

Collection #
M 1480

**DALLAS AND FRANCES AUSTIN
LETTERS, 1941-1955**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION
DATES: 1941-1955

PROVENANCE: Karen Zach, Waveland, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2020.0028

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Dallas Gilmore Austin (December 23, 1921-July 5, 2002) was born in Leavenworth, Crawford County, Indiana, but moved to Indianapolis in the 1930s where he eventually took a job working for the Allison Company working as a tool hardener. On July 27, 1941 he married Frances A. Lane, and on December 26, 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Forces.

Frances Lane Austin (November 26, 1921-July 4, 2016) was born in Birdseye, Dubois County, Indiana. She and Dallas had one child, James. During World War II she was a buffer and inspector for General Motors in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 2 March 2020

Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains approximately 550 letters exchanged between Frances and Dallas Austin during his time in the Army Air Forces during World War II from 1943-1945. Austin was initially stationed at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri followed by Salt Lake City, Utah, Sioux City, Iowa, and Bradley Field in Connecticut, February-May 1943. Letters from June 1943 and after were written from his assignment with the 1992 Engr. Fire Fighting unit in North Africa and Italy. The content is highly romantic and reflects a feeling of loneliness. There is some information about people from home as well, but it is primarily the couple missing each other. Envelopes were retained and included since the inside of each one contained an additional message of affection. Because of the sizeable number of V-Mail (Victory Mail) letters in the collection, dating from December 1943-September 1945, a separate folder storage was employed.

Other correspondence includes letters from Dallas to Frances while she was in isolation recovering from an illness, June-October 1941; letters to Frances from her parents, and other family members in Birdseye, Dubois County, Indiana, 1942-1945, 1955; and letters to Frances from brother-in-law, Kenneth G. Austin (1923-1986), while serving in the Army Field Artillery from Camp Swift and Camp Hood in Texas and Germany, February 1943-December 1945.

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