

TITLE: Jennie Parks Ringgold collection

DATE RANGE: 1879-1953

CALL NUMBER: MS 0688

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .5 linear ft. (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Three and folders of material donated ca. 1940 and comprised the Frank M. Ringgold papers. The remaining materials were purchased in June 1991 from the Amador County Museum in Jackson, California.

COPYRIGHT: The Arizona Historical Society owns the copyright to this collection.

RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Jennie Parks Ringgold collection, MS 0688, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: Alice Holmes in 1993. Materials were combined with a former collection of the same number called Frank M Ringgold papers; the original collection papers are marked with R5814

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Jennie Parks Ringgold was born in Mills County, Texas at the Williams Ranch in February 1875. She was the daughter of W. John Parks and his wife, Louise Epley Parks. In 1879 the Park family, with others, formed an emigrant train and moved to New Mexico, the Knight's Ranch area near Lordsburg. By 1881 they had settled in Duncan, Arizona, later relocating, in 1889 to Solomonville, where John served as a deputy to Bill Whelan. The Parks family continued to live in Solomonville until 1916. John and several of his sons were active in law enforcement, serving as deputies or sheriffs in the Graham and Gila counties. He and several of his sons were also members of the Duncan guard, a militia unit formed in 1885 to protect settlers in the Duncan/Solomonville areas.

Jennie Parks married Frank M. Ringgold in 1899. They lived in the Clifton and Globe areas and she later moved to California. She is the author of Frontier Days in the Southwest (1952) which is a personal history of her family's move from Texas to Arizona as well as her father's and brother's law enforcement days. It includes many events in the early history of Graham County and the surrounding areas.

Frank M. Ringgold was born in Pennsylvania in October 1869 and came to Arizona in 1885 for his health and to work on the ranch of his uncle Arte Hickey. Hickey's ranch was located on the San Francisco River.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The bulk of this collection deals with the Parks/Ringgold family reminiscences, life in Duncan and Solomonville, the formation of the Duncan guard in 1885 as well as correspondence about and research material collected for Jennie P. Ringgold's book Frontier Days in the Southwest. Much of this materials is in the form of typescript copies of original documents, manuscripts and letters. The materials are arranged in six series:

Series I: Manuscript consists of personal reminiscences, research notes, and family biographies. Some of this material was published in Ringgold's book. Also included are manuscripts by Louisa Gartman Smith on Texas history, i.e. the Williams Ranch and Chesser Valley, as well as excerpts from other books or articles. Authors or sources are not always cited.

Material is arranged with family biographies first, then other Ringgold material, followed by Smith manuscripts and then miscellaneous research materials.

Series II: Correspondence contains letters received and copies of letters sent dealing with Graham County history, requests for photographs and background material for her book.

Some of the correspondence deals specifically with attempts to obtain pensions for members of the Duncan guard. Significant correspondents include Carl Hayden, the War Department, the Veterans Administration, E.D. Fulwood, William Mauldin, James McClintock, Kitt and Royalty of the Arizona History Society, Frank M. King, and David A. Fine. Also in this series are letters sent to the Gila County Sheriff's and to James Parks. Correspondence in this series is arranged in chronological order.

Series III: Diary consists of a typescript of Sheb Oatman's diary written during a trip from Mason, Texas to Ralston (Shakespeare), New Mexico from June-July 1879, Oatman had joined the Parks family wagon train at Mason.

Series IV: Legal Documents contains copies of material relating to the Duncan/Clifton Guard. Material obtained from the State Archives includes copies of General Orders in 1885 for the formation of the guard as well as copies of the appointment papers of Capt. Lane Fisher and Lt. John Parks in the guard. Also included are extracts from Judge Hawkins regarding the Duncan Guard. Additional material consists of an undated recapitulation of the members, whether alive or deceased. Materials appear to have been obtained to support pension requests for members of the guard.

Series V: Printed Material consists of tinted post cards, Spanish language invitations to dances given in Solomonville, program for the "Last Days of Besh Bo Gowah," an outdoor pageant given by the Gila County Archaeological Society in 1940.

Series VI: Typescripts contains transcripts of newspaper articles in 1881, 1885, and 1920 dealing with the Indian-White conflict in Graham County.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Series I: Manuscripts - Biographies of Jennie Parks Ringgold, Mrs. John Parks, John Parks; Smith manuscript and research materials.	undated
	2	Material originally donated circa 1940 includes Frank M. Ringgold's "My First Summer in the West," Jennie P. Ringgold's "My Parents Trip West," biographies of William H. Mauldin, John C. Epley, and Arizona Pioneer Association biographical forms	undated

3	Series II: Correspondence - Incoming	1929-1953
4	Outgoing	1929-1953
5	Letters from E.A. Van Armin to James Parks regarding outlaw Agustin Chacon; Letter from Lorenzo Walters to Gila County Sheriff regarding outlaw known as Black Jack Christian	1932, 1936
6	Series III: Diary - Diary of Sheb Oatman, typescript copy	1879
7	Series IV: Legal Documents - Typescript copies of General Orders, membership list and other material relating to the Duncan Guard	1885-1886
8	Series V: Printed Material - Postcards, programs, and dance invitations	undated
9	Series VI: Typescripts - Typescripts of newspaper articles	1881, 1885, 1920