

Frederick Hastings Rindge Collection Finding Aid

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel. (617) 349-4683
Fax. (617) 349-3116
E-Mail: histcomm@cambridgema.gov

Prepared by: Molly Alexander, Gavin Kleespies

Acquisition Date: 1997-1998

Languages: English

Historical Sketch

Frederick Hastings Rindge was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 21, 1857. He was the only surviving child of Samuel Baker Rindge, a wealthy Cambridge textile merchant, and Clarissa Harrington Rindge. He was privately tutored as a child, and then attended Harvard College, graduating in 1879. After his graduation he traveled through Mexico and the western United States, eventually settling in California. His parents died in the early 1880's, and Frederick inherited approximately two million dollars. In 1887 he married Rhoda May Knight and they bought a 23,000-acre ranch in Malibu, California and had three children. Between 1888 and 1890 he made a series of significant gifts to the City of Cambridge at the urging of William E. Russell, a friend from his Harvard College days, who was the Mayor of Cambridge. Rindge funded the construction of City Hall, Cambridge Public Library, and the Rindge Manual Training School (now Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School). He was also a major contributor to the construction of the Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, located near the Harvard Law School. Rindge was also an author; he privately printed five books that were meditative or religious in nature, Can You Read Your Title Clear to a Mansion in the Skies? (1889); Thoughts Concerning Ourselves and Our Interests (1890); Meditations on Many Matters (1890); Happy Days in Southern California (1889); and The Best Way (1902). He was active in business, civic, philanthropic, and religious endeavors until his death on August 29, 1905.

Scope and Content

This collection includes correspondence, photographs, financial records, architectural drawings of the library, city hall, Rindge Manual Training School, and copies of Rindge's self-published books. The records cover his East Coast endeavors, such as his major donations to the City of Cambridge, local churches, and his involvement with American University in Washington, DC. Rindge's father made his living in the textile business, and the family owned a number of textile mills including

Clarendon Mills (West Boylston, MA); Cocheco Mills (Rochester, NH); Gonic Manufacturing Co. (Gonic, NH); Monadnock Mills (Claremont, NH); Sanford Mills (Sanford, ME); and Sterling Mills (Sterling, MA or CT?). Some business records and photographs of these companies are in the collection. Rindge's involvement in the building of the Harvard-Epworth Church is documented in the letters to Rindge from G.H. Cheeney, who was the minister. There are also payment vouchers for the Cambridge Public Library and letters and plans for a bell tower next to the library, to be called the "tower of truth," which was never built. The correspondence letter books (Shelf #6, A-P, letters) are mostly letters from William I. Parker or Francis J. Parker, Rindge's business managers, to Rindge and detail his local business transactions. There are a large number of pamphlets and annual reports from various local schools and charities. It can be assumed that they were sent to Rindge either because he supported them or to encourage him to donate. There is also a lot of material regarding Rindge Manual Training School and Camp Rindge. Most notably letters from Harry Ellis, the first superintendent of the school, detailing the daily routine and special events that occurred at the school and camp.

Shelf List

Shelf #2 – box titles

Rindge Collection, payment vouchers, #5-2162, 1885-1889, deposit slips, 1890-1898
Rindge Collection, payment vouchers, #2186-4977, 1889-1891
Rindge Collection, payment vouchers, #4979-6938, 1891-1892
Rindge Collection, payment vouchers, #6946-8832, 1893-1894
Rindge Collection, payment vouchers, #8842-11588, 1894-1898
Rindge Collection, cashed checks, #86-3700, loan agreements, #1-345

Shelf #3 – box titles

Rindge Collection, photographs of Cambridge
Rindge Collection, Rindge Manual Training School, specifications for student projects
Rindge Collection, non-local newsprint
Rindge Collection, Cambridge-Boston area newsprint
Rindge Collection, ledgers: "cash", "real property maintenance"
Rindge Collection, Cambridge Manual Training School class album, 1897
Rindge Collection, Rindge Manual Training School, photo album of school interior and exterior
Rindge Collection, Rindge Manual Training School, photographs of Camp Rindge, NH and Rindge Manual Training School
Rindge Collection, Rindge Manual Training School, unbound photographs and plans, City Hall

