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William J. Kerr

4-27-1904

Letters between William Kerr and Oscar Kirkham as well as a recommendation from J. A. Anderson.

William Kerr
Utah State University

Oscar A. Kirkham

J. A. Anderson

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April 27, 1904.

Mr. Oscar Kirkham,
Rexburg, Idaho.

Dear Sir:-

Your name has been given me in connection with an opening there will be in the Agricultural College of Utah next year in the Department of Music for a person who will be able to take charge of the department, and who would have charge, personally, of the choir, and such quartet and other similar work as may be called for, in addition to any individual work he may be able to do in voice culture or on the piano.

We want three specialists--one for voice training, one for piano work, and one for violin work. The professor in charge of the department would receive compensation from the College sufficient to justify his looking after the interests of the department, and doing the work indicated above, in addition to which he would receive students' fees for individual work. The other two would probably have to depend upon fees received from the students for compensation. The College, however, would furnish rooms heated and lighted, and would render any further assistance possible in the development of the work.

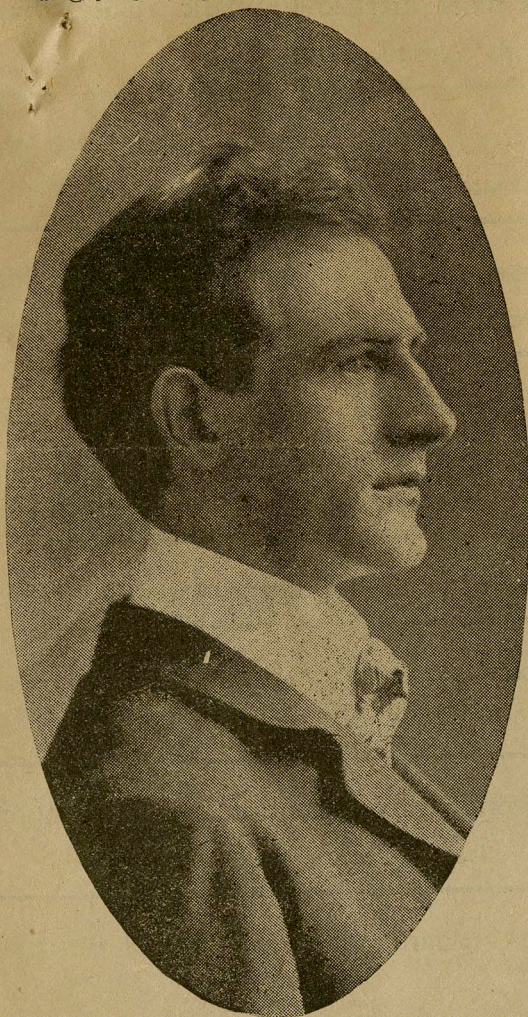
If you care to consider the matter of taking charge of the department, I shall be pleased to have you write me at once, stating the work you have completed in a general educational way, naming the subjects you have pursued, in what institutions you have studied, etc.; also work you have done in music, and in what institutions and for what length of time. State also what musical work you are most interested, and about what compensation you would expect for the first year. I shall be pleased, too, to have you give me any other information that might be helpful in considering your application.

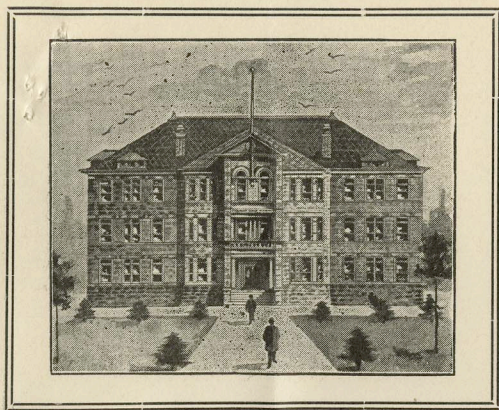
As I have not had the pleasure of meeting you, if it should not be convenient for you to visit Logan, I shall be pleased to have you send a photograph.

It is important that we conclude our arrangements for next year at once. I shall, therefore, appreciate an early reply.

Yours truly,

President.





RICKS ACADEMY

EZRA CHRISTIANSEN, Ph. B.,
PRINCIPAL

COURSES:
NORMAL, COMMERCIAL,
HIGH SCHOOL, PREPARATORY,
MISSIONARY

FACULTY

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ARTHUR PORTER JR.,
EDGAR T. REID,
HANNAH GROVER,
MAUD R. DRIGGS,
NELLIE SCHOFIELD,
MYRTIE BARBER,
C. M. SQUIRES,
EYRING THOMSON

