

AM. SAMOA HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD
DIGITAL IMAGES FINDING GUIDE 1-2026:

**MICROFILM 4049: REELS 1-5 (c1900-1963 AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT RECORDS) AT
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA HAMILTON LIBRARY HAWAIIAN & PACIFIC COLLECTIONS**

Provenance:

Originally located in the Am. Samoa Adm. Building Courthouse from 1900-1966, these microfilmed documents were the Univ. of Hawaii's first field microfilming project. It was negotiated by Norman Meller of the Univ. of Hawaii's Political Science Dept and approved by Dept. of Interior Appointee Governor Rex Lee in 1963. The microfilm technicians were W. Stewart Dawson of the U.H. College of Arts & Sciences and Robert Sipe of Honolulu Microfilm Services Inc. and Miles Jackson of the Am. Samoa Libraries. Subsequently processed and stored at the Univ. of Hawaii, they were considered loss until rediscovered by Univ. of Hawaii Archivist Helen Smith Wong during a Council of State Archivists ILMS grant project in 2025. This Finding Guide provides an initial content summary to the microfilm images as identified by Am. Samoa Government Archivist James Himphill in June, 2025. This guide is an initial description and can be revised once these microfilms are accessible via digitalization and publication by U.H. Librarian Eleanor Kleiber on the Univ. of Hawaii eVols digital repository. Funding and support for this Finding Guide was provided by a grant to the Am. Samoa Historical Records Advisory Board from the U.S. National Historical and Publications Records Commission. Washington, D.C.

Title:

American Samoa Governor records.

Subtitle:

Am. Samoa Governor files and Land Registrar Logbooks. 1900-1963.

Authors, Records Origin:

Governors and Officials of American Samoa during the U.S. Naval Administration 1900-51 and Dept. of Interior Administration 1951-63.

Subject topics:

Am. Samoa Matai and Land Title case corres. letters; Am. Samoa Law Code; and subject letters re legal matters, Public Works, Civil/Crim cases, Vital Records & the Tutuila Mau period.

Content Description:

Reels 1-3: To/From correspondence regarding Matai and Land Title Cases and administrative subjects. Correspondents: Naval Governors, Attorney Generals, Secretaries of Native Affairs/Chief Justices, Commandants, Captains of the Yard, Island Government Officials, Secs. of the Navy, U.S. Presidents, U.S. House/Senate Congressmen; Tutuila & Manu'a Islands Paramount and Village Chiefs (including Tuimanu'a Elisara, Mauga Chiefs and others; Marist Brother Fred Henry; Fita Fita Guard members and various Am. Samoa residents.

Reels 3-5: Land Grants of the 1891-98 Tripartite Samoa Government Supreme Court; and c1900-1963 American Samoa registrations of Native Land Titles; Transfers, and Leases.

Reel Content Guide:**Reel 1****I. Orders and Regulations 1900-1937 (interspersed with misc. corres. ltrs, forms)**

1. Orders/Regs 1900-1902 (1903)
2. Orders/Regs 1903-25
3. Orders/Regs 1926-27
4. Orders/Regs 1928-31
5. Orders/Regs 1932-37
6. Regulations, Orders, Proclamations and Index of historical changes (c1929).
7. Lands and Estates 1925-1949 corres, letters. Including...
 - .1 Utulei land lease recommendation ltr. 3/14/25
 - .2 Steffany, Joseph to Pres. Coolidge 8/29/24 re: Gurr land purchase legality.
 - .3 Sec. of Navy D.B. Smith ltr re trust of land to half Samoan children.
 - .4 Sec. of Navy ltr re Malaloa Land Deed. Gurr to Steffany. Loan and legality.
 - .5 Milomilo Land lease. Joseph Steffany/James Himphill 1925-45.
 - .6 Estate of Charles Morris
 - .7 Atofau v. Nu'utofia. Land at Malaaloa Village. Cash for cement project.
 - .8 Goat Island
 - .9 Marist Sisters – Uo Sopoaga lease. Leifi land 1927-47.
 - .10 Lease of land. Afoa – S. Koko.
 - .11 Si'ufaga Land at Pago Pago. Sagaiga.
 - .12 Malaeaimi (Malaeimi)
 - .13 Maiota between Leone and Futiga.
 - .14 Lago land. Pago Pago.
 - .15 Malaeimi Lease 1931.
 - .16 1932 Freehold properties
 - .17 Postmaster David McMullin ltr. re Land ownership. 1932.

