Mitchell Family Papers mssMitchell

Brooke M. Black
The Huntington Library
September 2019
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
**Language of Material:** English  
**Contributing Institution:** The Huntington Library  
**Title:** Mitchell family papers  
**Creator:** Mitchell family  
**Identifier/Call Number:** mssMitchell  
**Physical Description:** 1.17 Linear Feet (1 box)  
**Physical Description:** 193 Items  
**Date (inclusive):** 1858-1887  
**Abstract:** Family papers of the Mitchell family of El Dorado County, California.  

**Biographical / Historical**  
The Thomas Mitchell family left Pennsylvania and came to Coloma, California, in the 1850s, they and their six daughters were active participants in the life of El Dorado County. One daughter, Elizabeth, married George W. Kinney, an accountant and mining agent in San Francisco. Another daughter, Mary, married William J. Forbes, editor, printer, and journalist whose humor appeared under the pen name of "Semblins." Forbes established the first newspaper in Humboldt County, Nevada, and later set up a saloon in Treasure City, White Pine County, Nevada, with William H. Taylor, who had married another Mitchell daughter, Eliza. After 1875 the Mitchell family lived in San Francisco, where the sisters kept a boarding house.  

**Scope and Contents**  
The collection consists of letters and documents related to the Mitchell family's life in Coloma and El Dorado County, California, and in Nevada mining areas such as Austin, Virginia City, Treasure City, and Hamilton. There are also letters discussing life in San Francisco in 1866 and between 1876 to 1887. Although there are over 32 individuals represented in the collection, the most frequent correspondents include Josephine Beckman, William J. Forbes, George W. Kinney, Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor, and William H. Taylor.  

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**  
Purchased from Edwin Grabhorn, January 1945.  

**Conditions Governing Access**  
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**Conditions Governing Use**  
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**Preferred Citation**  
[Identification of item]. Mitchell family papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.  

**Arrangement**  
Collection is organized into two series: Correspondence and Miscellaneous items. Arranged chronologically.  

**Processing Information**  
Processed by Huntington Library staff, circa mid-20th century. In 2019, Brooke M. Black created a finding aid derived from a legacy summary report.  

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**  
Frontier and pioneer life -- California  
Frontier and pioneer life -- Nevada  
Austin (Nev.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
California -- History -- 19th century -- Sources  
Coloma (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
El Dorado County (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources  
El Dorado County (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
Hamilton (Nev.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
Treasure City (Nev.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Virginia City (Nev.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
White Pine County (Nev.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Family papers
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence) -- Nevada -- 19th century
Beckman, Josephine
Forbes, William J., active 1868-1871
Kinney, George W., active 1863-1877
Taylor, Eliza Mitchell Schieffer
Taylor, William H., active 1866-1869

Series I: Correspondence 1858-1887
Physical Description: 1.11 Linear Feet (59 folders)

Box 1, Folder 1
Lena [unknown last name] to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor? 1858 January 25
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 2
Abraham Chalmers to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1861 January 27
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 3
William C. L. Baker to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1861 February-July
Scope and Contents
5 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 4
William McBrien to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1861 April-October
Scope and Contents
2 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 5
Letters to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1861-approximately 1873
Scope and Contents
6 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 6
Jane Mitchell to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1862 April 1
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 7
George W. Kinney to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1863 April-July
Scope and Contents
2 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 8
Charles Schieffer to George W. Kinney 1863 July 31
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 9
George W. Kinney 1863 October 26
Scope and Contents
1 piece.
**Box 1, Folder 10**

**Unknown author to George W. Kinney 1864 March 7**
Scope and Contents
1 piece. Incomplete.

**Box 1, Folder 11**

**Pauline Fuhr to Charles Schieffer 1864 April 25**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

**Box 1, Folder 12**

**Charles Schieffer to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1864 May 1**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

**Box 1, Folder 13**

**Thomas Mitchell to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1864 May 27**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

**Box 1, Folder 14**

**Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers to George W. Kinney 1864, June 12**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

**Box 1, Folder 15**

**Maria Schieffer to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1864 July 17**
Scope and Contents
1 piece. Following the above: John Fuhr to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor, 1864, July 17.

**Box 1, Folder 16**

**Jane Mitchell to Mary Mitchell Forbes 1864 July 20**
Scope and Contents
1 piece. Following the above: Lucy Bankle to Mary Mitchell Forbes, 1864, July 20.

**Box 1, Folder 17**

**Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1865 September-December**
Scope and Contents
8 pieces.

**Box 1, Folder 18**

**George W. Kinney to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1866 March-August**
Scope and Contents
14 pieces.

