ½ acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Wyatt		

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1818**  
**Captain Scoggon's Company of Militia**

Acuff, Christ.	15 acres	Cane Creek
Brown, Joseph		
Brown, Isaac	120 acres	Cane Creek
Kitchen, Jesse	37 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, John	98 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Hercules	117 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Wyatt		

**White County, Tennessee Tax List 1821**  
**Captain Norman's Company of Militia<sup>21</sup>**

Acuff, Christopher	15 acres	Cane Creek
Brown, Isaac	120 acres	Cane Creek
Brown, Joseph	35 acres	Mountain
Ogle, Hercules	114 acres	Cane Creek
Ogle, Wyatt		
Ogle, John	98 acres	Cane Creek

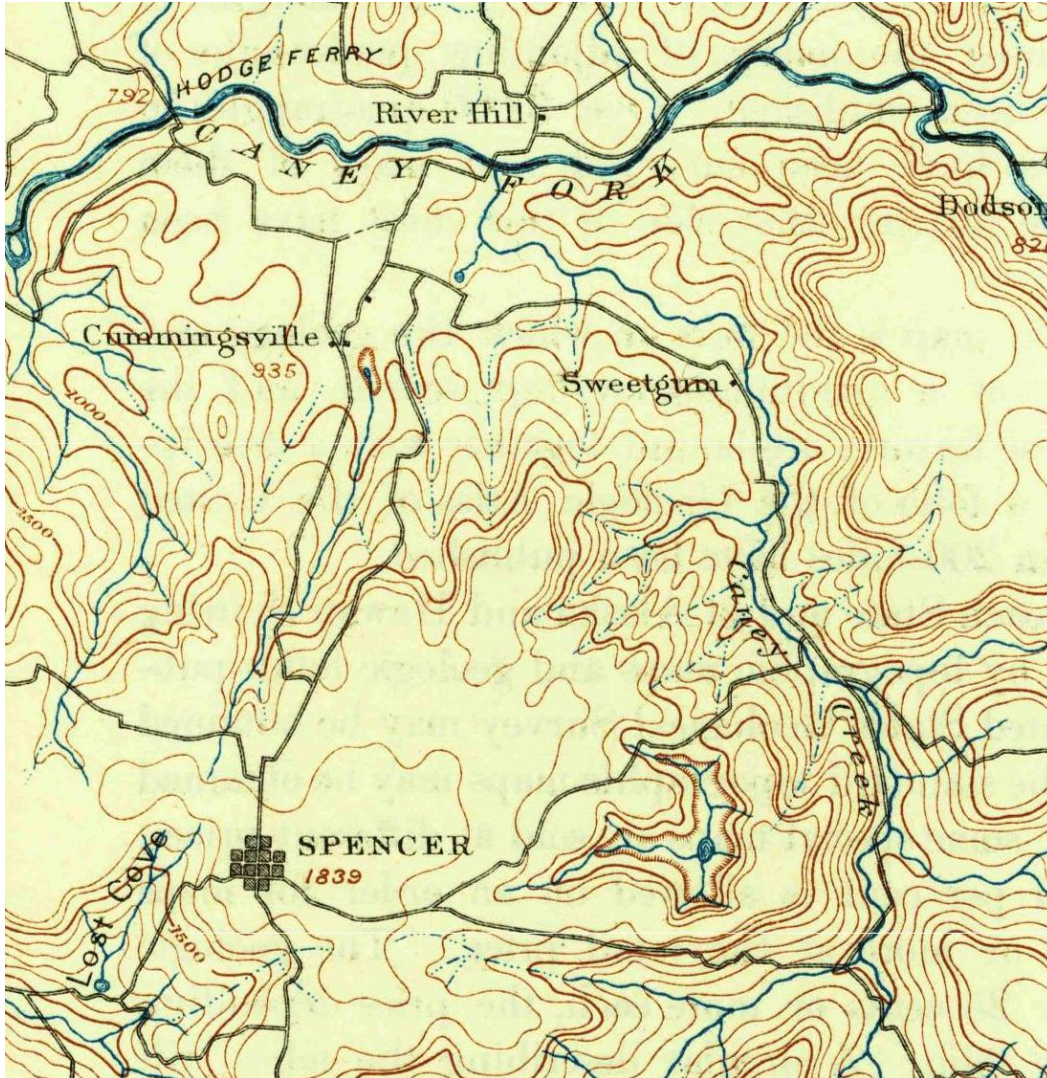
Christopher Acuff appeared on the 1820 federal census in White County, but not Jesse Kitchen:

Christopher Acuff

- 1 free while male 10-15
- 1 free while male over 45
- 1 free while female over 45

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<sup>21</sup> White County, Tennessee, Trustee's Office, Tax Books, 1811–1965, FamilySearch Film #507969, Image Group Number (DGS) #7896031, available at FamilySearch.org at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/258245> (accessed 20 Apr 2024).



**Figure 2. Cane Creek area, modern-day Van Buren County, Tennessee.  
Cropped from 1895 USGS Topographic Map, Pikeville Quadrangle, 1:125,000.**

By 1822, the names of neither Christopher Acuff nor Jesse Kitchen appeared on the White County tax list. William Brown, father-in-law of James Matlock Kitchens, left White County after 1813, probably going to Bledsoe County, Tennessee, for several years, before migrating to Lawrence County, Alabama, about 1817. James Kitchens probably joined the Browns in this venture. Mr. Acuff, rather than going to Alabama with James Kitchens, as Dombhart has it, appears to have stayed a few years longer in Tennessee.

James Matlock Kitchens and Sarah (Brown) Kitchens both originated in this Cane Creek community in White County, Tennessee. Christopher Acuff's presence there, and his later presence in Lawrence County, confirms a close family relationship, perhaps indeed being James Kitchens' uncle. But who was Jesse Kitchen, and how did he relate? Where did the families come from before White County?

## Kitchen(s) in Grainger County, Tennessee

Pursuing these names—both Christopher Acuff and Jesse Kitchen—leads back to Grainger County, Tennessee, quite near to Jefferson County, Tennessee, the traditional place of origin given for James Matlock Kitchens. In the 1810 federal census of Grainger County, we find:

Page	Head of Family	Male under 10	Male 10-16	Male 16-26	Male 26-45	Male 45+	Female under 10	Female 10-16	Female 16-26	Female 26-45	Female 45+	Free Colored	Slaves
6	Sarah Matlock		1	1	1						1		3
6	Cain Acuff					1					1		
6	Richard Acuff	2			1		3			1			
6	William Acuff	2			1		1		1				
6	Hercules Ogle			3		1		1			1		
6	John Acuff	4	2	1	1		1	1	1	1			
6	James Acuff			1					1				
6	Henry Acuff	1		1					1				
6	Thomas Ogle	1			1		4		1				
9	Christopher Acuff		1		1					1			
10	Jesse Kitchen	3			1		1			1			
10	William Kitchen					1					1		
10	John Acuff					1					1		

Table 1. 1810 Federal Census, Grainger County, Tennessee.<sup>22</sup>

We can assume from this that Jesse Kitchen was born between 1765 and 1784, close to the same age or perhaps slightly younger than Christopher Acuff, born about 1770, if we assume he is “Christopher” of the 1850 census. And if we look for James Matlock Kitchens in this record—we might guess that he is the male aged between 10 and 16 living in the household of Christopher Acuff.

