

BC
Papers of Bancroft Clark
1615-c 1980

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

William 'Bancroft' Clark (1902-1993) was the eldest son of Roger Clark (1871-1961) and Sarah Bancroft Clark (1877-1973). In 1928 at the Registry Office in Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, he married Catharina 'Cato' Petronella Smuts (1904-1968), second daughter of the South African prime minister Jan Smuts (1870-1950) and his wife Sibella Margaretha Krige ('Isie'). They had the following children: Jacob Daniel (1931-2004); Giles (1933-1935); Jan Smuts (1935-); Richard Bancroft (1937-); Petronella (1940-); Sibella Margaretha (1943) and Sarah Bancroft (1946-). They were resident at Hindhayes, another Clark family residence, originally built by Joseph Clark I (1762-1831), Bancroft's great-great-grandfather.

Bancroft Clark was educated at Strode School and Sidcot School, Somerset, and Bootham School, York, and entered the family business of C & J Clark Ltd in 1919, leaving briefly in 1921 to take his degree in economics at Kings College Cambridge. He returned in 1924 and was appointed as Director in 1928. Directorships of related companies during the 1930s included Avalon Leatherboard, Street Estates, Clark, Son and Morland, Clarks (Ireland) Ltd and John Halliday and Son Ltd. He retained the chairmanship of Street Estates until 1974.

Bancroft Clark replaced his father Roger as Chairman of C & J Clark Ltd in 1942, having been deputy chairman since 1939. He retired as Managing Director and Chairman in 1967, being replaced by Peter Clothier and John Clark respectively.

Outside the family business, Bancroft was a Councillor at the University of Bristol from 1951 until 1984, and was treasurer from 1957 until 1976. Bancroft was a director of the Glastonbury Gas Company from 1938 to 1944. He also followed in the family tradition of being a director of the Friends Provident and Insurance Co from 1933, succeeding his great-uncle Frank Clark and followed by his son Daniel Clark. He was President of the Shoe Manufacturers' Federation of England for 1948-1949.

In 1974, Bancroft moved from Hindhayes to Middleleigh, Street, formerly a long-established residence of the Clothier family. He was buried at the Friends Meeting House in Street on 29 Jul 1993.

EXTENT

572 boxes

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is currently divided into two sections, by box:

BC 1-410 (held by the Alfred Gillett Trust)

BC 900-1062 (held privately)

Some attempt was made to sort the collection into two groups relating first to the company and second to the family, but in reality this distinction does not exist.

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

These papers were previously housed in Bancroft Clark's office in the care of Renee Chivers at C&J Clark Ltd. They were split up, with one group of papers coming into the custody of the Alfred Gillett Trust. The second group of papers are owned by Sarah Clark and were transferred back to the family, where they are housed with books and artefacts relating to local and Quaker history, and to the Clark and Smut families.

DESCRIPTION

As follows:

- Business papers
- Family papers
- Papers relating to local and Quaker history
- Objects and artefacts
- Books

BUSINESS PAPERS:

Photographs: Avalon Leatherboard (new and old chimneys), 1955; opening of the Mayflower factory, Plymouth, 1957; opening of the Vennland factory, Minehead, 1954; old shafting in the Sole Room, Street, 1957; Big Room, 1920

FAMILY PAPERS:

Obituaries and testimonies: John Morland, 1934; Alice Clark, 1934; William Stephens Clark, 1925; John Bright Clark, 1933; Alfred Joseph Clark, 1941; Roger Clark (by Elizabeth Scott Stokes), 1961

