## Mattie Mitchell: Newfoundland's Greatest Frontiersman

Mattie Mitchell was a legendary Newfoundland frontiersman, trapper, and guide who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was known for his incredible survival skills, his deep knowledge of the wilderness, and his unwavering determination. This article explores the life and legacy of Mattie Mitchell, one of Newfoundland's most fascinating historical figures.


Mattie Mitchell: Newfoundland's Greatest Frontiersman
by Gary Collins

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## Early Life

Mattie Mitchell was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1846. His father was a fisherman, and his mother was a homemaker. Mattie grew up in a poor family, and he had to learn to fend for himself at a young age. He began trapping and hunting as a teenager, and he quickly developed a reputation as a skilled outdoorsman.

## A Life in the Wilderness

In 1869, Mattie Mitchell left St. John's and moved to the wilderness of Labrador. He spent the next several decades living off the land, trapping fur-bearing animals and guiding hunting parties. Mattie was a master of survival, and he was able to live in the harsh conditions of the Labrador wilderness with ease. He was also a skilled hunter, and he was known for his ability to track and kill game.

Mattie Mitchell's reputation as a frontiersman grew throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was featured in articles in newspapers and magazines, and he was even invited to speak at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Mattie Mitchell became a symbol of the Newfoundland frontier, and he was admired for his courage, his determination, and his love of the wilderness.

## Legacy

Mattie Mitchell died in 1929, but his legacy lives on. He is still remembered as one of Newfoundland's greatest frontiersmen, and his story continues to inspire people today. Mattie Mitchell's life is a reminder of the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity and to thrive in even the most challenging conditions.

There are several memorials to Mattie Mitchell in Newfoundland. A statue of him stands in the town of St. Anthony, and a mountain in Labrador is named after him. Mattie Mitchell's story is also told in several books and articles, and he is a popular subject of lectures and presentations.

Mattie Mitchell was a remarkable man who lived an extraordinary life. He was a true frontiersman, and he was one of the last of a dying breed. Mattie

Mitchell's legacy is a reminder of the importance of self-reliance, determination, and a love of the wilderness.


## Further Reading

- Mattie Mitchell on The Canadian Encyclopedia
- Mattie Mitchell on the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage website
- Mattie Mitchell: Newfoundland's Greatest Frontiersman by James P. Howley


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