

Amos F. Estrada Papers

Mss.02630

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Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
Title	Amos F. Estrada Papers
Date	1892-1983
Extent	1.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Archival Material [Box]	1 lf
Abstract	<p>Aurora resident, Amos F. Estrada (1920-1944), was killed in action near Stolzenburg, Germany on June 21, 1944 after his B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down by enemy aircraft. Sgt. Estrada was killed as he parachuted from the plane. Along with his brother, David Estrada (1918-1974), Amos was registered as Mexican during their enlistments. He was a tail gunner and flew four missions. The German government shared news of his death through the Red Cross. He was 24, survived by his wife Lillian and their daughter Melinda. The collection consists of correspondence between Amos and Lillian during his military training (1943-1944), correspondence from Amos's air crew to Lillian after his death, and correspondence with family members. Also included are military documents related to Amos's training, photographs of his gravesite located in Ardennes, Belgium for fallen soldiers on European ground, and photographs of the family. Newspaper clippings, memoria, and certificates related to birth, marriage, death, and retirement of immediate and extended family of Amos and Lillian Estrada is included.</p>

Preferred Citation note

Cite as: Amos F. Estrada Papers, Mss.02630 (2014.97) History Colorado.

Biographical Note

David Estrada (1896-1949) married Fedelina Garcia (1899-1978) on August 2, 1915 in Colorado. Fedelina's parents were Anicento Garcia (1867-1949) and Virginia Serna (1879-1965), whose family was connected to the settlement of Garcia, Colorado (1540). David Estrada's parents were Francisco Montoya (1847-1911) and Teofilia Estrada (1865-1935). Fedelina Garcia, wife of David Estrada, was married four times. She married David Estrada in 1915, second was Leonard Dillingham in 1924, between 1925 and 1960 she married Clyde Burrows, and between 1960-1978 she took the last name of a fourth husband, Hamrick. After marrying Leonard, Fedelina began going by the nickname Lena. While married to David Estrada, Fedelina gave birth to David Estrada (1918-1974) and Amos F. Estrada (1920-1944). Fedelina's first husband, David, two sons, and third husband Clyde fought during World War II.

Amos F. Estrada, youngest son of David and Fedelina Estrada, was born on April 24, 1920 in Adams County, Colorado. He received a high school diploma (1938), lettering in basketball and football in his 1936-1937 academic year. Amos married Lillian Keller on May 21, 1941.

Lillian Keller was born to David (1878-1945) and Maria (1885-1956) Keller. Of German decent and originally from Russia, David and Maria Keller moved to Kansas where Lillian and her siblings were born.

Amos and Lillian Estrada daughter Melinda Ann was born in 1942.

Amos F. Estrada, his brother and his biological father, enlisted during World War II and registered as Mexican. Amos was a tail gunner for the Air Force. During training he was stationed in Texas, California, Kingsman, Arizona, and Buckley Air Force base in Colorado. During this time, Amos corresponded with his wife Lillian and family. On Amos's fourth flight in battle his plane was shot down in Stolzenburg, Germany on June 21, 1944. He was the only member of his plane to be shot during their parachute escape. He is buried in Ardennes, Belgium.

Scope and Contents note

Amos F. Estrada was a cadet for the Air Force during World War II. He did his training at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Prior to training, he married Lillian Keller of Kansas. The couple had a daughter Melinda Ann. The majority of the collection consists of letters from Amos to Lillian during his training in Colorado. In the letters he details his love to her and discusses tests he is taking for the Air Force and social events fellow cadets attend. The letters from Amos to Lillian end before he goes overseas sea to fight.

The collection consists of correspondence between Amos and Lillian during his military training (1943-1944), Amos's air crew to Lillian after his death (1944), and correspondence with family members.

Also included are military documents related to Amos's training (1943-1944), photographs of his gravesite located in Ardennes, Belgium for fallen soldiers on European ground, and photographs of the family. Newspaper clippings, memoria, and certificates related to birth, marriage, death, and retirement of immediate and extended family of Amos and Lillian Estrada is included.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

Provenance

This collection was donated by Melinda Crowe, daughter of Amos Estrada and acting family historian and genealogist.

