

Cornelia Fort Papers, 1855-2001 (bulk 1940-1943)

Collection Summary

Creator: Fort, Cornelia, 1919-1943

Title: Cornelia Fort Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1855-2001 (bulk 1940-1943)

Summary/Abstract: These materials center on Cornelia Clark Fort, the first female pilot to die on active military duty. The collection chronicles Cornelia's career and death through correspondence, official documents, photographs, and a few artifacts, as well as oral interviews and other research collected by Doris Brinker Tanner and Rob Simbeck. The collection touches briefly on the extended Fort family and includes four letters (Nov. 1855 – Feb. 1856) from Edmund Augustus Fort to his wife, Julia, while he served in the legislature in Nashville.

Physical Description/Extent: 1.9 cu. ft.

Accession Number: 2004.006

Language: In English.

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom, Range 3, Section 1

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

Aug. 23, 1817	Edmund Augustus Fort (grandfather of Cornelia Fort) born at Fort's Station, Robertson County, Tenn.
1848	Edmund marries Anne Gatewood; they later have two sons, George Washington Fort and Whitnell Hill Fort
1851	Anne Gatewood Fort dies
Nov. 22, 1854	Edmund marries his second wife, Julia Garth. They eventually have a number of children: Lizzie A., Dollie; Walter A.; Cheatham; Gene; Edwin Zollicoffer; Garth; Susie; Sarah Wimberly; and Rufus Elijah (father of Cornelia Fort)
1855-1857	Edmund Augustus Fort represents Robertson County in the Tennessee legislature as a member of the American or Know-Nothing Party. He writes letters to his wife, Julia, when he traveled to Nashville for meetings.
March 19, 1872	Rufus Elijah Fort, son of Edmund and Julia Fort, is born.
June 16, 1887	Edmund Augustus Fort dies at Fort's Station and is buried in the family graveyard.
October 12, 1909	Rufus Elijah Fort marries Louise Clark, daughter of Benjamin and Loula (Henslee) Clark, in Boston where Louise resided.
1909	Rufus Elijah Fort and wife live in Nashville at Fortland, (previously known as "River View").
August 29, 1910	Rufus Elijah Fort II, son of R. E. and Louise Fort, is born.
December 2, 1911	Dudley Clark Fort, son of R. E. and Louise Fort, is born.
February 14, 1914	Garth Edmund Fort, son of R. E. and Louise Fort, is born.
February 5, 1919	Cornelia Clark Fort, daughter of R. E. and Louise Fort, is born.

November 9, 1926	Louise Clark Fort, daughter of R. E. and Louise Fort, is born.
1932	Cornelia enters Ward-Belmont, a private school for girls in Nashville.
Fall 1936	Regretfully, and upon her father's insistence, Cornelia enrolls in Ogontz School and Junior College in Philadelphia.
Fall 1937	Cornelia, following her own desires, and aided by her mother's urging towards her father, enrolls at Sarah Lawrence College.
Fall 1938	Cornelia continues her studies at Sarah Lawrence as a sophomore; her credits from Ogontz do not transfer
December 29, 1938	Cornelia Fort makes her formal debut to Nashville society.
June 10, 1939	Cornelia receives her two-year diploma from Sarah Lawrence. She is admitted as a junior for the following fall, but does not return.
March 21, 1940	Cornelia's father, Dr. R. E. Fort, Sr. dies in Nashville.
April 1940	Cornelia Fort makes her first solo flight.
December 7, 1941	While teaching a flying lesson, Cornelia Fort witnesses the Pearl Harbor attack from the air. The U.S. enters World War II.
September 1942	First Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) unit started to fill the need for ferrying pilots during World War II; Cornelia Fort is among the first five volunteers.
December 1942	Fortland, the family home in East Nashville, burns down.
March 21, 1943	Cornelia Fort dies in a plane crash near Abilene, TX. She was flying on a ferrying mission from San Diego to Texas.
1945	Cornelia Fort Airport is constructed near the Fortland farm area in East Nashville.
June 1970	Mrs. Julia Fort dies.
1977	The U.S. Congress declared that members of WAFS and its subsequent group, Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), were active members of the military, officially making Cornelia Fort the first American woman pilot to die on active military duty.
October 1980	Garth Fort dies.
June 1981	Louise Fort Hardison dies.
November 1994	Dudley Fort dies.
December 1997	Rufus Fort, Jr. dies.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

