

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

2003.93

Ekstrom Family Papers  
1905 – 1986  
(Bulk dates 1905 – 1936)

Processed by Moira O'Connell  
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## **Collection Information**

**Abstract** : The Ekstrom Family Papers chronicle the personal story of the Ekstrom family through two generations in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but also a larger story of middle class family life in Worcester during this time period. Many of the photos are candid in nature and illustrate family and social life during this time. Materials include photographs (bound and loose), cards, letters and Algot Ekstrom's sketches and other ephemera related to the Lundquist Tool & Manufacturing Company, the American Steel and Wire Company, as well as the Swedish and Methodist communities active in Worcester during this time.

**Key Words**: Ekstrom; Worcester; Swedish immigrants; Swedish community; early 20<sup>th</sup> century Worcester; American Steel and Wire Company; Lake Quinsigamond; Sterling Methodist Camp; Prince Wilhelium; South High School; College Football; Lundquist Tool and Manufacturing Company; Army Navy "E" Award; World War II; Memorial Hospital School of Nursing

**Finding Aid** : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

**Preferred Citation** : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Provenance** : Donated by the Pamela Carter (granddaughter of Algot Ekstrom)..

**MARC Access** : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

The Ekstrom family was part of the Swedish American Methodist community in Worcester during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rollard Ekstrom married Edla Swenson in 1908, though their courtship began before that. The collection includes many photographs from 1905 onward, chronicling their social interactions both in Worcester and at Sterling Methodist Camp in Massachusetts.

Once married, the couple lived at 17 Reeves Street, in the Quinsigamond Village neighborhood of Worcester. They occupied the second floor unit in a three floor apartment house. The other two units in the house were occupied by other Ekstrom family members. The family also had a summer camp home at 34 Old Faith Road in Shrewsbury Massachusetts, on Lake Quinsigamond. Rollard was employed at American Steel and wire Company through the mid 1920s, but had to retire due to injury thereafter. Edla bore two children, Algot and Erling Ekstrom.

The collection goes on to chronicle the early part of Algot's life, focusing on his hobbies of creating artistic renderings of many buildings in downtown Worcester and well as transcripts of many college football games from the mid 1920s through the early 1940s. After high school, Algot was employed at the Lundquist Tool and Manufacturing Company, at one point accepting the "E" Award from the U.S. Military on behalf of the factory's workers, for their manufacturing contributions during World War II.

Lillian Ekstrom attended South High School in Worcester and went on to enroll at the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1933. She kept a detailed scrapbook of her time there which has many candid photos of other nursing school students and their training at area hospitals.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains the documentation from two generations of Ekstroms (Rollard and Edla; Algot and Lillian) starting in 1905 and ending in 1974 (bulk dates 1905 – 1936). Materials include photographs (bound and loose), cards, letters and Algot Ekstrom's sketches and other ephemera related to the Lundquist Tool & Manufacturing Company, the American Steel and Wire Company, as well as the Swedish and Methodist communities active in Worcester during this time.

## Series Descriptions

Series 1: Rollard & Edla (1905 – ca. 1940)

Photographs, arranged chronologically

Series 2: Algot & Lillian (1932 – 1986)

*Sub Series A:* Algot

Sports radio transcripts

Renderings of buildings in Worcester, MA

Lundquist Tool and Manufacturing Company

*Sub Series B:* Lillian

South High School

Memorial Hospital School of Nursing

Ekstrom Family Papers  
2003.93  
Series 1, Rollard & Edla

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.93.1.1	Photographs (1905 – 1910)
1	2	2003.93.1.2	Photographs, mounted (1906 – 1907)
1	3	2003.93.1.3	Photographs, bound (1906 - 1913)
1	4	2003.93.1.4	Photographs (1910 – 1941)
1	5	2003.93.1.5	Photographs, on disc with print outs (1907 – 1903, undated)
1	6	2003.93.1.6	Photographs, on disc with print outs (1906 – 1908, undated)
1	7	2003.93.1.7	Photographs (undated)

Ekstrom Family Papers  
2003.93  
Series 2, Algot & Lillian

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2003.93.2.1	Algot: Sports radio transcripts (1925 – 1946)
1	9	2003.93.2.2	Algot: Renderings of buildings in Worcester, MA (1927 – 1974)
1	10	2003.93.2.3	Algot: Lundquist Tool & Manufacturing Company (1941 – 1942)
1	11	2003.93.2.4	Lillian: South High School (1932 – 1933)
1	12	2003.93.2.5	Lillian: Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (1933 – 1986)