

# WILLIS FAMILY COLLECTION FINDING AID

<b>Title</b>	<b>WILLIS FAMILY</b>
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Archive Center, Indian River County Main Library, Vero Beach, Florida.
<b>Donation</b>	John and Delores (Polly) Willis <b>Date:</b> 19 Dec 2007
<b>Accession No.</b>	2007.17 and 2007.29
<b>Acquisition Information / Provenance</b>	Items were purchased from an estate sale by the Willis's and donated to the Archive Center.
<b>Creator</b>	Unknown
<b>Repository</b>	Indian River County Main Library, Archive Center 1600 21 <sup>st</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Vero Beach, Florida, 32960 Telephone: 772-770-5060 x5      Email: <a href="mailto:genealogy@irclibrary.org">genealogy@irclibrary.org</a>
<b>Location</b>	Archive Center and Genealogy Department, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Indian River County Main Library
<b>Extent</b>	Linear Foot - 1 ms. case 39 x 27 x 13 cm., with six manila file folders,
<b>Arrangement</b>	1 ms box organized into six folders by subject content. Includes photographs; ephemera; postcards; and documents arranged numerically.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Dates</b>	c.a. 1920-1940s
<b>Historical Note</b>	It is possible that this whole collection came from the same family and they may have lived in Vero Beach. Many of the photographs are about aviation and airplanes.
<b>Scope and Content</b>	Contains articles, photographs and ephemera.
<b>Index Terms</b>	Atkieson Family Copeland Family Godard Family Massie, Lucien A. Honeywell, Bessie Sell Family Indian River County Courthouse First Methodist Church, Vero Beach World War I World War II Airplanes, Photographs Plane spotters guide Eastern Air lines (Found as two words) Eastern Airlines Crash 1941 Great Silver Fleet Red Cross Memorabilia

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Indian River County (Fla.) – Genealogy  
Pocahontas Park  
Veterans Day – 11 November 1939  
Vero Beach, Indian River County, (Fla.) – History  
Vero Beach Municipal Airport  
Miami-Dade County – Aviation  
Friedlanders Store – Vero Beach  
Osceola Pharmacy

## **Access**

Unrestricted. The entire collection is open for research. Gloves and clean hands are required.

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## FOLDER # 1 MSS-WIL-001

## WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II MEMORABILIA VERO BEACH RESIDENTS; MISC

- MSS-WIL-001-001      **Richard Copeland:** Certificate of examination of captured enemy Military equipment; Newspaper Clipping from the Chicago Daily News, Friday Feb 26, 1943. "Chicago Men Get Promotions in all Branches of Service.
- MSS-WIL-001-002      **Lucien A Massie:** Certificate of examination of captured enemy Military equipment; SS Death Index, Census Data, etc.
- MSS-WIL-001-003      **Bessie Honeywell:** Certificate of Membership in the American Red Cross Dated 1918-1919 and a Receipt Book used to obtain Contributions to the War Fund; Obituaries for Bessie and her Husband Todd form the Vero Beach Press Journal
- MSS-WIL-001-004      Copy of the Circuit Rider, published by the First Methodist Church Vero Beach, Fl - Sept 11, 1961

## FOLDER # 2 MSS-WIL-002

## WORLD WAR II MEMORABILIA

- MSS-WIL-002-001      Red Cross Christmas Seals
- MSS-WIL-002-002      Photo of Aircraft – "Buffalo"
- MSS-WIL-002-003      Photo of Aircraft – P-40 Curtiss
- MSS-WIL-002-004      Photo of Aircraft - B-26 "Marauder" Medium Bomber
- MSS-WIL-002-005      Photo of Aircraft – A-20 "Boston" Attack Bomber
- MSS-WIL-002-006      Photo if Aircraft – B-25 "North American" Bomber
- MSS-WIL-002-007      Photo of Group of Soldiers in formation in front of a building Dated 1943
- MSS-WIL-002-008      Three black and white postcards from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC - Free Post Cards for Service Men
1. Hanson Cab 1900
  2. 70 Foot Dinosaur Skeleton
  3. Wright Army Plane, 1908-9. First Government Owned Plane in the World
- MSS-WIL-002-009      Three colored postcards from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC – Free Post Cards for Service Men
1. Original Star Spangled Banner
  2. The Smithsonian Institution
  3. Continental Uniforms, 1777
- MSS-WIL-002-010      Rainbow Division Anniversary Brochure, July 14, 1944
- MSS-WIL-002-011      Aeronautics Aircraft Spotters Guide. Issue Number 3, July 15, 1942

