

Kamehameha School for Boys
Kumu from 1889-1893
Po'okumu from 1893-1898



Theodore Richards
1867-1948

The Theodore Richards Collection

Finding Aid

The Archive at Kamehameha Schools Museum

Stacy Naipo
Kahu
Archivist

Candace W. Lee
Hope Kahu
Assistant Archivist

THE THEODORE RICHARDS COLLECTION

Finding Aid

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Kamehameha Schools Archives

Creator: Theodore Richards

Title: The Theodore Richards Collection,

Language of Materials: Materials in English and Hawaiian

Location: Kamehameha Schools Archives, Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama

Size: 26 boxes; 14 linear feet

Abstract: This collection contains Theodore Richards and Frank E. Midkiff family letters, documents, manuscripts and photographs. Theodore Richards (1867-1948) arrived in Honolulu in 1889 as one of the first teachers at Kamehameha School for Boys. He resigned in 1898 to work for the Hawaiian Board of Missions. A notable project was the Kokokahi community in Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The Collection is open to researchers by appointment with the archivist.

Copyright Notice

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Preferred Citation

The Theodore Richards Collection, Kamehameha Schools.

Collection identifier: TR

Acquisitions Information and Provenance

Two marked boxes were stored in the Frank E. Midkiff Papers room before the Archives opened in 1992. Other boxes were deposited at various times by Robin Midkiff, great-granddaughter. The bulk of the Collection was transferred by the Midkiff family from the Mission Houses library in February 2009 to Kamehameha Schools Archives.

Processing Information

The processing of this Collection was a collaborative effort. Paul McDonald, UH Mānoa School of Library and Information Science student intern, rehoused and packed items. He worked on most of the materials originally deposited with the Mission House library and archives. Because these materials had been partially processed, and original order was not maintained, the collection was re-housed and re-organized primarily by type of materials.

Paul completed a draft copy of this Finding Aid before his semester commitment ended. Robyn Nu'uhiwa, Midkiff Learning Center Library Assistant, rehoused and completed the inventory of Box 17. Candace W. Lee consolidated various boxes and added newly found deposits to complete the work.

Biographical and Historical Note

Theodore Richards (1867-1948) was a teacher at Kamehameha School for Boys from 1889-1893. He became the principal from 1893-1898. He was recommended to Kamehameha Schools by General Samuel Chapman Armstrong of Hampton Institute in Virginia. General Armstrong was born on Maui, and graduated from O'ahu College in Honolulu. Theodore Richards was born in Montclair, New Jersey. His father was a publisher of the *New York Observer*. He matriculated at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut where he was a member of their Glee Club.

Mr. Richard's contributions to the Kamehameha Schools were numerous. He organized the first Glee Club concert in March of 1890. With the first principal, Reverend William Brewster Oleson, he wrote the lyrics to *Sons of Hawai'i*, the official school song that was first sung during the 1891 graduation. The melody was a popular Yale University song of 1850-1860, *Wake, Freshman, Wake*.

Mr. Richards firmly believed in the importance of athletics and physical fitness as well as the value of outdoor recreation. He organized an annual camping trip for students. He instituted 25 working scholarships in 1894. Described as a "generous person," he was an Alumni Association and Clubhouse donor.

In 1898, he resigned because he thought he would teach in China. While convalescing from a fever and sore throat in Kona, Hawai'i, he decided that Hawai'i and the Hawaiian people would be the focus of his life's work. He read and spoke conversational 'olelo Hawai'i. He was hired in various positions at the Hawaiian Board of Missions of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association to direct home mission work.

Mr. Richards married Mary Atherton on June 29, 1892. Mary was the daughter of Joseph Ballard Atherton, President of Castle & Cooke, Ltd., which was involved in the establishment of numerous sugar plantations. Her father was one of the founders of the Bank of Hawaii, Ltd., Mutual Telephone Co., and the Y.M.C.A. He was a director of O'ahu Railway & Land Co., director of the Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land, Co., and a Trustee of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, O'ahu College and Kawaiaha'o Seminary. Her mother was Juliette Montague Cooke, the daughter of Amos Starr and Juliette Montague Cooke. Juliette grew up with the Hawaiian royal children including Pauahi at the Chiefs' Children's School, an American immersion school. The Hawaiian

Board of Missions would often be a beneficiary of the The Juliette M. Atherton Memorial Fund established by Mary and her brothers, Frank and Charles.