If Jesse Kitchen were born about 1780, he might perhaps be an older brother to James Matlock Kitchens (born 1796) and George Kitchens (born about 1784). In Grainger County, dated 22 Apr 1802, we find the marriage bond for the marriage of Jesse Kitchen and Catherine Acuff. This suggests another possible reason for an association between the two: in addition to Christopher

<sup>22</sup> Pollyanna Creekmore, ed., *Grainger County, Tennessee, Federal Census of 1810, Population Schedule (Third Census) and County Tax Lists for 1810*, McClung Historical Collection Special Studies No. 1 (Knoxville: Lawson McGhee Library, 1956). Available on FamilySearch.org at <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/60400-grainger-county-tennessee-federal-census-of-1810-population-schedule-third-census-and-county-tax-lists-for-1810> (accessed 3 May 2024).

Acuff being an uncle, probably by marriage to the sister of their mother or father, Jesse Kitchen also married an Acuff, perhaps Christopher's sister.

In addition, we find these marriage bonds in Grainger County:

George Kitchen	to	Lucy Cox	7 Jul 1806
Kain Acuff	to	Patsy Kitchen	20 Jul 1797

Lucy Cox was probably the first wife of George Kitchen(s), the mother of his older children. George evidently had already left Grainger County by 1810. Early Tennessee land registers record the entry of George Kitchen into 25 acres of land in Warren County, Tennessee, adjacent to White County, on 9 Jan 1810. The land described in this entry was probably within twenty miles of the Cane Creek community in White County.<sup>23</sup> Patsy Kitchen may have been another member of this group, and Kain Acuff another relation of Christopher Acuff.

## John Kitchen of Virginia and Tennessee

To find the origins of these Grainger County Kitchen families, we look back to the first documented Kitchens in the state of Tennessee.

On 20 Jun 1797, in Grainger County, John Kitchen was one of three men commissioned as a lieutenant in the county militia. A man of forty years and a Revolutionary veteran, he had recently, within the past year, come to the new state of Tennessee from Henry County, Virginia, where he had left pending litigation in the chancery court.

According to his Revolutionary pension application, John Kitchen was born 25 Apr 1757 in Bedford County, Virginia. John's father, William Kitchen, born sometime around 1730–1735, also came to Tennessee with him. We can document William Kitchen in Bedford County records as early as 1761, the only man named Kitchen in that county. William Kitchen's land in Bedford County neighbored the land of William Matlock (1702–1767).

Shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary War, John Kitchen moved to Henry County, where he was drafted into service in the Virginia Militia in February 1781. After the close of the war in 1783, he continued to reside in Henry County for ten or fifteen years before moving to Tennessee about 1796. Soon after moving to Tennessee, he married a second time, to Mary Whitten, his first wife having recently died.<sup>24</sup> He moved with his Whitten in-laws to what would become Anderson

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<sup>23</sup> Ancestry.com, Tennessee, U.S., Early Land Registers, 1778–1927. Series 2: Entries, 1807–1809, Book 44, Entry Book, 3<sup>rd</sup> Surveyor's District, Entry No. 961, George Kitchen, accessed 21 Apr 2024 at <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/101889:3658?ssrc=pt&tid=152142198&pid=282552885677>.

<sup>24</sup> Mary's widow's pension application states that she married John Kitchen in "January or February 1796," which poses a potential problem: if this date is accurate, and James Matlock Kitchens was born 7 Aug 1796

County, Tennessee. He lived the rest of his life in Anderson County, applying for a Revolutionary pension there in 1832.<sup>25</sup> He died in 1847.<sup>26</sup>

We believe, based on triangulated DNA matches connecting James Matlock Kitchens descendants to Jesse Kitchen and other suspected Kitchen siblings who lived in and around Grainger County, Tennessee, that James Kitchens was the son of John Kitchen (1757–1847), and his first wife, a Matlock. We can identify these as probable siblings:

1. **Martha (Patsy) Kitchen**, born perhaps about 1774 in Bedford County, Virginia; married (1) **Cain Acuff** in 1797 in Grainger County, Tennessee, (2) **John Sullivan**.
2. **William Kitchen**, born perhaps about 1776 in Bedford County, Virginia; married **Nancy Matlock** in 1801 in Knox County, Tennessee. He died after 1840 in Missouri.
3. **John Kitchen**, born 1778 in Bedford County, Virginia; married (1) **Mary Dennis**, probably in Grainger County, Tennessee, and (2) **Catherine McQuiston**. He served in the War of 1812 from Grainger County and later lived in McMinn County, Tennessee.
4. **Jesse Kitchen**, born perhaps about 1780 in Bedford County, Virginia; married **Catherine Acuff** in 1802 in Grainger County, Tennessee. He later moved to Arkansas and then to the Republic of Texas, where he died in 1837.

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as Dombhart states (apparently relying on a family bible record), then Mary Whitten might have been his mother rather than John's first wife Miss Matlock. But Frederick Miller, the justice of the peace who Mary claims performed the marriage, was not commissioned as a justice of the peace in Knox County, Tennessee, until 11 Jan 1799. Mary could provide no documentary evidence of the marriage at this date, only her sister as a witness, who stated that the marriage took place "in the winter of 1796." Mary's only known child by John, Susan (Kitchen) Stooksbury, was not born until about 1803. It is possible that Mary attempted to fudge the marriage date in her application to make herself eligible to receive a pension, as under the Pension Act of July 29, 1848, only widows were eligible who had been married to a veteran prior to 2 Jan 1800. DNA evidence, especially from the X chromosome, strongly indicates that James Matlock Kitchens had the same mother as several of the older known Kitchen children.

<sup>25</sup> Fold3.com, "U.S. Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800–1900," John Kitchen, Virginia, Pension Number W2737, <https://www.fold3.com/image/26164125/kitchen-john-page-1-us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900> (accessed 23 Apr 2024); originally from National Archives and Record Administration, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, NARA Publication M804, Record Group 15, Catalog ID 300022. Veteran's statement is transcribed and available on RevWarApps.org, "Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements," <https://revwarapps.org/w2737.pdf> (transcribed by C. Leon Harris, accessed 23 Apr 2024).

<sup>26</sup> Two different death dates are given by the pension application file and the pension final pay voucher. In the application file, the widow's declaration for a pension, dated 23 Aug 1851, states that John Kitchen died 29 Aug 1845. In the final pay voucher file, the widow's declaration of 13 Mar 1848 states that he died 13 Aug 1847. "Selected Final Pension Payment Vouchers, 1818–1864," NARA Record Group 217, Entry A1-722, files of John Kitchen and widow Mary Kitchen.

5. **Mary (Polly) Kitchen**, born about 1783 in Henry County, Virginia; married **Samuel P. Stewart**.
6. **George Kitchen(s)**, born about 1784 in Henry County, Virginia; married (1) **Lucy Cox** in 1806 in Grainger County, Tennessee, and (2) **Oma Dillard** in 1827 in Lauderdale County, Alabama. He followed James Matlock Kitchens to Lawrence County, Alabama and later to Walker County, where he died probably after 1860.
7. **Elizabeth Kitchen**, born perhaps about 1788 in Henry County, Virginia; married **Josiah Oaks** 6 Jan 1807 in Campbell County, Tennessee.
8. **Charles Kitchen**, born perhaps about 1790 in Henry County, Virginia; married **Joanna Matlock** in 1813 in Roane County, Tennessee.
9. **James Matlock Kitchen(s)**, born 1796 in Grainger County, Tennessee, or possibly Jefferson County, if family legend be believed; married **Sarah Brown** about 1813 in White County, Tennessee. He moved to Lawrence County, Alabama, about 1817, and to Walker County about 1836. He died in 1868.