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- MSS-WIL-002-012 Newspaper Clipping from the Miami Herald, Feb 19, 1950  
"Who Recalls Photographer of Suribachi Flag-Raising?"
- MSS-WIL-002-013 Song Book – "Sgt Gene Autry presents his favorite Patriotic and Hillbilly Songs"

**Folder #3** **EASTERN AIR LINES MAGAZINES, GUIDES, PROGRAMS, ETC.**  
**MSS-WIL-003**

- MSS-WIL-003-001 Post Card- Airlines ticket counters, Washington National Airport, Washington, DC
- MSS-WIL-003-002 Post Card – Follow My Flight – Addressed to Mrs. J. Davis Godard
- MSS-WIL-003-003 The Great Silver Fleet News – Date Unknown
- MSS-WIL-003-004 The Great Silver Fleet News – Feb/Mar 1940
- MSS-WIL-003-005 The Great Silver Fleet News – Mar/APR 1961
- MSS-WIL-003-006 The Official Aviation Guide of the Airways – Jan 1937
- MSS-WIL-003-007 The Official Aviation Guide of the Airways – Feb 1937
- MSS-WIL-003-008 Eastern Air Lines – West Palm Beach, FL – Consolidated Rate And Schedule Sheet. Effective Feb 1, 1937
- MSS-WIL-003-009 Program from the Annual Family Conference of Eastern Air Line’s Employees – 1940

**FOLDER # 4** **NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS: EASTERN AIRLINES AND 1941 CRASH**

DATE	NEWSPAPER TITLE	ARTICLE TITLE
Unknown	Unknown	Full page ad for Eastern Air-Lines
Unknown	Unknown	For \$20 Million, the 747 is an Impressive Airplane
1935, Oct 11	Vero Beach Press Journal	Eastern Air Lines Pilots Who Guide The Big Airliners Safely
1935, Oct 11	Vero Beach Press Journal	Officials of Eastern Air Lines and Scenes at Miami Airport
1941, Apr 1	Unknown	Eastern Airliner Crashes Here
1941 Apr 11	Vero Beach Press Journal	Hearing on E.A.L. Plane Crash Opens
1941 Apr 18	Vero Beach Press Journal	Plane Crash Cause Announced
1995 Jul 30	Vero Beach Press Journal	Crash Landing

**FOLDER # 5** **Photographs Vero Beach, Veterans Day, Nov 11, 1939**  
**MSS-WIL-005**

- MSS-WIL-005-001- Sinclair Sell Service Station on 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
MSS-WIL-005-004
- MSS-WIL-005-005 Group of VFW Members – Leo Schlitt, J. Stinson, W. Allison, Alex MacWilliam, Lee Sell, Harry Damerow

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MSS-WIL-005-006	Newspaper Photo Elks Celebrate Birthdays at Recent Get-Together
MSS-WIL-005-007	Thirteenth National Convention of the American Legion. Detroit Michigan, Sept 21 to 24, 1931. Florida Delegation – possibly Lee Sell is one of the people walking in the parade.
MSS-WIL-005-008	Thirteenth National Convention of the American Legion. Detroit Michigan, Sept 21 to 24, 1931. Miami Drum & Bugle Corps
MSS-WIL-005-009	<p>Pocahontas Park during service Nov 11, 1939.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Celebration sponsored by AMN Legion Post #39</li><li>• 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Felix Poppell Post #39</li><li>• 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Vero Beach</li><li>• End WWI – 21 years</li><li>• Charles S. Kuster</li></ul> <p>Indian River County Courthouse is in the background. Everyone is facing railroad tracks??</p>
MSS-WIL-005-010	Newspaper Clipping titled 30 years ago regarding the Veteran's Day celebration at Pocahontas Park on Nov. 11, 1939.
MSS-WIL-005-011	Nov 11, 1939 Colors: Leo Schlitt, Ray Ruch - Guards: Harry Damerow, Lee Sell
MSS-WIL-005-012	Speaker Stand. Pocahontas Park – Nov 11, 1939
MSS-WIL-005-013	Parade float: "Sebastian Florida - Where Fish and Fishermen meet" 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave and 20 <sup>th</sup> St – Nov 11, 1939
MSS-WIL-005-014	Parade float: "American Fruit Growers, Inc." Mildred Knight, Cookie Smith, Virginia Walker – 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave and 20 <sup>th</sup> St – Nov 11, 1939 George W. Loy sign on the corner
MSS-WIL-005-015	Parade float: "Lest We Forget" by Sell Service Station Soldier – Fred Duda; Nurse: Wilsner Ingram George W. Loy sign on corner
MSS-WIL-005-016	DUPLICATE of 015
MSS-WIL-005-017	Parade float: "Indian River Fruit Festival Assn" 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave and 20 <sup>th</sup> St. – Nov 11, 1939
MSS-WIL-005-018	Parade float: "Miss Citrus Queen" Rick Insurance agency in background.
MSS-WIL-005-019	Parade float: "American Fruit Growers Inc."
MSS-WIL-005-020	Parade float: "Miss Citrus Queen" (different view of #18, but same picture.)
MSS-WIL-005-021	Parade float: "Indian River Citrus Bank – Mary Boring is identified as one of the women on the float - 11 Nov 1839

