

2017

## 0839: Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Papers, 1941-2006

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**Mildred Mitchell-  
Bateman Papers**

**Accession Number: 2017/10.0839**



Archives and Special  
Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
2017

## Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Papers

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### Collection Summary:

Title: Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Papers

Span Dates: 1941-2006

Creator: Mildred Mitchell-Bateman

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Lindsey M. Harper, 2017

Accession Number: 2017/10.0839

Date Completed: October, 2017

Access to Collection: Open; no restrictions to access.

### Scope and Content:

This collection contains the personal, educational, and professional possessions of Mildred Mitchell-Bateman. The collection includes correspondence, newspaper articles, association newsletters, professional planners, financial documents, plaques, and other personal memorabilia. The materials document Bateman's various roles within local, state, and national psychology and psychiatric organizations. The collection is organized into six series: Series 1, Personal; Series 2, Education; Series 3, Professional Experience; Series 4, Correspondence; Series 5, Associations; and Series 6, Bound Books, Bound Volumes and list of Newspapers.

### Biographical Sketch:

Mildred Mitchell was born in Brunswick, Georgia in 1922. She was the daughter of a minister and a registered nurse. As a child, she always knew she wanted to work in medicine, and her work in the field of psychiatry exemplified just that. As an African American, she was often dissuaded from pursuing psychiatry, but she was able to prevail and practice medicine in some capacity for over 50 years.

She attended Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina from 1937-1939, and she graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1941. She went on to receive her M.D. from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1946. During this time she was interning in Philadelphia and was offered a position at Lakin State Hospital in Lakin, West Virginia. Lakin State Hospital was West Virginia's only Black hospital facility for the mentally ill during this time. It is here that she met her husband, William L. Bateman (Bill), and they were married on

Christmas Day in 1947.

She had a brief stint as a Clinical Instructor for the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1949. She returned to Lakin State Hospital in 1951 when she was appointed the Clinical Director. In 1952, Mildred left Lakin State Hospital to study psychiatry at the Meninger School of Psychiatry in Topeka, Kansas where she was also practicing medicine privately during this time. After finishing at Meninger, she returned to her position as Clinical Director at Lakin State Hospital in West Virginia in 1955. In 1958 Mitchell-Bateman was appointed as Supervisor of Professional Services for various mental health facilities across the state of West Virginia. In 1960, she was appointed the Supervisor of the Division of Professional Services to the West Virginia Department of Mental Health in Charleston, WV. In 1962, Governor Wallace "Wally" Barron appointed her to the Director and Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Mental Health. She held this position from 1962-1977 and was the first African American and the first woman to hold a high-ranking administrative position in WV. She resigned as director in 1977 when Governor Jay Rockefeller merged the department of Mental Health into the larger department of "health."

In addition to her state service to mental health, she also served in roles with national associations and organizations. In 1973, she served as vice president of the American Psychiatric Association, where she was the first African American woman to serve in this role. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter selected her and three other psychiatrists to serve on his commission on Mental Health. This work resulted in the Mental Health Systems Act that passed in 1980.

After her resignation in 1977, she joined the ranks at the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia. She was appointed professor and chairperson in the department of psychiatry where she taught until 1982. From 1985-1996, she was appointed the Associate Clinical Director at Huntington State Hospital in Huntington, WV. From 1996-2000, she was appointed Clinical Director at the same hospital. In 1999, Governor Cecil Underwood renamed Huntington State Hospital to the Mildred-Mitchell Bateman Hospital to honor her commitment and service to mental health in West Virginia.

She has received many awards and honorary degrees over the span of her career. She received honorary doctorate degrees from five higher education institutions. These institutions include: Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina (1963); West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia (1969), Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, West Virginia (1970); Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia (1971), and West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia (1972). In 2000, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Virginia District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association. Finally, in 2004, she was honored with the Governor's Award for Civil Rights Contributions to the state of West Virginia.

Bateman passed away in Charleston, West Virginia at the age of 89 in January, 2012. She had two daughters, Danielle Shanklin and Donna Taylor.

**Processing Notes:**

Some folders in series 5, Professional Associations, contain multiple folders with overlapping dates. Certain folders of the “American Psychiatric Association” are marked with an asterisk (\*) in order to show and maintain the original order created by Mildred Mitchell-Bateman. Monographs periodicals, and newspaper issues that were donated to the collection needed to be discarded because they sustained significant water and insect damage. The list of materials are provided for series 6.

**Search Terms:**

African American History; Alpha Kappa Alpha; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychological Association; Appalachian Women; Bateman Hospital; Cabell County; Civil Rights; Huntington State Hospital; Huntington, WV; Mental Health; Psychiatry; Psychology; West Virginia; WV; Women’s History

**Preferred Citation:**

Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Papers, Accession No. 2017/10.0839, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

**Container**

**Contents**

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**BOX 1**

**Series 1 – Personal**

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Folder 5	Finances & Other Work Expenses (1981-1996)
Folder 6	Faith Village Inc. (1984)
Folder 7	Samuel Mitchell – Bateman’s Brother (1989-1990)
Folder 8	Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church (1989-1990)
Folder 9	Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church (1996)
Folder 10	Assorted Papers & Artifacts (n.d.)
Folder 11	Blank Holiday Card Collection (n.d.)

Folder 12	Blank Holiday Card Collection (n.d.)
Folder 13	Photographs (n.d.)
Located in Box 3, oversized.	Plaque, Certificate, Misc. items
Located in Box 4, oversized.	Planners: 1980, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1990-1997.

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## **BOX 2**

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Folder 15	Other Associations (1988-1990)
Folder 16	Other Associations (1989)
Folder 17	Other Associations (1990-2000)

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- June 24, 1988
- October 3, 1989
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- October 14, 1990, pgs. E-E2
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- April 15, 1984
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- V. 27, no. 7 (April 3, 1992)
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