John Kitchen (b. 1757) also had at least one daughter with his second wife, Mary Whitten:

10. **Susan Kitchen**, born 1803 in Anderson County, Tennessee, married **William Stooksbury**. In 1850, she was still living in Anderson County, Tennessee, with her mother, Mary (Whitten) Kitchen, age 90, living in the household.

The fact that James Kitchens was so young when his mother died—perhaps she even died in childbirth—may suggest a reason why it appears he was raised by his uncle and went to live with him in White County. Bereft of a wife, possibly for as long as several years, John Kitchen may have given the baby to his wife’s kin to care for. Christopher Acuff was probably James’s uncle by marriage, the husband of his mother’s sister.

Some researchers have placed William Kitchen Sr. (b. ca. 1730), father of John Kitchen, as the father of some in this list of children. This is conceivable, but given the fact that William would have been fifty years or older by the time even the youngest of them was born, this seems less likely. The proximity of these children in age appears to point to them being born from the same union, and DNA evidence appears to support this conclusion.

With these names in mind, we can turn to our findings from DNA.

## The Kitchen(s)-Matlock DNA Trail

In our DNA analysis of the Kitchens family, we utilized both autosomal DNA and Y-DNA, from a collection of tests made available to us. Several of our testers are now deceased, and we wish to honor their contributions:

- **Mr. Virgil “Mac” Hamilton (1936–2019):** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Mary (Kitchens) Hamilton (b. 1814) > Christopher Columbus Hamilton (b. 1853) > Mae Bell Hamilton (b. 1887) > Elwood Freeland Hamilton (b. 1905) > Virgil Hamilton
- **Mrs. Vicille (Hogan) Hill (1932–2018):** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Elizabeth (Kitchens) Dutton (b. 1817) > Lavina P. (Dutton) Hogan (b. 1850) > David Wesley Hogan (b. 1876) > Vicille (Hogan) Hill
- **Mr. Floyd Gerald Kitchen (1935–2017):** William Kitchen (b. ~1776) > Charles Kitchen > George Solomon Kitchen (b. 1838) > Solomon James Kitchen (b. 1882) > Floyd Kitchen (b. 1902) > Floyd Gerald Kitchen
- **Mr. LaRoy Wayne Carroll (1929–2021):** John Kitchen (b. ~1778) > Rebecca Ann Kitchen (b. 1836) > Columbus Sherman Johnson (b. 1864) > Bessie Olivia (Johnson) Carroll (b. 1900) > LaRoy Wayne Carroll.

In overview of our findings, we found solid confirmation in the Y-DNA that James Matlock Kitchens comes from the same paternal line as William Kitchen (b. 1776), son of John Kitchen. In the autosomal DNA, we found clustered and triangulated DNA matches showing a high probability that James Kitchens and George Kitchens were the siblings of the proposed John Kitchen children above, and additionally, showing close kinship to the Matlock family of Bedford County, Virginia, and Grainger County, Tennessee. In X-DNA, the DNA of the X chromosome, we found DNA matches that can be definitively attributed to James Matlock Kitchens’ mother, strongly indicating that James shared a mother with even the older Kitchen children, and that that mother was likely a member of the Matlock family. We found no indications of an ancestral relationship between James Matlock Kitchens and the Acuff family, suggesting that the Acuffs were probably relations by marriage.

### AncestryDNA Shared Clustering

One of the most important sources of DNA evidence, especially early in this research, was a clustering of Virgil Hamilton’s AncestryDNA matches generated by Jonathan Brecher’s Shared Clustering tool.<sup>27</sup> AncestryDNA offers valuable information in the sheer volume of its database of

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<sup>27</sup> “Shared Clustering,” <https://www.fold3.com/image/26164125/kitchen-john-page-1-us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900> (accessed 21 Apr 2024).



testers, but its utility is limited by the lack of a chromosome browser. The clustering of matches by shared matches seeks to overcome this shortcoming. A triangulated cluster indicates a likelihood that the matches occurred on the same shared DNA segment.

Below are sampled results from several clusters, to demonstrate the strong, triangulated DNA connections between James Matlock Kitchens and the Kitchen family of Grainger County, Tennessee. There are many more matches in each cluster than shown here.

## Cluster 471-472

*This cluster establishes a clear connection between James Matlock Kitchens and Jesse Kitchens.*

**D.W.:** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Mary (Kitchens) Hamilton (b. 1816) > James Jackson Hamilton (b. 1837) > James Frank Hamilton (b. 1867) > Cordelia Elizabeth (Hamilton) Willingham (b. 1889) > James Edward Willingham (b. 1920) > D.W.

**R.K.:** Jesse Kitchen (b. 1780) > Pharoah Kitchen (b. 1803) > Lewis Halcomb Kitchens (b. 1843) > Samuel Henry Kitchens (b. 1873) > Henry Nathaniel Pharoah Kitchens (b. 1920) > R.K.

**B.S.:** Jesse Kitchen (b. 1780) > Pharoah Kitchen (b. 1803) > Lewis Halcomb Kitchens (b. 1843) > William Anderson Kitchens (b. 1865) > Albert Aden Kitchens (b. 1886) > Suda Viola (Kitchens) Sutton (b. 1926) > B.S.

**E.C.H.:** Jesse Kitchen (b. 1780) > Anderson Kitchens (b. 1810) > Mary Jane (Kitchens) Tyler > Rufus Kitchens Tyler (b. 1862) > Richard Tyler (b. 1899) > Betty Louisa (Tyler) Hemple (b. 1929) > E.C.H.

**V.H to D.W.:** 36.4 cM, 2 segments. In common with: R.K., B.S., E.C.H.

**V.H. to R.K.:** 38.3 cM, 1 segment. In common with: D.W., B.S., E.C.H.

**V.H. to B.S.:** 37.7 cM, 1 segment. In common with: D.W., R.K., E.C.H.

**V.H. to E.C.H.:** 20.5 cM, 1 segment. In common with: D.W., R.K., B.S.

## Cluster 214

*This cluster establishes a connection between James Matlock Kitchens, George Kitchens, William Kitchen (b. 1776), Charles Kitchen (b. 1790), and Patsy (Kitchen) Acuff-Sullivan.*

**J.T.:** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Christopher Columbus Kitchens (b. 1827) > John Matlock Kitchens (b. 1854) > Benjamin Franklin Kitchens (b. 1886) > Ervle Alice (Kitchens) Tucker (b. 1908) > J. M. (Jim) Tucker (b. 1936) > J.T.

**M.S.:** George Kitchens (b. 1784) > Sarah (Kitchens) Brown (b. 1816) > Fannie M. (Brown) Marlin (b. 1844) > Alvin Marlin (b. 1880) > Homer Theldon Marlin (b. 1911) > Mary Sandra Marlin (b. 1939) > M.S.

**C.F.:** George Kitchens (b. 1784) > Sarah (Kitchens) Brown (b. 1816) > Samuel A. Brown (b. 1857) > Alonzo Dovey Brown (b. 1884) > Dorothy Lorena Brown (b. 1919) > C.F.

**W.S.:** William Kitchen (b. 1776) > William Riley Kitchen (b. 1809) > Reuben Franklin Kitchen (b. 1849) > Jesse Nelson Kitchen (b. 1883) > Wanda Maxine (Kitchen) Lloyd (b. 1925) > (Private) > (Private) > W.S.