Mary Atherton Richards was a community force in her own right. From 1913-1919, she was commissioner of the Department of Public Instruction. She was involved in many organizations throughout Hawai'i, including the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society. She was the president of the Morning Music Club, a Board and committee member of the Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.), a member of the Daughters of Hawai'i, the Punahou P.T.A., and the 'Ulunia Club. But, perhaps, closest to her heart was the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands.

The Richards had five children, Ruth, Atherton, Muriel, Herbert and Polly. Ruth Richards married Frank E. Midkiff who became President of Kamehameha Schools in 1923-34 and Trustee of the Schools from 1939-1983.

Collection Overview

This collection comprises documents, letters, photographs, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, correspondences, notes, manuscripts, programs, scrapbooks, and other personal items and ephemera documenting the life and work of Dr. Theodore Richards ranging from his early work to later in his life and also including documents belonging and pertaining to his family members. Dates of materials range from the late Nineteenth to the mid-Twentieth century.

Arrangement

Series 1: Letters and Series II: Photographs and Photograph Albums are from the Mission Houses library. Series III has early boxes found before the Archives opened in 1992. Series IV describes the January 25, 2008 deposit by Robin Midkiff. Series V is the February 9, 2010 deposit by Robin Midkiff. All are arranged by format and then by date.

Online Catalog Headings

Title: The Theodore Richards Collection

Subject Headings:

Theodore Richards

Joseph Ballard Atherton

Juliette Cooke Atherton

Mary Atherton Richards

Amos Starr Cooke

Juliette Montague Cooke

Frank Elbert Midkiff

Ruth Richards Midkiff

Kamehameha School for Boys

Kamehameha Schools

O'ahu College

Hawaiian Board of Missions

Hawaiian Mission Children's Society

Container List

SERIES 1. LETTERS and DOCUMENTS



Box 1. Richards Family Letters

Folders

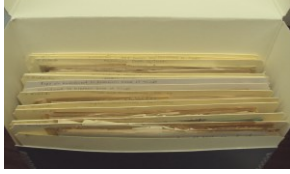
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. 1893-04 | 11. 1917 |
| 2. 1908-1910 | 12. 1918 |
| 3. 1909-1910 | 13. 1918-1920 |
| 4. 1910-1911 | 14. 1920 |
| 5. 1912 | 15. 1921 |
| 6. 1912 | 16. 1922 |
| 7. 1912 | 17. 1924-1925 |
| 8. 1913 | 18. 1926 |
| 9. 1914 | 19. 1927 |
| 10. 1916 | 20. 1928 |



Box 2. Richards Family Letters

Folders

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. 1929 | 7. 1938-1939 |
| 2. 1930 | 8. 1940-1941 |
| 3. 1931 | 9. 1942-1943 |
| 4. 1932-1933 | 10. 1944-1946 |
| 5. 1936 | 11. 1941-1949 |
| 6. 1937 | |



Box 3. Richards Family Letters and Kokokahi Legal Documents

Folders

1. 1914
2. 1915
3. 1915
4. 1941-44 legal documents
5. Trusts and Benevolences 1930-1940
6. Amendments to Kokokahi Deeds of Trust
7. Copy of Amendments to Kokokahi Deeds of Trust
8. Kokokahi Amphitheater
9. Miscellaneous
10. Kokokahi Cottage A
11. Kokokahi Deeds of Trust
12. Luakaha – 1938 paper by Clarence H. Cooke
13. Kapiolani – speech by Clorinda Lucas



Box 4. Richards Family Letters #1-180



Box 5. Richards Family Letters #181-235



Box 6. Richards Family Letters 1910-1911



Box 7. Richards Family Letters 1948 Condolences



Box 8. Kokokahi plans and promotionals



Box 9. Letters, programs, news clippings, Jane Loeau drawings

Folders

1. Letters
2. Condolences
3. Condolences
4. Missionary Council correspondence 1924, 1930-1931
5. Mrs. Theodore Richard's correspondence
6. Morning Music Club programs, 1920-1921
7. Pen and ink and pencil drawings by Jane Loeau earliest 1845
8. Letters
9. Letters 1904-1905
10. Newspaper clippings
11. Newspaper clippings
12. Newspaper clippings
13. Juliette Montague's geometry book, *Juliette's Euclid Diagrams*
14. Newspaper clippings
15. Morning Music Club programs,, 1904-1934



