

2013

# 0854: Isaac H. Mitchell Biographical Sketch Collection

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## Recommended Citation

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Isaac H. Mitchell Biographical Sketch

Accession Number: 2013/06.0854

Processed By: Amanda Shaver

Date Completed: July 22, 2019

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Corporate Name: N/A

Date: July 16, 2019

Extent: 0.50 cubic feet

System of Arrangement: Files have been arranged with similar information grouped together: correspondence, photographs, genealogies, etc.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Isaac H. Mitchell was born on October 19, 1847 in Wood County, VA (eventually West Virginia), one of eight children born to Elisha Timms Mitchell and Elizabeth M. Hupp. Mitchell lived in Cabell County, WV, where he served as the first town marshal for the city of Huntington. On June 26, 1876, Mitchell pursued a man wanted for stealing a horse and wagon into Putnam County, WV. The man, Marshall Johnson, shot Mitchell, who died from his wounds. Mitchell was a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Christian Church, and many in the city of Huntington were upset by his death. In retaliation, a mob of about fifteen men from Huntington stormed the jail in Winfield, WV, where Johnson was being held pending trial. They kidnapped Johnson and lynched him from a tree nearby.

In 2013, Huntington Police Officer Rod Pell and Criminal Intelligence Analyst Scott Lemley began conducting genealogy research on Isaac Mitchell. They petitioned for a memorial to Mitchell, and the city of Huntington named a river patrol boat in his honor. The research done

by Pell and Lemley led to them contacting Mitchell's descendants, some of whom attended the dedication ceremony.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

This collection consists of the research done by Scott Lemley and Rod Pell on Isaac Mitchell's life and genealogy, including his descendants, in order for Mitchell to be memorialized by the Huntington Police Department in 2013. The bulk of the collection consists of printed copies of email correspondence between Lemley and Bob Mitchell and Michelle Shypkoski (both descendants of Isaac Mitchell), printed genealogies, and two copies of the memoirs of William Clare Mitchell, a descendant who moved to Idaho. Also included are the HPD Memorial Application, copied photographs of Isaac Mitchell's grave and other family members, copied and transcribed newspaper articles, and a CD and thumb drive which presumably contain similar information on Isaac Mitchell and his descendants. The collection arrived as one large stack of paper, almost entirely photocopied, and so it was divided into similar categories. The pages of correspondence are mostly chains of emails, and so repeats are inevitable. As a new email may have been added, these chains have all been kept. The CD and thumb drive were not examined at the time of processing. Some information gathered on the Mitchell Family from 2013 comes from a Law Enforcement Report and contains social security numbers, and as such is restricted (Folder 8).

#### I. Box 1

Folder 1: Printed Historical Information

Folder 2: Mitchell Family Tree, Genealogy

Folder 3: Correspondence: Pell, Lemley, Mitchell, Shypkoski

Folder 4: Reprinted Photographs

Folder 5: Copied Newspaper Articles, Death Certificate

Folder 6: Memoirs of William Clare Mitchell, 2 copies

Folder 7: HPD Memorial Application, Travel Request, 2011 Annual Report

Folder 8: Mitchell Family Information, 2013 **\*\* Restricted\*\***

Folder 9: Handwritten notes

Folder 10: Lemley Business Cards

Folder 11: CD and thumb drive with Mitchell family information