**J.B.:** Charles Kitchen (b. 1790) > James B. Kitchen (b. 1818) > Calvin Henry Kitchen (b. 1847) > Nettie Belle (Kitchen) Bruner > Franklin Calvin Bruner (b. 1903) > Kenneth J. Bruner (b. 1929) > (Private) > J.B.

**K.S.:** Patsy (Kitchen) Acuff-Sullivan (b. 1777) > William Kitchen Sullivan (b. 1803) > Jonathan A. Sullivan (b. 1830) > Joseph Lafayette Sullivan (b. 1854) > Fred Warren Sullivan (b. 1915) > K.S.

**V.H. to J.T.:** 44.3 cM, 2 segments. In common with: M.S., W.S., K.S., C.F., J.B.

**V.H. to M.S.:** 28 cM, 1 segment. In common with: J.T., W.S., K.S., C.F., J.B.

**V.H. to C.F.:** 31.9 cM, 2 segments. In common with: J.T., M.S., W.S., K.S., J.B.

**V.H. to W.S.:** 23.5 cM, 1 segment. In common with: J.T., M.S., C.F., J.B.

**V.H. to J.B.:** 22.0 cM, 1 segment. In common with: J.T., C.F., M.S., C.F., W.S.

**V.H. to K.S.:** 20.7 cM, 1 segment. In common with: J.T., M.S., C.F.

*This cluster has been partially identified with Chromosome 2, ~33.5–35M.*

#### Cluster 439-440

*This cluster establishes a connection between James Matlock Kitchens, Mary (Kitchen) Stewart, Elizabeth (Kitchen) Oaks, and the William Matlock family.*

**K.F.:** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Nancy (Kitchens) Roberson (b. 1813) > Nancy Jane (Roberson) Dobbs (b. 1845) > James Samuel Dobbs (b. 1876) > Willie Florence (Dobbs) Stuart (b. 1903) > Catherine Hope (Stuart) Holliday > K.F.

**N.S.:** Elizabeth (Kitchen) Oaks (b. 1788) > Isaac Oaks (b. 1827) > John Robert Oaks (b. 1853) > Matilda Emmerline (Oaks) Moore > Bessie Aline (Moore) Bailey > N.S.

**D.S:** Elizabeth (Kitchen) Oaks (b. 1788) > Fair Ellender Oaks (b. 1823) > Elizabeth Ann (Sharp) Smith (b. 1847) > Laura Bell (Smith) Fraker (b. 1878) > Rosa Mae (Fraker) Simpson (b. 1920) > D.S.

**R.D.:** Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > Sarah Jane (Stewart) Stapp (b. 1802) > Samuel Ralph Stapp (b.1824) > Isabela (Stapp) Clay (b.1860) > Etha Margaret (Clay) Douglass (b. 1888) > Earl Howard Douglass (b. 1916) > R.D.

**D.D.:** William Matlock (b. 1750) > Jesse Matlock (b. 1796) > John C. Matlock (b. 1828) > Caledonia (Matlock) Robinson (b. 1860)

**V.H. to K.F.:** 43.4 cM, 2 segments. In common with: N.S., D.S., R.D., D.D.

**V.H. to N.S.:** 48.4 cM, 3 segments. In common with: K.F., D.S., R.D.

**V.H. to D.S.:** 31.4 cM, 2 segments. In common with: K.F., N.S.

**V.H. to R.D.:** 34.5 cM, 1 segment. In common with: K.F., N.S., D.D.

**V.H. to D:D.:** 24.4 cM, 1 segment. In common with: K.F., R.D.

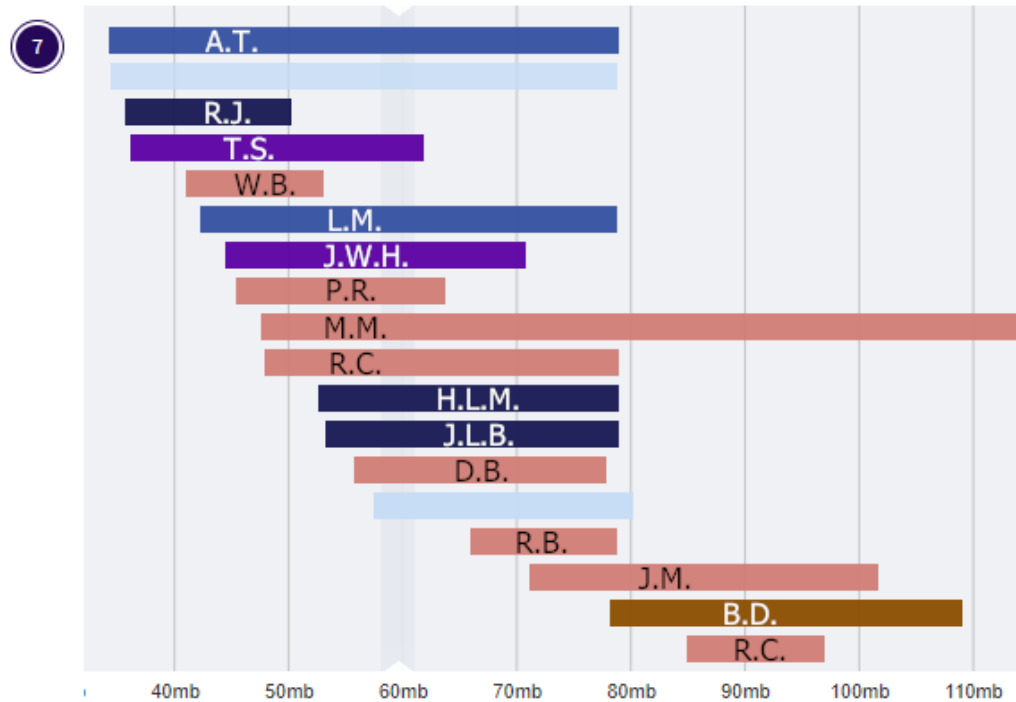
### **Autosomal Mapping**

Even more important than autosomal clustering, but also more challenging, is mapping those clusters to identifiable DNA segments. This allows firm proof of triangulation, showing that shared DNA segments in fact are shared in the same locations. Other DNA matching sites that feature a chromosome browser, such as Family Tree DNA, GEDmatch, and MyHeritage, do not have the same volume of potential matches that Ancestry has. Many of the people with whom our testers match at Ancestry cannot be found or identified on other sites.

Below are several loci where we have identified triangulated Kitchens and Matlock DNA, which bolster the evidence of the above conclusions.

## Chromosome 7

*A cluster showing connections between James Matlock Kitchens, Mary (Kitchen) Stewart, and several members of the Matlock family.*



**Figure 3. Segments on Chromosome 7 cluster for Vicille Hogan.**

**Vicille Hogan to J.W.H.:** 17.3 cM on segment, 527.1 cM total across 25 segments total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Elizabeth (Dutton) Kitchens (b. 1817) > Lavina P. (Dutton) Hogan (b. 1850) > James Fuller Hogan (b. 1874) > James Luther Hogan (b. 1900) > James William Hogan (1932–2014).

**Vicille Hogan to M.M.:** 64.1 cM on segment, 82.0 cM across 3 segments total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Frances (Kitchens) Sparks (b. 1818) > Mary Elizabeth (Sparks) Leith (b. 1863) > Cora Mae (Leith) Cooner (b. 1898) > Howard Leon Cooner (b. 1925) > (Private) > M.M.

