

FREDERIC DUCLOS BARSTOW FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN SAMOANS

Bank of Hawaii, Trustee

Historical Note



Frederic Duclos Barstow, for whom the Foundation is named, was born October 1, 1895 in Brooklyn, New York, to Dr. and Mrs. William Slocum Barstow. He was a conscientious young Columbia University undergraduate who left college before he finished his courses, to enter World War I.

Frederic was wounded and suffered from shell shock in the war. When he returned home, he did not go back to school but settled in the mountains of Vermont where he established a silver fox farm. This venture proved successful, but on advice of his doctors, he traveled extensively in search of a milder and more equable climate. He made several trips to the South Seas in the late 1920's, became especially interested in American Samoa, and developed a strong affection for the friendly Samoan people. Recognizing their limited resources, he wished to interest his parents in some sort of beneficial enterprise for them.

During his fourth and last visit to Samoa, he invited his parents to meet with him to discuss his desire to help the Samoan people. They met in Honolulu in May 1931; however, he unexpectedly died on May 21 before having his discussion.

In their grief, Dr. and Mrs. Barstow called on Frank E. Midkiff, then President of the Kamehameha Schools, who suggested they establish a foundation in their son's memory to assist in carrying out the objectives Frederic had in mind when he asked to meet with them. Thus, the Frederic Duclos Barstow Foundation for American Samoans came into being as a memorial to Freddy, or Feleti, as he was affectionately called by his Samoan friends.

Contributions

The most significant contribution made by Barstow Foundation prior to World War II was the Feleti School. This joint venture between the Foundation and the Government was a boarding school to train boys as future leaders. The Foundation erected the buildings and assisted in selecting and paying teachers. Students were carefully chosen by the Governor, after being recommended by local chiefs. The school operated for ten years until World War II when the Marines occupied the buildings.

Other projects of the Foundation included sending teachers from Hawaii to conduct summer institutes for Samoan school teachers; sending young Samoan men and women to Hawaii for education; and supporting the Feleti Memorial Teacher Training School.

For several years, the Foundation assisted the Department of Education's Early Education Program, the Community College, and in-service teacher training. It also provided Feleti Scholarships for teachers' continuing education. The Foundation has also been a primary supporter and contributor to the Feleti Barstow Public Library in American Samoa, which opened its doors in April 2000. Organizations must be exempt from federal taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Grants or scholarships are not made to individuals.

The members of the Permanent Committee of the Frederic Duclos Barstow Foundation for American Samoans has tried to carry out Frederic's wishes, while carefully adhering to the directives of the Deed of Trust left by the donors, Feleti's father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. William S. Barstow.