Shelf #4 – box titles

Rindge Collection, Rindge Business Correspondence
Rindge Collection, Rindge family records and correspondence
Rindge Collection, assorted pamphlets and non-Cambridge photos
Rindge Collection, 4 1/2 x 5 1/2 and 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 photographs

Rindge Collection, Cambridge Manual Training School, school register, 1892-1898,
Rindge Manual Training School register, 1899-1904
Rindge Collection, Rindge Manual Training School, Camp Rindge

Published volumes:

Songs of California and Other Verses by F.H. Rindge
Catalogue of the University of Pennsylvania 1905-1906

Self #5 – box titles

Rindge Technical School: sports photos, Asst. Mellen collection photos
Rindge Collection, pamphlets A, related to Cambridge and Boston
Rindge Collection, pamphlets B and C, clubs, associations, and schools
Rindge Collection, pamphlets D and E, schools and towns
Rindge Collection, information on: City Hall, Harvard Epworth, Public Library, The
YMCA, The Latin School and High School Recorder

Published volumes:

Maritime Stories of Point Dume and Malibu by Judge John J. Merrick and Ronald
L. Rindge
1878-1879 Diaries by Frederick Hastings Rindge

Bound checkbooks:

Checks, #1-500, Frederick Hastings Rindge
Checks, #501-1000, Frederick Hastings Rindge
Checks, #1001-1600, Frederick Hastings Rindge
Checks, #1601-2200, Frederick Hastings Rindge
Checks, #2201-2800, Frederick Hastings Rindge
Checks, #2801-3400, Frederick Hastings Rindge

Shelf #6 – box titles

Letter books in phase boxes:

Rindge Collection, estate, Samuel Rindge
Rindge Collection, A, estate of Samuel Rindge
Rindge Collection, B, estate and letters
Rindge Collection, C, letters, Samuel Rindge
Rindge Collection, D, letters, 1886-1887
Rindge Collection, E, 1887-1888
Rindge Collection, F, letters, 1888-1889
Rindge Collection, G, letters, 1889-1890
Rindge Collection, H, letters, 1890
Rindge Collection, I, letters, 1890-1891
Rindge Collection, J, letters, 1891-1892
Rindge Collection, K, letters, 1892-1893
Rindge Collection, L, letters, 1893-1894
Rindge Collection, M, letters, 1894-1895
Rindge Collection, N, letters, 1895-1897
Rindge Collection, O, letters, 1897- 1898
Rindge Collection, P, letters, 1898

Published volumes:

Happy Days in Southern California by Frederick Hastings Rindge
Happy Days in Southern California by Frederick Hastings Rindge
The Rindge Gifts to the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, published by the
Cambridge City Council

In flat file cabinet drawer-

Rindge Collection blue prints:

City Hall blue prints (mylar copies)

Cambridge Public Library blue prints (mylar copies)

Oversize portfolios

On top of flat file cabinet in blueprint tubes-

Blue Prints- Cambridge Public Library

Blue Prints- Cambridge City Hall (mylar copies in Rindge Collection flat file)

Blue Prints- Rindge Manual Training School

Provenance

Ronald L. Rindge donated this collection to the Cambridge Historical Commission in stages between 1997 and 1998.

Related Sources

Cambridge Historical Commission. "Frederick Rindge" folder, filed under "Biography."

Cambridge Historical Commission. "Ronald L. Rindge" folder, filed under "Biography."

Cambridge Public Library. "Rindge Manual Training School collection", located in the Cambridge Room.

[Return to CHC Finding Aids home](#)

[\(return to cambridgearchives.org\)](http://cambridgearchives.org)