The Fort family has been in Middle Tennessee for generations. Much of their history occurs in Robertson County, but this collection focuses on Cornelia Fort of Nashville and her immediate family. Her father, Dr. Rufus E. Fort, was a surgeon, and he was co-founder, vice president, and medical director of the National Life and Accident Insurance Company in Nashville. He met and married Louise Clark in Boston in 1909. They moved to Nashville and settled at Fortland, the family farm in East Nashville where they raised Jersey cows. The couple had five children, Rufus Elijah, Jr., Dudley Clark, Garth Edmund, Cornelia Clark, and Louise Clark. Much of the collection documents Cornelia, who attended Ward-Belmont school in Nashville and went on to receive a two-year diploma from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. Her father, believing that

flying was dangerous, made her brothers swear never to become pilots, but it did not occur to him to forbid his eldest daughter as well. Flying became Cornelia's passion. As a flight instructor in Hawaii, she witnessed the Pearl Harbor attack from the air. After this, Cornelia joined the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). One of the inaugural members, Cornelia ferried planes around the United States for military use. On one such mission in 1943, a male pilot began to engage in flying tricks. Some witnesses claim Cornelia responded to the trick flying with some of her own. Whether the male pilot was showing off or Cornelia had engaged in the flying game, the other plane struck Cornelia's, causing her to lose consciousness and her plane to crash into the ground, killing her.

In the sixty years since Cornelia's death other women pilots have fought for recognition. In doing so, Cornelia's story has been retold. With Congress's official declaration of WAFS and the subsequent organization, Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), members as active military personnel, Cornelia became the first American woman pilot killed on active military duty. Her story has attracted scholars and researchers. Doris Brinker Tanner, a fellow World War II female pilot, has studied Cornelia's life thoroughly and developed relationships with Cornelia's siblings, nieces, and nephews. Tanner's research and her correspondence with the Fort family appear in the collection, as well as audio recordings of interviews with Rufus and Agnes Fort, Louise Fort Hardison, and Adela Scharf of the WAFS. Another scholar, Rob Simbeck, wrote a book on Cornelia Fort entitled *Daughter of the Air*. Several audio recordings of his oral interviews with Dudley Fort, Charles Kinle, Chloe Fort, Jon Platz, David and Elizabeth Craig Proctor, and Jack and Betty Rye Caldwell are present in the collection.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection sketches out a larger Fort family history, but it primarily focuses on Cornelia Clark Fort (1919-1943) and her immediate family. Through photographs, correspondence, clippings, official documents, and personal effects, Cornelia's short life is reconstructed. Her writings and correspondence relate a unique perspective on the Pearl Harbor attack, general World War II military life, the challenges that women encountered in the military, and the passion one pilot felt for her vocation. One can also learn of the lives of Cornelia's immediate family through clippings, photographs, correspondence, and personal effects. Additionally, because Cornelia has become the subject of biographies and histories, the research process of authors Doris Brinker Tanner and Rob Simbeck is evident in this collection. Tanner has made duplicates of much original material, most of which is present in the collection, and these often contain her own notes. These are of particular interest as Tanner was also a female pilot during World War II. Furthermore, both she and Simbeck have recorded oral interviews with some of Cornelia's siblings, extended family, and others, and these items are in the collection. Through Tanner's research, the oral interviews, and clippings, one can learn not only about Cornelia Fort's life, but also about her historical impact and the broader history of women pilots in the military.

Other materials document the Fort family in general, primarily Cornelia's own immediate family and their residence at Fortland in East Nashville. Four letters (Nov. 1855 – Feb. 1856) from Edmund Augustus Fort to his wife, Julia, were written while he

represented Robertson County in the state General Assembly. They contain little political information, but rather, indicate who he visited with when he was in Nashville, where and what he ate, and brief mentions of leisure activities, such as attending the theatre.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization: In four series as follows: I: Cornelia Fort, II: Fort Family, III: Photographs, IV: Research

Arrangement: Mostly chronological.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

