

Bequeathed by Miss Sarah E. E. Mitchell and presented by her niece, Miss Grace Mitchell, 24 Sept. 1946 (except items 76 - 79 presented by Miss S. E. E. Mitchell in 1937)

## MITCHELL FAMILY OF LISDILLON

Sarah Mitchell, daughter of John Mitchell of Lisdillon, between Little Swanport and Mayfield on the East Coast of Tasmania, was born in 1853, and kept a diary from the age of 13 until she died at ninetythree in 1946. In her later years, too, she kept scrapbooks in which she stuck, indiscriminately, early letters and memoranda of her family, photographs, newspaper clippings etc., which form an additional record, not only of her own life but of her parents and brothers and sisters.

Her father, John Mitchell, was the son of James Mitchell of St. German's, Cornwall, England, and came to Tasmania as a surveyor in 1837. He took a government post, and later became superintendent of boys at Port Puer, where he wrote a report on the health of the boy convicts in 1846 (RS.32/85 p.42). His Cornish fiancée, Catherine Augusta Keast, followed out in 1839, remembering her voyage to Tasmania as particularly unpleasant, through storms, a drunken captain and shortage of food. The couple were married at Old Trinity Church, Hobart, before settling at Port Puer, where several children were born. Mitchell bought a farm at South Arm, but in 1852 he left his government post and moved to Lisdillon with his wife and five surviving children. There they remained, acquiring an extensive property for raising sheep, cattle, some arable crops and hops. Mitchell also served on Swansea Council and held a government post in the Post Office. He had charge of the Swansea mails, which gave him the privilege of franking his own mail.

The two eldest sons, Frederick Keast and Frank William Drew, were sent to England to complete their education in 1858. Both boys kept brief diaries of their voyage on the 'Derwentwater' via Cape Horn, and their first days in England, where they were met by their Keast relatives. At first they boarded at Sydenham School, near London, but later they moved to a grammar school near their relatives in Cornwall. Here Fred's delicate health became worse through the bullying (a letter from a schoolmate is reminiscent of Tom Brown's Schooldays (RS.32/85 p.37) and he died in 1861 at the age of 18. Frank, however, went to Mannamead School in Plymouth, Devon, and did well in the British Civil Service examinations, being appointed to a post in Dublin, Ireland. In 1922 he built a house in Sussex, England, naming it Lisdillon after his childhood home.

The other two sons, Edwin and Mark, attended Horton College, Tasmania. Mark remained at home and worked Lisdillon, which he inherited. After his marriage to Mabel Ciblin he lived at the Wattles,

a cottage on the property, as his mother remained at Lisdillon during her lifetime. Mark died in 1897, before his mother, leaving Lisdillon to his children. It was advertised for sale, under the terms of his will, when the children were grown up, in 1913. His widow purchased it and remained there for a while, but the property was eventually split up. Edwin, after a spell in a job in New South Wales, settled at Mayfield, formerly part of his father's property.

The eldest daughter, Catherine Penwarne (Kate) married the Reverend John Aubrey Ball of Bright, Victoria, at St. John's Church, Buckland, in 1877 but died the following year and is buried at Buckland.

Of the two daughters born after the family moved to Lisdillon, the youngest, Amy Mary Jane, took a trip to England about 1872 and after her return married Herbert Giblin in 1877. Sarah Elizabeth Emma remained at home, apart from brief holiday visits to Hobart. Her father died in 1880 and Sarah looked after her mother at Lisdillon until Mrs Mitchell's death in 1899. Sarah then took a holiday to stay with her brother, Frank, in Ireland and to see something of England and Europe, before she settled at Tirrzah, near Lisdillon, left to her by her father. In her later years she moved to Schouten House in Swansea with her niece, Grace Catherine, who took care of her. In 1937 she moved into the Westminster Rest Home, North Hobart, where she stayed until she died in 1946.