**Vicille Hogan to R.C.:** 21.6 + 9.4 cM on two segments, 31.0 cM total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Frances (Kitchens) Sparks (b. 1818) > Mary Elizabeth (Sparks) Leith (b. 1863) > Cora Mae (Leith) Cooner (b. 1898) > William Ray Cooner (b. 1932) > R.C.

**Vicille Hogan to D.B.:** 13.2 cM on segment, 60.1 cM across 4 segments total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Jesse Kitchens (b. 1837) > Nancy Ann (Kitchens) Bell (b. 1861) > Elijah Sylvester Bell (b. 1900) > D.B.

**Vicille Hogan to A.T.:** 38.3 cM on segment, 76.3 cM across 2 segments total. Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > John Gilbert Stewart (b. 1809) > William Jefferson Stewart (b. 1846) > Bollin Christopher Stewart (b. 1864) > Margaret Rosetta (Stewart) Taylor (b. 1887) > William Arlie Taylor (b. 1911) > Charles Morris Taylor (b. 1936) > A.T.

**Vicille Hogan to L.M.:** 28.9 cM on segment, 56.7 cM across 3 segments total. Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > John Gilbert Stewart (b. 1809) > William Jefferson Stewart (b. 1846) > Sarah Martha (Stewart) Collins (b. 1870) > Birdie Mae (Collins) Thornton (b. 1901) > William Homer Thornton Jr. (b. 1924) > L.M.

**Vicille Hogan to R.J.:** 17.cM on segment and total. Mary (Matlock) Bohannon (b. 1769) > John Bohannon (b. 1790) > Martha (Bohannon) Hunter (b. 1824) > George Washington Hunter (b. 1860) > Joe Hunter (b. 1886) > R.J.

**Vicille Hogan to H.L.M.:** 16.4 cM on segment and total. James Matlock (b. 1769) > Isaac Matlock (b. 1794) > Clinton Albert Matlock (b. 1816) > Jesse Melton Matlock (b. 1854) > John Quince Matlock (b. 1885) > Harley Lee Matlock (1921–2021)

**Vicille Hogan to J.L.B.:** 16.1 cM on segment and total. James Matlock (b. 1769) > Clinton Albert Matlock (b. 1816) > Miranda Clementine (Matlock) Davidson (b. 1848) > Samuel Bascum Davidson (b. 1887) > Opal Syderia (Davidson) Breece (b. 1917) > J.L.B.

## Chromosome 13

A cluster showing connections between James Matlock Kitchens, George Kitchens, John Kitchen (b. 1778), Jesse Kitchen, and Mary (Kitchen) Stewart.

**Vicille Hogan to B.L.:** 28.7 cM on segment, 54.6 cM across 3 segments total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Jesse Kitchens (b. 1837) > William Calvin Kitchens (b. 1860) > Marcus Fernando Kitchens (b. 1883) > Eva Bea (Kitchens) Ledford Laymon (b. 1915) > B.L.

**Vicille Hogan to W.B.:** 17.3 cM on segment, 94.5 cM across 5 segments total. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Jesse Kitchens (b. 1837) > Martha Abigail (Kitchens) Grace (b. 1873) > Clifford Johnnie Grace (b. 1905) > Ann Elizabeth (Grace) Brom (b. 1935) > W.B.

**Vicille Hogan to A.K.:** 22.6 cM on segment and total. George Kitchens (b. 1784) > Richard Anderson Kitchens (b. 1834) > William Randolph Kitchens (b. 1860) > Ruby Kitchens (b. 1894) > Travis Eugene Kitchens (b. 1925) > A.K.

**Vicille Hogan to L.C.:** 9.5 cM on segment, 55.8 cM across 3 segments total. John Kitchen (b. 1778) > Rebecca Ann Kitchen (b. 1836) > Columbus Sherman Johnson (b. 1864) > Bessie Olivia (Johnson) Carroll (b. 1900) > LaRoy Wayne Carroll (1929–2021).

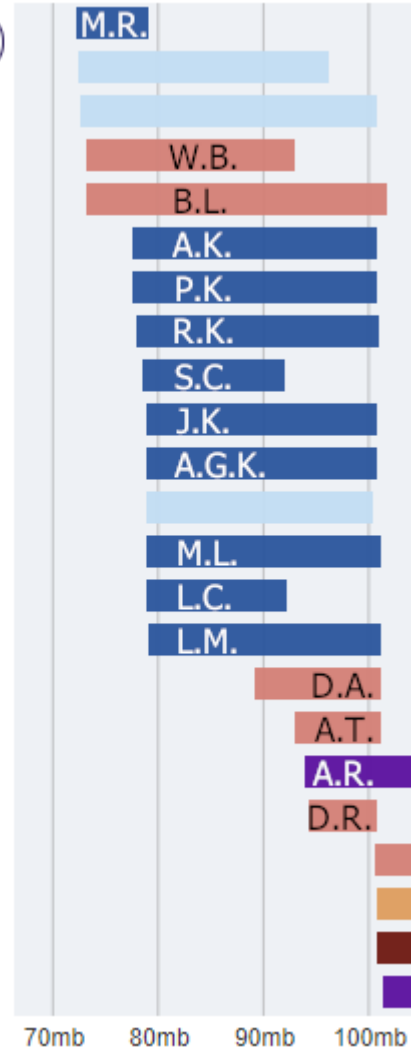
**Vicille Hogan to L.M.:** 20.1 cM on segment, 56.7 cM across 3 segments total. Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > John Gilbert Stewart (b. 1809) > William Jefferson Stewart (b. 1846) > Sarah Martha (Stewart) Collins (b. 1872) > Birdie Mae (Collins) Thornton (b. 1901) > William Homer Thornton Jr. (b. 1924) > L.M.

**Vicille Hogan to M.L.:** 22.4 cM on segment, 42.1 cM across 3 segments total. Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > John Gilbert Stewart (b. 1809) > Sarah Malissa (Stewart) Perry (b. 1835) > John Benjamin Perry (b. 1857) > Roland Oliver Perry (b. 1892) > Leslie Ervin Perry (b. 1924) > M.L.

**Vicille Hogan to M.R.:** 9.0 cM on segment and total. Jesse Kitchen (b. 1780) > Martha Ann (Kitchen) Wood (b. 1817) > Annie Isabelle (Wood) Pratt (b. 1859) > Surilda Martha Ann (Pratt) Rogers (b. 1883) > Clarence Probert Rogers (b. 1904) > Marvin Leroy Rogers (b. 1927) > M.R.

*P.K., R.K., J.K., and A.G.K. are other closely-related George Kitchens descendants. S.C. is the daughter of L.C., the John Kitchen descendant.*

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**Figure 4. Segments on Chromosome 13 cluster for Vicille Hogan.**

## **X-DNA**

X-DNA, the DNA of the X chromosome, provided crucial evidence in this research. As the female sex chromosome, the X chromosome has a unique inheritance pattern, that results in DNA only being inherited from a select subset of one's ancestral families, and the retention of large DNA segments from ancestors as far as five and six generations back.

A female receives two X chromosomes from her parents, one from her father and one from her mother. A male only receives one X chromosome, from his mother. The result of this is that a male has X-DNA only from his maternal side of the family, while a female has X-DNA from both sides of her family. This rule continues to recurse through each generation: since a female's father inherited his X chromosome from his mother, the daughter female has X-DNA from three of her four grandparents, her mother's two parents and her father's mother. Looking to generations beyond that, the daughter female has X-DNA from only five of her eight great-grandparents; only eight of her sixteen great-great-grandparents; only thirteen of her thirty-two great-great-great-grandparents.

