

Guide to the

Lively/Mitchell Family Collection 1844-1986 (bulk 1860-1940)

2.4 linear ft.

Accession Number: 0910-131

Collection Number: 75

**Prepared by Christopher Strange
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Citation: The Lively/Mitchell Family Collection, Collection 75, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

Four of Irving's pioneer families (the Lively, Mitchell, Sowers, and Clark families) are all related through marriages and adoptions that took place before the town was founded in 1903. Mark Callister Lively moved to Dallas County in the 1850s. He taught in a single-room school and was one of the areas first school teachers. He was married to Florence A. Clark with whom he had seven children. One of those children, Edward Cash, served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives where he sponsored a bill establishing the Irving School District in 1909. Another one of the Lively children, Sallie Jane, married William Andrew Jackson Mitchell, who moved to the area in 1864, after the death of Mitchell's first wife, Ella Sowers. Ella was the niece and adopted daughter of Edmund Sowers, the founder of the Sowers community which thrived before Irving was founded. One of Ella and W.A.J. Mitchell's three children, Lydia, was also adopted by Edmund Sowers.

Biographical Sketch

Mark Callister (M.C.) Lively was born in Alabama in 1839. He moved to Texas in the late 1850s and became one of the first Anglo-American settlers in present-day Irving. Lively was a farmer, a veteran of the Civil War, and, in his later years, a school teacher and justice of the peace. He had seven children with his wife, Florence A. Clark including Sallie Jane, who married into the Mitchell family, and Edward Cash, the two-term State Representative. His other children were named Charles Philip, Fannie, Mark A., Lucy, and Richard O. Mark Callister Lively died in 1905.

Edward Cash Lively, son of M.C. and Florence Lively, was born in 1875. He served as a justice of the peace in the Irving area from 1902-1906. He also notarized the 1903 town plat of Irving. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1906 where he served two terms, until his death in 1910. E.C. Lively is known for working in the State Legislature to pass the bill that established the Irving Independent School District in 1909.

Edmund Sowers moved from Illinois to Texas in 1856 and settled in Dallas County. There, he established the Sowers community, which was the largest community between the Elm and West Forks of the

Trinity River before the town of Irving was founded. Sowers and his wife, Freelove, never had any children of their own, but they did raise six adopted children. Two of these adopted children were Edmund's niece Ella, who married W.A.J. Mitchell and had three children before her early death, and Ella's daughter Lydia Mitchell.

W.A.J. and Ella Mitchell's other two children were named Sam and Alan. The children of W.A.J. and Sallie Jane Mitchell were named Bill, Buck, Charlie, Florence "Jack," Grace, and Mae.

Scope and Content

The Lively/Mitchell Family Collection contains correspondence, literary works, school records, real estate and legal documents, and photographs of the Lively, Mitchell, Sowers, and Clark families that have been preserved since the families first settled in present-day Irving in the mid-1800s. Items in the collection are dated from 1844 to 1986, but the bulk of the collection is dated from 1860 to 1940. The entire collection, which is contained in six manuscript boxes and divided into seven series, was donated to the Irving Archives by Billy Mitchell of Hillsboro, Texas, on April 22, 2010.

Series I contains the personal correspondence of several Livelys and Mitchells from 1867 to 1940. The subjects include Mark Callister Lively, his children Edward Cash and Sallie Jane, as well as four more of M.C. Lively's children. The series also contains some of the correspondence of William Andrew Jackson Mitchell and six of his children.

Series II contains poems, fictional stories, and song lyrics written by M.C. Lively and three of his children. The material is dated from 1908 to 1961.

Series III contains school records, funeral cards, and newspaper clippings dated from 1844 to 1986. The school records include graduation invitations, programs from school events, and report cards of two of W.A.J. Mitchell's children. Some of the newspaper clippings are related to the history of the Lively and Mitchell families, and others are clippings from the second half of the 1800s that were kept by members of the Lively and Mitchell families.

Series IV is titled "Financial and Legal Documents" and contains real estate documents, bank records, insurance records, tax receipts, and other records dated from 1865 to 1937. Some notable items include the military discharge and pension documents of M.C. Lively and an official record of the adoption of Lydia Mitchell by Edmund and Freelove Sowers.

Series V contains photographs of some of the Livelys, Mitchells, and Sowers from 1905 to 1962. The series also includes various unidentified and undated photographs.

Series VI is titled "Artifacts" and contains the collection's three-dimensional and textile objects. These include paper crafts, ribbons and swatches of fabric, a broken pair of eyeglass frames, and a pair of infant's or doll's shoes. These items are dated from 1861 to 1902.

Series VII contains various small books. These include notebooks, checkbooks, pocket calendars, and autograph books. These items are dated from 1889 to 1919.