The following items are restricted to Staff Use Only: One box (Box 5) containing original audio recordings on cassette and master CDs in SCC; one glass negative housed in Safe Room Shelf 24; two folders of original documents housed in Safe Room Shelf 18. Copies of all of these materials have been made and are part of the publicly accessible collection.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Some items may not be able to be photocopied, due to the fragile nature of materials. Photographs credited to Associated Press, *Tennessean*, Wide World Photo, or other organizations or entities (except for Nashville *Banner*) cannot be reproduced. Audio recordings cannot be reproduced without Division Manager's approval.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Fort, Cornelia, 1919-1943
Fort, Dudley Clark, 1911-1994
Fort, Edmund Augustus, 1817-1887
Fort family
Fort, Garth Edmund, 1914-1980
Fort, Louise Clark, 1887-1970
Fort, Rufus Elijah, 1872-1940
Fort, Rufus Elijah, 1910-1997
Hardison, Louise Clark Fort, 1926-1981
Scharr, Adela Riek, 1907-
Simbeck, Rob
Tanner, Doris Brinker, 1919-

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Fortland (Nashville, Tenn.)
Sarah Lawrence College – Alumni and alumnae – Biography -- Sources
United States. Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron

Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.) – Alumni and alumnae –
Biography -- Sources
Women Airforce Service Pilots (U.S.)

Subjects:

Aeronautics—United States
Air pilots – United States – Biography - Sources
Aircraft accidents—Texas
Debutantes—Tennessee--Nashville
Families – Tennessee – Nashville
Flight training—United States
Legislators – Tennessee
Men – Social life and customs – 19th century
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941—Personal narratives, American
Politicians – Tennessee – Robertson County
Scrapbooks – Tennessee
Upper class families – Tennessee – Nashville
Women – California – Long Beach
Women -- Correspondence
Women – Hawaii – Honolulu
Women—Tennessee—Nashville
Women – United States – History – 20th century – Sources
Women air pilots—United States
Women and the military
Women in aeronautics—United States
World War, 1939-1945—Aerial operations, American
World War, 1939-1945—Hawaii
World War, 1939-1945—Participation, Female
World War, 1939-1945—Photographs
World War, 1939-1945—Women – United States
Young women – Social life and customs – Tennessee – Nashville

Places:

Abilene (Tex.)
East Nashville (Nashville, Tenn.) – History – 20th century – Sources
Honolulu (Hawaii)
Long Beach (Calif.) – Social life and customs – 20th century
Nashville (Tenn.) - Biography
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – 20th century – Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs – 19th century
Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs – 20th century
Robertson County (Tenn.) – Biography
Tennessee – Biography
Tennessee – History – 19th century – Sources
Tennessee – History – 20th century -- Sources
Wilmington (Del.)

Genre/Document Types:

Audiocassettes
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Cultural artifacts
Licenses
Official documents
Photocopies
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Telegrams

Occupations:

Air pilots
Authors
Historians
Legislators
Politicians

Added Authors:

Caldwell, Betty Rye
Caldwell, Jack
Fort, Agnes
Fort, Chloe
Fort, Dudley Clark, 1911-1994
Fort, Edmund Augustus, 1817-1887
Fort, Rufus Elijah, 1872-1940
Fort, Rufus Elijah, 1910-1997
Hardison, Louise Clark Fort, 1926-1981
Kinle, Charles
Platz, Jon
Proctor, David
Proctor, Elizabeth Craig
Scharr, Adela Riek, 1907-
Simbeck, Rob
Tanner, Doris Brinker, 1919-

Alternate Title:

Fort Family Papers

Separated Material

Some individual items throughout the collection have been separated and are marked by separation notices. They are noted in the Detailed Description of each series which appears below. In particular, the Edmund A. Fort letters and a number of large clippings have been separated and placed with Cornelia's scrapbook in Box 4.

The following publications have been separated from the collection and can be found either in the Nashville Room vertical files or in the library's catalog:

Douglas, Deborah G. *United States Women in Aviation 1940-1985*. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institute Press, 1991.)

Holden, Henry M. and Captain Lori Griffith. *Ladybirds: The Untold Story of Women Pilots in America*. (Mt. Freedom, NJ: Black Hawk Publishing Company, 1993). [Autographed]

the 99 News official publication of the international women pilots organization: Reflecting on our past... 12(9), November 1985.

