

## FRANCES & MARY MONTGOMERY COLLECTION-MSS 7

In the months following the United States' declaration of war with Japan, thousands of Japanese-Americans who resided on the country's west coast were told to evacuate their homes and resettle in communities managed by the United States government. One such community was the Gila River Relocation Center. From 1942-1945, Kansas natives Frances & Mary Montgomery were teachers at Butte High School located at Gila River. Various artifacts, newspapers, yearbooks correspondence and photographs were donated by the Montgomery sisters so others may learn about the history they lived through (1942-1945), and their subsequent friendships with former Relocation Center students.

The collection also contains files about the controversy surrounding the firing of Frances Montgomery from Phoenix North High School in 1950 for teaching sex education, and her subsequent teaching career in San Diego, California to her retirement in 1970.

The collection consists of 10 boxes (5.8 linear feet).

### FM MSS-7 FRANCES AND MARY MONTGOMERY COLLECTION

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates</b>
1	1	Frances Montgomery Correspondence	1943-1948
1	2	Frances to Mary Montgomery. Letters	1945, 1947
1	3	Explanatory letters from Frances, Mary and Robert Montgomery	1983
1	4	Letters to Mary Montgomery from former students Esther_, Ben Ehara, Hiroko_, Hoover, and Toshiko Imamura	1944-1945
1	5	Letters to Mary Montgomery from former students Fumiko Kawasaki, Tom Kitaguchi, and Fumio Kodani	1943, 1945
1	6	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Pablo Komuro, former student	1945-1947
1	7	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Miki Koyama, former student	1944-1947, 1972
1	8	Letters to Mary Montgomery from former students Holly Matsuda, Mrs.	1942-1946, 1980-1981

T. Misumi, Thomas Miyasaki, Tadao Migimoto, and T. Nomachi

1	9	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Clare Nishikawa, former student	1943-1945
1	10	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Kiyotsubuyama and H. Yoshigai	1944-1946
1	11	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Nagashi Yamamoto, former student	1942-1947
1	12	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Eugene Yamamoto, former student, and from Mr. and Mrs. T. Yamamoto, former acquaintances	1942-1943
1	13	Letters to Mary Montgomery from Takiji Yukawa, former student	1944-1947, 1972-1977
1	14	Holiday greeting messages from former students and friends	N.D.
1	15	AMERICAN JAPANESE by Art Akamatsu N . D. (?), a three page manuscript given to Frances Montgomery	
1	16	Japanese grammar lessons	N.D.
1	17	Clippings, ephemera	N.D.
1	18	POSTON PROGRESS	1943

**Box 2**

2	1	Background of Relocation Program	N.D.
2	2	President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe military areas, February 20, 1942	1942
2	3	Carl Hayden/Montgomery correspondence	N.D.
2	4	Facts about War Relocation Authority Supplementary Statement by Dillon S. Myer	N.D.

2	5	Japanese Groups and Associations in the U.S. in 1943	N.D.
2	6	Segregation Conference	1943
2	7	Kibei Problems	N.D.
2	8	Nisei Assimilation	1942-1943
2	9	Background history of the Japanese	N.D.
2	10	House Bill 187	N.D.
2	11	Military Police	N.D.
2	13	Nisei Soldiers. Various articles	N.D.
2	14	Resettlement	N.D.
2	15	Miscellaneous articles	N.D.

**Box 3**

3	1	Community Management Division, Education Section. Education Program	1942-1945
3	2	Community School forum	1943
3	3	Proposed Curriculum Procedures	1942
3	4	Butte High School Constitution	N.D.
3	5	Biology Experiments	N.D.
3	6	Biology Experiments – Chizuko, Fukawa and Yoshiharu Shimasaki	N.D.
3	7	Biology Experiments – various students	N.D.
3	8	Girls League	N.D.
3	9	Commencement Programs	N.D.
3	10	DESERT SENTINEL	1943

3	11	DESERT SENTINEL	1943
3	12	DESERT SENTINEL	1945
3	13	SECOND YEAR AT GILA	1944

**Box 4**

4	1	Frances Montgomery School Employment Applications and Contracts	1944-1969
4	2	Frances and Mary Montgomery Diplomas and Passports	1940-1982
4	3	Frances Montgomery Fired From Phoenix North High School For Teaching Sex Education	1950-1951
4	4	Pacific Junior High School Yearbook, San Diego, California	1955
4	5	Educational News Clippings Pertaining To Frances Montgomery	1961-1965
4	6	Frances Montgomery Retirement, San Diego, California	1970

**Box 5**

5	1	GILA NEWS COURIER, October 1942	1942
5	2	GILA NEWS COURIER, November-December 1942	1942
5	3	GILA NEWS COURIER, January 1943	1943
5	4	GILA NEWS COURIER, February 1943	1943
5	5	GILA NEWS COURIER, March 1943	1943
5	6	GILA NEWS COURIER, April 1943	1943
5	7	GILA NEWS COURIER, May 1943	1943
5	8	GILA NEWS COURIER, June-July 1943	1943

5 9 GILA NEWS COURIER, August 1943 1943

5 10 GILA NEWS COURIER, September 1943 1943

**Box 6**

6 1 GILA NEWS COURIER, October 1943 1943

6 2 GILA NEWS COURIER, November 1943 1943

6 3 GILA NEWS COURIER, December 1943 1943

6 4 GILA NEWS COURIER, January 1944 1944

6 5 GILA NEWS COURIER, February 1944 1944

6 6 GILA NEWS COURIER, March 1944 1944

6 7 GILA NEWS COURIER, April 1944 1944

6 8 GILA NEWS COURIER, May 1944 1944

**Box 7**

7 1 GILA NEWS COURIER, June 1944 1944

7 2 GILA NEWS COURIER, July 1944 1944

7 3 GILA NEWS COURIER, August 1944 1944

7 4 GILA NEWS COURIER, September 1944 1944

7 5 GILA NEWS COURIER, October 1944 1944

7 6 GILA NEWS COURIER, November 1944 1944

7 7 GILA NEWS COURIER, December 1944 1944

7 8 GILA NEWS COURIER, January 1945 1945

7 9 GILA NEWS COURIER, February 1945 1945

7 10 GILA NEWS COURIER, March-April 1945 1945

7 11 GILA NEWS COURIER, May 1945 1945

7 12

GILA NEWS COURIER, June 1945 1945

**Box 8**

Butte High School Yearbook - *Year's Flight* (1943-1945)  
Poston High School Yearbook - *Post Ano* (1944)  
Poston Unit Three Secondary School Yearbook – *Campus Echoes*  
(1944-1945)  
Story on the Gila River Relocation Center During WWII. KPNX 12  
Broadcasting Company. Reporter Bert Sass, Photographer Dave Dennison  
VHS nd.

**Box 9**

Photographs: Photographs of students, residents, and 1943-1950's  
Buildings at the Gila River Relocation Center,  
1943 – 1945 and later

Frances and Mary Montgomery personal and family ND  
photographs

**Box 10**  
**Oversized**

Bird Lapel Pins (3) -- Brightly colored bird pins. One made by T. Yekarva;  
Bouquet of Flowers - white and pink flowers with green leaves, made in the  
Relocation Center; Wooden Sandals (2 pairs); two hand fans; 1970  
retirement award.