This process proved to be particularly important in James Matlock Kitchens' large family, since James had seven known daughters to pass down his X-DNA. As long as those daughters had daughters, or had sons who then had daughters, that X-DNA could continue down to this day. In the case of our tester, Mrs. Vicille (Hogan) Hill, she proved to be in an ideal position genealogically to inherit Kitchens-Brown X-DNA, her father being a grandson of Elizabeth (Kitchens) Dutton, daughter of James Matlock Kitchens and Sarah Brown. The X chromosome that Vicille received from her father consists wholly of DNA from five people: the parents of Omah (Parrish) Dutton; William Brown and Mary Ogle, the parents of Sarah (Brown) Kitchens; and the mother of James Matlock Kitchens.

To our continued great fortune, Vicille's X-DNA matched descendants of other daughters of James Matlock Kitchens, and of his siblings—and from other members of the Matlock family.

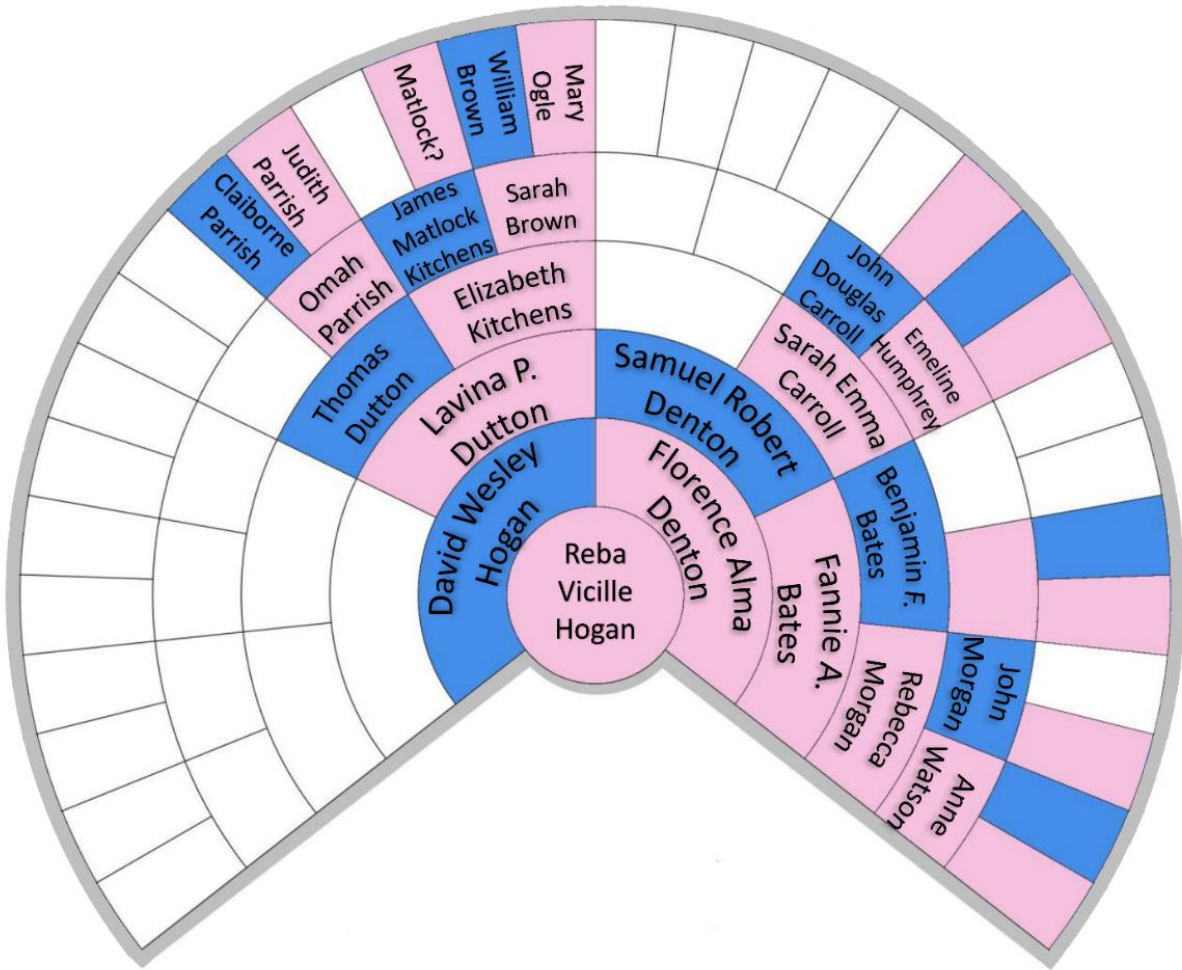


Figure 5. X-DNA inheritance chart for Vicille (Hogan) Hill.<sup>28</sup>

In order for a line of descent from an ancestor to be valid for X-DNA inheritance, for a male, it must be on his maternal side, and must not have traversed more than one consecutive male ancestor. That is, if the line passes through a male ancestor, it must then proceed to his mother, not his father. For a female, the path can be either paternal or maternal, but in either case, cannot have traversed through more than one consecutive male ancestor.

Through Vicille Hogan, we discovered these matches, each occurring on the 136M–end segment of her paternal X chromosome, and each having a documentable path of X-DNA inheritance:

- **Vicille Hogan to K.W.:** 43.3 cM. James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Mary (Kitchens) Hamilton (b. 1814) > James Jackson Hamilton (b. 1837) > Mary Elizabeth (Hamilton)

<sup>28</sup> Graphic based on blank charts from Blaine Bettinger, “Unlocking the Genealogical Secrets of the X Chromosome,” The Genetic Genealogist, <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2008/12/21/unlocking-the-genealogical-secrets-of-the-x-chromosome/> (accessed 23 Apr 2024).



Jackson (b. 1862) > Martha Ann (Jackson) Broome (b. 1884) > Ernest Vaughn Broome (b. 1905) > Edna Christine (Broome) Waters (b. 1930) > K.W.

- **Vicille Hogan to S.L.:** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Frances (Kitchens) Sparks (b. 1824) > Sarah Ellen (Sparks) Boshell (b. 1843) > Thomas James Boshell (b. 1885) > Sarah Lorraine (Boshell) Stocks (b. 1916) > Martha Frances (Stocks) Lambert (b. 1936) > S.L.
- **Vicille Hogan to N.M.:** 43.3 cM. Mary (Kitchen) Stewart (b. 1783) > Sarah (Stewart) Stapp (b. 1802) > Samuel Ralph Stapp (b. 1824) > Margaret Ellen (Stapp) Coleman (b. 1858) > Bertha Marquerite (Coleman) Jones (b. 1887) > Carol Pavlowa (Jones) Heath (b. 1914) > Evelyn (Heath) Martin (b. 1931) > (Private) > N.M.
- **Vicille Hogan to LaRoy Carroll:** 37.0 cM. John Kitchen (b. 1778) > Rebecca Ann Kitchen (b. 1836) > Columbus Sherman Johnson (b. 1864) > Bessie Olivia (Johnson) Carroll (b. 1900) > LaRoy Wayne Carroll (1929–2021)
- **Vicille Hogan to S.G.:** 28.9 cM. Sarah (Matlock) Forrest (b. 1783) > Lucinda (Forrest) Bureson (b. 1815) > Mariah (Bureson) Moulder (b. 1846) > Josephine Addie Mae (Moulder) Wise (b. 1881) > Samuel Homer Wise (b. 1902) > Ruthie Ora Wise (b. 1925) > (Private) > S.G.
- **Vicille Hogan to M.C.:** 26.4 cM. Sarah (Matlock) Forrest (b. 1783) > Mary Elizabeth (Forrest) Martin (b. 1805) > George Taylor Martin (b. 1847) > Ima Jane (Martin) McMichael (b. 1880) > Jackson Lee McMichael (b. 1908) > (Private) > M.C.
- **Vicille Hogan to R.B.:** 27.5 cM. Mary (Matlock) Dodson (b. 1789) > Nicholas Perkins Dodson (b. 1806) > Elizabeth Arlene (Dodson) Johnson (b. 1835) > David Johnson (b. 1872) > (Private) > R.B.
- **Vicille Hogan to B.M.:** 21.2 cM: Mary (Matlock) Bohannon (b. 1769) > John Bohannon (b. 1790) > Martha (Bohannon) Hunter (b. 1824) > Amy (Hunter) Kirby (b. 1870) > William Madison Kirby (b. 1899) > Betty Jean (Kirby) McLeod (b. 1929) > B.M.

