Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0808

Bennett, Mary Montgomerie (Montgomery)

(1881 - 1961)

Born	18810718, London Middlesex England
Died	19611006, Kalgoorlie Western Australia Australia
Occupation	Aboriginal rights activist, Teacher, Writer

Summary

Mary Montgomerie Bennett spent her childhood in Queensland, returning to London from 1903 to 1908 to study, and again in 1914 to marry. When her husband died in 1927 she returned to Western Australia to pursue her interest in Aboriginal education. She worked at the Mount Margaret Mission from 1932, dramatically improving educational outcomes through the implementation of progressive teaching methods. Over the next three decades Bennett was a passionate advocate for Aboriginal rights employing her connections with international humanitarian groups and women's organisations to support her campaigns to improve the lives of Aborigines, in particular Aboriginal women.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Resource Section
Bennett, Mary Montgomerie (1881-1961), G. C. Bolton, H. J. Gibbney, 2006,
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The Australian Aboriginal as a human being, Bennett, M. M. (Mary Montgomerie), 1930

Human rights for Australian Aborigines : how can they learn without a teacher?, Bennett, M. M. (Mary Montgomerie), [1957?]

Hunt and die : the prospect for the Aborigines of Australia, Bennett, M. M. (Mary Montgomerie), 1950

Broken circles : fragmenting indigenous families 1800-2000, Haebich, Anna., 2000

A drop in a bucket : the Mount Margaret story, Morgan, M. R. (Margaret R.), 1986

Jean Devanny: Romantic Revolutionary, Ferrier, Carole, 1999

Conference Paper
The Aboriginal mother in Western Australia in 1933, Bennett, M. M. (Mary Montgomerie), [1933?]

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Mary Montgomerie Bennett, Radi, Heather, [1988]

Edited Book
Women in Australia : an annotated guide to records, Daniels, Kay, Murnane, Mary, Picot, Anne and National Research Program (Australia), 1977

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Thesis
Ideas have wings : white women challenge Aboriginal policy, 1920-1937, Paisley, Fiona, 1995

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection
Shirley Andrews interviewed by Peter Read in the Peter Read collection of interviews conducted for his book entitled, Charles Perkins : a biography [sound recording]

State Library of Western Australia
Papers, [19--?]-1999 [manuscript]

Records of Mt. Margaret Aboriginal Mission, 1921-1969 [manuscript]

Fryer Library, The University of Queensland
Mary Montgomerie Bennett Papers

State Records Office of Western Australia
Allegations by Mrs M. Bennett in regard to native slavery - inadequate reserves - and traffic in native women.

James Cook University of North Queensland, Library Archives
Jean Devanny Archive

The University of Melbourne Archives
Leeper Family Papers

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Created 31 March 2004
Last modified 11 October 2026