

M. Lee Montgomery papers

G91.008

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah
Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

Last updated on April 28, 2014.

African American Museum in Philadelphia

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	5

Summary Information

Repository	African American Museum in Philadelphia
Creator	Montgomery, M. Lee
Title	M. Lee Montgomery papers
Call number	G91.008
Date [inclusive]	1963-1980
Extent	2 linear feet
General Physical Description note	5 document boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>M. Lee Montgomery was a community activist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The M. Lee Montgomery papers, 1963-1980, consists of reports, flyers, and publications about various issues and events pertaining to civil rights, African American education, and urban housing accumulated by Montgomery. Of special interest are minutes, notes, and other materials relating to the Resident Housing Authority Board of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, of which he was a charter member.</p>

Biography/History

M. Lee Montgomery was a community activist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was born in Pensacola, Florida in 1919, but spent most of his life in the vicinity of Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, where he passed away in 2003.

Montgomery served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and achieved the rank of Captain in the Army Reserves. He earned a master's degree in social work before securing positions at Temple University as Assistant Vice President, Office of Urban Affairs, and Deputy Director of the Multi-Purpose Training Center. He was active in planning the first Black Power conference (held in Newark, New Jersey in 1967). He and his brother, Dr. William Montgomery, presented the first black conference on higher education in Pennsylvania in 1972.

Montgomery was a charter member of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB), a nonprofit organization composed of members from Resident Organizations that operate in public and assisted housing throughout Philadelphia. Created in 1969 and incorporated in 1971, RAB works to improve the living conditions of public and assisted housing residents in Philadelphia through the coordination of resident and resident organizations.

Later, Montgomery was employed by New York City's Community Empowerment Program, *Heritage News*, the Delaware Valley's *The Black Suburban Journal*, and MATAH Network.

Bibliography:

"M. Lee Montgomery." Obituary. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 5, 2003. Accessed December 20, 2013. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/philly/obituary.aspx?n=m-lee-montgomery&pid=914955>

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of reports, flyers, and publications about various issues and events pertaining to civil rights, African American education, and urban housing accumulated by M. Lee Montgomery. Of special interest are minutes, notes, and other materials relating to the Resident Housing Authority Board of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, of which he was a charter member.

Administrative Information

African American Museum in Philadelphia

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Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact African American Museum in Philadelphia for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Accession AAMP.G91.008.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact African American Museum in Philadelphia directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.). Housing Authority
- Philadelphia Resident Advisory Board

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- African American children--Education
- African Americans--Education (Higher)
- Housing authorities
- Public housing
- Urban development