

Chief of Police John Joseph "Joe" Mizell

Bartow Police Department 1922-1946

Chief of Police for 10 years (1922-1928, 1930, 1940, 1946)

Court records from 1911-1939 were lost due to fire, so the exact dates that Joe Mizell served as Chief of Police are unknown. The information published here has been gleaned from Census records, Bartow City Directory Records, the Polk County Democrat, and family accounts.

Born in Socrum Fl, John Joseph "Joe" Mizell joined the Bartow Police Department in 1922, having served as Town Marshal in Fort Meade since 1914.

The 1930 Census lists Mizell as Chief of Police, as do city directories for several years.



Joe Mizell on the left around 1920.



On the left Roy Amidon (Lawyer, Judge) and Joe Mizell on right. (1931)

Mizell's Obituary as it appeared in the Tampa Tribune Oct. 1965



Ex-Chief Of Bartow Police Dies

BARTOW (Special) — John Joseph Mizell Sr., 83, former Bartow police chief, died yesterday in Lakeland General Hospital.

He fell at his home Oct. 6 and suffered a broken thigh.

A native of Socrum, he moved to Bartow from Fort Meade 43 years ago. He was on the police force at Fort Meade, and was in police work for a total of 54 years. After his retirement, he served for a number of years as security officer at Bartow Municipal Airport and as school crossing guard.

Survivors include a son, Maj. J. J. Mizell Jr., Lawrence, Kan.; two daughters, Mrs. J. F. Hubbard, Bartow, and Mrs. J. L. Witt, Savannah; and nine grandchildren.



Chief Mizell on the right with Polk County Sheriff Alf Wilder Est. 1929

Pictures provided by Joe Mizell, Jr.