



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to Linda Richards Correspondence

NMAH.AC.0221

NMAH Staff

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Linda Richards Correspondence
Date:	1886-1890
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0221
Creator:	Richards, Linda, 1841-1930 (nurse) (Author)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences (Collector)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	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.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medical Sciences (now Division of Medicine and Science), 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

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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:

Subjects:

- 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:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences

Places:

- Japan -- 1880-1890

Container Listing

Box 1	To Mrs. Emeline Q. Masta , 1886-08-21 - 1886-08-21
Box 1	To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis , 1888-03-18 - 1888-03-18
Box 1	To Mrs. Emeline Q. Masta , 1889 January 1
Box 1	To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis , 1889-01-10 - 1889-01-10
Box 1	To Mrs. Eveline Q. Masta , 1889-10-10 - 1889-10-10
Box 1	To Mrs. Ida C. (Masta) Davis , 1890-01-09 - 1890-01-09