Provenance Statement

The Lively/Mitchell Family Collection was donated to the Irving Archives by Billy Mitchell of Hillsboro, Texas. The accession was made on April 22, 2010 and was numbered 0910-131.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Mitchell Family Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to Researcher

The Irving Archives also contains additional information about the Lively family. Please see accession numbers:

0506-166, M.C. Lively's Civil War service records

0405-140, an 1883 receipt for a building which might be the building that became the M. C. Lively's school

0304-270, newspaper clippings related to Lively family history

Container List

Series I Correspondence

Box 1

Folder Title, Dates, and Description

1 Clark, Pearl, 1911-1914

Contains letters written by Pear Clark in Justiceburg, Texas, to her relatives in the W.A.J. Mitchell home in Irving. Also contains a list of unknown origin with the names of six members of the Clark family and their dates of birth which range from 1803-1856.

2 Lively, E.C., 1903-1907, undated

Contains correspondence between Edward Cash Lively and his family, friends, and other acquaintances. Includes letters from Lively in Austin on official Texas House of Representatives letterhead.

3 Lively, Fannie, 1896-1907

Contains correspondence between Fannie Lively and her family and friends.

4 Lively, Fannie, 1907-1914, undated

Contains correspondence between Fannie Lively and her family and friends.

5 Lively, Lucy, 1895-1903, undated

Contains correspondence between Lucy Lively and her family and friends.

6 Lively, M.C. – Letters From, 1867-1896

Contains letters written by Mark Callister Lively.

- 7 Lively, M.C. – Letters to, 1899-1900
Contains letters written to Mark Callister Lively.
- 8 Lively, M.C. – Letters to, 1901
Contains letters written to Mark Callister Lively.
- 9 Lively, M. C. – Letters to, 1901-1902
Contains letters written to Mark Callister Lively.
- 10 Lively, Philip, 1869-1907
Contains an 1869 letter from a Philip Lively in Little Rock, Arkansas, and a 1907 letter from Philip Lively, son of M. C. and Florence Lively, to his sister Fannie.
- 11 Lively, Richard O., 1904-1913, 1958, undated
Contains letters from Richard O. Lively to his family. Most of the letters are to his sister Fannie.
- 12 Mitchell, Buck, 1912, 1914
Contains two letters written to Buck Mitchell. The first is from an “A. Clark” in Justiceburg, Texas. The second includes the phrase “My Dear Lover” in the greeting.
- 13 Mitchell, Grace, 1933, 1937, undated
Contains correspondence between Grace Mitchell and friends.
- 14 Mitchell, Lydia, 1906
Contains a letter from Lydia Mitchell in Washington State to her biological father, W.A.J. Mitchell.
- 15 Mitchell, Mae, 1919, 1938, undated
Contains correspondence between Mae Mitchell and her relatives.
- 16 Mitchell, Sallie Jane (Lively), 1886-1889, 1905-1906
Contains letters to Sallie Jane Mitchell from her family and friends.
- 17 Mitchell, Sallie Jane (Lively), 1913-1941, undated
Contains letters, telegrams, and greeting cards sent to Sallie Jane Mitchell from her relatives. Also contains correspondence between Mitchell and a lawyer representing her in a suit against a railroad company for property damage caused by a fire.
- 18 Mitchell, Sam, 1903, 1905, undated
Contains correspondence between Sam Mitchell and his family and friends.
- 19 Mitchell, W.A.J., 1880, 1892-1894
Contains correspondence between William Andrew Jackson Mitchell and various relatives, friends, and other acquaintances.
- 20 Mitchell, W.A.J., 1898-1906
Contains correspondence between William Andrew Jackson Mitchell and various relatives, friends, and other acquaintances.
- 21 Mitchell, W.A.J., 1911-1913, undated
Contains correspondence between William Andrew Jackson Mitchell and various relatives, friends, and other acquaintances.

22 Williams, Florence (Mitchell) – Letters From, 1917-1931, undated
Contains letters and greeting cards from Florence “Jack” Williams to her mother and siblings. Includes letters from the time Williams lived in Los Angeles, California.

23 Williams, Florence (Mitchell) – Letters To, 1914-1937, undated
Contains letters, greeting cards, and a post card sent to Florence “Jack” Williams from her friends and family. Includes a greeting card that appears to be from France in the year 1919.

Box 2

Folder

1 Name Cards, 1904, undated
Contains decorative, business-card-sized calling cards with the names of various Lively and Mitchell children on them.

2 Other Correspondence, 1892-1906, 1925-1941
Contains correspondence that is either not between any of the prominent people of the collection or has no clear author and/or addressee. Includes an 1893 letter to Ella Mitchell.