# WILLIS FAMILY COLLECTION FINDING AID

- MSS-WIL-005-022 Parade float: "Future Farmers of America, Fellsmere chapter, Vocational Agriculture"  
Rick Insurance Agency and Ocean Fish Market are in the background.
- MSS-WIL-005-023 Parade: [Vero Beach] High School Band – Nov 11, 1939  
In the background: Rexall Drug; Vero Drug Company; Ocean Fish Market; Rick Insurance Agency; Omalley's Hotel/restaurant
- MSS-WIL-005-024 Bar B Que Pit – Nov 11, 1939 – Walter Lorenze in charge of meat  
Ralph Eyer in charge of Beans. 6000 lbs Beef, 1000 lbs Pork, 1500 lbs beans, 50 Bushels Cabbage and Onions, 4 truckloads Buns & Bread
- FOLDER # 6**  
**MSS-WIL-006** **Photographs: Eastern Airlines, Air Sows, Misc**  
Photos are undated, appear to be from the late 1930's. These appear to be all related and from the same family collection. Pictures of Vero Beach airport and other landmarks are mixed in.
- On December 8, 2011, Alma Lee Loy local Indian River County pioneer identified some of the individuals in the pictures. It appears this complete collection of photographs belonged to the Godard family. See copies of obituaries enclosed. Jefferson Davis Godard (1912-2002) was a station manager for Eastern Airlines. Although his obituary states he was in Vero Beach for only 24 years, these photographs are from the 1930s and they include pictures of Godard and his wife and very early pictures of the Vero Beach airport. They have come here for a short term and possibly liked it so much that they returned 30+ years later to live or retire.
- MSS-WIL-006-001 Eastern Air Line Plane: Welcome to Rome Ga. Pilot and Flight Attendant. Photographed by George Strayer Jr.
- MSS-WIL-006-002 Eastern Air Line Plane being welcomed by a delegation: 12 men, 1 boy and 1 women.
- MSS-WIL-006-003 Eastern Plane on the runway being loaded with luggage from hand wheeled carts.
- MSS-WIL-006-004 Plane landing on runway –Photographed by Geo Strayer Jr..
- MSS-WIL-006-005 Eastern Plane on ground in Rome with Pilot and Unknown man Carrying a package. Three other pilots in the background and two women, one appears to be a stewardess.
- MSS-WIL-006-006 U.S. Airways Information Office with six Eastern Airlines Employees. Eastern Airlines is on their shirt pockets.
- MSS-WIL-006-007 Formation of Marine Corsairs from Opa Locka Base. '39 Miami Air Races. (Enlarged from photo upper left hand of 3<sup>rd</sup> page."
- MSS-WIL-006-008 Six photographs:  
1. Picture of plane – "C'Mores first love"  
2. Meridian Airport (Miss)  
3. Meridian Airport (Miss)

# WILLIS FAMILY COLLECTION FINDING AID

4. Picture of Man in cockpit of plane (Laurie Yonge, Jacksonville)\*
5. Meridian Airport Hangar\*
6. Picture of Man in cockpit of plane "C More's Bro. Hart"

Additional information about Laurie Yonge-- From the History Archives of the Jacksonville, Florida, flying strip. From: <http://newoldkunnel.net/rcwilson5.html> [Dec 2011]

1923 – "A local pilot named Laurie Yonge offered airplane rides from the beaches. Rates were \$5 for short hops, \$10 for long rides, and \$25 for aerobatics. His transport pilot license was the first issued in Florida, and his National Aeronautics Association card was signed by Orville Wright. It was Yonge, flying in the "Spirit of Jacksonville," who dropped an invitation from the air to the deck of a ship returning Charles Lindbergh and his "Spirit of St. Louis." In 1929, Yonge set the world's lightplane endurance record in a 90 hp. Curtiss Robin. He flew continuously for 25 hours and 10 minutes, a record that stood until 1939. No other aviator has brought such fame and success to Jacksonville both as a visionary pioneer and instructor pilot."