Box 10. Midkiff and Richards documents and manuscripts

Folders and items

1. Document appointing Frank E. Midkiff to the Board of Health-1937.
 - Eighth grade report card for Robert Midkiff, Hamden Hall-1934.
 - Ltr. to Mrs. Richards from Harold S. Clark of Dartmouth U. Dec. 1909
 - 1927 Christmas supper invitation to family and faculty at Kamehameha School from M/M Frank E. Midkiff.
 - 1940 Report of Richards family benevolences / Envelope of cancelled postage stamps Application of Victory Medal of Robert Forest Midkiff.
 - Ode to the Mango by a Malahini.
 - Dance Card from "The Edelweiss Club of Harvard University
 - Booklet entitled *The Essentials of Polite Correspondence*.
 - Robert Midkiff's Entrance Exam instructions to Yale-1938
 - Misc. notes.
 - Ltrs. to Polly Richards-1951
2. Composition Books belonging to Bob Midkiff.
3. Central Union Church Certification of Promotion-Bobbie Midkiff. / Central Union Church Cradle Roll-Frances Elizabeth Midkiff
4. Newspaper clipping featuring Vice Admiral Wilson Brown.
 - Loose sketches (Bobby's?).
 - comic strips concerning word origins and etiquette
5. 13 letters. to Mrs. Ruth Midkiff- 1929-1951.
6. Robert Midkiff Letters
7. Mrs. Theodore Richards name card
8. Ruth's Friendsy Seminary letter book
9. Empty Scrapbook **discarded—highly acidic foxed pages**

SERIES II. PHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS



Box 11. Two Photograph albums

Folders

1. One tapa covered album
2. One black album



Box 12. Negatives and slides



Box 13. Negatives, 3 framed prints



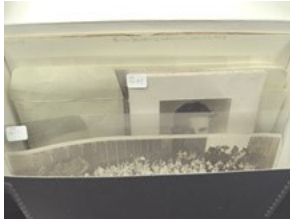
Box 14. Glass slides- heavy in weight
(Mainland 1938, Africa, unidentified locations)



Box 15. Loose negatives and photographs

Enclosures and items

1. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
2. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
3. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
4. ENVELOPE negatives
5. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
6. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
7. ENVELOPE: loose photographs
8. Father and baby portrait in narrow brown folder
9. Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Richards in faux metallic leather
10. 5 small circular photographs of a woman
11. Photograph of 2 old men talking from Honolulu Photo Supply, Ltd.
12. Black "Photographs" album
13. 1935 *Oahuan*, Punahou School yearbook
14. Frank E. Midkiff family portraits (4)
15. Framed O'ahu College, 1908 photograph
16. Honolulu Star-Bulletin Photograph sent to Mrs. Theodore Richards
17. Woman's portrait by Jean Campbell Honolulu
18. Punahou School framed class photograph at Pauahi Hall
19. Woman's portrait by Root of Monmouth, Ills.
20. 10 Portraits by Post Honolulu of the Richards / Midkiff family
21. 3 Portraits by Post Honolulu and 1 of Bob. Midkiff by Chidnoff, 550 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.



