

# **Joseph Mendenhall papers**

## **HC.950**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 02, 2010

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections  
370 Lancaster Ave  
Haverford, PA, 19041  
610-896-1161  
[hc-special@haverford.edu](mailto:hc-special@haverford.edu)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	4
<u>General note</u> .....	5

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
<b>Title</b>	Joseph Mendenhall papers
<b>Date</b>	1865-1903
<b>Extent</b>	35.0 Items
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The collection consists primarily of lively letters by Joseph Mendenhall, a Quaker bachelor, to his cousin. They are written from Lawrence, Kansas between 1882 and 1903, on topics ranging from Quaker ministers, the possibility of less plainness in meetinghouses, and many details about episodes in his or others' lives.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

---

Joseph Mendenhall was born in the Philadelphia area in 1829, the son of John Mendenhall and Hannah Sharpless. They were members of Chester (PA) Meeting. He moved to Lawrence, KS no later than 1892 when his letters are dated from there. Mendenhall states that he never married and refers to his Quaker connections. His last letter in this collection is dated 1903.

Information from: Mendenhall's letter of 1899 and *The Mendenhalls : a Genealogy* / by Henry Hall Beeson. 1969.

---

## **Scope and Contents note**

---

The collection consists primarily of lively letters by Joseph Mendenhall, a Quaker bachelor, to his cousin. They are written from Lawrence, Kansas between 1882 and 1903, on topics ranging from Quaker ministers, the possibility of less plainness in meetinghouses, many details about episodes in his or others' lives. Mendenhall often thanks his cousin for gifts or describes the gifts of others and informs of various relationships among family members. He refers to what he considers the misguided work of Carrie Nation. In addition, there are four poems by Mendenhall and four photographs, at least three of them definitely of Mendenhall.

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

## Personal Name(s)

- Mendenhall, Joseph, b. 1829

## Subject(s)

- Quakers--Kansas

---

## General note

---

Joseph Mendenhall's letters are directed to "dear Cousin," though in one letter he specifically addresses Florence Hill Redman, my dear cousin. In another, refers to her becoming a grandmother. In one poem "to Florence," who is noted in another hand to be Florence Elfreth (daughter of Joseph Elfreth), Mendenhall signs as "cousin," while in a poem, Mendenhall refers to her as "niece." In his thank you letter to the donor of this collection in 1967, Edwin Bronner refers to "the letters written to your great-grandfather," but whoever that person was, his name is never stated. We may assume instead that Mendenhall was writing to the donor's great-grandmother.