General: Work tickets (orders for shoes to be made for BC and family), 1930-1954; Nathan Clark correspondence, 1949-1960; Village Album, 4 Jan 1991; Information on William Poole Bancroft, 1965; papers relating to BC in the Home Guard, 1940; Wilson pedigree, 1960s; papers relating to Francis J Clark (insurance), 1920s; genealogy of William Stephens, 1979; notes relating to Thomas Beavan Clark, 1969-1970; family silhouettes, 1962-1975; Elizabeth Sturge, photocopies of 'Poems of my life', undated; papers relating to the 100th birthday of Agnes de Paula, 1989; draft papers for Village Album, undated; correspondence relating to estate of Lucy B Gillett, 1947-1953; copy will, James Edmund Clark, 1945; letter from John Bright to Charles Sturge, 1868; wills of Roger Clark and Saran Bancroft Clark, 1927-1960; notes relating to J and C Sturge, corn factors, Bewdley and Birmingham, 1950; copy letters, Hilda Clark to Helen Priestman Bright Clark, 1920s; copy 'Memories and echoes of bygone days', Margaret Thompson Sturge, 1904; SBC's notes on Aunt Wood, undated; notes on Roger Clark by Laurence H Barber, 1957; Percy Lovell talk, 'The influence of members of the Religious Society of Friends in the 1800s', undated; Notes on the Sturges of Birmingham 'Gaunts Earthcott and Frederick Road', 1980; notes on Frederic R M de Paula, undated; copy birth certificate of James Clark, undated; notes by C Impey regarding the history of the Clothier tanyard home, 1897; papers relating to the Priestmans of Thornton le Dale, undated; file on the Stephens and Reynolds families, undated; copy book of poems by Amy and William Stephens, undated; two copy memoranda regarding Joseph Clark of Street (1762-1831), undated; copy journal of William Stephens of Bridport, undated; letter from HPBC to John Bright Clark regarding the birth of John Anthony Clothier, 1908; copy letter Amy Jane Clark to mother Eleanor Clark, [1841]; cuttings and notes relating to the death of John A Clark, 1985; papers relating to Theodora Clark, 1979-1980; letters

regarding the death of SBC, 1973; dissertation by Caroline Robertson, 'The Clark family and buildings in Street', 1970s; William Metford's journal, 1830-1832; framed silhouettes, Amy Stephens nee Metford, undated and William Stephens of Bridport, undated; notebook of HPBC, 1849; Letters from WPB to daughters Lucy and Sarah, 1908-1924; copy Priestman letters, undated; papers relating to deaths in the family, 1930s; Millfield household accounts book, 1934; papers relating to the estate of Alice Clark, 1930s; 'Fifty years of York meteorology 1841-1890', James Edmund Clark; Tanner and Metford family silhouettes, undated; silhouettes of Joseph Clark II and Cyrus Clark, undated; copy typescript diary, Celia Clothier, 1837, with photocopies of original manuscript; copy drawing of Clothier homestead near Glastonbury, undated; papers relating to Middleleigh (photographs, plans, notes etc), undated; restoration of Middleleigh, 1970s; 'Recollections', Joseph Clark III, undated; copy Roger Clark notes relating to the history of The Grange, 1938-1939

Family photographs: 4 generations (James Clark, William Stephens Clark, Roger Clark and William Bancroft Clark, 1902; Alice Clark, 1909; WSC, 1900-1909; Stephens, Clark, Thompson and Priestman families, undated; Martha Gillett, undated; Jan Smuts, undated; Gertrude Bancroft, undated; Fielden and Amy Jane Thorp, undated; Bancroft family, undated; Alfred Sturge Clark, HPBC, Joseph Clark II and III, undated; also 4 generations, Bancroft Clark, J Daniel Clark, Alice Wakeford and Georgo Daniel Wakeford, 1988

Family genealogies (Priestman, Krige, Smuts, Clark, Sturge, Gillett, Poole, Bancroft, Huntley and Palmer, Stephens, Garrison, Impey, Fry, Harloch, Pease etc), undated 'The descendants of James Clark and Eleanor Stephens', 1963; Pedigree of Fanny Pumphreys, undated; Histories of Impey, White/Pike, Hinde/Howie, undated; Rolled charts, Priestman, William Bancroft Clark, Bancroft, undated; Priestman tree from 1563, undated; Sturge tree, undated; Tree of RC and SBC, undated Sturge, Stephens, Pike, Dawe and Metford trees, 1851; Satterthwaite tree, undated; Clark family tree up to 1971; Smuts and Krige, undated