3 Other Correspondence, undated
Contains correspondence that is either not between any of the prominent people of the collection or has no clear author and/or addressee.

4 Unsigned Greeting Cards, undated
Contains greeting cards for various holidays.

Series III Literary Productions

5 Lively, E.C. – Poetry, 1910, undated
Contains poems written by Edward Cash Lively

6 Lively, M.C. – Poetry, undated
Contains Poems written by Mark Callister Lively

7 Lively, R.O. – Poetry, 1957, 1959-1961
Contains poems written by Richard O. Lively

8 Lively, R.O. – Poetry, 1961, undated
Contains poems written by Richard O. Lively

9 Lively, Sallie – Poetry, undated
Contains poems written by Sallie Lively

10 Florence – Poetry, undated
Contains a poem titled “Friendship or Love.” Signed by an author named Florence who did not give a last name.

11 Untitled Story, undated
Contains the first fifty-three pages of a handwritten story with editing marks. The story appears to be autobiographical, and the author’s name is not given.

12 Poetry – Various Authors, undated
Contains several poems written by people outside of the families of this collection.

13 Poetry – Authors Unknown, undated
Contains several poems. The authors are not indicated.

14 Pictures of Memory, 1908
Contains a published compilation of poems by several poets.

15 Published Poetry, undated
Contains several newspaper clippings.

Series III Printed Material

16 School Records – Programs and Invitations, 1906-1928, 1940
Contains items from the Sowers Public School, Irving High School, and Bryan Street High School.

17 School Records – Scrapbook, undated
Contains photocopies of pages from the scrapbook in folders 18 and 19 of Box 2.

18 School Records – Scrapbook, undated
Contains the original pages from a scrapbook with programs from various events at Irving High School.

19 School Records – Scrapbook, undated
Contains the original pages from a scrapbook with programs from various events at Irving High School.

20 School Records – Grace Mitchell, 1922
Contains Grace Mitchell's diploma from Irving High School.

21 School Records – Mae Mitchell, 1925-1927
Contains Mae Mitchell's report cards and immunization certificates from Bryan Street High School in Dallas, Texas.

Box 3

Folder

1 Funeral Cards, 1904-1913
Contains decorative cards from the funerals of Effie Mitchell, M.C. Lively, Florence A. Lively, E.C. Lively, and W.A.J. Mitchell.

2 Newspaper Clippings, 1844, 1890-1938, undated
Contains photocopies of original newspaper clippings that are in Folders 3 and 4 in Box 3.

3 Newspaper Clippings, 1844, 1890-1938
Contains original newspaper clippings.

4 Newspaper Clippings, undated
Contains original newspaper clippings.

5 The Yellow Gram, 1925
Contains one volume of a monthly newsletter from Los Angeles, California.

6 Other Printed Material, 1892-1936, 1986, undated
Contains a document certifying W.A.J. Mitchell's 1892 election as Trustee of the Sowers School District, a card from M.C. Lively's 1900 campaign for Justice of the Peace in Dallas County, an announcement of the Irving lot auction of December 1903, wedding invitation for Etta Williams and Dr. John Roberts, 1910, State Fair of Texas complimentary pass, 1912, a Dallas Morning News Texas Centennial envelope, and other documents.

7 Other Printed Material, undated
Contains business cards, two Texas Centennial post cards, an Irving Church of Christ membership list, undated (c. 1930s), and other related material.

Series IV Financial and Legal Documents

8 Real Estate Documents, 1866-1874
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

9 Real Estate Documents, 1874-1876
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

10 Real Estate Documents, 1876-1882
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

11 Real Estate Documents, 1882-1889
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

12 Real Estate Documents, 1889-1894
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

13 Real Estate Documents, 1894-1897
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

14 Real Estate Documents, 1899-1903
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

15 Real Estate Documents, 1904-1907
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

16 Real Estate Documents, 1907-1912
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

17 Real Estate Documents, undated
Contains deeds, land notes and leases, and descriptions of land tracts.

18 Bank Records, Sallie J. and Grace Mitchell, 1930-1937
Contains cancelled checks and bank statements.

19 Tax Records, Lively, 1894-1909
Contains property tax receipts and notices.

20 Tax Records, Mitchell, 1887-1934
Contains property tax receipts, statements, and notices.

21 Tax Records, Sowers, 1883-1908

Contains property tax receipts.

Box 4

Folder

1 Tax Records, Wilson, 1867-1901

Contains property tax receipts.

2 Tax Records, Other Families, 1879-1894

Contains property tax receipts.

3 Insurance Records, 1896-1906

Contains W.A.J. Mitchell's fire and life insurance documents.

4 Insurance Records, 1906-1936, undated

Contains W.A.J. and Sallie J Mitchell's life and accident insurance documents.