Print-outs from various websites on Cornelia Fort (MTSU, geocities, PBS).

Tanner, Doris Brinker. *Zoot-Suits and Parachutes and Wings of Silver, too!: The World War II Air Force Training of Women Pilots 1942-1944*. (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 1996.) [Autographed]

Tennessee Historical Quarterly 41(1) (Spring, 1982).

Who Were the WASP?: A World War II Record, March 11, 1944 "To the Best Women Pilots in the World" General H.H. "Hap" Arnold. (Sweetwater, TX: The Sweetwater Reporter, 1989.)

Williams, Vera S. *WASPs: Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II*. (Osceola, WI: Motorbooks International, 1994.)

Winters, Ralph L. *Historical Sketches of Adams Robertson County, Tennessee and Port Royal Montgomery County, Tennessee from 1779 to 1968*. (Clarksville, TN: Samuel J. Winters, 1978).

Recorded interviews: The original audio cassette tapes and master MP3 copies of digitized versions on CD have been separated for preservation purposes. These separations are housed in the SCC and are restricted to Staff Use Only. Reference copies of CDs for patron access are housed in Series IV. Research. See description of that series elsewhere in this finding aid.

One glass plate negative showing Dr. R.E. Fort, Jr. as a young man, ca. 1894, has been separated. It is restricted to Staff Use Only and housed in Safe Room, shelf 24. A reference print for patron use appears in the collection.

Two folders of original documents have been separated, restricted to Staff Use Only, and are housed in Safe Room, shelf 18. One folder contains original news clippings; the other folder contains two telegrams and inventory of effects. All of these materials relate to Cornelia Fort's death. Copies have been made and are part of the publicly accessible collection.

Administrative Information

Copyright: Copyright held by the donors was granted to the Nashville Public Library by deed of gift. Other portions of the collection to which the donors did not have copyright, such as photographs, oral interviews, and possibly other materials, may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: Cornelia Fort Papers, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Three of Cornelia Fort's nieces donated the material in 2004: Lee LaPointe (Louise's daughter), Tish Fort (Rufus's daughter), and Chloe Fort (Garth's daughter).

Processing Information: Processed by intern Johanna Russ, supervised by Leanne Garland, June-July 2006. Reprocessed by intern Margaret Koenig, supervised by Linda Barnickel, June 2012. Revised finding aid and catalog record by Linda Barnickel, Fall 2013.

Note concerning D.E. Proctor recording: Track 1b was originally recorded at a slow and variable speed. This problem was not addressed when the recording was converted to digital form in 2007. In 2013, using the original cassette recording, an effort was made by NPL staff to speed up the playback and a new digital file for Track 1b was created, named FFPProctorDE1bSpeed.mp3. However, the effort to produce a clearer recording had only limited success, and most of Track 1b remains extremely difficult to understand. Linda Barnickel (processor) and Jared Brennan, (in-house digitization), Aug. 28, 2013.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

The WASP Archive is housed at Texas Woman's University.

The Nashville Public Library holds the following works that are about Cornelia Fort:

Simbeck, Rob. *Daughter of the Air: the Short Soaring Life of Cornelia Fort*. (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1999.)

Tanner, Doris Brinker. *Cornelia Fort: a WASP in World War II Part I* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1980.)

See also list of Separated Materials elsewhere in this finding aid for additional publications about the WASPs.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Cornelia Fort, 1919-2000, Quantity .88 cu. ft.

Series Abstract/Description: This series contains materials relating to the life and death of Cornelia Fort, including correspondence, writings, and personal effects. This series also includes condolences to Cornelia's family, details of posthumous publications of her writings, and other items relating to her legacy and that of the WAFS, including memorials and honors.

Arrangement: This series is arranged topically and somewhat chronologically.

