

FREDERICK B. RICHARDS COLLECTION: A Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Frederick Barnard Richards, 1865-1958.
- Title:** Frederick B. Richards Collection.
- Dates:** 1848-1953.
- Abstract:** The Frederick B. Richards Collection concerns the Lee, Culver, and Bishop families of Sandy Hill and Glens Falls, New York. Of special importance are copies of letters of William Little Lee (1821-1857) from Honolulu, Hawaii between 1849 and 1856. Material also pertains to Charles Reed Bishop (1822-1915), who traveled to Hawaii with his friend Lee in 1846. Also included are copies of letters, poems, and related papers, written or collected by John Oscar Culver (1830-1912), a nephew of Lee and a recipient of some of his letters.
- Quantity:** 0.5 cubic feet (1 document box).
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William Little Lee (1821-1857) of Sandy Hill and Charles Reed Bishop (1822-1915) of Glens Falls traveled to Hawaii in 1846 and settled there. A lawyer by training, Lee became an advisor to King of Hawaii and a judge. Lee died in Honolulu in 1857. Bishop served as Collector General of Customs for Hawaii and later helped found a bank in Honolulu. He married Princess Bernice Pauahi Paki in 1850. Following her death in 1884 Bishop became a founding Trustee of the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, established through funds willed by his late wife. Bishop moved to San Francisco, California in 1894.

The Culver family was from Sandy Hill (name later changed to Hudson Falls), where John Oscar Culver (1830-1912) and his brothers, Cyrus, Charles, and George (b. 1835), along with their sister, Mary Eliza, were raised. J. Oscar Culver moved to Troy, New York, where he worked for Austin F. Park, whose business involved machines for telegraph or some related office procedure. Later J. O. Culver became an attorney, editor, and publisher, and also was a soldier in the Civil War, possibly from Wisconsin. George Culver worked in the law office of Wakeman and Latting in New York City and James, evidently a cousin, was in the lumber business in Sandy Hill or Fort Edward. William Little Lee was an uncle of John Oscar Culver and his brothers and was also a great uncle of Frederick Barnard Richards (1865-1958).

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The Frederick B. Richards Collection concerns the Lee, Culver, and Bishop families of Sandy Hill and Glens Falls, New York. Of special importance are copies of letters of William Little Lee from Honolulu, Hawaii between 1849 and 1856. Material also pertains to Lee's friend Charles Reed Bishop, Bishop's wife, Bernice Pauahi Paki, and the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu. The Richards Collection includes photocopies of typescript copies of letters, poems, and related papers, written or collected by John Oscar Culver. A foreword by Frederick B. Richards to the letters, dated May 16, 1921, was sent along with the letters to William Lee Culver, son of John Oscar Culver, in San Francisco, California. The major emphasis of these letters is encouragement from Uncle William Little Lee in Honolulu that his nephews, J. Oscar, George, and Charles Culver all get a good education and not get distracted from that goal by too much emphasis on business, law clerking, or seeking fortune in California. Correspondents include: John Oscar Culver, William Little Lee, Cyrus Culver, George B. Culver, Charles Culver, James Culver, Mary Eliza Culver, Kathryn Lee Culver, Austin F. Park. There are Civil War letters and memorial poems by J. O. Culver. A letter by Kathryn Lee Culver in 1913 describes summer life on Lake George and also a trip by boat on Lake Champlain.

Addendum 2013

Pocket notebook used by F.B. Richards to make notes and lists of genealogical information.

PROVENANCE

Probably given to Crandall Public Library by Frederick Barnard Richards before his death in 1953, although no documentation of the gift can be located. Addendum loaned to the Folklife Center in 1/2013 by William L. Richards, grandson of F.B. Richards.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:

Businessmen—Conduct of life.
Education—New York (State)—History.

Places:

Honolulu (Hawaii)—History—Sources.
Sandy Hill (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Washington County (N.Y.)—History—Sources.

