

**Abednigo Mitchell and Local Highwaymen
by Peter Hinman (1998)**

1. Abednigo Mitchell is reputed to have been a local highwayman. He is thought to have preyed on travellers on the Warwick/Banbury turnpike and the Fosse Way early in the 19th century. He is reputed to have hidden behind Harwoods House, where six roads meet, until suitable victims came past.
2. He is rumoured to have been caught but escaped punishment.
3. According to "Folklore of Warwickshire" by Roy Palmer, Bendigo Mitchell is said to have operated on the Fosse Way east of Moreton Morrell and he was hanged with a companion in 1798.
4. A court record of a released prisoner of this name is known at Warwick assizes for 1818. (Reference QS26/2/123 no. 36.) This could be the son of the highwayman.
5. Local rumour has it that he was drowned in the Mill Pond at Chesterton and is buried at the crossroads where Harbury Lane crosses the Fosse Way.
6. One John Smith Senior was hanged at Gaydon in 1787 and may have been gibbeted there. Two years later John Smith Junior was executed for a similar crime in Warwick jail. His body is said to have been taken by a young woman and buried at Culworth. See "Folklore of Warwickshire" by Roy Palmer.