

# GREENVILLE McNEEL MITCHELL



Greenville McNeel Mitchell came to Mattoon from Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1851. He clerked in the Cunningham & Sons store for several years and in 1859 was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Coles County.

He entered into the grocery and dry goods business with John Cunningham in 1860.

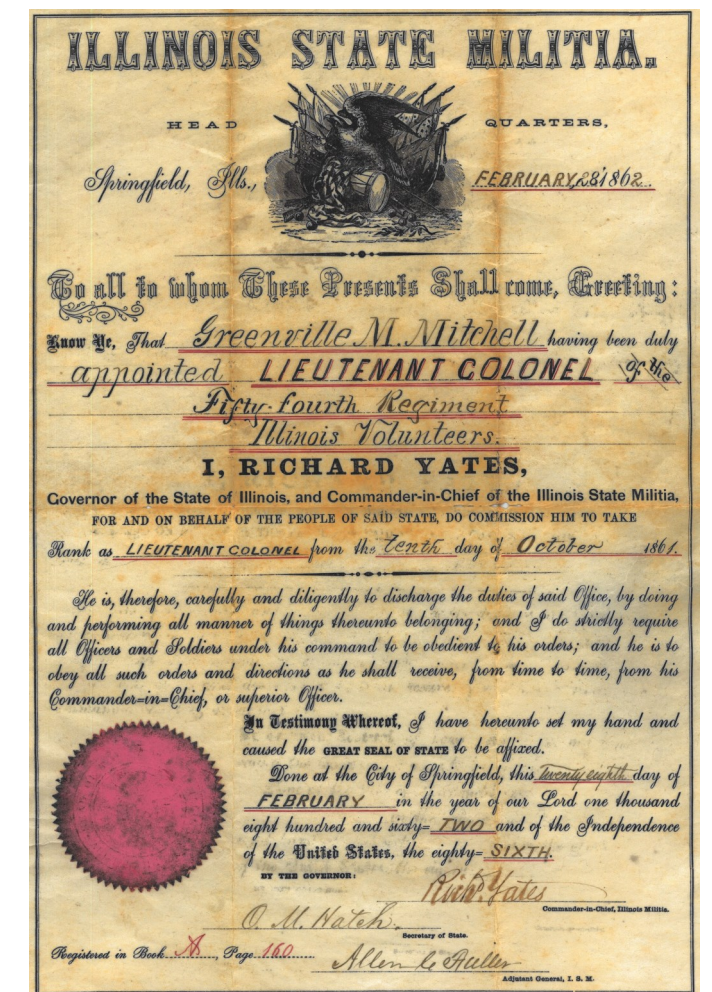
**B**OOTS and Shoes, Hats and Caps for sale  
very low by  
**MITCHELL & CUNNINGHAM.**

Greenville McNeel Mitchell was appointed Captain of Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Cavalry, by Governor Yates on 8 July 1861. All but 12 men in Company C were from Mattoon. Mitchell left the running of his store to his partner when he answered the governor's call.

Company C along with 5 other companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Cavalry were captured at Lexington, Missouri on 20 September 1861 by a force of about 10,000 Confederate soldiers. Captain Mitchell was thrice wounded during the battle, though none serious enough to leave the field.

Captain Mitchell with other officers of the regiment were exchanged in December of 1861.

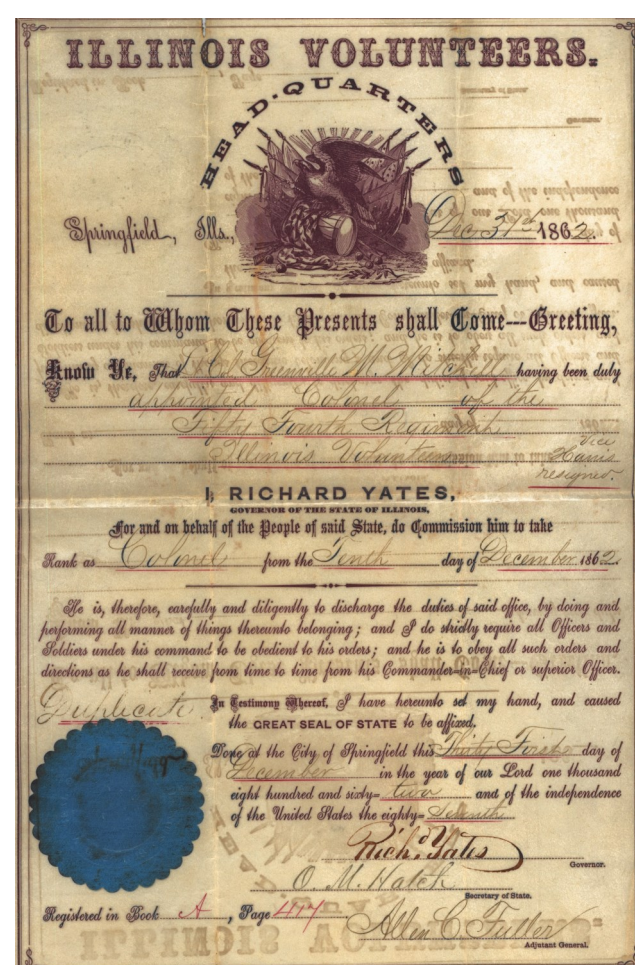
Following his exchange, Mitchell was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of the 54<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry on 16 February 1862.



Mitchell was promoted to full Colonel on 10 December 1862.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry was assigned Veterans Furlough at Camp Grant in Mattoon in March of 1864. In the last days of that furlough, several soldiers who were in Charleston became engaged in a confrontation with a group of Copperheads. Colonel Mitchell was slightly wounded during the altercation on the Charleston Courthouse Square, 28 March 1864. A bullet struck his silver watch case, deflecting what could have been a serious wound.

Colonel Mitchell rallied the Union soldiers around the square and gave chase to the copperheads, and "scoured the country in all directions, arresting several parties implicated."



Colonel Greenville McNeel Mitchell was brevetted Brigadier General on 22 August 1865. At the time of his promotion, Mitchell was in command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of Reynold's VII Corps.

After the war Mitchell served as Coles County Sheriff and pursued a number of business ventures. In 1877 he was appointed Postmaster in Charleston, where he had moved.

General Mitchell died on 31 May 1895 at the age of 60.

Greenville McNeel Mitchell's sword is displayed below. It is a W Clauberg sword, manufactured in Solingen, Prussia. These swords were highly prized by officers.