Box 16. Photographs, programs, documents

Folders (noted) and items

1. Midkiff-Crawford Hard-Times Party 1929 photograph- (2)
2. 1918 photograph from "Mother" to son Bob.
3. Photo in plastic env. "Japanese town on the Waiakea River". **[missing]**
4. Grey env. Photo small child holding doll, from Baker Studio, Honolulu, T.H.
5. Theodore Richards as adult, Perkins, Hon., photog.
6. Young child, Baker Studio, Hon. T.H.
7. Adult woman, H. Schulthers, photog., Hon., T.H.
8. Same young child above, plus small photo young child stuck inside.
9. Adolescent girl, poss. graduation photo, Scherer, photog., Hon. T.H.
10. "Holiday Greetings" photo card from the Williams. **Relocated to Folder #19**
11. Same photos young adult male, Mildred Mc??? Hon. T.H.
12. Young girls and woman, Davey Photo Co., Hon. T.H.
13. Adult woman, Mildred Mc??? Hon., T.H. **[missing]**
14. Grey folder w/ loose photos: 22, one definitely of Theodore Richards Family (w/ wife & 5 children)
 - sm env. Addressed to Fran Midkiff, 1910, containing 4 negatives of Theodore Richards **Relocated to Folder #26**
15. Env. AZ empty envelopes addressed Diamond-Hall Co., Honolulu, all dated 1932, **Same as envelopes in Box #21**
 - 6 letters to Bob Midkiff on Oahu Ave., all w/ foreign postage-
 - 1 w/ 7 Hawaiian stamps stuck on, **Very Valuable.**
 - 2 envelopes remain, others returned. **Valuable cards removed by Robin Midkiff on 2/9/2010**
16. ENVELOPE. Silver oval metal framed young man-looks like a college photo (in env.)
17. small env. w/ 1 letter to "Bob eye" apparently from himself, 3 mail packets, each containing very small misc. photos.
18. FOLDER: Loose "Peddie Baseball Schedule 1913" w/ F.E. Midkiff, coach-env. w/8 Photo
19. FOLDER: postcards, Oxford England-env. w/11 photo postcards, Exeter, England-55 loose photo postcards, misc. places in England-1 photo-1 card w/ 10 Hn. postage stamps stuck on, **Very valuable**-1 photo baby-1 photo people in foreign country. **Very valuable cards and stamps removed by Robin Midkiff on 2/9/2010**

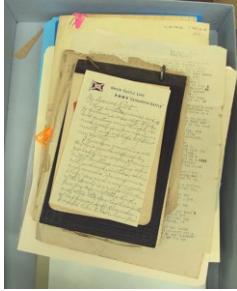
- Loose photos-2 of a bull, 1 young boy, 1 of 4 children's heads, backs marked "Aunt Anna Christmas 1896"-3 misc. family photos-1 postcard photo Eskimo in Alaska, 1916.
- 20.2 Bob Midkiff "Hamden Hall A Country Day School" books, New Haven, CT.
Relocated to Box 10 with other Composition Books
21. FOLDER: 10 concert brochures, Hon.-Punahou School performance "Noah" 1937-Punahou School 1937 Commencement program-Rudyard Kipling poem "IF"-7 empty env. to Diamond Hall Co., Hon. All 1932-empty env. 1935 to Frank Midkiff, Hon. 1932--1. env. w/ letter to Bob Midkiff from Betsy 1937—I empty env. 1935 to Frank Midkiff, Hon. 1932—list of "Moving Picture Films"
- 22.1 small folding booklet photos of Brazil **Relocated to Folder #21**
- 23.1 family photo album covered with imitation kappa – **Relocated to Box 11**
24. 1 family photo album 2/ only over, marked "SNAPS" – **very fragile Relocated to Box 17**
25. FOLDER: *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, April 8, 1903 obituary of Joseph Atherton
26. FOLDER: Philco Word Contest check—envelope of negatives—note to Bob from Dad
- 27.6 photos of young Bob



Box 17. Assorted photographs

Items:

1. Ratty covered scenic photo album, photos from America
2. Young man in military uniform, Kenneth Alexander photog. (photo of Frank E. Midkiff)
3. Photo: 5 views same young girl
- 4A.Photo: baby (w/ Bob Midkiff)
- 4B.Photo: baby (w/ Bob Midkiff)
5. Group photo, Robert Midkiff teacher, School children. (outside in front of trees)
6. Photo young woman, R.W. Perkins, photog., Hon. (w/ "Mary Atherton Richards")
7. Family photo Christmas 1939
8. Family photo Christmas 1932
9. Photo young woman in wedding dress
- 10.Photo young man (w/ Atherton Richards.)
- 11.Newspaper clipping, Goethe quote.
12. Photo album marked "SNAPS" very fragile (originally with Box 3A now 11 items)
13. Photo in frame, back marked "Theodore Richards"
- 14.Photo of unidentified woman, R.W. Perkins. Photog.Hon.
- 15.Photo woman and man in garden, back marked "M.-R" and "A.R." **missing**
- 16.Man w/ beard," Belle-Oudry, photog. Oakland. **missing**
- 17."Liberty Bonds" advertisement **missing**
- 18.Family photo **missing**
- 19.Unidentified baby **missing**



