

**Title:** Mitchell Family Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-1866

**Inclusive Dates:** 1862 – 1980, 2010

**Quantity:** 3.9 cu. ft.

**Location:** CV, Sh. A001  
OS LG "M" (5 items)  
OS SM "M" (4 items)

**Abstract:** The Mitchell Family was undoubtedly one of Milwaukee's most influential clans. Alexander Mitchell started it all. He was born in Scotland and relocated to Milwaukee in 1839. He quickly became one of the city's financial giants, acting as president of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and Northwestern National Insurance. His only son, John Lendrum Mitchell, also contributed to Milwaukee history. He served with distinction during the Civil War but had to resign due to failing eyesight. He turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and established a large estate called "Meadowmere." Agriculture was not his only interest, however. He was also a scholar, a patron of the arts and a public servant, serving as a State Senator, U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator. He and his second wife, Harriet Danforth Becker, had seven children. Their oldest son, William, achieved the most fame among his siblings. He enlisted during the Spanish-American War and served with honor during World War I, achieving the rank of Brigadier General. He was an early proponent of the military use of air power, but his criticism of military leaders led to his much-publicized court martial in 1925.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of correspondence, biographical information, reports, books, articles, newspaper clippings, photos, scrapbooks, and other ephemera. They include information on Alexander Mitchell, John Lendrum Mitchell, his wife Harriet Danforth Becker Mitchell, and several of their children.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Notes:** Reprocessed by Kevin Abing, April 1, 2000

**Arrangement:**

Content	Box #	Folder #
<b>ALEXANDER MITCHELL</b>		
Correspondence (Outgoing), 1864-1876	1	1
Miscellaneous Items	1	2
- Photostatic, typed copy of Alexander Mitchell estate, filed April 30, 1887, by John L. Mitchell		
- Invitation/menu for dinner in honor of Mitchell's return from a European trip, 1883		
- Deed & tax certificate, Lot 6, Section 33, 1862-1863		
- Booklet, <u>Burns's Monument and Auld Brig of Doon</u>		

- 2 typed copies of his wife's (Martha Reed Mitchell) obituary, n.d. - 2 articles re Martha Reed Mitchell by Katherine E. Manthorne, 2010 - "Milwaukee Historical Advertisements," published by Second Ward Savings Bank, ca. 1924		
Biographical Information - <i>Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887), Banker, Industrialist, Builder of Railroads, Pioneer of the Great West!</i> , by Charles H. Buford, 1950 - <i>One Hundred Years of Banking</i> , James Maxwell Murphy, comp., Marine National Exchange Bank, 1939 - 50th anniversary history of the Wisconsin Marine & Fire Insurance Co., 1889 - "Alexander Mitchell," a memorial address by John P. McGregor, President, Milwaukee County Pioneer Association, 1888 (3 copies) - 2 brief, typed biographies	1	3
<b>JOHN L. MITCHELL</b>		
Correspondence (Incoming), 1872-1873, 1901, ca. 1903	1	4
Notes, Speeches, Addresses, Certificates	1	5
Newspaper Clippings, 1899-1902	1	6
JOHN L. MITCHELL SCRAPBOOK, 1878-1882 (majority of material deals with European trips)	1	LOOSE
Loose Material from John L. Mitchell Scrapbook	1	6a
<b>HARRIET DANFORTH BECKER MITCHELL</b>		
Miscellaneous Items - Correspondence (Incoming), 1906, 1918, 1920 - Receipt from Bunde & Upmeyer Co., 1908 - Resolution from Calumet Club, 1892 - Brief of Respondent, <u>Harriet Mitchell vs. William Mitchell, Martha Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, et al</u> - Passport, 1919	1	7
<b>JOHN LENDRUM MITCHELL, JR.</b>		
Miscellaneous Items - Correspondence to his mother, 1910-1917 - Certificate from U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office, noting that John L. Mitchell died with honor during WW I	1	8
<b>HARRIET MITCHELL (Mrs. Arthur Young/Mrs. Martin Fladoes)</b>		
Correspondence, 1899-1968 (majority with her mother)	1	9
Miscellaneous Items - 6 calling cards - Newspaper clipping re marriage of Harriet Mitchell and Arthur Young, 1908 - Invitation to meet President Wilson's wife at the White House - Invitation to opening of the New York World's Fair, 1939 - Program for banquet in honor of the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway, Milwaukee, 1939 - obituary for Martin A. Fladoes, 1961 - obituary for Harriet Mitchell Fladoes, 1968 - 2 newspaper clippings, ca. 1937	1	10

