

Lucy Montgomery Papers

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DuSable Museum of African American History
April 6, 2012
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Summary Information

Repository	DuSable Museum of African American History
Title	Lucy Montgomery Papers
Date [inclusive]	1901-1988
Extent	17.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Lucy Montgomery (1911-1990) was an activist and philanthropist who supported civil rights and anti-war movements, the arts, and other liberal causes. During the 1960s, Montgomery's personal financial support helped sustain the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and The Black Panther Party. The Lucy Montgomery papers spans from 1901-1988 with the bulk of material from 1962 to 1978. Montgomery's extensive set of alphabetized subject files document the activities of the various organizations that she supported, as well as her participation in particular groups. These files make up the majority of the collection, with the remainder including correspondence, personal items and memorabilia.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Lucy Montgomery (1911-1990) was an activist and philanthropist who supported civil rights and anti-war movements, the arts, and other liberal causes. Montgomery was born in Williamston, North Carolina and graduated from Salem College for Girls in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1930. After graduating, she worked for both the Civil Works Administration and North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration before marrying Thomas Harris in 1934. Montgomery and Harris divorced in 1943, and in 1947 she married Post cereal heir, Kenneth Montgomery. Lucy and Kenneth lived in Chicago where they established the Henry Horner nursery school, a research school whose goal was to discover methods that could enhance the academic achievement of disadvantaged children. With money from Kenneth's inheritance, Lucy helped sustain the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and The Black Panther Party. She served on the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), helped found Women for Peace, and trained volunteers for the Mississippi Student Project. Montgomery was a delegate to the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago where she supported Eugene McCarthy. She received the Clarence Darrow Humanitarian Award, and was a member of the Civil Rights Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union. In 1969, Lucy Montgomery and Kenneth Montgomery divorced.

Scope and Contents note

The Lucy Montgomery papers span from 1901-1988 with the bulk of material from 1962-1978. The papers are broken into five series, "Civil Rights Subject Files," "Correspondence" "Personal," "Publications," and "Photographs." "Civil Rights Subject Files" make up the bulk of the collection; subsequent series are primarily personal in nature and include correspondence with family, friends, and influential political and social leaders, financial documents, and personal memorabilia. This collection should be a first stop for researchers interested in the Civil Rights Movement, anti-war and peace movements, and other liberal and radical groups and causes during the 1960s.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DuSable Museum of African American History April 6, 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- McCarthy, Eugene
- Montgomery, Lucy

Subject(s)

- Black Panther Party
- Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
- Civil Rights
- Henry Horner Pre-School
- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- National Conference for New Politics
- Peace Movement
- Peace Movement in America
- Southern Christian Leadership Council
- Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee
- Women Activists

Collection Inventory

Series I: Civil Rights Subject Files, 1949-1988

Scope and Contents note

“Civil Rights Subject Files” contains documents related to the various causes and organizations that Montgomery financially supported or took an interest in, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, flyers, newsletters, statements, speeches, and photographs. Although Montgomery was not actively involved in all of the organizations, her participation in particular groups is reflected through correspondence, handwritten notes, and other internal documents of the organizations. This series shows her extensive support of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, particularly in Mississippi; the Black Panther Party, and the anti-War and Peace Movements. Other organizations that are prominently represented include the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, the Committee for Independent Political Action, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the National Conference for New Politics, and Urban Gateways. This series is arranged alphabetically by subject or last name. Of note are copies of FBI files pertaining to Montgomery’s involvement with various Civil Rights organizations, such as the Black Panther Party and Weather Underground Organization, a signed pamphlet from James Forman, and a letter dated 1965 from Bill Ayers regarding his involvement in a community school in Michigan.

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Series II: Correspondence,

Scope and Contents note

“Correspondence” includes both general correspondence with Montgomery’s family and friends, and correspondence related to the organizations she supported. Correspondence in folders 594-605 are arranged chronologically by Montgomery and contains letters from organizations as well as friends and family. The remainder of the series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Letters from correspondents not listed individually may be found in “general” folders by last name.

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Bankhead, Lee, 1964-1966	46	606
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Christenson, Linda, undated	46	610
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Coquillon, Pierre, 1969-1970	47	613
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Cunningham, Henry, undated	47	615
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Gilmore, Robert, 1965-1966	47	627
Glick, Fred, 1971	47	628
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"Mc" General, 1963-1964	48	641
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McAllister, Frank, 1970, undated	48	643
"N" General, 1962-1965	48	644
Peters, Florence, 1968	48	645
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"XYZ" General, 1962-1969	48	653

Series III: Personal, 1901-1986 (Bulk, 1962-1978)**Scope and Contents note**

This series includes personal material of Montgomery's, including hand written notes, personal binders, travel documents, and personal memorabilia. It also includes articles written about Montgomery.

	Box	Folder
Handwritten Notes, 1965-1975, undated	48	654-668
Daily Record, 1968	48	669
Expandable File, undated	49	670
Handbook for Community Peace Centers Binder, 1962	50	671

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Personal Binder, 1963	50	672
Publicity, 1963-1970	50	673-679
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Financial, 1969-1986	50	681
Real Estate, 1961-1964, undated	51	682-684
Kenneth Montgomery Foundation, 1967-1968	51	685
Family Lineage, 1961	51	686
Art and Theater, 1974, 1979, 1981	51	687-689
Travel - Morocco, 1962-1978	51	690
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Travel – Papa New Guinea, 1978	52	692
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Travel – Greece, 1960	52	694
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Series IV: Publications,

Sheet Music, 1901-1938	52	696-698
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Buttons, undated	52	700
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Mailing Labels, undated	52	702

Series IV: Publications, undated**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains uncategorized publications and newspaper clippings. It includes pamphlets, catalogues, and magazines.

	Box	Folder
Publications, undated	53	703-712
Newspaper Clippings, undated	54	713-731

Series V: Photographs, 1965-1969**Scope and Contents note**

Series V: Photographs,

“Photographs” contains one folder of photographs, the majority of which were taken in 1965-1966 at Rockford College in Illinois. Also of note are pictures of Freedom Houses and Freedom Schools from 1965 and 1969 respectively.

	Box	Folder
Photographs, 1965-1966, 1969	54	732