Box 18. Photographs. Books, Letters, News clippings

Items

1. Photo: 5 young men.
2. Photo: School class "Room No.4".
3. Book: *Fifty Blooming Years: 1913-1963*, the History of Garden Club of America
4. Photo: 34 men, all ages, at a church or college.
5. Photo: People outside small wood house (faded). 9p
6. Black covered scrapbook-fragile "The Ideal Scrapbook"-contains some photos.
7. "Doctor Kondo's Japanese Language Book"
8. "Children's Shakespeare" book, by E. Nesbit, front & back covers falling apart. (in folder)
9. "Am I Becoming Educated?" by Frank Midkiff.
10. Robert Midkiff's purchase application to Goodland Company.
11. Western Union Telegrams btwn. Bob Midkiff and Henry Heink re. Goodland Company.
12. certificates for shares of Texas Girl Oil Co stock
13. Ltr. from John Kline to Bob (Midkiff?)
14. Correspondence btwn. Frank Midkiff and Pullman Company re. "finger injury."
15. My Dearest Ruth—on Union Castle Line stationery **added to this Box**
16. Scholastic Loose Leaf Note Book **added to this Box**
17. Tomorrow + tomorrow + tomorrow page **added to this Box**
18. Pullman company letter to Frank E. Midkiff **added to this Box**
19. Assorted items **added to this Box**



Box 19. Photographs

**SERIES III: KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND KAMEHAMEHA
SCHOOLS LIBRARY DEPOSIT BEFORE THE ARCHIVES OPENED IN
1992**



Box 20. Assorted items

Items

1. Family portrait
2. Two postcards
3. Mother and two children
4. *Songbook of Psi Epsilon Fraternity*, 1891, Theodore Richards autograph on the first page
5. '88 [Class of 1888 Wesleyan] Glee Club reunion, 1906 [memory book] hand-painted with calligraphy and original photographs, fragile paper cover

To Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Richards

A souvenir of the best reunion ever, / and a token of the appreciation and / warm affection of the / Old Friends.

6. MIZPAH To: Theodore Richards Esq.: In view of your departure from Kamehameha School we, the teachers of the schools, wish to express more fully than is permissible in routine relations, the feeling which your decision has aroused...signed Honolulu, H.I July 2nd, 1898.

SERIES IV: JANUARY 25, 2008 BOXES DONATED BY ROBIN MIDKIFF



Box 21. Letters 1890-1940

Box 22. "Father's Letters scrapbook



and Clippings," an 1893-1896



Box 23. Letters 1890-1920



Box 24. Letters 1890-1930

SERIES V: FEBRUARY 9, 2010 BOXES FROM ROBIN MIDKIFF



BOX 25. Richards Letters and Midkiff correspondence

Envelopes (noted) and folders

1. ENVELOPE: Letters
2. ENVELOPE: Letters
3. ENVELOPE: Letters
4. ENVELOPE: Letters
5. Handicraft 1890-1892, bookmark
6. Volume 1 Number 1 *The Kalihi Breezes* February 27, 1891 **rare**
7. *Legends of Hawai'i* by Mary Kawena Pukui and Caroline Curtis, Preparatory Department copy printed on brittle acidic paper
8. U.S. Interior Department policies about Trust Territories—Midkiff copy
9. Midkiff Micronesia Trip –November – December 1972
10. Midkiff papers on the Pacific Islands
11. Midkiff papers on the Pacific Islands
12. Midkiff correspondence
13. Midkiff correspondence
14. Midkiff correspondence and notes
15. Midkiff correspondence
16. Midkiff Colgate University correspondence
17. Midkiff Colgate University correspondence

Box 26. Richards Photograph and Databook

Items

1. Framed photograph of Theodore Richards
2. *Databook—on Development of Kokokahi Community*