<b>RUTH MITCHELL</b>		
Newspaper Clippings, 1946	1	10A
<b>WILLIAM (BILLY) MITCHELL</b>		
Correspondence, 1890-1923	1	11
Manuscript Material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daily Journal of the Office of Chief, Air Service, 1st Army Corps, A.E.F., March-June 1918</li> <li>- "Memoirs of World War I" by Gen. William Mitchell (Partial manuscript, typed, 66 pages)</li> <li>- "Datebook for 1922" (1924), handwritten diary of Gen. Mitchell, covering period July 28, 1924 to July 2, 1926 (a portion of the diary was recorded by his personal secretary)</li> </ul>	1	12
Books/Articles by William Mitchell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "America in the Air," <i>National Geographic</i>, March 1921</li> <li>- "India, Its People and Its Tigers," late 1923, manuscript copy of article reprinted in <i>National Geographic</i>, November 1924 (71 typed pages)</li> <li>- <i>Winged Defense</i>, 1925</li> </ul>	1	13
Biographical Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Stormy Petrel," by Harriet Mitchell Fladoes and Paul Davison, n.d.</li> <li>- "Billy Mitchell, Boy Aviator," by Douglas J. Ingells (typed, edited manuscript, not complete)</li> <li>- "General William Mitchell, Air Power Pioneer, 1879-1936," by George Hardie, Jr., ca. 1977-1979 (3 copies)</li> <li>- "The Saga of Billy Mitchell," by Jack Pearl, <i>Saga</i> January 1956</li> <li>- "Gen. `Billy' Mitchell: Champion of Aviation," by George Hardie, Jr. portion of article)</li> </ul>	2	14
<i>William Mitchell vs. Caroline Mitchell</i> Divorce case	2	15
Newspaper Clippings	2	16
Miscellaneous Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- photocopy of wedding invitation</li> <li>- Memo awarding Mitchell the Distinguished Service Cross, 1918</li> <li>- Extract from order commending Mitchell's leadership of American Aviation, 1918</li> <li>- Programs, Billy Mitchell Awards, 1979-1980</li> </ul>	2	17
Miscellaneous Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christine Chivas to unidentified sister, Jan. 11, 1863</li> <li>- George Douseman to Francis Huebschmann, Feb. 8, 1871</li> </ul>	2	18
"Report of Capt. Mitchell, S.C., on Manchura, Korea and Japan, 1912"	2	LOOSE
"Investigation of the War Department-Aircraft Production," U.S.	2	LOOSE
Congress, Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Report 380, parts 1 and 2, and Report 555, 65th Congress, 2nd Session, 1918	2	LOOSE
"Notes on the Multi-Motored Bombardment Group Day and Night," by Brigadier Gen. William Mitchell, Assistant Chief of Air Service	2	LOOSE
"Testimony of General Mitchell re R.A.F.," <i>Congressional Record</i> , April 19, 1922	2	LOOSE
Tribute to General Mitchell, <i>Congressional Record</i> , May 17, 1922	2	LOOSE
"Report of Inspection of Air Service Engineering Division, McCook Field," by Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, April 1923	2	LOOSE
"Preliminary Report of the Inspection of Air Service Activities in the Philippine	2	LOOSE

