Guide to Linda Richards Correspondence

NMAH.AC.0221
NMAH Staff
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# Collection Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository:</th>
<th>Archives Center, National Museum of American History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Linda Richards Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifier:</td>
<td>NMAH.AC.0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>1886-1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>0.15 Cubic Feet (1 box )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator:</td>
<td>Richards, Linda, 1841-1930 (nurse) Medical Sciences, Division of, NMAH, SI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collection is in English.

**Summary:** Linda Richards was the first woman nurse trained in the United States at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. When these letters were written, she was a missionary nurse and the head of the first training school for nurses in Japan.

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# Administrative Information

**Acquisition Information**

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

**Provenance**

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medical Sciences, August 4, 1986.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

**Preferred Citation**

Linda Richards Correspondence, 1886-1890, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

**Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use**

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.
Biographical / Historical

Linda Richards was the first woman nurse trained in the United States at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. When these letters were written, she was a missionary nurse and the head of the first training school for nurses in Japan. An e-mail from Donna Bellemare, 7/17/06, refers to her as Melinda Ann (Linda) Richards.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of six letters written by Miss Richards to three friends. The letters relate to Miss Richards' work as a missionary nurse and head of the first training school for nurses in Japan. Typewritten copies of each of the letters are a part of the collection.

In her letters, Miss Richards describes what she is doing both as a nurse trainer and a missionary in Japan. She gradually masters the language enough to work in the hospital but finds evangelizing among rural people requires an interpreter. She complains often about her own health - particularly colds and abscessed ears. Subjects include primarily personal information and missionary work, not nursing or nursing education.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:
- Medical sciences -- 1880-1890 -- Japan
- Missionaries -- 1880-1890 -- Japan
- Nurses -- 1880-1890 -- Japan
- Nursing -- 1880-1890 -- Japan
- Women missionaries -- 1880-1890 -- Japan

Types of Materials:
- Letters (correspondence) -- 1880-1890

Names:
- Medical Sciences, Division of, NMAH, SI.

Geographic Names:
- Japan -- 1880-1890
## Container Listing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>To Mrs. Emeline Q. Masta, 1886-08-21 - 1886-08-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis, 1888-03-18 - 1888-03-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>To Mrs. Emeline Q. Masta, 1889 January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis, 1889-01-10 - 1889-01-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>To Mrs. Eveline Q. Masta, 1889-10-10 - 1889-10-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis, 1890-01-09 - 1890-01-09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>