5 Handwritten notes and receipts, 1869-1893

Contains records of the sale of agricultural products.

6 Handwritten notes and receipts, 1894-1909

Contains records of the sale of agricultural products.

7 Handwritten notes and receipts, 1912-1929, undated

Contains records of the sale of agricultural products.

8 M.C. Lively Pension, 1865, 1890-1903, undated

Contains records related to an attempt to collect the pension of "Martin Carrolle Lively" for his service in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Includes an official record of his 1865 discharge from the army. Martin Carrolle appears to have been an alias of Mark Callister Lively.

9 Post Office, American Express, and Telephone, 1881-1913

Contains receipts.

10 Railroad Tickets and Receipts, 1924-1927, undated

Contains records of trips to California. Sallie Jane and Charlie Mitchell are identified as passengers.

11 Abstract, 1898

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

12 Abstract, 1904

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

13 Abstract, 1904

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

14 Abstract, 1904

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

15 Abstract, 1912

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

16 Abstract, 1912

Abstract of title to part of Hunsacker survey.

17 Other Business Records, 1887-1912

Contains records of transactions with various merchants.

18 Other Business Records, 1912-1932, undated

Contains records of transactions with various merchants.

19 Court Summons, Adoption Record, and County Fiscal Report, 1894-1907

Contains a court summons issued to W.A.J. Mitchell for jury duty, a summons issued to the Lively's regarding a lawsuit against the Chicago Rock Island & Gulf Railway Company, an official record of the 1901 adoption of Lydia Mitchell by Edmund and Freelove Sowers, and a 1907 fiscal report of an unknown county.

Series V Photographs

20 Sowers School 1905 Student Body Photo and Photos of Mitchell Children, 1905,1910, undated

Contains photographs of various sizes.

21 Photos of Lively Children, undated

Contains photographs of various sizes.

Box 5

Folder

1 Photos of the Sowers Family, undated

Contains photographs of Edmund and Freelove Sowers and children.

2 Unidentified Photographs, 1941, 1962, undated

Contains photographs of various sizes.

3 Unidentified Photographs, undated

Contains photographs of various sizes.

4 Unidentified Tintypes, undated

Contains tintype photographs.

Series VI Artifacts

5 Paper Crafts and Ribbons, 1861, 1901-1902, undated

Contains decorative crafts made of paper and delegate ribbons from district meetings of the I.O.G.T. (International Organization of Good Templars) of Texas, early 1900s.

6 Infant's Shoes, undated

Contains a small pair of shoes made of soft, embroidered, material.

7 Eyeglass Frames and Fabric Samples, undated

A small box containing a broken pair of eyeglass frames with a guarantee of their gold content and a selection of fabric swatches.

Series VII Notebooks

8 W.A.J. Mitchell and E.D. Sowers Bank Books, 1889-1894, undated

Contains four small bank books.

9 Unidentified Checkbook, 1891-1892

Contains a checkbook from National Bank of Dallas, Texas, with many unused checks remaining.

10 Unidentified Checkbooks, 1907, undated

Contains a checkbook from the National Bank of Commerce in Dallas and another from Merchants and Planters Bank in Irving.

11 Almanac, 1892

Contains a pocket-sized almanac.

12 Pocket Annuals, 1894-1896

Contains four annuals: one sponsored by the David Bradley Mfg. Co. of Chicago contains advertisements for plows and cultivator's; one sponsored by Southwestern Business College of Paris, Texas; one sponsored by John S. Witwer, Dallas, Texas, dealer in carriages, surreys, and buggies; one sponsored by the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

Box 6

Folder

1 Tobe Lively's Notebook, 1894-1897

Contains a notebook of notes and brief poems that Tobe Lively's friends wrote to him.

2 Mitchell Notebook, 1919

Contains a small note book with lists of clothing items and prices. Each list has the name of one of W.A.J. and Sallie J. Mitchell's children at the top.

3 Unidentified Notebooks, undated

Contains two notebooks with lists of daily expenses.

4 E.C. Lively Diary, 1896-1898

Contains a single note pad with diary entries.

5 E.C. Lively Diary, 1899

Contains a diary with leather cover.

6 Unidentified Diary, 1902

Contains a notebook with some diary entries and what appear to be a child's drawings.

7 Unidentified Diary from California, undated

Contains a diary listing names of California cities and regions in the entries.

8 Lucy Lively Autograph Book, 1891

Contains a small notebook with greetings addressed to Lucy Lively.

9 Unidentified Autograph Book, 1893

Contains a small notebook with greetings from Livelys and Clarks.

10 Envelopes, 1890s-1940s

Contains envelopes from some of the correspondence in the collection.