

Finding Aid to the Frank J. Richard Papers

Richard, Frank J., 1922-1987

Frank J. Richard Papers, 1758-1857, 1940-1985 (bulk 1940-1985)

2.8 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 187

[Biography](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Mrs. Frank Richard, 1988 (Acc. 2224).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Frank J. Richard Papers, MS 187, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Frank J. Richard was born on January 29, 1922, in Wild Rice, North Dakota. He grew up on a farm and attended grade school and high school at St. Benedict of Wild Rice. In 1941, he enrolled at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks to study civil engineering. He was in the United States Navy from 1943 until discharged in 1946, when he enrolled at North Dakota State University and graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1947. He married Darlene Murphy on August 23, 1947.

From 1947 to 1948 he worked on construction of the American Crystal Sugar Beet plant in Moorhead, and from 1948 to 1950 he worked for the North Dakota State Highway Department in Bismarck. In 1950, he went back to North Dakota State University for a degree in Architectural Engineering which he

completed in 1954. In 1955, he started F. J. Richard & Co, an engineering, surveying, and mapping company and was appointed Cass County Surveyor in 1956.

He was a member of several United States, Canadian, and French genealogy societies and historical associations and traveled extensively to pursue his research. He died November 21, 1987, after being injured in a car accident in Cincinnati, Ohio, while returning from one of his many research trips to Canada.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Frank J. Richard papers contain files and documents relating to Richard family history gathered as research for *Les Richard et d'Autres*. Some other research materials included are information about St. Benedict's Parish in Wild Rice, North Dakota and St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Fargo, North Dakota. There are also six folders of French-Canadian documents dating from 1758 to 1875, retained in Richard's original order. The collection is organized into three series: Genealogical and Cass County Local History Research Series, Richard Family History Series, and Ouellette Family History Series.

The [Genealogical and Cass County Local History Research Series](#) contains a research binder about Wild Rice, North Dakota, which consists of information Frank Richard collected about Wild Rice, notes, and additional information about Richard family members who settled near Wild Rice. There are also three research binders about the Holy Cross Parish in Fargo consisting of correspondence concerning Richard family priests who had served in the parish and photocopies of Diocese of Fargo articles and information. There are several drafts of *St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Centennial, 1880-1980* and *Parish of St. Benedict, Wild Rice, N.D.* There is also a copy of *Julie* by Rita Richard which is a fictionalized account of the life of a woman who spent some of her childhood years in North Dakota, and a research binder about Father John Lalande which contains an obituary, biography and other information, much of which is in French. The St. Benedict Catholic Church file contains a photocopy of its church records to include baptisms, marriages and deaths from 1880 to 1900. For baptisms there is an index at the front of the volume.

The [Richard Family History Series](#) has five subseries: Richard Family Priests, Genealogical Research, French-Canadian Documents, Alex Richard, and *Les Richard et d'Autres*.

The Richard Family Priests Subseries files consist of bound volumes of research material as maintained by Frank Richard. Each volume contains correspondence, church records, and biographical information about a Richard Family priest who served different parishes throughout the United States and Canada.

The Genealogical Research Subseries files consist of correspondence, newspaper clippings, several of the bound volumes of research material relating to the genealogy of the Richard Family, and genealogy charts.

The French-Canadian Document Subseries files consist of six folders of documents in French maintained in the order they were received. The majority of these documents are land deeds and contracts, but also included are papers dealing with an adoption, and a family will. None of these documents are translated.

The Alex Richard Subseries files consist of papers related to the estate of Alex Richard and land documents of the Alex Richard family. Also included is a copy of the Alex Richard section of *Les Richard et d'Autres* with handwritten notes. Alex Richard was the paternal grandfather of Frank Richard.

The *Les Richard et d'Autres* Subseries files include several rough drafts of the manuscript and a partial index to Richard ancestry. Also included is an unbound copy *Des Richard de Partout*. The latter is apparently an index of all Richard ancestors arranged by first name and name of father which then gives the family page number in *Des Richard de Partout*.