MSS-WIL-006-009

Five photographs of the Miami Air Races:

1. Formation of Corsairs
2. Formation of Corsairs
3. Aeronca airplane that set a record flying Los Angeles to Long Island.
4. Distant view of Aeronca airplane
5. Close-up of cockpit of Aeronca

## Additional Information:



A new non-stop distance records for light planes was set yesterday afternoon when John M. (Johnny) Jones, 25-year old Van-Nuys (Calif.) flier, landed at Roosevelt Field, L. I., after spanning the continent from West to East in a craft with a lower horsepower rating, and operating cost per mile than that, of popular-priced automobiles.

Exactly 30 hours and 37 minutes after taking off from Los Angeles, Jones put his stock model Aeronca, powered by a fifty-horsepower Continental engine, down at the Long Island field. The entire cost of the 2,785-mile trip was estimated at \$30.91. The former United States record for light planes was held by Robert E. Bryant, who flew 1,014 miles in a non-stop, flight from Miami to Camden, NJ, last July 31. From: <http://www.geo-met.com/tommymsmith/jones.htm>

MSS-WIL-006-010

Five photographs of the Miami Air Races:

1. Clarence McArthur's Pusher
2. Beechcraft Twin Motor Transport
3. Clare Bunch's "Clip Wing" 145H.P. Monocoupe
4. Non-Stop C-3 Collegien Aeronca NY-MM
5. Smoke Writing by Art Davis and Partners

MSS-WIL-006-011

Six photographs of the Miami Air Races:

1. "Al Williams Guty "
2. "Al's Hawk
3. "Al's Hawk"
4. "Bevo" Howard starting on his back in Cub.
5. Bevo on his Back
6. Bevo getting off his back

MSS-WIL-006-012

Six photographs:

1. EAL Pitcairn Mail Wing

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2. Palmer Holme's Great Lakes
  3. Wash Stinson up Wes'
  4. EAL Douglas
  5. Gull Wing Art Delivered
  6. Delta Airlines Lockheed Electra on ground, Meridian, Miss
- MSS-WIL-006-013 Two photographs of a woman taken in what looks like a park
- MSS-WIL-006-014 Four photographs:
1. Side View House – Quincy, FL
  2. Rear View with Frank Jr and Pup
  3. Jo, Jack, Aunt Mat (Chobee)
  4. Aunt Mat and Jack
- MSS-WIL-006-015 Five photographs:
1. Full Dress (Pilots Uniform)
  2. Horace Atkieson
  3. Full Dress
  4. Beach Attire
  5. Semi Uniform
- MSS-WIL-006-016 Cut out of pilot in Semi Uniform – most likely Horace Atkieson above.
- MSS-WIL-006-017 Three photographs:
1. Pilot posed by Airline Steps
  2. Same Pilot in front of building
  3. Same Pilot in front of runway
- MSS-WIL-006-018 Five photographs:
1. Pilot beside Eastern Airline Steps
  2. Same pilot on other side of steps
  3. Side View of Vero Beach municipal airport
  4. Picture of runway
  5. Front view of Vero Beach municipal airport
- MSS-WIL-006-019 Six photographs:
1. Woman beside plane
  2. Woman and dog by eastern airline steps
  3. Woman on tractor
  4. Couple and dog by plane
  5. Tractor
- MSS-WIL-006-020 Four photographs:
1. Woman at beach
  2. Man at beach
  3. Woman kneeling on beach
  4. Woman lying on beach
- MSS-WIL-006-021 Two photographs:
1. Man on Street beside a car in front of Osceola Pharmacy and Friedlanders store.
  2. Man with catch of eight fish



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MSS-WIL-006-022      Photo of two men at side of house

MSS-WIL-006-023      Four photographs:  
1. Man in riding boots against tree  
2. Man in suit by street  
3. Airport tower  
4. Man