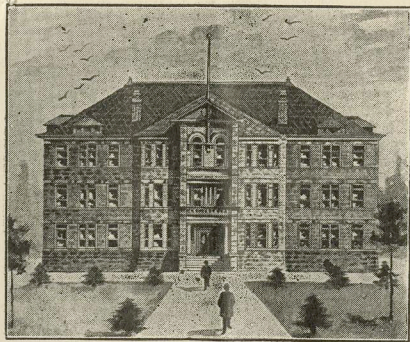
REXBURG, IDAHO,

April 30 1904

W. J. Kerr
President of A. C. U.
Logan Utah.

Dear Sir -

In answering your letter of the 27th I enclose, as requested, a "cut" of myself. I trust you will not be too severe in your criticism of me by what this may suggest. Perhaps a few general statements will tell you best who I am. I was born in Selu Utah, and attended the B. Y. A. of Provo for three years, then to Berlin for three years where I made a specialty of voice, piano theory and harmony of music. This was mostly under private teachers, but did attend the Royal High School, and quite after six months because of progress being too slow in such large classes. In my way home I spent a few months in Longport with Prof. Wispe of the Royal Collage. Perhaps the best proof as to what I am good for, will be found in the results of the two months I have spent with this school. As I passed through Rexburg on a concert tour Mrs. Christiansen and the Public school board made me an offer



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to take up the work here at once. I did not like the idea of coming into a small place but the ready money and a chance to work up a school of music interested me. I tested nearly every voice of the school and picked out a choir. I also organized a class of about a hundred in the rudiments of music and sight reading.

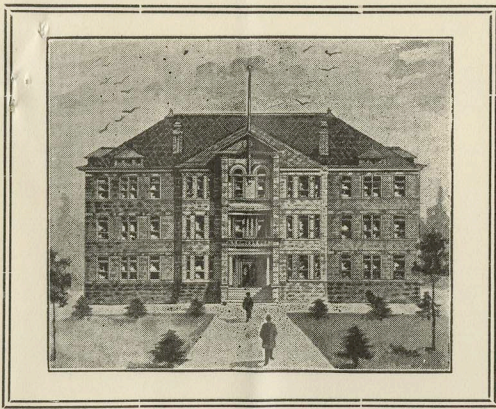
Our choir does the singing tomorrow and the next day at the Fremont Stake Conference. I am bringing a few voices in solo work and also a male and a female chorus.

Pres Paul visited the Academy a short time ago. He can tell you how the music department impressed him, and I had had the school then but three weeks.

As to my character Francis M. Lyman knew me in Europe, and G. H. Brimhall knows me well.

My heart is in this line of work and I hope some day to connect myself with a strong school and build up a music department second to none in this western country.

As to compensation for work, I would like to know how much you can offer the head of your music department. The amount of work I would do would depend on the amount you



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can offer. The Academy with the Public
schools offer me one hundred and
fifteen dollars a month. Besides this I
will have some private work. They are
very anxious for me to promise to return
for next year, but like most people I am
after the best.

I am truly
Oscar A. Linkham

P.S. I shall appreciate an early reply.
Sincerely,
Oscar A. Linkham

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May 3, 1904.

President Geo. F. Brimhall,

B. Y. University, Provo, Utah.

Dear Friend:-

Mr. Oscar Kirkham has applied for a position as Director of the School of Music in the Agricultural College of Utah. He informs me that he was a student at the Brigham Young Academy for three years. I shall very much appreciate it if you will kindly write me at your earliest convenience your candid opinion of Mr. Kirkham, his character, temperament, and scholarship, giving me also the benefit of your judgment as to his ability to do the work in a position where he would have direct charge of the chorus, quartet, and other general work of the department, and as a special teacher in voice culture. He would also have supervision of the work of other instructors in the department of music. If you know anything of him that would be objectionable, or that would be likely to interfere with his success, I shall be glad to have you inform me. Your communication will be regarded as strictly confidential.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

President.

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Repburg Aug 6/84
Dear Bro J. A. Anderson:

I have just returned from Salt Lake City and found your letter in the Post Office. I am not tied up with any school for next year as yet, although I know they expect me to remain here. But I find nothing in Rebburg outside of the money I make, that would induce me to remain. I am very grateful to you for the interest you have expressed for my future work. Please let me know to what extent they would like to make the vocal department, and how much they offer for the same. To what extent has this department been build up? A very early answer will be gratefully received. If the the work would demand it, I would spend the summer months in Boston, to make special preparation for next school year.

Hopfully

Oscar A. Nickham

P.S. If possible let me hear from you at once.

Salt Lake City

April 12 1904

Pres. W. G. Kerr!

Dear Sir,

Having accepted an offer made
me to work in connection with
Prof Lund at Provo for the next
School year I take the first
opportunity to inform you so
you will not count on me for next
year, if I can assist you any
in getting someone I will be glad
to do what I can. I will not be up
this week as two days will not pay.

Enclosed letter is from Mr
Kirkham who is a good Vocal
Man if you wish to secure him
it will have to be done soon

Resp. J. Anderson