Sarah started keeping a diary at the age of thirteen and continued until she was ninety-two, although for the last few years she had to dictate them to her niece, Grace. In her diaries she noted, daily the state of the weather and a record of the day's activities, such as helping with routine tasks about the house and property, planting or picking vegetables and fruit from the gardens (peas, lettuces, rhubarb, gooseberries, etc.) or visits to or from neighbours. Friends and neighbours mentioned include the families of Cotton, Giblin, Lyne, Mayson, Meredith of Cambria and Shaw of Red Banks, Swansea. In her earlier years Sarah's routine was occasionally varied by a visit to Hobart or pic-nics on one of the several beaches near by, on the 'Fisherman's' or Pyke Island or at the Hop grounds during harvest time. Each year a 'hop feast' was given for the pickers when the hops were gathered in. In the earlier diaries, too, are frequent references to the horses and to rides to the 'Salt Works', where a wharf was built. The diaries are brief and purely factual; there is no attempt at description, even of less common events such as Government House dances. Even during her trip to Europe in 1900, lasting about eighteen months, Sarah recorded a daily routine often little different from her home life.

On board the 'Afric', on her way to England, for example, she thought the stewards were overworked and notes every day (except Sundays) that she helped to dry 400 knives. She also spent much of the day sketching, visiting the sick in the ship's hospital, or running a Sunday School for the children on board. In Europe she spent most of her time with her brother, Frank and his family near Dublin, and with them visited Killarney and other parts of Ireland. She spent a few weeks in London, seeing the Tower, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and other sights, lunching, as she notes, on cocoa and bread and butter for 2½ d. A production of Julius Caesar at a famous theatre, however, did not impress her, 'such a horrid 3/- spent, I trust no more theatres for me'. A tour of Continental Europe included Oberammergau where she saw the 'Passion Play 8 O'c. ; 1½ hr. for dinner and 'til 5.30 pm. I went out 1¼ hr. during the crucifixion. The rest was wonderful, may God give me a blessing from it'. In Paris she took a flight in a balloon at the Exposition and went up the Eiffel Tower.

Miss Mitchell spent January and February 1901 in the Scilly Isles,

where she helped to tie up bunches of flowers for marketing. While there she noted the death of Queen Victoria and the proclamation of the Prince of Wales as King on 22 January 1901. She visited her Keast relations in Devon and revisited her brother in Dublin, returning via the Isle Of Man, where she spent a few days before sailing to Falmouth, where she embarked on the SS.Oroya for the return journey to Tasmania.

Back in Tasmania, Miss Mitchell settled at Tirzah, near Lisdillon, on the East Coast and in her old age she moved to Schouten House, Swansea. She was a deeply religious woman and was known to stop cars on the Swansea road to give the passengers a copy of the text for the day. She was also hospitable and delighted to show visitors her collection of curios. Her lively interest in animals, botany, world events and especially intrepid travellers remained. In 1934, at the age of 80, she travelled to Melbourne by one of the first regular air passenger flights, boarding Capt. Holyman's plane at Swansea air field. Her range of other interests was reflected by the photographs, newspaper clippings and other souvenirs which she collected. These in her later years she collected together and stuck, rather haphazardly, into scrapbooks together with some family records.

These scrapbooks, inspite of their lack of order, put life into the bare facts of the diaries by supplementing the information in a more interesting and visual way. Photographs, newspaper clippings, invitations, menus and other souvenirs illustrate events referred to in the diaries as well as Miss Mitchell's other interests.

One scrapbook contains sketches of family life drawn by the elder sister, Catherine Penwarne (Kate) between 1860 and 1875. Here we see the family enjoying pic-nics with the pet dog Caleb, or riding their horses -- in one sketch a guest is shown falling off her mount. Other sketches show some of the family in a gig crossing a river or in a boat rowing through the surf to Schouten Island. There is a lively scene of gay dancing at a 'hop feast' and another of more formal dancing at a social evening at Red Banks (the home of the Shaw family).