**Box 1, Folder 19**

**William H. Taylor to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1866 May-July**
Scope and Contents
2 pieces.

**Box 1, Folder 20**

**Mary [unknown last name] to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1868 April 18**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.

**Box 1, Folder 21**

**William J. Forbes to William H. Taylor 1868 October-November**
Scope and Contents
7 pieces.

**Box 1, Folder 22**

**Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1868 December 13**
Scope and Contents
1 piece.
Box 1, Folder 23  
John Curtis to William H. Taylor 1868 December 14  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 24  
William H. Taylor to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1869 February-March  
Scope and Contents  
8 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 25  
Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor approximately 1869 March 17  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 26  
Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to "my dear Cousin" 1869 April 4  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece. Incomplete.

Box 1, Folder 27  
Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to William H. Taylor 1869 August 10  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 28  
Mary Mitchell Forbes to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1869 August-October  
Scope and Contents  
3 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 29  
William J. Forbes to William H. Taylor 1869 October-November  
Scope and Contents  
2 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 30  
Mary Mitchell Forbes to Eliza Mitchell Taylor Schieffer 1870 June 20  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 31  
William J. Forbes to Charles Carter 1870 October 16  
Scope and Contents  

Box 1, Folder 32  
William J. Forbes to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1870 November 11  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece. Incomplete.

Box 1, Folder 33  
William J. Forbes to William H. Taylor 1870-1871  
Scope and Contents  
7 pieces.

Box 1, Folder 34  
Horatio Nelson to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1871 November 19  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.

Box 1, Folder 35  
George W. Kinney to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1872 June 15  
Scope and Contents  
1 piece.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 36</th>
<th>George C. Jenks? to Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor 1873 August 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 37</td>
<td>Hugh Chalmers to Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers 1873-1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 38</td>
<td>Letters to Emma L. Mitchell and Ella Mitchell 1873-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 39</td>
<td>Frank Noonan to May Schieffer and Emma Mitchell 1876 September 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 40</td>
<td>George W. Kinney to William Kinney 1876-1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 41</td>
<td>Kate Schieffer and May Schieffer to Josie Mitchell, Ella Mitchell and Emma L. Mitchell approximately 1876-1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 42</td>
<td>Ella Mitchell to Emma Mitchell 1877 April 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 43</td>
<td>Abraham Chalmers to Emma Mitchell, Josie Mitchell and Ella Mitchell 1877-1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 44</td>
<td>Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to Kate Schieffer approximately 1878 July 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 45</td>
<td>Josephine Beckman to Ella Mitchell 1878-1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 pieces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 46</td>
<td>Thomas Harney to Ella Mitchell 1878-1879</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pieces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 47</td>
<td>Josie Mitchell to Ella Mitchell 1878-1879</td>
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<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 48</td>
<td>Thomas J. Veach to Ella Mitchell 1879 July 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 piece.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series I: Correspondence 1858-1887

- **Box 1, Folder 49**
  - **Ella Mitchell to Will Storms 1879 August 11**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 50**
  - **William Kinney to Sheridan Forbes 1879 October 20**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 51**
  - **Oliver Merrill to Catherine Mitchell 1879-1883**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 6 pieces.

- **Box 1, Folder 52**
  - **Walter Murray to Minne Harney 1880 January 10**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 53**
  - **Sheridan Forbes to William Kinney 1880 June 22**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 54**
  - **Joseph Warmington to Catherine Mitchell 1880 July 18**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 55**
  - **Paul Mitchell to Catherine Mitchell 1880 September 20**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 56**
  - **Minnie Harney to Elia Mitchell 1880-1883**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 3 pieces.

- **Box 1, Folder 57**
  - **Eliza Mitchell Schieffer Taylor to Catherine Mitchell 1887 June 30?**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 58**
  - **William Kinney to Catherine Mitchell 1887 July 1**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 1 piece.

- **Box 1, Folder 59**
  - **Miscellaneous correspondence 1877 and undated**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 5 pieces.

**Series II: Miscellaneous items 1858-1882**

- Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (4 folders)

- **Box 1, Folder 60**
  - **Elizabeth Mitchell Kinney Chalmers school compositions approximately 1858**
  - Scope and Contents
  - 5 pieces.
| Box 1, Folder 61 | **Bills and receipts 1862-1882**  
Scope and Contents  
14 pieces. |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 62 | **Envelopes 1880-1882**  
Scope and Contents  
13 pieces. |
| Box 1, Folder 63 | **Song lyrics undated**  
Scope and Contents  
8 pieces. |