Container List: Box 1

Folder #:

1. **Official documents**, including: birth certificate, driver's license, pilot's licenses, health insurance, car insurance, last will and testament, & more.
2. **Personal effects:** business cards, Army Movie coupon booklet, bill of sale.
Also:
 - Oversized Drawer K-4, Folder 14:
 - Taped-together currency with signatures and small handwritten poem with envelope.
 - Safe room Shelf 19: Wings pin and bracelet.
3. **Outgoing letters & telegrams by C.F. to family:** August 19, 1938-December 30, 1942.
4. **Outgoing letters & telegrams by C.F. to family:** January 7, 1943-April 16, 1943.
5. **Incoming letters to C.F. from friends & family:** April 18, 1924-November 16, 1943; undated.
6. **Letters to family from Sarah Lawrence College regarding C.F.**, April 26, 1938-August 25, 1944. **Letter from WSM radio station regarding C.F.**, April 16, 1943.
7. **Writings:** 2 drafts of "Ladybirds," 1 print copy of "Ladybirds" October 1941, draft of "One if by land, two if by sea."
8. **Flight book; journal** (Feb./Mar. no year, probably 1943), contains mostly personal social news and leisure activities, very little about WAFS or flights, has list of C.F. funeral gifts towards back.
9. **Official business regarding C.F.'s death**, transportation of remains, inventory of personal effects, transportation of C.F.'s car, etc. March 22, 1943-January 25, 1946; undated.
10. **Condolence letters and telegrams to C.F.'s family.** March 22, 1943-July 16, 1943; undated.
11. **Letters regarding posthumous republication of C.F.'s writings.** April 23, 1943-August 12, 1943.
12. **Memorials to C.F./Women pilots.** Ca. 1940s-2000; undated.
13. **Biographical notes on C.F. by her mother**, undated. **Short biography of C.F. by Dudley Fort, Jr.** post-1980.
14. **Clippings.** December 30, 1938-May 3, 1945; undated.

Also:

-Oversized Drawer G-2:

Newsmap distributed by Army Orientation Course, Vol. 1, No. 24. October 5, 1942.

15. **Clippings.** August 18, 1963-2000.

Also:

-Oversized Drawer K-4, Folder 14:

“Some Women With Wings” clipping from *Tennessean*. August 18, 1963.

-Box 4, Folder 1:

“Women Pilots of World War II” from *World War II Times*. July 1987.

-Box 4, Folder 2:

-Posthumous reprint of “At the twilight’s last gleaming” by C.F. Undated.

-“Cornelia Fort, WASP, (1919-1943) Remembers...” by Patricia Collins Hughes. Undated.

-“Daughters of the Air” by Rob Simbeck, *Nashville Scene*, May 30, 1996.

Box 4:

Cornelia Fort’s scrapbook, 1942-1943.

Scrapbook is extremely fragile! No photocopies! Please handle with care!

Interleaving tissue has been used periodically throughout; please do not remove.

Content primarily include news clippings, especially about Cornelia’s Pearl Harbor experiences; her appearances during War Bond drives; and the formation of the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, as well as her individual role in it. A few telegrams and military orders also appear in the scrapbook. Items of particular historical interest include a telegram from Jackie Cochran soliciting interest in sending an American contingent of women pilots to Great Britain, to serve in the British Air Transport Auxiliary (p. 6); a list of minimum qualifications for civilian pilots to ferry airplanes within the U.S. (p. 7); and a telegram from Gen. George Baker, instructing Cornelia to report to Delaware (at her own expense) to begin training as a ferrying pilot (p. 11). Also of interest is a program from the second annual Iroquois Steeplechase event, held at Percy Warner Park in 1942 (p. 7).

- Separated item from scrapbook, now housed in Box 1, Folder 5: Letter from [Lib.?] to Cornelia sent from Nova Scotia, Canada. Apr. 5, 1943.

Series II. Fort Family, 1855-1997, Quantity .10 cu. ft.

Series Abstract/Description: This series contains materials relating to Cornelia’s extended family, including 19th century letters between Cornelia’s grandparents, Edmund Augustus Fort and Julia T. Garth Fort.

Arrangement: By format, and somewhat chronologically.

Container List: Box 1 (except as noted)

Folder #:

Box 4, folder 4: Correspondence: Edmund A. Fort to his wife Julia, November 1855-February 1856, from Nashville.

Box 1, folder 16: Correspondence: Unidentified to Mrs. R.E. Fort, October 24, 1942. Louise Fort to Mrs. R.E. Fort, February 7, 1946 & May 22, 1947.

17. **Miscellaneous:** Dr. R.E. Fort's obituary, ca. March 1940. Short biography of Dr. R.E. Fort, undated. Dean's Easter Message, 1944. Sons of the American Revolution application by Garth Fort, 1957. China dish order for Mrs. Jean Daughton, undated. Garden Show by Leontine LaPointe, October 1997.

