
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0757

**Stacey, May Banks, 1846-1918
Letter and newspaper clippings, ca. 1877-1885**

DESCRIPTION

Handwritten letter and newspaper clippings, mostly written by May Banks Stacey, and concerning army and social life in Arizona from 1877 to 1882.

1 box, .25 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

May Banks Stacey's letter from Camp Thomas has been transcribed and published in "An Arizona Camping Trip: May Banks Stacey's Account of an Outing to Mount Graham in 1879," edited by Sandra L. Myres, *Arizona and the West*, Spring 1981.

ACQUISITION

Gift of Mary Stacey's granddaughter, Kathleen Sadtler Hiatt, in 1950.

ACCESS

Original letter restricted due to fragile condition; a photocopy is available for patron use.

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PROCESSING

Kim Frontz prepared this finding aid in June 2003.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1846 in Pennsylvania to Thaddeus and Delia Jane Cromwell Banks, Mary Banks was married in 1867 to May Humphreys Stacey, an Army officer who commanded Fort Mohave in Arizona in 1869 and later served at Camp Thomas in 1878, then San Carlos Reservation and finally Fort Lowell in 1882. He transferred to New York in 1882 and died there in 1886. Mrs. Stacey wrote many articles describing her travels which were published in the Altoona, Pennsylvania newspaper. Mary "May" Banks Stacey was active in church and community affairs at her husband's military posts. She died on January 21, 1918 in Evanston, Illinois.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

One 8-page, handwritten, letter, labeled "21 miles from Camp Thomas 1869," sent from Cottonwood Station, A.T. by Mary "May" Banks Stacey to her mother. It is apparent from the context that the letter was actually written in 1879 rather than 1869. The letter tells of an excursion to Mount Graham with soldiers sent to cut timber for a building at Camp Thomas. She mentions camp life, army wives, the ranches of Charles P. Leitch and Henry C. Hooker, and a Mexican family at Cottonwood Springs. Also present are newsclippings describing social events in Tucson, Pennsylvania, and New York, involving May Banks Stacey; and impressions from travels made by Mrs. Stacey in Arizona and elsewhere. One article "Over the Colorado Desert" mentions Montezuma Station, the Pima Indians, the Casa Grande Ruins, Mohawk Station, Buttes Station, Happy Station, Picacho Station and Maricopa Wells. Another mentions the discovery of a cave with Indian relics by Lt. Gatewood near Silver City, N.M. There are also a few articles by or about her husband, May Humphreys Stacey, and her son and daughter.