- .18 B.F. Kneubuhl Ltr. 1932
- .19 Chief Justice to Gov re Congress HR 9698. 1932.
- .20 Norman Foster Ltr e Soa Ifetu land purchase. Other ltrs re Mormon Lease, Taguvaa land Sau Pritchard; Manu'a Tau Freehold land Catholic Church 1933.
- .21 Va'a & Fe'a manslaughter case. c1932-33. Leituala, Tauamo & Fe'a Ltr. Ufuti Vaitogi lands: Niua, Tulafata, Fagano, Fotu, Lepipi & Pupuafusi.
- .22 Rose Island description
- .23 Government lease forms.
- .24 Bank of Am. Samoa site. Meredith, Nelson & Reid 1934.
- .25 Eli H. Jennings Will/Probate.
- .26 Map of Malaeloa government land area, ie. Reid's store, Bank of Am. Samoa site.
- .27 Tuiasosopo Land Falaga to Levi 1934.
- .28 Gurr land Maloloa to Lena Kneubuhl.
- .29 Gurr to ASG. Land Malaeloa 3/26/35.
- .30 Eli Jennings Will/Estate 1935.
- .31 Misc. Leases: Pritchard, Mary; Tina Hemering; Palepa Yandall.
- .32 Tidelands land. Tidelands property Ltr 1935.
- .33 Taputimu Farm lease.
- .34 Fatumafuti Land Case 1935.
- .35 Faamao Ho Ching lease 1935.
- .36 1936 Tufele/Nomura lease.
- .37 Malaefono Aunu'u land lease; Zebrinski lease; BP lease Tauanu'u Poata land; Fagatogo/Amanave Water works.
- .38 Fatumafuti Beach ltrs. 6/29/37
- .39 Lena Kneubuhl Satala Land ltrs.
- .40 Asoau land guest house. Faleasao Malae. 1936.
- .41 Henry Roberts (Enere Masunu). Am. Consulate Saigon, French Indochina.
- .42 Misc: Tau Dispensary; Carruthers; Chirs Young; A.D. Meredith; Leiato v. Lavea Leuluasi 8/3/38; Feleti School Taputimu Lease 1939.
- .43 Vatia Right of Way grant. Faumuina Leloaloa.
- .44 Vaitogi Radio Station Lease.
- .45 1940 Ltr, radiogram re: Vaitogi Rado Site leases.
- .46 1949 Water Reservoir lease. 12/13/49.
- .47 Fagasa, Malaloa, Alofau water development.
- .48 Misc: Siufanua Alai'a, land boundary 8/15/48.
- .49 Sam Suipi. Land damage war claim 1947-48.

Reel 2

7. Lands and Estates 1925-1949 (cont'd).

- .50 Various corres re; lands ie. Nvy Radio Station; Fuel tanks Pago Pago/Aua;
- .51 Amouli land case 35-1907 Utu & Paolo.
- .52 Land queries from stateside retirees, migrants.
- .53 Samoan Hospital Land Utulei.
- .54 Marine Hall in Utulei.
- .55 Satala Lands of Groves, Sunui.
- .56 Reid/Meridith Sadie Thompson building, land.
- .57 Other digital material yet to identify/add as of 2026.

8. Civil Government File c1922-1946.

1. 1926-36 Am. Samoa Tutuila Mau movement era corres.
2. 1920s-30s Navy corres. re Matais. (Includes Tunu Leiato, Mauga, Satele, Leoso, Ufuti, Tuitele, Letuli, Lutu, Afoa and others).
3. 1930s-1946 Navy corres. re Matais. (Includes Chiefs Meauta, Laulusa, Mrs. Groves, Peter Reid, Tuitele, Tuilefano, Brother Fred Henry, Leiato, Galea'I, Fonoti, Ilaoa, Lagafuaina, Lualemana, Maiava, Mauga, Puailoa, Salanoa, Samatua and others). General sequence of Matai names mentioned:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| .1 Aitulagi | .11 Lualemana |
| .2 Alo | .12 Lutu (Afoa, Mailo) Su'esu'e |
| .3 Fana | .13 Maiava |
| .4 Fesilinoga | .14 Matau |
| .5 Galeai | .15 Mauga |
| .6 Ilaoa | .16 Puailoa |
| .7 Lagafuaina | .17 Salanoa |
| .8 Leiato | .18 Samatua |
| .9 Leoso | .19 Save |
| .10 Letuli & Fuimaono | .20 Tuimanu'a |

9. Citizenship/Marriages documents:

1. Charley Ho Ching. 1940.
2. George Raily B.C. 10/1940.
3. Alfred Schultz 4/1940
4. Max Haleck 12/1939

5. Simone Lauwana aka Pagua 4/1939
6. Gerhart Weber B.C. 4/1939
7. Alien Reg. ltr 12/9/42.
8. Samuel Stratton Foster B.C. c1942.
9. Alien Registration ltrs/forms c1942.
10. Legal – Medical & Govt. Annual Rpts.
 1. 1917-1924 Makogai, Fiji Leper Asylum.
 2. 72nd Congress. S. 417. Act to provide an Organic Act government of Am. Samoa 1932-33.
 3. Law Code, Orders compilation (c1929).
 4. The Mau Movement – Civil Government Files c1920s-1936 corres.

Reel 3

1. The Mau Movement – Civil Government Files c1920s-1936 corres. cont'd.
2. General Rpts
3. Fono Legislature c1913-1920.
4. Register of Court Grants (c1891-1898 Samoa Supreme Ct. Grants)
5. Register of Native Land Titles Vol 1 c1900-1963.

Reel 4

1. Register of Native Land Titles Vol 1 c1900-1963. cont'd.
2. Register of Native Land Titles Vol 2 c1900-1963.
3. Register of Transfers Vol 1 c1900-1963.
4. Register of Transfers Vol 2 c1900-1963.

Reel 5

1. Register of Transfers Vol 2 c1900-1963. cont'd.
2. Register of Native Leases Vol 1 c1900-1963.
3. Register of Native Leases Vol 2 c1900-1963.