Important People:

Beach family
Bigelow family
Bishop, Bernice Pauahi, 1831-1884.
Bishop, Charles Reed, 1822-1915.
Bishop, Linus Dewey, 1828-1879.
Bishop family.
Culver, Charles.
Culver, Cyrus Lee.
Culver, George B.
Culver, James.
Culver, John Oscar, 1830-1912.
Culver, Kathryn Lee.
Culver, Mary Eliza.
Culver, William Lee.
Culver family.
Fisk family
Howe family
Lee, William Little, 1821-1857.
Lee family.
Park, Austin F.
Pettit, Micajah
Richards, Frederick B.
Richards family
Siervers family
Zorn family

Organizations:

Kamehameha Schools (Honolulu, Hawaii)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Frederick B. Richards Collection,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Unknown;
addendum loaned to the Folklife Center in 1/2013 by William
L. Richards, grandson of F.B. Richards.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler; additions by
Erica Wolfe Burke 2013.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Frederick Barnard Richards: an autobiography [1941?] Typescript. Transcribed from a
manuscript owned by William Richards, F.B.'s grandson.

John Oscar Culver Letters:

Photocopies of typescript copies of letters, poems, and related papers, written
and collected by John Oscar Culver, 1848-1913. A foreword by Frederick B.
Richards to the letters, dated May 16, 1921, was sent along with the letters to
William Lee Culver, son of John Oscar Culver, in San Francisco, California. The
major emphasis of these letters is encouragement from Uncle William Little Lee
in Honolulu that his nephews, J. Oscar, George, and Charles Culver all get a
good education and not get distracted from that goal by too much emphasis on
business, law clerking, or seeking fortune in California. Correspondents include:
John Oscar Culver, William Little Lee, Cyrus Culver, George B. Culver, Charles
Culver, James Culver, Mary Eliza Culver, Kathryn Lee Culver, Austin F. Park.
There are Civil War letters and memorial poems by J. O. Culver. A letter by
Kathryn Lee Culver in 1913 describes summer life on Lake George and also a
trip by boat on Lake Champlain.

William Little Lee letters, from Honolulu, Hawaii (copies)

To Ann M. Lee (sister of William), October 29, 1849, pp. 3-4 only. (Photostat)

To Oscar Culver, April 21, 1852, pp. 3-4 only. (Photostat)

To Mother (Mary Little Lee), July 26, 1852, pp. 1-3 only. (Photostat)

To Mother (Mary Little Lee), October 30, 1856. (typescript copy)

Letter by unknown author (almost certainly Catherine E. Newton Lee, William's wife)

To Mother, March 15, 1850, pp. 3-4 only. (Photostat)

Lee Family material

Talk about the Lee Family, author unknown, 3 pages, typescript.

Notes on the Lee Family, author unknown, 1 page, typescript.

Family information regarding Stephen Lee of Sandy Hill. Typescript, 1 page, with
heading, "Small photo of oil paintings of Stephen and Mary (Little) Lee..."

Major Stephen Berry Lee, A.B., from *History of Norwich University, 1819-1911*, Vol. II, page 359. (typescript copy)

Judge William Little Lee, A.M., M.C.E., from *History of Norwich University, 1819-1911*, Vol. II, page 347. (typescript copy)

"Tribute to the Memory of Hon. William L. Lee," excerpts from a bound copy of miscellaneous documents compiled and owned by Frederick B. Richards. This volume was created by Charles Reed Bishop and sent to Richards as a tribute to William L. Lee. Typescript copy, dated December 16, 1953.

Bishop Family

"A Romantic Career: Story of Charles R. Bishop's Life Reads Like Fiction." Warrensburgh News, June 17, 1915. 2 pages, typescript copy.

Lieut.-Col. Linus Dewey Bishop, A.M., from *History of Norwich University, 1819-1911*.

Will of Eben Faxon Bishop, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 24, 1933. 7 p. Typescript copy. Also codicils dated February 12, 1937 and May 19, 1938.

Related publications:

Bishop National Bank of Hawaii. *90 Years of Banking*. Honolulu, Hawaii: 1948. Enclosed are photographs and a newspaper clipping concerning Charles Reed Bishop.

Mariajane Clarke. "Bernice Pauahi, Benevolent Alii," *Paradise of the Pacific*, Christmas, 1946, pp. 26-32.

Loring G. Hudson. "Kamehameha School, Sixty Years After," *The Honolulu Advertiser, Sunday Polynesian*, December 14, 1947.

Addendum:

Pocket notebook

Physical description: leather bound book 4 5/8 " x 2 3/4 " with blank pages. F.B. Richards' name written on first page. Collection includes xerographic (enlarged) copy of original. 30 pages, sleeved and contained in black binder.

**Frederick B. Richards
Collection
1848 – 1953**

Archives & Manuscripts:
Personal and Family Collections

1 Box