Processing Information note

Processed by Haley Suby, January 2015.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Birth Certificates.
- Correspondence.
- Death certificates
- Marriage certificates--1870-1880.
- Newspaper clippings.

Geographic Name(s)

- Ardennes American Cemetery (Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium)
- Buckley Air Force Base (Colo.)

- Denver (Colo.)

Personal Name(s)

- Burrows, Clyde, -1961
- Burrows, David E., -1947
- Estrada, Amos Fransisco, 1920-1944
- Estrada, Lillian A., 1922-2012
- Estrada-Crowe, Melinda, 1941-
- Garcia, Anicento, 1867-1949
- Garcia, Fedelina, 1898-1978
- Garcia, Renailda, 1909-
- Lucero, James, Jr., 1930-
- Lucero, James
- Lucero, Rena
- Serna, Virginia, 1879-1965

Subject(s)

- Air Force.
- Purple Heart.
- World War II, 1939-1945.

Accession Number

2014.97

Collection Inventory

Correspondence 1941-1952

FF 1 From Amos to Lillian Oswald Keller April 1941

Processing Information note

Unclear if the envelope belongs with the letter found inside. The letter in envelope is addressed to Lillian Oswald Keller of Denver, Colorado from Amos F. Estrada in Salt Lake, Utah. Salutation of letter is addressed to Mrs. Oscar and the closing and signature is signed Yours always forever and ever, lovingly, Oscar.

FF 2 Amos to Lillian Estrada Aug.-Sept. 1943

FF 3 Amos to Lillian Estrada Sept. 1943, [Sept. 1943]

FF 4 Amos to Lillian Estrada Oct.-Nov. 1943

FF 5 Amos to Lillian Estrada Dec. 1943

FF 6 Amos to Lillian Estrada Dec. 1943

FF 7 Amos to Lillian Estrada Jan. 1-4, 1944

FF 8 Amos to Lillian Estrada Jan. 3-10, 1944

Amos & Lillian Estrada

FF 9 Amos to Lillian Estrada Jan. 18, 1944

FF 10 Amos to Lillian Estrada Jan. 25-Feb. 1, 1944, Undated

FF 11 Amos to Mr. & Mrs. Keller May 1944

FF 12 Lillian to Amos Estrada [1941-1943]

FF 13 Air Crew to Lillian Estrada 1944-1945, Undated

FF 14 Ben Galdman to Lillian Estrada Nov. 1945

FF 15 Immediate Family 1941-1952

FF 16 Holiday Cards to Amos & Lillian Estrada, 1941 1941

FF 17 Holiday Cards to Amos & Lillian Estrada, 1942 1942

FF 18 Holiday Card from Amos & Lillian Estrada, [1942] [1942]

FF 19 Holiday Cards to Amos & Lillian Estrada, 1943 1943

FF 20 Christmas, Birthday, & Get Well Cards to Lillian & Amos Estrada 1941-1949, Undated

Amos & Lillian Estrada 1941-1942

FF 21 Marriage Certificate, Wedding Tissue Paper, & Anniversary Card May 1941, 1942

Amos F. Estrada 1920-1978

FF 22 Birth & School Certificates, Library Card 1920-1941

FF 23 Military Records & Reports 1941, 1943

FF 24 Printed Air Force Postcard and Envelope [1941], Feb. 1942

FF 25 War Issue Record & Identification Card April 1944

FF 26 Government Telegram & Correspondence of Amos Estrada's Death 1944, 1946

FF 27 Purple Heart Certificate June 21, 1944 3.0 Item(s)

Conditions Governing Access note

Unavailable for access as of January 2015. Needs conservation

FF 28 Military Certificates Jan. 10, 1945, 1978

Processing Information note

Texas certificate of service and memorial certificate mailed to Lillian Estrada, wife of Amos F. Estrada.

Ardennes American Cemetary & Memorial mailed to Melinda Estrada, daughter of Amos F. Estrada.