18. **Clippings.** June 22, 1943-June 24, 1982.

Also:

-Box 4, Folder 3:

Tennessee Market Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 6. June 1952. Pictures of Fortland and article, "Farmed Fortland to Remain a Jersey Stronghold."

Series III. Photographs, ca.1894-ca.1977, Quantity: .20 cu. ft.

Series Abstract/Description: Photographs picture Fort family members, Cornelia's childhood, Cornelia's early adulthood, and Cornelia's flying career. The collection contains one glass negative, a formal portrait of Cornelia's father Dr. R.E. Fort as a young man. The glass negative is restricted to Staff Access Only; a printout from a scan of the image is found in the collection for patron use. Some archival prints from scanned original photographs were made by the NPL staff and the originals returned to donor. They are identified with an asterisk (*) in the list below.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Photographs credited to Associated Press, *Tennessean*, Wide World Photo, or other organizations or entities (except *Nashville Banner*) cannot be reproduced.

Arrangement: Generally chronological, with emphasis on Cornelia and her immediate family, followed by extended family and miscellaneous pictures.

Container List: Box 2

Photograph #:

1. Dr. R.E. Fort as young man, ca. 1894. (NPL print from NPL-scanned image; digital identifier: Fort – photo1)
Original glass negative restricted to Staff Use Only and housed in Safe Room, Shelf 24.
2. Formal portrait of Dr. R.E. Fort, undated. Water damaged.
3. Mrs. R.E. Fort with baby Cornelia and brothers. Ca. 1919.*
4. Toddler girl [Cornelia?] posed on low stool, undated. **FRAGILE!**
5. Young girl [Cornelia?] standing in open truck door, undated.
6. Portrait of young Cornelia, undated.
7. Cornelia (approx. 7-9 years old) standing on horse's back, undated.
8. Cornelia as a child and brothers with their father outside, undated.
9. Cornelia as a child and brothers around car with dog, undated.
10. Cornelia as a child with Dudley and Rufus outside. undated.
11. Cornelia Fort's immediate family, ca. 1930s.
12. Cornelia, late teens or early twenties, Louise, and their mother in New England, undated.
13. Cornelia, late teens or early twenties, with unidentified baby outside, undated.

14. Cornelia, Louise, and unidentified woman around a small statue of a man at Sherborn, undated.
15. Lee's [?] grandmother and great-grandmother standing in second floor porch looking at garden at Sherborn, undated.
16. Dr. & Mrs. R.E. Fort with two of their sons, their sons' wives, and Louise. All dressed in winter coats outside, undated.*
17. Formal portrait of Cornelia in late teens or early 20s. Inscription on photo reads, "To my valentine all my love 'Corra.'" undated.*
18.
 - a. Cornelia dressed in riding clothes leads her nephew, Dudley Jr., on a horse. 1940.
 - b. Copy of 18a made by NPL.
19. Cornelia's pilot license photo. Ca. 1940-1941.
20. Aubrey Blackburne, Cornelia's flight instructor, in cockpit wearing flight gear. Undated [1941?].
21. Cornelia with Bryan Omohundro, one of her first students, in front of propeller. September 21, 1941. Photo from *Tennessean*.
22.
 - a. Portrait of Cornelia in flight gear in front of plane. Ca. 1942.*
 - b. Duplicate.
23. Cornelia on base in uniform reading a newspaper with officers. Ca. 1942.
24. Cornelia (back to camera) with her mother (wearing a hat), and several male officers on base. Ca. 1942.
25. Cornelia in uniform standing by a plane, holding a couple of papers in her hands. Ca. 1942.
26. Cornelia in uniform standing by a plane, holding a couple of papers in her hands. Ca. 1942.
27. Cornelia in uniform in cockpit from various angles. Ca. 1942.
28. Cornelia in uniform in cockpit from various angles. Ca. 1942.
29.
 - a. Cornelia in uniform in cockpit from various angles. Ca. 1942.
 - b. Enlargement of 29a
30. Cornelia in cockpit, not in uniform. January 7, 1942. Photo from *Tennessean*.
31. Cornelia with Nancy Love in front of plane at New Castle Airport, Delaware. September 10, 1942. Photo from *Tennessean*.
32. Cornelia and other female pilots in gear walking out to planes. September 24, 1942. Photo from *Tennessean*.
33. From left to right: Nancy Love, commander of the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron, meets with Cornelia Fort, Helen Mary Clark, Aline Rhonie, and Betty Gillies at training base in New Castle, Delaware. September 22, 1942. Photo from *Tennessean*.
34.
 - a. Cornelia on outdoor chaise with "Life" magazine, while on vacation with McCain family, Summer 1942.
 - b. Duplicate.