PAPERS RELATING TO LOCAL AND QUAKER HISTORY:

Street Urban District Council, 1930s-1966, including relating to Secondary Modern School and Further Education, 1947-1955, and to New School, 1959; also papers of Francis J Clark, 1894-1933; John Bright Clark's file on water supplies, 1853-1912; Ralph B Clark copy notes etc including minutes of the final meeting, 29 Mar 1974; Public Works Committee, 1933-1942 and annual accounts, 1933-1949

Schools W B Henderson letter relating to his family history, 1953; Street Board School: correspondence relating to proposed exchange of lands etc, 1972-1973; Strode School plaques, 1969-1971; Strode School, 1938-1971; Report regarding the opening of Elmhurst School Hall by J C Smuts, 1930s

Bear Hotel Bear Hotel, 1963-1974; Bear Hotel and canteens, 1952-1955

Shoe Museum Feasibility study for a new Street Shoe Museum (Whichelo MacFarlane Partnership and Robin Wade Design), 1974; Museum and archives; CJC Museum; Alfred Gillett Trust

Crispin Hall Club and Institute, Crispin Hall, 1956-1959; drawing c 1885; Golden Jubilee souvenir programme, 1935

Sculptures Pelvic Form, Strode Centre, 1971; Philip King, 1972-1973 for the 150th anniversary, 'Steps' and 'Diamond'; Henry Moore, 1960-1979; Street obelisks, 1955-1963; obelisks at Street HQ entrance from new relief road, 1970-1979

Meeting houses Correspondence, cuttings and photographs relating to Claverham Meeting House, 1954-1965; Survey of Street Meeting House, 1960

Home Guard BC's Home Guard map, Street and Glastonbury platoon, 1940; Street Invasion Committee, papers 1940-1945; LDV C & J Clark Section Guard registers nos 1 and 2, 1940-1941; Home Guard registers nos 3 and 4, 1941-1942; Home Guard 9th Somerset (Wells) Battalion, Street Company, no 2 platoon, nos 5 and 6 sections, registers nos 5-7, 1942-1943; Secret Glastonbury, Invasion Committee War Book, 1942; Street Invasion Committee War Book, 1943; Street Invasion Committee log book for 'Exercise Avalon', 4-11 Apr 1943; Roll for Street and Glastonbury villages, 1940-1941; Photographs of the demolition of an air raid shelter, 1953

General Sedgmoor and Peck Mill deeds (copies), undated; Somerset Beekeepers' Association, Year Book, 1962; Pilton Tithe Barn, 1964; 'Old Street records' mainly relating to sanitation and water supplies, 1853-1876; *Comet* newspaper, Street, 1891; *Central Somerset Gazette*, 1928 (obituary of Joseph Clark III); Papers relating to the Glastonbury Navigation and Canal, 1963 and to Westonzoyland Pumping Station, 1985-1990; Excavations at Maidencroft Farm, Wick, near Glastonbury, 1988; Papers relating to Thomas Hawkins, fossil collector, undated; Notes relating to Laurence Housman and Clemence Housman, 1977; Photograph of Laurence Housman, undated; Centenary booklet, Somerset Central Railway, 1954; *Country Life* magazine article on Street and Clarks, 1976; Rainfall records (? WSC), 1850-1939; Meteorological observation records, 1857-1890; Papers relating to proposed development at High Street and Leigh Road, Street, 1971; Plans and papers relating to Street town centre, including architect's report (Alec French Partnership), 1977; 'Old deeds' etc for lands at Street, Glastonbury and Long Sutton, 17th-1924

Photographs and plans; Aerial photograph of Street HQ with a key to building use, 1952; Photograph of the old and new police stations, Glastonbury, c 1860 and 1979; Photograph of the opening of the waterworks, undated; Photograph of the Folly near the Avalon Leatherboard, 1959; Photograph of Edge House and Bryant Farm, Greinton, undated; Colour drawing of the old Bear Inn, H Shepherd Dale, undated; Plans: Houndswood, 1 Middleleigh, Middleleigh Farmhouse, undated; Grange Hostel, 1959-1963; Crispin Hall and The Grange, undated; Street Inner Relief Road, 1967; Whitenights, 1973; Street HQ, 1960-1979; Tannery, Leigh Road, 1959
Abbey Grange estate particulars, 1890