The first two matches, to K.W., and S.L., establish that this DNA segment comes from James Matlock Kitchens or Sarah Brown down to Vicille Hogan.

The next two Kitchen matches, to N.M. and LaRoy Carroll, connect the segment definitively to James Matlock Kitchens and to his mother, and all but guarantee that both Mary (Kitchen) Stewart and John Kitchen were James's full siblings. In order for two males to have received the same X-DNA, they would either have to have had the same mother (since males only inherit X-DNA from their mothers), or their mothers would have to have been close relatives, probably sisters or cousins. Given that James and John have the same surname, they would either have to be siblings,

or the sons of two different Kitchen men who married women who were closely kin. Since the only two Kitchen men who appear who appear in records in Bedford or Henry counties in Virginia during the 1780s are John Kitchen (b. 1757) and William Kitchen (b. ca. 1730), believed to be John's father—it appears unlikely that both men would have been married to women so closely kin to one another, and far more likely that John and James were brothers.

The last four matches, to S.G., M.C., R.B., and B.M., strongly indicate that James Kitchens' mother was more than likely a Matlock. We know that two of the matched Matlock women, Sarah (Matlock) Forrest and Mary (Matlock) Dodson, were sisters, the daughters of John Matlock (born perhaps about 1755 and died 1802). The third, Mary (Matlock) Bohannon, was born about 1769. Our research has not discovered a definitive answer of how James Kitchens connects to these Matlocks, but one possibility based on strong autosomal matches, X-DNA matches, and geographical proximity, is that John Matlock, Mary (Matlock) Bohannon, and John Kitchen's first wife were siblings, likely all descendants of William Matlock (b. 1702).

And given that he was named James Matlock Kitchens, it is entirely appropriate to suppose that his mother was a Matlock.

## Y-DNA

### George Kitchens line

Y-DNA research of the Kitchens family yielded some surprises. The first Y-DNA tests we had available were from descendants of George Kitchens (born about 1784), believed to be the brother of James Matlock Kitchens, per Dombhart and family tradition. Our prime Y-DNA tester for the George Kitchens line was:

**P.K.:** George Kitchens (b. 1784) > Richard Anderson Kitchens (b. 1834) > William Randolph Kitchens (b. 1860) > Ruby Kitchens (b. 1894) > Travis Eugene Kitchens (b. 1925) > P.K.

To our surprise, P.K.'s Y-DNA matched not men named *Kitchens*, but men named *Matlock*, with matches to Matlock descendants from Virginia and Tennessee lines. And this discovery is what immediately spurred our research into the James Matlock Kitchens line.

Apparently, there had been a non-paternity event at some point in the George Kitchens line. But where? The most likely point appeared to be with George himself, in Virginia, where the Kitchen family had direct contact with the Matlock family. Alternately, it could have been with Richard Anderson Kitchens, as there was at least one Matlock family in Lawrence County, Alabama, where he was born.

Later, we found another Y-DNA tester, from another son of George Kitchens:

**S.K.:** George Kitchens (b. 1784) > John Kitchens (b. 1809) > George W. Kitchens (b. 1834) > George Washington Kitchens (b. 1855) > William Thomas Kitchens (b. 1885) > Thomas Boyd Kitchens (b. 1918) > S.K.

S.K. proved to be a match to P.K., indicating that the non-paternity event probably occurred with George Kitchens. The George Kitchens descendants do have many clustered, triangulated autosomal matches with descendants of James Matlock Kitchens, and with his other purported siblings. It is probable that George and James were half-siblings, with the same mother, though this is not yet proven. We are searching for X-DNA descended from George Kitchens which may help answer this question.

The George Kitchens–Matlock paternal line is, as of 26 Apr 2024, classed as Y-DNA haplogroup **R-FTD16936**, a subclade of R-U106 > R-A2150. The closest match at the Big Y-700 level is to a descendant of Moore Matlock (b. 1730), a son of William Matlock (b. 1702) of Bedford County, Virginia, with the most recent common ancestor estimated to have been born about 1706 CE.

Since it appears likely, from autosomal and X-chromosome DNA, that the mother of James Matlock Kitchens and other siblings was a Matlock, this would mean, if George is indeed a half-brother to James, that both his mother and father were Matlocks, probably both descendants of William Matlock (b. 1702).

## William Kitchen line

It was not clear before testing a Y-DNA descendant of James Matlock Kitchens if he would match George Kitchens—and prove to be, paternally, a Matlock—or if his results would reveal the Kitchen(s) paternal line. It was some months before we located a tester:

**J.P.K.:** James Matlock Kitchens (b. 1796) > Christopher Columbus Kitchens (b. 1827) > John Matlock Kitchens (b. 1854) > Benjamin Franklin Kitchens (b. 1886) > James E. Kitchens (b. 1930) > J.P.K.

When at last the Y-DNA came, it showed to be quite a rare haplogroup, T-M70. Found in fewer than 1% of men of western European descent, it is much more common in the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Buried at the very end of the Y-DNA match list, J.P.K. had one Kitchen(s) match, at what appeared to be a great genetic distance:

**F.G.K.:** William Kitchen (b. 1776) > Charles Kitchen (b. 1813) > George Solomon Kitchen (b. 1838) > Solomon James Kitchen (b. 1882) > Floyd Kitchen (b. 1902) > Floyd Gerald Kitchen (1935–2017)

Thanks to the cooperation of Gerald Kitchen’s niece, Sharon Riley, we were able to upgrade F.G.K.’s Y-DNA test to the Big Y-700 level using a sample in storage. We already believed, based on autosomal results, that William Kitchen was the probable brother of James Matlock Kitchens. But with the great genetic distance (already 4 STR differences at the Y-37 level), would the TMRCA (time-to-most-recent-common-ancestor) estimate bear this out?

Indeed it did, and with flying colors. J.P.K. and F.G.K., despite their long STR genetic distance, proved to be a close genetic match through SNP testing. The testing of the two men carved out a new haplogroup, **T-FTF24495**, subclade of T-PF7455 > T-PF7457 > T-BY78550, with the most recent common ancestor estimated to have been born about 1784 CE.

This puts the tests on track to confirm our hypothesis that John Kitchen (b. 1757) was the father of both William Kitchen and James Matlock Kitchens. In fact, it poses the question whether William (b. 1776) could have been the father of James (b. 1796). It is conceivable, and William did have a Matlock for a wife, which would fit the hypothesis of James’s mother being a Matlock—but William did not marry Nancy Matlock until 1801; and this does not fit the X-DNA evidence indicating that James shared a Matlock mother with other Kitchen siblings, including John (b. 1778) and Mary (b. 1783).