Colored lithograph is housed in map-case. Letter and booklet housed with manuscripts.

Conditions Governing Access note

Unavailable for conservation attention, January 27, 2015.

Lillian Estrada

FF 29 Burial Arrangement Dec. 13, 1948

FF 30 *Britain's Homage to 28,000 American Dead, In Memory of Sgt. A.F. Estrada* Nov. 1953

FF 31 Veteran's Administration Life Insurance, Bonds, & Family Insurance 1943-1953

Lillian Estrada 1947-1951

FF 32 Checks to Lillian & Melinda Estrada 1947

FF 33 Calendar of Memory for 1947 & New Zealand Art Photograph Booklet 1947, Undated

FF 34 Airline Tickets Nov. 17, 1951

Melinda Estrada 1942-1983

FF 35 Baby Book Sept. 1942

FF 36 Birth Certificate 1945

FF 37 Plot Agreement Nov.-Dec. 1983

Fedelina (Lena) Estrada Burrows Hamick 1925-1978

Biographical note

Fedelina Garcia was born in Garcia, Costilla, Colorado, 1898. She was born to a Mexican father, Anicento Garcia (1867-1949), and a Anglo mother, Virginia Serna (1879-1965). Anicento Garcia's family

Fedelina (Lena) Estrada Burrows Hamick

is associated with the settlement of Garcia, Colorado in 1540. Garcia, Colorado is the first colonized region of Colorado. Fedelina Garcia married David Estrada (1896-1949) in 1915. In 1918 she gave birth to David (1918-1974) and two years later she gave birth to Amos F. Estrada (1920-1944). Sometime between 1920 and 1924 Fedelina divorced David Estrada and began going by the nickname "Lena". In 1924 she married Leonard Dillingham. The following year they divorced. Between 1925 and 1940, Lena married Clyde Burrows to whom she was married through at least 1960. By the time of her death in 1978, she remarried, taking the last name Hamrick and divorcing him as well. Lena stayed close to Clyde Burrow's family to her death.

Fedelina Garcia

1898	Fedelina Garcia is born to Anicento Garcia and Virginia Serna
1915	Fedelina Garcia marries David Estrada
1918	David Estrada is born to Fedelina and David
1920	Amos F. is born to Fedelina and David Estrada
1920-1924	Divorces David Estrada Begins going by the nickname "Lena"
1924	Marries Leonard Dillengham
1925	Divorces Leonard Dillengham
1925-1940	Lena marries Clyde Burrows
1960	Lena Burrows retires from nursing
1960-1978	Lena Burrows divorces Clyde Burrows. Marries someone with the last name Hamrick and divorces him too.
1978	Passes away in California

Scope and Contents note

Fedelina (Lena) Estrada Burrows Hamrick is Amos F. Estrada's mother. Her family is linked to the colony of Garcia, Colorado. Included in this series are records related to her professional and private life.

Extended Family

In the Extended Family series are her third husband (Clyde Burrows) and step-son (David E. Burrows) memorias.

FF 38 Lena & Leonard Dillingham Divorce Record Nov. 27, 1925

FF 39 Lena Burrows Retirement Announcement March 1960

FF 40 Lena Hamrick Memoria & Death Certificate Dec. 20, 1978

Extended Family 1892-1983

FF 41 Virginia & Anicento Garcia Marriage & Death Certificates & Announcements 1892, 1949, 1965

FF 42 Renailda Garcia Baptism Aug. 15, 1909

FF 43 Rena & James Lucero Marriage, Birth, & Death Certificates & Announcements 1928, 1963, 1983

FF 44 James Lucero Jr. Birth Certificates March 26, 1930

FF 45 Judith Lynn Birth Announcement 1942

FF 46 Clyde Burrows Memoria Nov. 8, 1961

FF 47 David E. Burrows Memoria April 24, 1947

Printed Material 1943-1946

Printed Material

FF 48 *Time* & Booklet for *For Whom the Bell Tolls* Aug. 1943, May 1945

FF 49 Newspaper Clippings [1944]-1946

FF 50 The Palladium Ballroom Cafe napkin Undated