Of more importance, perhaps, are the records of the early days of the family in Tasmania, which were also put into the scrap books, mixed with other souvenirs. There is John Mitchell's brief diary of his voyage out and first days in Tasmania and a few letters of his, including a draft of his report on discipline at Port Puer (RS.32/85 p.42). There are also letters, journals and a school report of the two elder boys, Fred and Frank, which their mother had kept. Other miscellaneous items include a letter to Mrs (George) Meredith and advertisements for Mrs Charles (Louisa Ann) Meredith's books.

## DIARIES OF SARAH E. E. MITCHELL 1866 - 1945

From the age of 13 Sarah Mitchell daily noted in her journal the state of the weather, her routine activities about the house and property, visits of friends, an occasional trip to Hobart, as in August 1872, and her visit to Europe in 1900-1. The first three diaries are written in home made notebooks, the remainder in printed 'Letts' diaries. Some entries are 'cross written'. There is no diary for 1936.

Some of the journals include monthly cash accounts, mostly of small payments for such items as petticoats and gloves; also, for example in 1880, 'butter account' (including receipts, payments for carriage, etc.) and 'Kennedia' account (rent received, sheep bought from father, taxes, rates etc.).

74 vols. (mainly 13 cm. x 20 cm. x 1 cm, exc. 1866-73 & 1889-90 quarto; 1898 folio (old 1896 vol.)

RS.32/1-74

RS.32/1	1866-1870	38	1908
2	June 1870 - 19 Jan. 1872	39	1909
3	Jan. 1872 - Dec. 1873	40	1910
4	1874	41	1911
5	1875	42	1912
6	1876	43	1913
7	1877	44	1914
8	1878	45	1915
9	1879	46	1916
10	1880	47	1917
11	1881	48	1918
12	1882	49	1919
13	1883	50	1920
14	1884	51	1921
15	1885	52	1922
16	1886	53	1923
17	1887	54	1924
18	1888	55	1925
19	1889	56	1926
20	1890	57	1927
21	1891	58	1928
22	1892	59	1929
23	1893	60	1930
24	1894	61	1931
25	1895	62	1932
26	1896	63	1933
27	1897	64	1934
28	1898	65	1935
29	1899	66	1937
30	1900	67	1938
31	1901	68	1939
32	1902	69	1940
33	1903	70	1941
34	1904	71	1942
35	1905	72	1943
36	1906	73	1944
37	1907	74	1945

## APPOINTMENT DIARY 1881

Daily appointments and accounts due, few entries.  
1 vol. (folio, printed 'rough diary')

RS.32/75

## MISCELLANEOUS

Dance programme - C. P. Mitchell 26 May 1868

Catherine P. Mitchell's dance programme for a Government House ball, names of partners entered in pencil, but traced over in ink (? by S.E.E.M.)

1 paper

RS.32/76

Hydropathic prospectus [1901]

St. Ann's Hill Hydropathic Establishment, County Cork, Ireland, prospectus with photograph.

1 pamphlet

RS.32/77

Dance invitation 1910

1 card

RS.32/78

Notes on a mechanical clock with figures of Christ, the twelve disciples and the devil ND.

1 paper

RS.32/79

Lists of visitors to Lisdillon 1866 - 16 Nov. 1899

4 booklets

RS.32/80

Lists of visitors to Tirrjah 1902 - 1919

RS.32/81

Lists of letters written and visitors for S.E.E. Mitchell, at Westminster Rest Home, 1937 - 1941

1 envelope of loose papers

RS.32/82

## SCRAPBOOKS c 1930

Scrapbooks made up by Miss S. Mitchell in her old age, in the 1930's, containing an interesting but haphazard collection of news clippings, photographs, family letters and souvenirs, including earlier papers of her parents. The books consist of old copies of The Engineer, or Government reports and the material has not been gathered in any order.

