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**Marjorie Bates Collection,
Bulk 1917-1928
(MSS-035)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Marjorie Bates Collection Biographical Sketch

Marjorie Bates was born in Cambridge, MA on July 31, 1897. During her childhood her family moved to Braintree, MA, and in September of 1915 she entered the two-year teaching program at Bridgewater State Normal School. She graduated in June of 1917 and the following September started her first teaching job in Falmouth, MA. Bates taught in Falmouth for one year before attending Burdett College in 1918. It is unclear whether she finished the program there. In March of 1920 she began teaching fifth grade at the John Hancock School in Quincy, MA, but it is unclear how long she was employed there.

In 1923 Bates moved to Arizona and began teaching at the Theodore Roosevelt Indian School at Fort Apache the year it opened. The fort was built in 1870 on land granted to the U.S. military by the Apache tribe. It was used for various military operations until 1922 when it was handed over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The fort then became the Theodore Roosevelt School in 1923 and functioned as an Indian reform school. It is still running to this day, however it is not run by the Apache Tribal Council. Bates taught both the third grade and adult primary at the Theodore Roosevelt School. She worked there until January of 1925.

In March of 1925 Bates started working at the Phoenix Indian School. The Phoenix Indian School opened in 1891 in order to assimilate Native American children to white culture. It remained in operation until 1990 when it was shut down by the federal government. While at the Phoenix Indian School, Bates taught the sixth grade and frequently describes her lessons and exams in her letters. She taught there for just over two years and left in June of 1927. From November of 1927 to May of 1928 she taught at Northfield Seminary in Northfield, MA. Details about her life following this are not documented in the collection.

Scope and Content Note

The Marjorie Bates Collection primarily consists of letters written by Bates to her family, with the bulk of them dated between 1924 to 1928. In addition to these letters Bates would occasionally include pieces of ephemera that pertained to something described in her letter. This includes posters, brochures, and programs from a variety of events and places Bates went to or participated in. She traveled frequently, and this is depicted in her letters sent back to her parents. The collection is broken into four series with the first three series focusing on specific schools Bates taught at. Series one covers her time teaching at the Theodore Roosevelt School at Fort Apache, Arizona, from April 1923 to January 1925. Series two covers her time teaching at the Phoenix Indian School in Phoenix, Arizona from February 1925 to July 1927. Series three covers her time teaching at Northfield Seminary in Northfield, Massachusetts, from November 1927 to May 1928. The letters in these first three series describe classroom activities and school events, along with Bates's personal activities. Series four consists of miscellaneous letters from both before and after her time teaching, as well as letters to and from other family members that do not pertain to Marjorie Bates. This series also contains one letter written in 1917 that describes her time at Bridgewater State Normal School.

Marjorie Bates Collection Box and Folder List

Series 1: Theodore Roosevelt School at Fort Apache, Arizona

Box 1 Folder

1. Marjorie Bates (MB) to parents, from Fort Apache, Arizona, April 1923
2. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, possibly 1923
3. MB to parents, while traveling, February 1924
4. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, March 1924
5. MB to Nathan Bates (brother), from Fort Apache, March 1924
6. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, April 1924
7. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, May 1924
8. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, June 1924
9. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, (contains advertisements for school events) June 24, 1924
10. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, July 1924
11. MB to parents, from Fort Apache and Globe, AZ, August 1924
12. MB to Nathan Bates, from Globe, AZ, August 1924
13. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, September 1924
14. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, October 1924
15. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, November 1924
16. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, December 1924
17. List of children songs possibly used by MB at Fort Apache, possibly 1924

18. MB to parents, from Fort Apache, AZ, January 1925

Series 2: Phoenix Indian School in Phoenix, Arizona

Box 2

Folder

1. Marjorie Bates (MB) to parents, from Holbrook, AZ, Williams, AZ, and Pasadena, CA, February 1925
2. MB to parents, from Pasadena, CA and Phoenix, AZ, March 1925
3. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, April 1925
4. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, May 1925
5. MB to Nathan Bates (brother), from Phoenix, AZ, May 1925
6. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ and while traveling in Texas and on the Mississippi River, June 1925
7. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains commencement program) June 7, 1925
8. MB to parents while traveling through Montreal, Chicago, and Kansas, August 1925
9. MB to Nathan Bates while traveling through Kansas and Canada, August 1925
10. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, September 1925
11. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, October 1925
12. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, November 1925
13. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, December 1925
14. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, January 1926
15. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, February 1926
16. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains 7th grade midterm exam) February 4, 1926
17. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, March 1926
18. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, April 1926
19. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains photographs) April 11, 1926
20. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, and wedding invitations from friends, May 1926
21. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains program for a performance MB was in) May 6, 1926
22. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, June 1926
23. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, and while traveling back to Phoenix from the east coast, August 1926
24. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, September 1926
25. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, October 1926
26. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains program for "Dramatized Songs of the North American Indian" by composer Thurlow Lieurance at the Phoenix Indian School Memorial Hall) November 1926
27. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, December 1926
28. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, January 1927
29. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, February 1927
30. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, (contains news clippings documenting rain storms in Arizona) February 18, 1927
31. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, March 1927
32. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, April 1927

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33. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, May 1927
34. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, June 1927
35. MB to parents, from Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, Guatemala, and aboard a ship heading to Manzanillo, Colombia, July 1927

Series 3: Northfield Seminary, MA

Box 3

Folder

1. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, November 1927
2. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, December 1927
3. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, January 1928
4. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, February 1928
5. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, (contains school programs) February 12, 1928
6. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, March 1928
7. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, April 1928
8. MB to parents, from Northfield, MA, May 1928

Series 4: Miscellaneous Letters

Box 4

Folder

1. MB to parents, from Lowell, MA, July 1909
2. MB to parents, from Meredith, NH, August 1914
3. MB to parents, 1 letter from Bridgewater while a student at the Normal School, 1917
4. MB to parents, from New York, NY, April 1920
5. Letters to MB from friends in Braintree, MA who are getting married, June 1921
6. MB to parents, from Brooklyn, NY, September 1922
7. MB to parents, from Rangeley, ME, July 21, 1931
8. MB to parents and brother, from Nicaragua, Boston, and Kingston, Jamaica, November 1935
9. Miscellaneous photographs, c. 1920s
10. Letters from and to Nathan Bates, not to do with MB, 1924-1928
11. Miscellaneous family letters, 1925-1927
12. Miscellaneous postcards to and from family, not to do with MB, 1925-1928