

Record Series #: 1121-118

Name: Hernandez family papers
Dates: 1915, 1935-1939, 1979-1982, no date
Extent/Size: 5.0 legal folders, 2.0 oversized folders (0.5 cubic feet)
Language: English

Name of Creator(s):

Theodore "Ted" Hernandez

Biographical History:

The Hernandez family has lived in Florida, Georgia and New York, and family members have held significant positions in African American communities. The Hernandez family united with the Threadcraft family through marriage in Savannah, Georgia.

Augustus Threadcraft (circa 1842-1878) married Susan Paterson Threadcraft Williams (circa 1847-1912) sometime in the mid-1860s after Augustus fought in the Civil War at Fort Sumter. Augustus, also known as "Gustavus," was a seaman and worked for the United States Customs Service specifically as a boat hand. Susan took in washing and was a dressmaker and attended the Beth Eden Baptist Church. The couple had three children together. George Threadcraft (1869-unknown), a chauffeur, was the first born; Susan Threadcraft (1871-unknown) was the second born; and Augusta "Gussie" Threadcraft (1877-1962) was the youngest. Augustus Threadcraft died in 1878 from congestion fever, and Susan would remarry, taking the surname Williams, and have fourth child.

Charles Hernandez, Sr. (1841-1891) married Alice Hernandez (circa 1846-1904) in 1867 in Savannah, Georgia. Charles, Sr. was a cooper, who built wooden barrels and casks. He also played trombone in a band. Alice was a seamstress. The couple had six children, all born in Savannah, and they lived at 530 East Taylor Street. The children were Robert Anthony (1868-1913), Charles, Jr. (1870-unknown), Flora (1874-unknown), Sarah J. (1876-1882), William (1879-unknown), and George D. (1879-1940). Charles, Sr. passed away in 1871 and was buried in Laurel Grove South Cemetery.

Robert Anthony Hernandez married Augusta "Gussie" Threadcraft in 1894 and they continued to live in the family home at 530 East Taylor Street. Robert was a barber and Augusta was a seamstress. They had five children together, Robert A., Jr. (1894-1979), Ralph (1896-1970), Dorris Kimbrough Alphonso (1898-1990), Augusta (1902-unknown) and Theodore, "Ted," (1903-1988). Robert passed away in 1913 and the whole family decided to move to New York City in 1914. Robert, Jr. was a Lieutenant in the 369th Regiment, "Harlem Hellfighters," United States Army in World War I. He was a commercial artist and his own family moved to California, where he was buried. Theodore had several articles published in well-known newspapers such as the *New York Amsterdam News* and created a popular radio show while working at Victory Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Another significant member of this family is George D. Hernandez, the youngest of Charles, Sr. and Alice's children. He was a well-known singer in the African American community. He managed the Fisk Jubilee Singers for a period, trained at the Institute of Musical Art (New York City, New York), and taught at the Florida Normal and Industrial College. He married Louise

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Munch (1881-1916) and they had three children together, Alice Nelthrop Jones (1906-1985), George, Jr. (1907-unknown), and Louie “Betty” Muriel Black (1914-1993).

The Hernandez and Threadcraft families joined together and contributed hard-working servicemen and laborers who supported the Savannah community and raised families throughout the United States.

Scope & Content:

The Hernandez Family papers contain research collected by Theodore “Ted” Hernandez on his family’s history. The collection includes correspondence, news articles, event programs, and family genealogical trees. There are reproductions of genealogical research material, but the correspondence from Ted Hernandez to W. W. Law regarding his family’s history are original. A significant item in this collection is a 1915 Atlanta University commencement program bound in a leather cover and the personal stories Hernandez details in his correspondence about his family.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

The Hernandez Family papers are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is stored offsite and researchers must request desired records at least one (1) full business day before research appointment for access.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Related Collections:

Record Series 1121-100, W. W. Law Photograph Collection. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Record Series 1121-109, ASALH and related cultural organizations records. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

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Access Points:

African Americans Genealogy
African American male singers
Hernandez, Augusta Threadcraft, 1877-1962
Hernandez, Charles, 1841-1891
Hernandez, George, 1879-1940
Hernandez, Robert Anthony, 1868-1913
Hernandez, Theodore (Ted), 1903-1988
New York Amsterdam News
Savannah (Ga.)
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 369th
World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1939-1945

Sponsors/Funding:

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Inventory:

Box

Folder

Folder title, Date (s) [archivist notes]

Box 1121-000-0003

Folder 1121-118-0001

Atlanta University commencement program, 1915

Folder 1121-118-0002

Correspondence, 1980, 1982, no date [mainly Ted Hernandez to Law]

Folder 1121-118-0003

George D. Hernandez recital program, 1939 [reproduction]

Folder 1121-118-0004

Guides to the "Hernandez Family Papers" from the creator, no date

Envelope 1121-118-0005

Hernandez and Threadcraft families index cards on individual family members, alphabetical by first name-Hernandez, Alice thru Hernandez, Jane

Envelope 1121-118-0006

Hernandez and Threadcraft families index cards on individual family members, alphabetical by first name-Hernandez, Jasper thru Threadcraft, Francis

Folder 1121-118-0007

Notes on family members and biographies, no date

Folder 1121-118-0008

Newspaper articles written by Theodore Hernandez, 1935-1939, [reproductions]

Folder 1121-118-0009

Photographs, reproductions, circa 1970's, no date

Folder 1121-118-0010

Resumes for Grace Hernandez Cargill and Ronald G. Cargill, no date

Oversized Box 1121-000-0004

Folder 1121-118-0011

Genealogical family charts, no date

Folder 1121-118-0012

Envelopes, 1979, no date [original material found in these envelopes]