OBJECTS AND ARTEFACTS:

Prayer table, Eleanor Clark, c 1830 (No One Office); silver fruit knife engraved 'C Sturge', undated; 18th c stirrup shoe and bone handle pocket knife, found 1 Middleleigh, Street; silverised paper tape dropped by German bombers and picked up at Wilfrid Road, Street, 1944-1945; anti-slavery civet cup and lid (formerly Eleanor Stephens Clark), 1840; prisoner of war box, Isle of Man, 1915; sampler of Sarah Poole, 1810; watercolour 'On the sands, Burnham', T Beavan Clark, undated; framed drawings of E H New, 1920s; drawing of Overleigh, A J Clark, 1855; wooden box made by American prisoner, c 1776; F H Evans prints, c 1897-1906; Mela Koehler watercolours, 1920s-1930s; sketch of Somerton Church, T Beavan Clark, undated

BOOKS:

Over 100 volumes are contained within the collection. Those listed below pre-date 1900 and are given chronologically:

Anon, *De pace Regis: common lawes*, 1615; L Maria Child, *Isaac T Hopper: a true life*, 1653; James Naylor, *A salutation to the seed of God*, 1656; Anon, *The people's*

liberties asserted in the trial of William Penn and William Mead, 1670; Margaret Fox, *A journal of George Fox*, 1694; George Fox, *A collection of epistles of George Fox*, 1698; George Cheyne, *An essay of health and long life*, 1734; William Law, *A collection of letters*, 1760; Thomas Ellwood, *The life of Thomas Ellwood*, 1765; Thomas Chalkey, *Works etc.*, 1766; William Woolger, *Youth's faithful monitor*, 1770; John Gough, *History of Quakers*, 1790; Job Scott, *Baptism of Christ*, 1794; William Sewell, *History of Quakers*, 1795; Anon, *The life of Catherine Phillips*, 1797; Job Scott, *Journal etc.*, 1797; Richard Musgrove, *Rebellions in Ireland*, 1801; Henry Tuke, *Principles of Quakers*, 1814; Joseph Sharpless, *Family record*, 1801; Joseph Cottle, *Early recollections*, 1837; John Woolman, *A journal of John Woolman*, 1840; John Whittier, *Whittier's poems*, 1849; The Liberty Bell, *The friends of freedom*, 1849; Romeo Elton, *Life of Roger Williams*, 1852; M D Conway, *Testimonies concerning slavery*, 1864; ; Thomas Dyer, *The ruins of Pompeii*, 1867; A Anne Proctor, *Legends and lyrics*, 1870; Joseph Foster, *The pedigree of Wilson of High Wray and Kendal*, 1871; H W Ludlow, *Memoir of Mary Anna Longstreth*, 1886; Mrs E Boger, *Myths, scenes and worthies of Somerset*, 1887; S B Foster, *Wilson pedigree*, 1890; Theodore Compton, *A Mendip valley: Winscombe sketches*, 1892; William Sturge, *Some recollections of a long life*, 1893; Augustus Hare, *The Gurneys of Earlam*, 1895

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Access to the collection is arranged via advance appointment only. Access to some collections may be restricted due to Data Protection or other restrictions. Please check with the Archivist.

REPRODUCTION CONDITIONS

Usual Alfred Gillett Trust regulations apply. Permission from the Trust and/or owner of a collection is usually required before publication. Copying of some items may be possible on a case by case basis – please check with the Archivist.

LANGUAGE

English

FINDING AIDS

A box list is available on the Access database, prepared in 2002 and 2004.

RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION

Other collections relating to C & J Clark Ltd and to members of the Clark family are held by the Alfred Gillett Trust.

PUBLICATION NOTE

It is not known to what extent this collection has been used in published research.

NOTES

See *The Times*, Fri 30 Jul 1993, for an obituary of William Bancroft Clark.