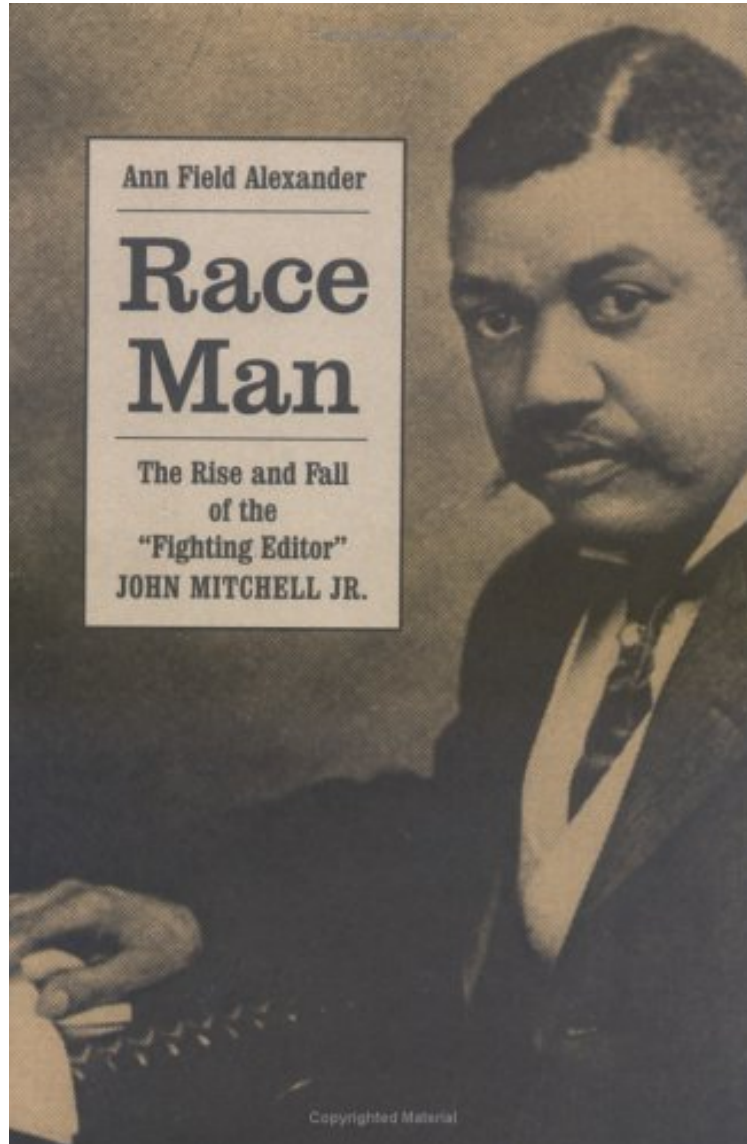


[Ebook pdf] Race Man: The Rise and Fall of the quot;Fighting Editor,quot; John Mitchell Jr

## Race Man: The Rise and Fall of the quot;Fighting Editor,quot; John Mitchell Jr

*Ann Field Alexander*

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**Ann Field Alexander : Race Man: The Rise and Fall of the quot;Fighting Editor,quot; John Mitchell Jr** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race Man: The Rise and Fall of the quot;Fighting Editor,quot; John Mitchell Jr:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Resource and an Extraordinary Subject.By RealistThis is a well-written biography, and is important as our best resource to illuminate the life and work of this brave, tireless

early proponent of what would become called the struggle for civil rights.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting...By FirestarterThis is an interesting book. Prior to reading this book I had never heard of John Mitchell Jr. This book was well-written, but somewhat boring in some chapters. I know this is an auto-biography, but this book read like a textbook. There were times when I put it down and came back to it weeks later. It didn't hold my attention very well. Still, this is an important book about an important man. So, I give it 4 stars.0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Be carefulBy William HuttonThe important photos in the print edition have been left out on purpose by the e-book publisher. What a shame!

Although he has largely receded from the public consciousness, John Mitchell Jr., the editor and publisher of the *Richmond Planet*, was well known to many black, and not a few white, Americans in his day. A contemporary of Booker T. Washington, Mitchell contrasted sharply with Washington in temperament. In his career as an editor, politician, and businessman, Mitchell followed the trajectory of optimism, bitter disappointment, and retrenchment that characterized African American life in the Reconstruction and Jim Crow South. Best known for his crusade against lynching in the 1880s, Mitchell was also involved in a number of civil rights crusades that seem more contemporary to the 1950s and 1960s than the turn of that century. He led a boycott against segregated streetcars in 1904 and fought residential segregation in Richmond in 1911. His political career included eight years on the Richmond city council, which ended with disenfranchisement in 1896. As Jim Crow strengthened its hold on the South, Mitchell, like many African American leaders, turned to creating strong financial institutions within the black community. He became a bank president and urged *Planet* readers to comport themselves as gentlemen, but a year after he ran for governor in 1921, Mitchell's fortunes suffered a drastic reversal. His bank failed, and he was convicted of fraud and sentenced to three years in the state penitentiary. The conviction was overturned on technicalities, but the so-called reforms that allowed state regulation of black businesses had done their worst, and Mitchell died in poverty and some disgrace. Basing her portrait on thorough primary research conducted over several decades, Ann Field Alexander brings Mitchell to life in all his complexity and contradiction, a combative, resilient figure of protest and accommodation who epitomizes the African American experience in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

"[T]he best, most comprehensive, and most important biography of a southern black editor during the era of Jim Crow." -- Fitzhugh Brundage, University of Florida, author of *Lynching in the New South* About the Author Ann Field Alexander is Professor of History at Mary Baldwin College and director of the College's regional center in Roanoke, Virginia.