Mitchell Family letters
MC.959
Finding aid prepared by Emily Kingsley

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
February 20, 2015
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Creator
Mitchell, Anna I.

Creator
Mitchell, George Lippincott

Creator
Mitchell, J. Howard

Creator
Mitchell, Mary Ella

Creator
Mitchell, Tracy Iredell

Creator
Mitchell, George Justice

Title
Mitchell Family letters

Date [bulk]
Bulk, 1877-1896

Date [inclusive]
1830-1911

Extent
0.5 Linear feet 1 box

Language
English

Preferred Citation
Mitchell Family letters (MC 959), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

The Mitchells were a Quaker family living in Philadelphia during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The earliest family members whose letters appear in this collection are George J. Mitchell, who died in 1891, and his wife, Tracy Iredell Mitchell. This couple had a son, J. Howard Mitchell, who married Beula Lippincott in 1859. The pair had multiple children, including Anna I. Mitchell and George Lippincott Mitchell, both of whom are featured in this collection as well. George, who was born around 1861, married Mary Ella Keeney in 1886. As a banker, George was, like various members of the Mitchell family, directly involved in business and commercial affairs. Among the children of George and Mary was George J. Mitchell Jr., who was born around 1890 and who is also referenced in the collection through an 1894 letter from his grandfather, J. Howard Mitchell.

Scope and Contents note

This collection is comprised primarily of letters exchanged between various members of the Mitchell family. Each folder contains all of the letters authored by one family member or by an individual connected to the Mitchell family. Each author’s letters tend to follow a similar pattern; they are addressed to the same recipients and are fairly consistent in terms of their structure and content. The themes of the collection as a whole, however, vary widely. Many of the letters are informal, day-to-day exchanges that speak to the weather, daily activities, and social encounters. In quite a few of the letters, either the writer or the recipient is abroad at the time of the communication. As a result, these documents often express sentiments of longing for traveling family members and offer well-wishes for safe returns.

Politics and business matters are two topics of note that are found primarily in the letters sent to George L. Mitchell by his friend, Robert S. Jones. The various mentions of economic uncertainty that appear in these letters can be placed within the historical context of the economic depression that occurred in the United States during the 1890s. While the majority of the documents in this collection were written by members of the Mitchell family, the letters by Robert S. Jones (span 1893-94), H.H. Tomson (1888), and John C. Parry (1895) stand out as exceptions. Each of these individuals was acquainted with George L. Mitchell and wrote to him for various purposes—ranging from friendly banter to a monetary dispute. These letters are included in a folder of "Non-Mitchell Family Correspondence."

The folder labeled "Other Mitchell Family Correspondence" contains letters written by authors who appear only once or twice throughout the materials, such as Beulah Lippincott Mitchell or the aunts of George L. Mitchell. Finally, the collection includes a set of invitations addressed to or sent by members of the Mitchell family.
Arrangement

Each folder contains all of the letters written by one individual author. Within these folders, letters are sorted chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Laws Apply (U.S. Title 17)

Acquisition
The Mitchell Family letters were donated to Special Collections, Haverford College in 1937 by Blanche Holmes.

Processing Information
Processed by Emily Kingsley; completed February 2015

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Letters

Subject(s)
• Quaker businesspeople
• Quakers -- Social Life and Customs
• Quakers -- Travel
• Quakers – Family relationships
• Quakers--Pennsylvania
# Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, Anna I. 1858, 1892</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, George Justice 1857-90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, George Lippincott 1880-1910</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, J. Howard 1888-1896</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, Mary Ella (Keeney) 1881-1910, undated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, Tracy Iredell 1857, 1888</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Mitchell Family Correspondence 1850-1911</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Mitchell Family Correspondence 1888-95</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitations 1830-1887</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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