

In Remembrance
Eleanor Jane Drake Mitchell
1924 - 2005



Eleanor Drake Mitchell, one of the Upper Cumberland's most accomplished and distinguished citizens and genealogists died at home on August 23, 2005. She was born March 23, 1924 in Cookeville, TN at the first Cookeville Hospital, in later years know as the original Clara Cox Epperson Library on East Broad Street. The daughter of Mary Draper Anderson Drake and Jesse Allen Drake, her foremothers and fathers, including the Allens and Martins of Dekalb county, and the Andersons, Drapers, Wheelers, and Montgomerys of Jackson County were among the earliest settlers in the Upper Cumberland region. She graduated as Valedictorian from Cookeville Central High School and attended David Lipscomb College before graduating from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. She received a Masters degree at the University of Tennessee, a PhD from the University of Maryland, and did post graduate work in Mexico and at Oxford University in England. While still an undergraduate at TPI Elenor Mitchell attended a 12-week civil aviation course at Austin Peay Normal School in conjunction with the war efforts. She returned to Tennessee Tech to become the first woman to fly solo at the Cookeville airport and later taught aviation courses at TPI. After teaching

high school in west Tennessee and Texas, Eleanor Mitchell, returned to teach English at Tennessee Tech for more than forty years. She was nominated many times for TTU Faculty of the year award, receiving that honor in 1988. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Delta Kappa Gamma, and Phi Delta Kappa honorary societies. In addition to numerous other societies Dr. Mitchell was a member of an International Zoological Expedition to Belize, Central American in 1981. She belonged to the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Tennessee Philological Association in which she held various offices, and was a surveyor and member of the Re-affirmation Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Mitchell served on the Putnam County school board from 1980 until 1995, serving as chairwoman for one year. She received a Tennessee Broadsmanship Award in October 1983. She was named the first Putnam County Business woman of the year in 1987. Dr. Mitchell taught the Ladies Sunday School class at Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ for many years. She was post president and treasurer for the Book Lovers Club and had been an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving in the past as regent and vice-regent. She was also very active in the Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association, holding several offices. Dr. Mitchell published numerous articles, essays and papers throughout her career. In 1987 she presented a paper taken from her book, Tete a Tetes and other Biography in the Town and Country Magazine 1769-1796 at the Seventh International Congress in the Enlightenment in Budapest, Hungary. One of her proudest accomplishments was co-authorship of The Draper Families in America. Genealogy was her passion. Dr. Mitchell's many Revolutionary War patriots include: David Lyles (sic), William White, Benjamin Drake, Thomas Draper, Sr., Garrett Fitzgerald, Maher Lyle, George White, Mercy Travis Bedford, Samuel Allen, and Thomas Joplin. She was descended from Peter Brown, a passenger on the Mayflower, and was in the process of presenting proof of this to the Mayflower society. She was listed in Personalities of the South, Outstanding Educators of America, Directory of American Scholars, Who's Who of American Women, and International Who's Who. Dr. Mitchell's hobbies included genealogy, travel and literature. She and her husband visited all fifty states and over forty countries.