35.
 - a. Cornelia Fort and Grace McCain in bathing suits at Piping Rock Country Club beach with third unidentified woman, while vacationing with McCain family in Locust Valley, New York, Summer 1942.
 - b. Duplicate.
36.
 - a. Cornelia sitting on low stool in garden while vacationing with the McCain family, Summer 1942.
 - b. Duplicate.
 - c. Enlarged print made by NPL.
37. Cornelia outside with man referred to as "The Frog" on the back of photograph. On vacation with McCain family, Summer 1942.
38.
 - a. Cornelia with luggage at train station with "The Frog" and [Mr. McCain?] while on vacation with McCain family, Summer 1942.
 - b. Duplicate.
39. Cornelia with luggage at train station with "The Frog" and [Mr. McCain?] while on vacation with McCain family, Summer 1942.
40.
 - a. Cornelia posed with McCain family on outdoor chaise, Summer 1942.
 - b. Enlargement of 40a.
41. [Cornelia?] reading newspaper outside while vacationing with McCain family, Summer 1942.
42.
 - a. Cornelia in WSM studios in Nashville to record war bond ad and to talk about her Pearl Harbor experience. Ca. 1942.
 - b. Slightly cropped duplicate of 42a.
43. Cornelia Fort on base in uniform, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
44. Cornelia Fort on base in uniform, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
45. Cornelia Fort in uniform with plane in Nashville, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
46. Cornelia Fort in uniform with plane in Nashville, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
47. Cornelia Fort in uniform with plane in Nashville, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
48. Cornelia Fort on base in uniform, 1943. From Major James Easton Johnson.
49.
 - a. WAFS in uniform with airplane in California: (from left to right) Barbara Towne, Cornelia Fort, Evelyn Sharp, Barbara Jane Erickson, Bernice Batten. March 7, 1943. Photo from Press Association.
 - b. Duplicate of 49a, from Wide World Photo.
50. Cornelia's grave covered with flowers, 8x10. March 25, 1943.
51. Cornelia's grave covered with flowers, 8x10. March 25, 1943.
52. Smaller cropped shot of Cornelia's grave. March 25, 1943.
53. Interior of church at Cornelia's funeral with no people. 8x10. March 25, 1943.
54. WAFS Memorial Plaque, ca. 1977.

55. Portrait of Cornelia's great-grandmother with her second husband, Dr. Engelman, Mr. & Mrs. George Clark, and their two children. Ca. 1860s-1870s.
56. Dining room, Fortland. Pre-1940.
57. Vertical shot of yard with pillars and man reading on the porch, Fortland. Pre-1940.
58. Horizontal shot of yard with pillars, Fortland. Pre-1940.
59. Cattle in yard facing house, Fortland. Pre-1940.
60. Cattle with small girl [Lousie?] in front of dairy barn, Fortland. Pre-1940.
61. Party at Fortland, several people standing out on the lawn, undated.
62. Older couple at Fortland party, undated.
63. Unidentified wedding, couple entering their car while flower petals are thrown, undated.
64. Merrimac River, [Massachusetts?] from Dr. Clark's house, undated.
65. Photo with five unidentified people at an outdoor table. "This one's for Dudley!" is written across the top, undated.
66. Young boy on tricycle and another with a dog, undated.
67. [Rufus Fort II?] with two women in swimsuits in front of several tents, undated.
68. Photo resting on window ledge outside a brick building, undated.
69. Man wearing bowtie crouched beside brick wall with young boy sitting on his knee. Undated.
70. Mrs. R.E. Fort and son, Rufus E. Fort II at Fort family reunion, 1948.
71. Snapshot of seated people at Fort family reunion, 1948.
72. Group photo of Fort family reunion attendees, 1948.
73. Dog in unidentified yard. Undated.
74. Chicken coop from two angles. Undated.
75. Chicken coop from two angles. Undated.
76. Photocopies for which there is no original photograph in the collection:
 - Cow laying down.
 - Side view of a bull.
 - Five WWII planes in the air.
 - Two headshots of unidentified men and a copy of 38a,b.
 - Legal-sized paper with eight unidentified photos.

