

FONDS A63

A. P. MITCHELL FAMILY

AN INVENTORY OF ITS ARCHIVAL RECORDS HELD BY THE
MILLET & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PREPARED BY

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Provenance: A. P. Mitchell family

Title: A. P. Mitchell family fonds

Dates: 1914-1968

Phys. Desc.: 10 cm of textual records; 3 photographs

Bio / Admin History: Arthur Percy Mitchell was born in England on April 13, 1880. His father was an auctioneer and after his schooling Arthur took up the trade. He worked in his father's show room in Bristol. After his father's death in 1899 Mitchell migrated to Canada. At Edmonton and started an auction partnership with J. H. Reed. Because of his poor health and inability to work in the hot and dusty environment of the sales rooms he left the business after a few years. He visited England and when he returned, and on the advice of his doctor, explored outdoor selling in Millet between 1913 and 1915.

Alice Bullas was born in England and migrated to Canada, ending up in Calgary with her parents and eight siblings. Alice trained as a secretary and worked for a time in the office of the Indian Agent at Hobbema. She met A.P. Mitchell when he came to work in Calgary after 1915. They married and for a few years, operated a general store. In 1919 Mitchell heard of an opportunity to buy a large tin-clad building on the main street of Millet with an office and living quarters above. The family, including daughter Alice, moved to Millet where he began to specialize in farm sales.

Mitchell operated Mitchell Sales and Mitchell's Auctions as well as running a real estate and insurance agency. The building was destroyed in 1927 in the general fire in Millet. At that time Mitchell was serving as Mayor for the town. He also served as a councillor, as a member of the Board of Trade and on the School Board. Always active in the community he also represented the constituency of Leduc as a Liberal M.L.A. from 1930-1935. The Mitchells retired to Vancouver for several years and then returned to Edmonton until their deaths in 1967 and 1968.

Custodial History: The records were transferred (with the donor's permission) to the Millet and District Historical Society from the Provincial Archives of Alberta where they had been donated by Allan Runck (grandson of Alice Mitchell) in February 2007.

Scope / Content: The fonds consists of a typewritten biography of the Mitchells, business records of A. P. Mitchell, land sales documents, a bill passed when he was an M.L.A., material on the Alberta Auctioneers' Association, personal papers of Alice and Arthur Mitchell including their wills and estate documents, correspondence and a scrapbook of cards and clippings and articles written by A.P. Mitchell on antiques and auctions.

Title Source: Title based on the contents of the fonds.
Language: The material is in English.
Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.
Finding Aids: Box list available at the Repository
Associated/ Related: Artefacts in the Museum Collection
Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Arrangement Note: Auction licenses also processed into the museum collection under numbers TR 93/27, TR93/25, TR93/24, TR93/26, TR93/28

Record No.: A63

Repository: Millet and District Museum and Archives

Names: A. P. Mitchell
Arthur Percy and Alice Mitchell

Topics: Family and personal life
Commerce and industry

Box List

Box 1

File

- 1 Biography [typewritten] of Arthur Percy and Alice (Bullas) Mitchell; histories [typewritten] of House of Mitchell the Auctioneer and the Alberta Auctioneers' Association.
- 2 Auction licences. -- 1914-1946.
- 3 Auction catalogues. -- 1920-1929
- 4 Land sales documents, William and Gus Slade. -- 1931-1932.
- 5 Ledger of township and subdivision maps. -- n.d.
- 6 Bill #24 – "... Respecting the sale by auction of goods and chattels", Regulations and correspondence relating to. -- 1935
- 7 Notes for articles on auctioneering. -- n.d.
- 8 Inventory of Mitchell's [?] collection of books and silver
- 9 A.P. Mitchell and Alice Mitchell; wills and summary of their estate.
- 10 Alberta Auctioneers' Association – clipping re: 10th Annual Convention, 1945
- 11 Alberta Auctioneers' Association – program re 20th Annual Convention, 1965
- 12 Clippings re important events, 1927-1968
- 13 Alice Mitchell's shorthand notebook
- 14 Alice Mitchell's scrapbook, n.d.
- 15 Alice Mitchell's correspondence, ca 1920-1960
- 16 Advertising Posters, Mitchell's Auctions, and placemat with photograph of store, n.d. O/S
- 17 Framed Certificate Alberta Auctioneers' Association
- 18 Framed portrait of A.P. Mitchell, nd.