

Mary Louise Mason collection

AFC 2001/001/62208

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
December 2012**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655340>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh018005>

Prepared by Aron Swan

Finding aid encoded by Lisa Gomez, July 2018

Collection Summary

Title: Mary Louise Mason collection: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1951-2008

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/62208

Creator: Mason, Mary Louise, 1926-2014

Extent (moving images): moving images: 1 videodisc (DVD-R) : digital, sound, color ; 4 3/4 in.

Extent (photographs): 20 photographs.

Extent (clippings): 2 clippings.

Extent (letters): 17 letters.

Extent (creative works): 1 creative work.

Extent (maps): 1 map.

Extent (periodicals): 2 periodicals.

Extent (computer disks): 2 4 3/4 in. computer disks

Language: In English.

Location: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655340>

Summary: Interview conducted for the Veterans History Project in 2008. Collection includes clippings, correspondence, creative works, maps, periodicals, printed matter, photographic prints, and an oral history interview.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Kipp, Bonnie

Mason, Mary Louise, 1926-2014--Interviews.

Mason, Mary Louise, 1926-2014.

Organizations

American Folklife Center

United States. Army Nurse Corps

Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Subjects

Korean War, 1950-1953--Participation, Female.

Korean War, 1950-1953--Personal narratives, American.

Korean War, 1950-1953--Veterans--Michigan--Interviews.

Women nurses--Interviews.

Form/Genre

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Filmed interviews.

Manuscripts.

Oral histories.

Photographs.

Arrangement

The collection has been organized into four series: Video Recordings, Manuscripts, Photographs and Computer Files. Manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by type.

Acquisition

Accessioned, 2008.

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Preferred Citation

Mary Louise Mason Collection (AFC/2001/001/62208), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Mary Louise Mason was born on December 12, 1926, in Athens, Michigan, to Earl and Beatrice Mason. She graduated from high school in 1944 and then attended Community Hospital School of Nursing in Battle Creek, Michigan, as a cadet nurse during World War II, graduating in 1947. Her training as a cadet nurse allowed her to join The United States Army Nurse Corps in 1951 as a First Lieutenant during the Korean War. She completed her basic training in San Antonio, Texas, and proceeded to her first assignment at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C., where she served on the spinal cord injury ward for two years. Mason recalls at her first evaluation at Walter Reed Hospital, being told that she was, “quite outspoken” and she quite liked that.

After serving in Washington D.C., Mason was deployed for 16 months to Osaka, and Fukuoka, Japan. In December 1954, she left the Army and began integrating back into civilian life. Mason continued her education, earning a Bachelor’s in Nursing from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She went on to teach nursing at Methodist Hospital for 28 years, retiring in 1986.

In 2006, Mason was named the Honorary Citizen for Athens, Michigan Summer Homecoming. On August 1, 2014, she passed away at the age of 87.

Scope and Content

Interview conducted for the Veterans History Project 2008. Collection includes clippings, correspondence, creative works, maps, periodicals, printed matter, photographic prints, and an oral history interview.

Description of Series

Container	Series
	<u>Series I: Video Recording</u>
	<u>Series II: Manuscripts</u>
	<u>Series III: Photographs</u>

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series I: Video Recording
BOX CDDVD118	Oral history interview, February 11, 2008 71 minutes ID: AFC2001/001/62208 MV01 MV01: Topics covered include: participating in cadet nurse program during World War II; 4/1951 enlisted for service in Korean War; cadet nurses got their name on monument downtown recently; basic training at San Antonio, Texas; assignment to Walter Reed Hospital; getting used to military life, partying; friend had convertible to ride around San Antonio; learning military terms; driving from San Antonio to Walter Reed in friend's convertible; nurses' housing at hospital; working in the spinal cord injury ward; first evaluation and being told she was out-spoken; treating a sergeant for lung cancer; to feel like Mrs. Astor's pet horse; keeping a pack of cigarettes and a Snickers bar in freezer, in case she gets news she'll die; dancing on the bar; the sights of Washington, DC and feeling like she was really out in the world; inaugural balls for President Dwight Eisenhower; black dress with cleavage; meeting John Cabot Lodge; knew the nurses who cared for Bess Truman's mother every day; friendships with patients; friendships with other nurses; contact with family and friends; assignment to Japan; stopover in Juneau, Alaska, on way to Japan; stop at Cold Bay, desolation; assignment to Osaka; nice to have all people as short as she was; reading letter to mother describing airplane trip to Japan; reading another letter home; coming back into civilian life, return to schooling; being in Japan after World War II; viewing movie MASH and disapproving of the way the nurses were treated.
	Series II: Manuscripts
BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/2	Clippings, 1951-1953 1 folder MS01: A newspaper announcement about Mason completing basic training with an image of Mason (1951); two pages from the Sakaizette, a newspaper for the 279th General Hospital from Christmas (12/16/1953).
BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/3	Correspondence, October 27, 1953-November 29, 1954 1 folder MS02: 13 original letters from Mason to her mother, and one letter from Mason's brother, Luther, to their mother, and 14 typed transcripts of letters, some of which are copies of included original letters (9/12/1951 - 11/29/1954). Topics covered include: Trip to Tokyo on R&R; gifts; weather; Marine Corps birthday; Shinto festival; daily life and activities; giving her mother a television for her birthday; work schedule; dining with an admiral; travel to Osaka, Kobe, and other cities.
BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/4	Creative Works, circa 1944 1 folder MS03: Sheet music with lyrics for the Song of the Army Nurse Corps.
BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/5	Map, circa 1951 1 folder MS04: A map of streets and buildings of the Army Medical Center in Washington, DC [1951].
BOX-FOLDER OVZ115	Periodical, June 15, 1951 1 folder

Series II: Manuscripts

Container	Contents
	MS05: A six page issue of the Service Stripe, a newspaper for the Walter Reed Army Hospital Army Medical Center in Washington, DC (6/15/1951).
BOX-FOLDER OVZ113	Periodical, November 29, 1954 1 folder
	MS06: An eight page issue of a ship newsletter, USNS Buckner Banner.
BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/8	Printed Matter, May 19, 1951-November 25, 1954 1 folder
	MS07: A six page graduation program for Medical Service Women Officers Basic Course (5/19/1951); a four page Christmas dinner menu for the 279th General Hospital (12/1953); a two page Thanksgiving dinner menu from the Military Sea Transportation Service Pacific Area (11/25/1954).

Series III: Photographs

BOX-FOLDER MSS1814/9	Photographic Prints, 1951-1953 1 folder PH01-PH22: Original and copies of photographic prints of Mason, other military medical personnel, and of medical and military facilities in Texas and Japan (1951 - 1953).
BOX CDDVD118	Electronic file of photographs, 2008 1 optical disc ID: AFC2001/001/62208 CF01 CF01: A CD-R containing photographs PH01-PH22.
BOX CDDVD118	Electronic file of manuscripts, 2008 1 optical disc ID: AFC2001/001/62208 CF02 CF02: A CD-R containing clipping (MS01), correspondence (MS02), creative works (MS03), maps (MS04), periodicals (MS05-MS06), and printed matter (MS07) in PDF.