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Leichhardt, Maxwell Mitchell, 1923-2015 (MSS 570)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Maxwell Mitchell Leichhardt, who went by Mitchell Leichhardt, was born 29 November 1923 to Maxwell and Marjorie Mitchell Leichhardt in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He attended the public schools in Bowling Green and held a part-time job at Deemer’s Florist and Greenhouse, helping grow and propagate plants. He served as a navigator in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, flying missions across Africa and Europe, and rose to the rank of captain. Following his military service, he and his business partner Sonny Barr founded what became Leichhardt Landscape Company. Barr eventually sold his interest in the business to J. Lewie Harman. Mitchell landscaped numerous residential and commercial properties throughout the years in Bowling Green, and in communities along the Nashville to Louisville corridor. He was instrumental in the design and development of the Baker Arboretum in Bowling Green. He served as a board member and president of the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association and was a registered landscaper with the Kentucky Landscape Architecture Board. Mitchell, along with his niece and her husband—Cindy and Casey Schott—hybridized and introduced outstanding daylilies, naming many for friends. Mitchell graduated from Western Kentucky University (WKU) in 1970, where he studied German.

The Augustine Alumni Center at WKU boasts a small garden named for Leichhardt. His good friend Jerry Baker endowed the Mitchell Leichhardt Professorship in Horticulture in his honor. The garden at the Alumni Center, the endowed professorship in horticulture, his design and supervisory work at the Baker Arboretum, and his many landscape designs will be lasting reminders of Leichhardt’s legacy.

In his early days as an entrepreneur he developed a talent for raising, training and showing boxers. His dogs Pennyrile Pendulum and Pennyrile Fanletters won many awards, including best in show at the Westminster Dog Show. Mitchell was an avid opera fan and a world traveler, trekking throughout South and Central America, western Europe, Japan, Egypt and Kuwait. Yearly trips to New York to visit The Metropolitan Opera were common as were sojourns to visit the gardens in the United States and around the world.

Leichhardt died on 23 September 2015.
COLLECTION NOTE

This collection documents the life and interests of Bowling Green landscape architect Maxwell Mitchell Leichhardt. The older items in the collection are photocopies. Most of Box 1 contains information about Mitchell’s military career during World War II and his subsequent service in the National Guard. Folders 11-13 contain photographs of Mitchell from World War II (Folder 12), family and friends (Folder 13), and more recent photographs (Folder 11) showing Mitchell’s business on Nashville Road and trips to Europe where he and Jerry Baker frequently visited southcentral Kentucky expatriate and artist Joe Downing. Folders 14 and 15 contain information about the boxer dogs that Leichhardt bred and showed. The general correspondence folder (Folder 16) contains several pieces of stationery and envelopes that advertise another entrepreneurial venture of Leichhardt’s, that of pigeon breeding. The folder also includes a typed note from Kentucky author Janice Holt Giles, who thanks Mitchell for sending some pansies to her in Adair County. Mitchell and several of his Bowling Green cohorts frequently visited Janice and Henry Giles at their log house near Knifley, Kentucky. A photograph of Mitchell enjoying a meal with the Giles’ can be found in Folder 13, item 11.

Box 2 Folder 1 contains registration forms, photographs and correspondence related to daylilies hybridized by Leichhardt. It also includes a 1996 catalog of daylilies offered by Schott Gardens, a business operated by Mitchell’s niece Cindy and her husband Casey. The rest of the box contains folders of genealogical material related to the Leichhardt family (Folders 2-6) and related families: Sublett (Folder 7) and Perkins (Folder 8). The oldest items in this collection are photocopies, not originals.

SHELF LIST

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<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>LEICHHARDT, Maxwell Mitchell</th>
<th>1914-2015</th>
<th>461 items</th>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>2009-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>World War II correspondence with family</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Personal military records</td>
<td>1942-1952</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Unit orders and assignments</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Supply orders and receipts</td>
<td>1945-1951</td>
<td>18 items</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Flight logs</td>
<td>1943-1952</td>
<td>51 items</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Flight charts</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
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<td>Military training documents</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous – Car registration, drawings of</td>
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS LEICHHARDT, Maxwell Mitchell, 1776-2015
570 1923-2015

Correspondence, military records, photographs and scrapbooks of Bowling Green, Kentucky, landscape architect Mitchell Leichhardt. Also includes information about his work hybridizing daylilies, breeding and showing of boxer dogs, and genealogical information about the Leichhardt, Perkins, and Sublett families.

2 boxes. 25 folders. 673 items. Originals and photocopies.

SC2016.21.8

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See:
Leichhardt, Frederick Wilhelm Ludwig, 1813-1848?

Thomas, Constance (Leichhardt) Choate “Connie”
See also:
Leichhardt, Constance “Connie”

Sledge/Jeffery 03/10/2016