
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library & Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

MS 0410
KITT, EDITH O. STRATTON, 1878-1968
Papers, 1888 - 1966

DESCRIPTION

Correspondence, personal and family history, and reminiscences of family members' activities and impressions of Arizona history by the Stratton and Kitt families. Manuscripts include essays on family vacations into northern Arizona in 1917 and other early reminiscences of Edith Kitt. Also includes her communications with various women's organizations in the state. Business correspondence for the Tu-Tex Oil and Gas Company from George Kitt as president is present. Some correspondence and newspaper clippings reflect Edith Kitt's work as secretary of the Arizona Historical Society between 1925 and 1966.

2 Boxes, 1 linear foot

ACQUISITION

Gift from Edith Kitt in 1968.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by William D. Tackenberg in January 1999.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged into 4 Series: Personal and Family History, 1919-1953. Correspondence, 1896-1966. Business and Professional Activities, 1904-1964. Manuscripts and Printed Materials, 1888-1964.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edith Kitt was born Dec. 15, 1878 at Florence, A.T. Her father came to Arizona in 1874 and owned the "Inter-Ocean Ranch" on the north side of the Santa Catalina Mountains approximately 9 miles from Tucson. In addition, Emerson O. Stratton also owned the Stratton Mines claim. Edith graduated from the University of Arizona in 1920 and taught grade school. In 1903 she married George P. Kitt, whose father was William F. Kitt (1842-1904) who came to Arizona from England in 1881. Edith was involved in numerous women's organizations within the state and became president of the Tucson Women's Club (1921-1923) and the Arizona Federation of Women's Club (1923-1925 and 1928-1930). In 1925 she assumed the position of secretary of the Arizona Historical Society.

Edith Kitt remained the secretary for the Society for 22 years and became a leading authority on Arizona history. Her book, *Pioneering in Arizona: The Reminiscences of Emerson Oliver Stratton and Edith Stratton Kitt* reflects both the stories of her family and life in Arizona from the 1890s to 1947. Although she officially retired from her position in 1947, she was elected "secretary emeritus" by the organization and remained active in Society activities for many years. In 1966 Kitt relocated to Sacramento, CA and died Jan. 20, 1968.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection reflects both personal and family history, and materials collected for the Arizona Historical Society by Edith Kitt. Postcards and photos may reflect a family vacation into Mexico in 1900. Depictions of buildings, Mexican people engaged in plaza activities, and historical sites are included for Nogales, Cananea, Hermosillo, Tampico, and Veracruz. One folder (f.2) contains photos believed to be family members but with little identification.

Correspondence entails communications by and to Edith Kitt in conjunction with her role as secretary of the Arizona Historical Society from 1925 to 1947 and personal communications with family members and individuals interested in Arizona history. Letters in conjunction with various women's organizations include Tucson Women's Club and Arizona Federation of Women's Club. Additional correspondence on general business and personal activities of George Kitt from 1911 to 1940 are also included. Business papers and correspondence for the Tu-Tex Oil and Gas Company located in Mexico for which George Kitt was president are present for the period 1913 to 1920.

The most significant portion of the collection is contained within the manuscripts and reminiscences collected by Edith Kitt. Kitt family history in Arizona is depicted in manuscripts prepared by Edith Kitt and her father Emerson Oliver Stratton. Family vacations to northern Arizona by the Stratton family in 1917 depict the difficulties and joys of early automobile travel in the state. Edith Kitt also prepared historical materials for presentations at various Women's organization meeting, radio addresses, and her 1964 book, *Pioneering in Arizona: The Reminiscences of Emerson Oliver Stratton and Edith Stratton Kitt*. Research notes contained on file cards and news clippings of Kitt's activities with the Arizona Historical Society from 1925 to 1966 are also included.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series I: Personal and Family History, 1919 - 1953

Folder 1: Kitt Personal Items and Family History	1919-1953
f.2 Kitt Family Photos	
f.3-4 Postcards of Mexico	
f.5 Photos of Mexico	1900

Series II: Correspondence, 1896 - 1966

f.6-8 Edith Kitt Correspondence	1896-1966
f.9 George Kitt Correspondence	1911-1940

Series III: Business and Professional Activities, 1904 - 1932

f.10 Association With Women's Organizations	1904-1932
f.11 Speeches For Women's Organizations	1924-1929

Box 2

f.12 Mining Correspondence	1920-1923
f.13 Tu-Tex Oil and Gas Company Correspondence	1919-1920
f.14-15 Tu-Tex Oil and Gas Company Stock Information & Reports	1913/1919

Series IV: Manuscripts and Printed Materials, 1888 - 1964

f.16 "Reminiscences of Edith Oliver Stratton Kitt" (3 Draft Copies)	
f.17 "Reminiscences of Edith O. Kitt"	
f.18 Kitt's Arizona Vacation	June 1 19??
f.19 Diary of Kitt's 1914 Arizona Vacation	1914
f.20 Cowboys at Work and Sport	1917
f.21 "A Pleasure Trip"	1917
f.22 Radio Talk - "Pioneer Women"	1931
f.23 "Arizona On The March" (Draft)	
f.24 "Arizona History Makers"	1938
f.25 Edith Kitt's Autograph Book	1888-1896
f.26 "Reminiscences of William R. Kitt"	1930
f.27 <i>Reminiscences of Emerson Oliver Stratton</i>	1925
f.28 "Reminiscences of Emerson Oliver Stratton (Drafts Chs. I-XI)	
f.29 "Reminiscences of Emerson Oliver Stratton	
f.30 Research Notes	
f.31 Notes on Landmarks Around Tucson	
f.32 News Clippings	1925-1964
f.33 Old Newspaper Quotations	