An additional point of interest is that the William Kitchen paternal line is the closest Y-DNA match of any family yet tested to the Jefferson family of Virginia—and President Thomas Jefferson. Prior to our Kitchen family testing, the Jefferson family had been classed as haplogroup T-BY78550. The initial Big Y haplogroup result of the Kitchen family was also T-BY78550, and a match to Jefferson. Because of our Kitchens’ match with the Jeffersons, both the Jefferson and Kitchen families split off haplogroup T-BY78550, forming a new haplogroup, T-FT78438—redefining the known haplogroup of President Thomas Jefferson. The Kitchen family’s most recent common ancestor with the Jefferson family is estimated to have been born about 1200 CE. After the completion of our second Kitchen test, the Kitchen family split from the haplogroup T-FT78438 to form their new haplogroup, T-FTF24495.

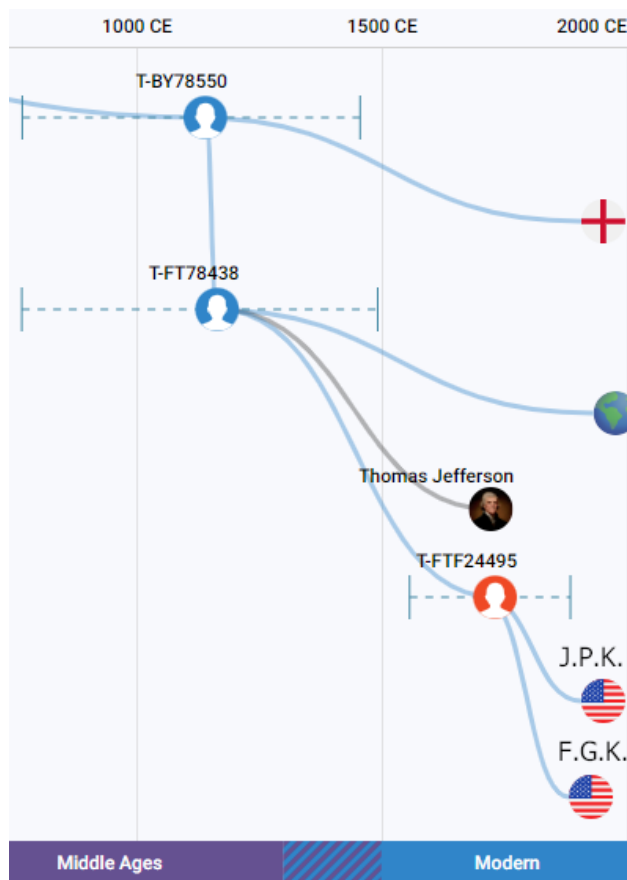


Figure 6. Time free for William Kitchen Y-DNA line.

## Conclusions

From the vague, traditional assumption with which we started, that James Matlock Kitchens was born near Dandridge, Jefferson County, Tennessee, we can now conclude with no doubt at all that prior to coming to Alabama, he lived in the Cane Creek community of what was then White County, now Van Buren County, Tennessee. He lived in the same community as Jesse Kitchen, his older brother, and Christopher Acuff, his uncle, who may have raised him. Also living in the community were his future in-laws, William and Mary (Ogle) Brown, and Mary's father, Hercules Ogle. James would marry Sarah "Sally" Brown about 1813.

Before White County, the Kitchen family came from the vicinity of Grainger County, Tennessee, where William Kitchen (b. ca. 1730) and John Kitchen (b. 1757) arrived from Virginia about 1796, near to the time when James was born. It is possible that John Kitchen lived briefly in Jefferson County, where some of the Matlock family had settled, long enough for James to be born there; but if James was born in Jefferson County, the fact survives only in an unsourced tradition.

We can dismiss the ubiquitous legend of James Kitchens' father as "Christopher Matlock Kitchens" and mother as "Elizabeth Acuff" as completely unsupported by either records or DNA. Instead, it is a near certainty that the eighty-year-old "Christopher" living in the Kitchens household on the 1850 census was Christopher Acuff at the end of his life.

Against this, we believe that James Matlock Kitchens was the son of John Kitchen (b. 1757) and his first wife, a Matlock. Though no record has been discovered that definitively connects James to John Kitchen, the DNA evidence strongly indicates that James was a full sibling to other Kitchens born between 1770 and 1795, including brothers William Kitchen, John Kitchen, Jesse Kitchen, Charles Kitchen, and sisters Martha (Kitchen) Acuff Sullivan and Mary (Kitchen) Stewart.

The identification of John Kitchen (b. 1757) as the father of these children is based on the fact that the only other Kitchen male appearing in records in Bedford County or Henry County, Virginia, around the time they were born, was William Kitchen (b. ca. 1730–1735), who appears to be John's father. Soon after moving to Tennessee, John Kitchen left Grainger County for Anderson County, leaving only William as an older male in Grainger County where most of the siblings remained. This is perhaps what has led many researchers to attach William as their father instead of John. But William would have been about forty-five years old when the oldest of this set of children was born. While it is not unreasonable that he could have been the father of one or more of the older children, it seems less likely that he would have fathered nine or more children over a twenty-five year period—all apparently full siblings—the last when he would have been about seventy years old. We know that William's wife, at least in 1774, was named Siller (perhaps Priscilla), and she was probably the same wife he had in Grainger County in 1810 (over 45 years old, according to

the census).<sup>29</sup> While we have no definite proof that she was John's mother, if she were, she would have been well past childbearing age by the time the youngest of the Kitchen children was born. If we accept that John Kitchen was the father of James Matlock Kitchens, and that the other children in this set were his full siblings, then it follows that John was the father of all of them.<sup>30</sup>

For what it may be worth, these conclusions are consistent with traditional English naming patterns. According to this tradition—which was by no means a rule—the oldest son of a family would be named for the father's father, and the second son would be named for the mother's father. In this case, James Matlock Kitchens and Sarah (Brown) Kitchens did name their oldest son John, and their second son William, after Sarah's father, William Brown. The oldest and second daughters were likewise named for their grandmothers, though the traditional order is less consistent. In this case, the oldest daughter was named Mary, after Sarah's mother, Mary (Ogle) Brown. The second daughter was named Elizabeth, so perhaps this was James's mother's name.

George Kitchens (b. 1784), held by tradition to be James's brother, does not come from the same paternal line as James, instead matching the Matlock family. Autosomal DNA matches indicate that George and James were likely half-brothers, sharing the same mother. Future research with Y-DNA and autosomal mapping may help to definitively resolve George Kitchens' paternity and relationship to the rest of the Kitchen family.

Additional DNA and archival research may bolster and confirm these conclusions, but we are confident enough in them to publish them here and in our family trees. James Matlock Kitchens (1796–1868) of Walker County, Alabama, was the son of John Kitchen (1757–1847) of Henry County, Virginia, and later Anderson County, Tennessee, and his first wife, a Matlock lady; and the grandson of William Kitchen (ca. 1730–aft. 1810) of Bedford County, Virginia, and later Grainger County, Tennessee.

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<sup>29</sup> Siller is named as William Kitchen's wife in a 1774 deed in Bedford County, Virginia.

<sup>30</sup> William Kitchen of Bedford County, Virginia, is often conflated or confused with William Kitchen of Fairfax County, Virginia, also born in 1730. They are two different, apparently unrelated people.