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**IRWIN LETTERS**

The collection includes letters to and from James Madison Irwin, Jr. and his family, as well as letters from Kitty B. Owings of Asheville, North Carolina and St. Augustine, Florida, and from Cecil Clyde Rosen to Virginia Files, later Mrs. James Madison Irwin, Jr. Also included are the U.S. Army discharge papers for Mr. Irwin, photographs, and cards.

**[Detailed finding guide available with collection.]**

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- 1-1** James Madison Irwin, Jr. to Ida Irwin (1917-1918)
  - 1-2** James Madison Irwin, Jr. from his sisters and mother (1918)
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- BOX 3** Miscellaneous Stamped Envelopes

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**JAMES MADISON IRWIN, JR. (1891-1948)**

James Madison Irwin, Jr. was born 20 March 1891 in Lynchburg, Virginia, the son of James Madison Irwin and Ida Clay Ewers. [*The News*, Lynchburg, Va., 5 July 1948, p. 4, col. 2] His father served as Chief of Police in Lynchburg from 1882 until his death on 17 March 1903. James Irwin, Jr. served in the U.S. Army during World War I in France as a member of the 7th Company of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment, Air Service Mechanics. He was discharged on 30 June 1919 with the rank of Sergeant. Upon his return to his home in Lynchburg, he became a salesman for the Quinn-Marshall Company, 910-916 Commerce Street in Lynchburg. Letters written in those years to his future wife, Virginia Files, show that his sales contacts included counties in Southside Virginia, as well as Georgia. He married Virginia Eulalia Files (1895-1985), who for 40 years was the bookkeeper for the Marshall Lodge Memorial Hospital in Lynchburg. James Madison Irwin died on 4 July 1948 and was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg.

**VIRGINIA EULALIA FILES (1895-1985)**

Virginia Eulalia Files was born 24 October 1895, in New Haven, Mason County, West Virginia. [Irwin Letters, MSS 1246, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Va.] She was the daughter of the Rev. Mr. David William Files and Eulalia Mae Keffer. Her father was a Lutheran minister and served churches in West Virginia and for many years in Augusta County, Virginia. Virginia came to Lynchburg about 1920 and served as head bookkeeper for the Marshall Lodge Memorial Hospital for 40 years. She married James Madison Irwin, Jr. about 1920. [1930 Census, Lynchburg, VA; T-626, Roll 2468, page 114.] They had no children. Virginia died in Lynchburg, Va. on 13 September 1985. [*The News & Daily Advance*, Lynchburg, Va., 14 Sept. 1985, page A-4.]

**CECIL CLYDE ROSEN (1893-1969)**

Cecil Clyde Rosen was the son of James J. Rosen. He was born 2 March 1893, probably in Augusta County, Virginia. [1900 Census, Augusta Co., VA; T-623, Roll 1700, page 254B.] His letters to Virginia Files span the period November 1914 through September 1919. During the period 1914 through 1916, he was working on farms in Kansas and Nebraska. During the period following that, he was writing from Augusta County, Virginia. He died in February 1969, in Rockingham County, Va. [Cecil Rosen, no. 223-42-4935, Social Security Death Index, *FamilySearch*, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)]

**(Continued)**

**MS1246**

**IRWIN LETTERS, Cont'd.**

**KITTY B. OWINGS (1890-1918)**

Kitty B. Owings, the daughter of Frank J. and Sume E. Owings of Laurens, South Carolina, was born in April 1890 in South Carolina [1900 Census, Laurens Co., SC; T-623, Roll 1533, page 199]. She was a registered nurse working at the Merewether Hospital, Asheville, North Carolina at the time of her letters to James M. Irwin, Jr. She also did nursing in St. Augustine, Florida during the winters, as indicated by many of her letters. The 1910 US Census shows that she was nursing at the Roper Hospital in Charleston, SC [1910 Census, Charleston, SC; T-624, Roll 1452, page 199]. She died of influenza on 18 October 1918 in Asheville, NC. [Obituary from unknown Asheville, NC newspaper, 19 Oct. 1918, Irwin Letters, MSS1246, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA.]