The [Ouellette Family History Series](#) consists of two bound research volumes containing correspondence and biographical information on Ouellette genealogy and one folder of information from the Association des familles Ouellette. Ouellette was the maiden name of Frank Richard's mother, Helene Ouellette Richard.

SEPARATIONS RECORD

The following non-manuscript items have been removed from the Frank Richard Papers.

Books (cataloged for Institute book collection)

- *Pembina, North Dakota's Oldest Settlement*
- *St. Mary's Cathedral Official Yearbook and Directory, 1907-1908* (incomplete photocopy)

Photographs (Institute photograph collection 2074)

- Bishop James Sullivan, Cardinal Meunch, Fr. George Richard, Fr. Justin Driscoll, House of Doctor Maxime Bellemore, 8 prints made from selected slides, St. Benedict Convent. St. Benedict Church, **Slides** (Institute Slide collection). Box of 15 metal slides of St. Benedict Church

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder Contents

1/1 Finding aid, and Biographical material

Genealogical and Cass County Local History Research Series

1/2 *Du Monde de Wild Rice, N.D.*

1/3 *Holy Cross Notes I*

- 1/4 *Holy Cross Notes II*
- 1/5 *Holy Cross Notes III*
- 1/6 *Julie* by Rita Richard
- 2/1 *Le Père [John] Lalande et d'Autres*
- 2/2 *Parish of St. Benedict, Wild Rice, N.D. (rough draft)*
- 2/3 *St. Benedict Catholic Church records, 1880-1900*
- 2/4 *St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Centennial, 1880-1980 (3 rough drafts)*

Richard Family History Series

Richard Family Priests-

- 2/5 *Le Père Andre Richard et d'Autres, Jesuit , 1599-1681*
- 2/6 *Le Père Antoine Richard et d'Autres*
- 3/1 *Le Père Antonio Richard et d'Autres*
- 3/2 *Le Père Arthur Richard et d'Autres*
- 3/3 *Le Cardinal [Benjamin] Richard de Paris et d'Autres*
- 3/4 *Le Père Daniel Richard et d'Autres*
- 4/1 *Le Père Jean d'Auteuil Richard et d'Autres*
- 4/2 *Le Père Julien Richard et d'Autres*
- 4/3 *Le Monseigneur Louis Richard et d'Autres*
- 4/4 *Le Père Robert Richard et d'Autres*
- 4/5 *Le Père Theodule Richard et d'Autres*

Genealogical Research-

- 5/1 Correspondence - Fr. George Richard
- 5/2 Correspondence - L.A. Richard
- 5/3 *Des Cousins Richard de France*
- 5/4 *Dictionnaire genealogique des familles*
- 5/5 Genealogy charts
- 5/6 *Les Richard d'Acadie*
- 5/7 Newspaper clippings
- 6/1 *Notes genealogique de l'Abbè Arthur Richard*

French Canadian Documents-

- 6/2 File I - 1810-1875
- 6/3 File II - 1801-1865
- 6/4 File III - 1764-1845
- 6/5 File IV - 1764-1870
- 6/6 File V - 1801-1962
- 6/7 File VI - 1758-1864

Alex Richard-

- 6/8 *La Couronne*
- 6/9 Estate documents
- 6/10 Family land documents
- Les Richard et d'Autres-*
- 6/11 Notes

- 7/1 Richard index
- 7/2 Rough draft
- 7/3 Rough draft
- 7/4 Rough draft
- 7/5 Rough draft
- 7/6 Bound volume of notes & pages used in *Les Richard et d'Autres*
- 7/7 Unbound volume of manuscript - *Des Richard de Partout*

Ouellette Family History Series

- 7/8 *Les Ouellette et d'Autres*
- 7/9 *Les Ouellette et d'Autres*
- 7/10 Research material from the Association des Families Ouellette