Series IV. Research, 1977-2001, Quantity: .50 cu. ft.

Series Abstract/Description: This series includes photocopies of official documents, personal effects, correspondence, and clippings related to Cornelia Fort annotated by Doris Tanner. It also includes letters between Tanner, Cornelia's relatives, and various institutions regarding the donation of materials related to Cornelia. Additionally, there are two copies of a small publication by Doris Tanner called "Cornelia Fort." There is a small amount of material relating to the royalty agreement with Rob Simbeck, and a film agreement between VanNess Films and Tish Fort. Finally, there are several oral interviews recorded by Tanner and Simbeck.

Arrangement: By format, thereunder by researcher's name.

Container List: Box 3 (*this box contains both folders and CD's*)

Folder #:

1. Photocopies of official documents by Doris Tanner, including business cards and licenses.
2. Photocopies of personal effects and C.F.'s writings by Doris Tanner.
3. Photocopies of correspondence 1938-1947, with notes by Doris Tanner.
4. Photocopies of correspondence post-C.F.'s death by Doris Tanner with her notes and numbering 1-32.
5. Photocopies of clippings made by Doris Tanner with her notes, 1942-1999.
6. Letters to and from Doris Tanner concerning the donation of Cornelia Fort materials, 1977-1998.
7. "Cornelia Fort" by Doris Tanner, reprinted from Tennessee Historical Quarterly. November 1980.
8. Royalty agreement with Rob Simbeck, July 1996-August 1996. Clipping on Simbeck writing book, undated. Stills release form from VanNess Films to Tish Fort, November 8, 2001.

CD's begin:

(originally recorded on audiocassette; outsourced to be digitized and converted to .mp3 format on CD in May 2007; conversion funded by the Nashville Public Library Foundation)

Note: These oral interviews are labeled according to the original collection name, Fort Family Papers (abbreviated FFP), both in the digital files and on the CD labels. The digital identifier appears at the end of each entry.

1. Rufus and Agnes Fort (Dr. Marchant); August 8, 1980 at University Club of Vanderbilt; interview by Doris B. Tanner. FFPFortRA
2. Louise Fort Hardison; September 23, 1980 in Nashville, TN; Adela Scharr (WAFS); September 19, 1980 at WASP Reunion in Orlando, FL; interviews by Doris B. Tanner. FFPHardisonL
3. Dudley Fort; June 3, 1994; interview by Rob Simbeck. FFPFortD
4. Charles Kinle; June 7, 1994, June 21, 1994; interview by Rob Simbeck. FFPKinleC
5. Chloe Fort – June 30, 1994; Jon Platz – July 7, 1994; interviews by Rob Simbeck. FFPFortC
6. David and Elizabeth Craig Proctor; July 11, 1994; interview by Rob Simbeck. FFPProctorDE. *Note: Track 1b is very garbled and difficult to understand due to slow and variable speed used during original recording. Library staff have attempted to improve this, but with very limited results.*
7. Jack and Betty Rye Caldwell; July 18, 1994; interview by Rob Simbeck. FFPCaldwellJB

RESTRICTED TO STAFF USE ONLY

Box 5 – (housed in SCC), Quantity: .20 cu. ft.

See individual list of interviews on CD appearing in Box 3 Research series.

Box 5 contains original audiocassette recordings (qty. 10), duplicate audiocassettes (qty. 10) as well as two copies of CDs (qty. 14 tot.).

Safe Room, Shelf 18 - Two folders of documents. One folder contains original news clippings; the other folder contains two telegrams and inventory of effects. All of these materials relate to Cornelia Fort's death.

Safe Room, Shelf 19 – Wings pin and bracelet.

Safe Room, Shelf 24 - One glass plate negative showing Dr. R.E. Fort, Jr. as a young man, ca. 1894