vol. (RS.32/83) <sup>includes</sup> ~~contains~~: clipping about St. John's Hospital extension, 1936, invitations, letters from nephews in the armed forces, 1917-18,

Mabel Giblin's memorial of confirmation at All Saints Church, Hobart, 1883; letter to Mrs Meredith 1833; drawing of consecration of Bishop Nixon at Westminster Abbey 1842; school reports of Frank Mitchell, 1858; photograph of floods at Moonah, 1901; invitations, etc.

vol. 2 (RS.32/84) includes: Irish hospitals sweepstake tickets, letters from nephews, poster for film 'For the term of his natural life', 1927; John Mitchell's diary of his voyage to Tasmania in 1837 and his draft letter concerning the health of boy convicts at Port-Puer, 1846; SS.Oroya passenger list, 1901.

vol. 3 (RS.32/85) includes: Memoranda of family history; ships' menus, 1900-1; postcards; letters and papers of Fred and Frank Mitchell, 1858-1863; letters and papers of Mr and Mrs John Mitchell c 1856-1880; note about coloured lights for signals at Port Arthur.

vol. 4 (RS.32/86) includes: Photographs of Miss Mitchell, Burnett family (nephews) and others; news clippings of opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge, 1932; photo of flower packing shed, Scilly Isles (U.K.) Feb. 1901.

vol. 5 (RS.32/87) includes: Various news clippings, including Miss Mitchell's air trip, 1934, loss of plane, Miss Hobart, 1934; letters from brother Frank, 1933; plan of Tasmania 1887 and of Hobart, 1899; Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, centenary programme.

Main items in the scrapbooks have been indexed.

5 volumes

RS.32/83-87



#### PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM c 1895 - 1923

Photographs of family and friends of Miss S.E.E. Mitchell, mounted into an album made from an old volume of The Engineer and including photographs of the Mitchell family and their friends and relatives, for example, Ball children, Canon Fulford, Giblin family, Lyne family, E H. Luttrell, Bishop Montgomery, Shaw family.

1 volume

RS.32/88

#### DRAWINGS BY CATHERINE P. MITCHELL 1864 - 1876

Pencil sketches made by Catherine Penwarne (Kate) eldest daughter of John Mitchell. The drawings were made between 1860 and 1876 and portray ~~family scenes, scenes~~ the family riding (in one a guest is shown falling off), fishing, enjoying pic-nics with their Newfoundland dog, Caleb, boating, camping on Schouten Island. A series shows some of the family with friends at and on their way to and from a Governor's Ball. There is a gay scene of dancing at a 'hop feast', and another of more formal dancing at a social evening at Red Banks. A few early drawings are scenes of Melbourne, where Kate went to school. One sketch shows the opening of Swanport Bridge.



2 photos attributed to King Solomon's Caves but are of Newdegate Caves, Hastings. They are Beattie photographs of Feb 1912, published in Tasmanian Mail, March 1918

These sketches were gathered together by Sarah E. E. Mitchell, from her own collection and those of friends and relations and from John Ball, Kate's husband, sometime between 1928 and 1933. She mounted them in an album, together with locks of Kate's hair on red silk, a pressed fern arrangement, a coloured photograph of John and Catherine Ball, and coloured views of Buckland Churchyard in 1850, showing the grave of Paul Thomas Mitchell, aged 3 days, and in 1879 showing the grave of Catherine Penwarne Ball.

1 volume

RS.32/89

1843

Report on Fort Puer made by Benjamin Horne to Sir John Franklin,  
copied by John Mitchell (51 pp)

RS.32/90

1849

Lease for 7 years of Villeneuve, Frossers Plains, from Francis Smith  
to John Mitchell  
(parchment doc.)

RS.32/91

Band of Hope Review 1858/9

Numbers 97 - 105, Jan. - Sept. 1859, bound in cover dated 1858.  
London, Partridge & Co., Bennett & Tweedie. This was probably  
originally in one of S. Mitchell's scrapbooks as it is partly attached  
to a page of House of Assembly Papers 1894.

