

Finding Aid

**Masao Tamura
Collection**

1930-1990

Kauai Historical Society

MS 89

MS 89**Masao Tamura Collection****1 Box**

Abstract

Spanning from the 1930's to the 1990's, this collection consists of photographs and memorabilia surrounding Masao Tamura, his military service, and family. His wife, Mine, shows prominently in the collections' photographs.

Historical Background

Masao Tamura was born in Koloa, Kauai on July 3, 1923. He served in the US military's famous 442nd Infantry Regiment during the Second World War and received several decorations for his service, including a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart. After moving back to Kauai, Mr. Tamura worked as a bookkeeper at Kauai Veterans Express, a trucking company. In 2011, Mr. Tamura travelled to Honolulu to receive France's highest military honor, the Legion of Honor, from the French honorary consul in Hawaii, Attorney Patricia Lee, for his participation in liberating two French towns, Bruyeres and Biffontaine.

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Scope and Content

2 Photographs, loose and rolled up

- 7.5" x 18.75" b&w photograph of funeral with casket surrounded by people
 - Text written on picture:
 - Died on June 13, 1937
 - Fujii - Lihue
 - Japanese characters on post above casket

- 8" x 32" b&w photograph of funeral with casket surrounded by people
 - Dated November 28, 1964
 - Text on wreath in picture: Beloved Mother
 - Text written on picture:
 - Larry's studio
 - Waimea, Kauai

1 2.75" x 3.75" framed b&w photograph of Masao Tamura

1 8" x 10" b&w photograph of Masao and Mine Tamura at a wedding

1 6" x 8" large frame color photograph of Mine Tamura

1 6" x 8" large framed b&w copy of the above photograph

1 4.5" x 6.5" framed b&w photograph of Sugie in a bridal gown

1 6" x 8" framed b&w photograph of Kayu and Sugie, the couple marrying.

Folders

1. Deed of Gift, Finding Aid

2. War Time Memorabilia - Pamphlets and booklets
 - Military form granting "Authority to Wear Decorations." It lists the various awards given to Tamura
 - Three blown up and scanned photos of the above
 - 3.25" x 4.5" b&w photograph of Masao Tamura in uniform
 - Scan of the above
 - 2" x 2.65" b&w photo of unidentified veteran with mother

- 2.5" x 2.5" b&w photo of unidentified veteran with a note in Japanese on back
- 3.5" x 5.5" b&w postcard of veterans standing atop the Empire State Building, text on back notes veterans' names and their home towns in Hawaii
- Scan of the above
- 3.5" x 5.5" b&w postcard of a military hospital ship, has a note from Masao to his parents on back
- 3.25" x 5" b&w photo of unidentified veteran
- 5" x 7" b&w photo of veterans in front of Abraham Lincoln statue in Lincoln Park, Chicago
- 2.5" x 4.25" b&w photo of Mine Tamura; text on back: "Taken at Lihue Mill Park August 1936."
- 2.5" x 3.5" b&w photo of Mine Tamura, dated June 1940.
- 3.5" x 5.5" b&w postcard of Lihue Mill

3. Post-World War 2 Photos

- 2.5" x 3.5" b&w photograph of unidentified woman with letter on back, dated March, 1946
- 3.5" x 4.75" and 4" x 5" enlarged scans of the above with 1.75" x 1.75" b&w photo of another unidentified woman
- Two 2.5" x 3.5" b&w photographs of Masao Tamura
- 2.5" x 3.5" b&w photograph of Masao Tamura in front of a car
- 3.5" x 4.5" b&w photograph of Mine Tamura
- 3.5" x 5" b&w photograph of Mine Tamura and her son
- Two 2.25" x 2.75" b&w photographs of Mine Tamura
- Four 2.5" x 3.5" b&w photographs of Mine Tamura
- 3.5" x 5" color photograph of Masao Tamura at a typewriter
- Envelope that shipped the developed photographs, dated 1974
- 3.5" x 5" color photograph of Masao and Mine Tamura at Hikiiau Heiau
- 3.5" x 5" color photograph of Masao and Mine Tamura in front of a bunch of daikon, dated April 14, 1990
- 5" x 7" retouched b&w photo scan of Mine Tamura

4. Christmas Cards

- 4.5" x 6" postcard from Spark Matsunaga, dated 1965
- 4.5" x 6" color postcard from Dan Inouye, dated 1965