Islands," by Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, April 1924		
<i>A Class Book of New Testament History</i> by G.F. Maclear (used by William Mitchell while attending Racine College, ca. 1890)	2	LOOSE
<i>The Bible</i> (used by William Mitchell while attending Racine College, 1890)	2	LOOSE
<b>PHOTOS/POST CARDS</b>		
Alexander Mitchell Family and Estate	3	1
John L. Mitchell and Family	3	2
Meadowmere and Grounds (includes photos of animals)	3	3
William Mitchell (includes photos of various aircraft and a ceremony in honor of Mitchell, 1963)	3	4
Milwaukee Scenes (includes photos of downtown streets, circus parade, G.A.R. parade, gates of Mitchell Mansion, Leif Ericson statue)	3	5
People/Groups-Identified	3	6
People/Groups-Unidentified	3	7
Miscellaneous Scenes-Identified	3	8
Miscellaneous Scenes-Unidentified	4	9
Harriet Danforth Mitchell's Scrapbook of European Scenes	4	10
European/Cuba Scenes	4	11
1 Envelope of Stereoptican Slides (Miscellaneous Scenes)	4	LOOSE
3 Envelopes of Postcards (Primarily of Europe)	4	LOOSE
OVERSIZE PHOTOS - SEE OS #25 AND #2141		
<b>SCRAPBOOKS</b>		
Scrapbook #1: Wooden album, 14 photos, includes photos of Alexander Mitchell and his wife. Most are unidentified.	5	
Scrapbook #2: Green Leather Album; 91 portraits; some are tin-types; none are identified	5	
Scrapbook #3: Alligator-skin Cover; 18 photos; most are unidentified portraits	5	
Scrapbook #4: Gray Photo Album "St. Louis"; 109 photos and 2 postcards of scenes from Iceland, Norway, Russia, Germany, and Denmark	6	
Scrapbook #5: Black, Silk-covered Album; 56 photos of trip to Cuba, ca. 1890-1900	6	
Scrapbook #6: Black, Paper-Covered Album; 117 photos; most from France, showing World War I damage; 2 photos from Japan	6	
Scrapbook #7: Black, Leather-Covered Album; 120 photos; includes photos of Mitchell Family, Meadowmere, and European trips, ca. 1890-1910	6	
Scrapbook #8: Brown Suede Album; 47 photos of Paraguay waterfalls, rivers, and natives	6	
Scrapbook #9: Red, Leather-covered Album; 127 professional prints of Germany, France, Italy, etc.; 65 sepia-toned circular vignettes of European travels of Mrs. John L. Mitchell and Harriet Mitchell (Fladoes), ca. 1900	7	
Scrapbook #10: Postkart Album; 155 cards with scenes from Norway, Denmark, France, Holland, and Germany; several menus; 2 small packages of photos; a brochure of photos from a Norse museum	7	
Scrapbook #11: Souvenir Cards Album; 33 cards with scenes from U.S., Norway, Holland, and France	7	
Scrapbook #12: Souvenir Postals Album; 19 photos and 59 postcards with scenes from the western U.S., ca. 1922	8	
Scrapbook #13: Post Cards Album; 97 cards with scenes from France, England,	8	

Switzerland, and Italy		
Scrapbook #14: Photograph Album; includes 28 photos and 132 postcards with scenes from Russia, Germany, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland; ca. 1937	8	
<b>OVERSIZE MATERIAL</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>
Commission certificate, appointing John L. Mitchell First Lieutenant in the Aviation Section, 1917		OS SM "M"
Certificate in memory of John L. Mitchell, May 27, 1918, signed by John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief		OS SM "M"
Certificate from the Milwaukee County Council of Defense to the family of Lt. John L. Mitchell, expressing its condolences		OS SM "M"
Facsimile of Robert Burns' Handwriting, 1847		OS SM "M"
Resolution from Milwaukee Park Commissioners Naming Land from Mitchell as Mitchell Park, June 29, 1891		OS LG "M"
Appointment to 1st Lieutenant in the Signal Corps for William Mitchell, Dec. 26, 1901		OS LG "M"
Bachelor of Arts Diploma from University of Wisconsin for John Lendrum Mitchell, June 20, 1917		OS LG "M"
Official Statement of Commendation for John L. Mitchell, Aide-de-Camp of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry during Civil War, May 1, 1896		OS LG "M"
Certificate from President Benjamin Harrison, appointing John L. Mitchell a Wisconsin Commissioner for celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus, 1890		OS LG "M"
<b>LOOSE: BROWN, LEATHER-COVERED SCRAPBOOK BELONGING TO HARRIET DANFORTH MITCHELL, HAS "HMD" INLAID ON FRONT COVER (Photos removed and placed in File 10)</b>		