RS.32/92

MITCHELL OF LISDILLON

John Penwarne = Catherine Nattle  
of Trehawke, Cornwall

Alexander Mitchell

Catherine Nattle Penwarne = William Keast

James Mitchell = Elizabeth Drew

Lydia Drew

Catherine Augusta (Keast) = John Mitchell  
1812-1899 1812-1880

Sarah

Thomas

James

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Francis Keast	Henry John	Frederick Keast	Frank William Drew	Catherine Penwarne	Edwin Harry John	Paul Thomas	Mark Septimus	Sarah Elizabeth Emma	Amy Mary Jane
21 Oct 1840 (bapt. St. Davids Jan. 1841)	Mar. 1842 (bapt. St. George Sorell 20 Apr. 1842)	1844 (d, 1861 (in Eng.)	1845 d.1936 (in Eng.)	10 May 1847 d.1878 m J.A. Ball	1848 d.1929	1850 d.inf.	1851 d.16 Nov. 1897	2 June 1853 d.1946	24 Oct. 1854 m. Herbert Giblin
d.inf.	d.inf.						m Mabel Giblin		

Cont. next page



## Descendants of John and Catherine Mitchell

- (4) Frank William Drew, 1845 - 1936, m. Emily Wild  
(lived Dublin, Ireland and Sussex, England)

Wallace Drew (1880) m. Mary Lyons, 1910

Frevor

John (Jack) apprenticed Vickers, Engineers 1934

Constance Emily (1881, m. M. Webb

Ellery,  
Barbara  
Rosemary

Amy May m Douglas Gran, 1912

Dougals

Ian

Jean

Nora, 1884

Ida m. C. Martin Jones, 1912

Audrey

Daphne

Edith Annie m. D. Burnett, 1912

Evelyne M. (1926) (Cheltenham College, 1938

Alan (Clifton College)

John Drew (Jack) killed in France, 1916

- (5) Catherine Penwarne, 1847 - 1878, m. Rev. John Aubrey Ball  
d. 1878 (J. A. Ball remarried)

- (6) Edwin Harry John, 1848 - 1929, m. Annie Margaret Solly

Nellie Margaret (1883 - 1948)

Lois Mary m. Edward Shaw, 1913

Edward Carr

Charles Penwarne

Rupert Penwarne m. Effie Anderson

Robert George

Frank Edwin

Zoe

Lucy m. Frank Nicholas

Travers (adopted son)

[Charles Edward Solly (31 Jul. 1889) m. Alison Rudd

— Rector of Ringaroon, 1934, Brighton 1938, A,I,F, 1939-43

Archdeacon of Hobart, 1956

Ian Raven

Margaret Roblin (twins)

- (7) C

Grace Catherine (unmarried)

Benjamin John            m. Christobel McRae

Christopher John  
Mark

- (8) Mark Septimus (1851 - 1897) m. (Florence) Mabel Giblin  
(m (2) Peter Wilkinson, 1922)

Paul Wanostrocht (17 Apr. 1886) m ?  
doctor

Paul Wanostrocht (doctor)

Ruth Mary            m. Erle Allen

Rosemary

Naomi Dorothy            m Ellis Price

Thomas Giblin            m Shon Stitt

Kate Alice            m Jack Rodd

Jack

- (9) Sarah Elizabeth Emma, 1853 - 1946

- (10) Amy Mary Jane 1854 -            m. Herbert Giblin

Catherine Augusta (Giblin)

Mary (Giblin)            m Lucien Dechaineux

Marguerite (step daughter)

Emil (step son)

Bertrand

Yvonne

Norris (Giblin) 23 Dec. 1889 -            m. Molly Gordon  
Professor, Montreal University

Richard Dennis (1924 -            )