

**CLO**  
**Clothier Papers**  
**1561-1984**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY**

The Clothier family were active in the Religious Society of Friends from its beginnings in Somerset in the mid 1650s and in Street in particular where they farmed at Middleleigh. The Clothier family pre-date the Clark family in terms of their residency within the village, and are connected by marriage to many of the prominent Quaker families in the immediate Street vicinity (Clark, Impey, Morland, Metford, Bull, Gillett, Tuttiet, Beaven, Bryant) and those further afield (Thompson of Bridgwater; Bragg of Newcastle; Bishop of London; Ovens of Keynsham; Metford of Bath; Impey of Chelmsford and Colchester). As such, this collection contains items from numerous branches of these families, often distributed over large geographical areas, and is therefore representative of the close Quaker kinship ties typical for this period.

The Clothier family came to Street during the 1650s on the marriages of Henry Gundry (d 1682) of Street who married Anne Clothier of Alford and Henry's sister Elizabeth Gundry who married Henry Clothier (d 1684) of Castle Cary. Through Henry and Elizabeth Clothier, Middleleigh came through the generations to Henry and Elizabeth's descendant Arthur Clothier (1790-1865). Arthur was the son of James Clothier (1728-1801) and his second wife Hannah (1752-1836), and in 1812, he married Keturah Tuttiet (1788-1868), daughter of Thomas Tuttiet of Somerton, and had ten children. Arthur founded a neighbouring tannery in 1807 and entered into a brief partnership with his cousin Cyrus Clark in 1821, before leaving to concentrate on his tanyard business at Middleleigh. In 1825 Cyrus Clark then set up the company that was to become C & J Clark Ltd.

John William Columbus Clothier (1821-1895) was the eldest surviving son of Arthur Clothier and worked in the family tanning business. In 1851, he married Catherine Thompson (1825-1892), daughter of Joseph Thompson of Bridgwater, and in 1871 built the family home Leigh Holt on the outskirts of Street for his seven children. His third son Samuel Thompson 'Tom' Clothier (1857-1933) later bought out his siblings' shares in Leigh Holt in 1895 where it became his own family home.

S T Clothier was educated at Sidcot and Bootham and studied chemistry in London before becoming a quarry owner in Street. He served on Somerset County Council and was also Clerk for the Street Urban District Council and Clerk and Surveyor to the local Board of Health. He turned to architecture as a second career, with his first major work remodelling Overleigh Farm as Whitenights for his brother in law Roger Clark and his wife Sarah Bancroft in 1910-1912. S T Clothier also designed houses in Street for the workforce of C & J Clark Ltd (Barn Close, Merriman Gardens and Middle Leigh), as well as the village's cinema, library, secondary school, day continuation school (extension) and infants' school.

Tom Clothier's wife was Esther Bright Clark (1873-1935), third child and eldest daughter of William Stephens Clark (1839-1925) and his wife Helen Priestman Bright (1840-1927). She was educated at the Mount School, York, and declined the opportunity to enter the family business (as her younger sister Alice later did). Instead

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Esther qualified as a secondary school teacher at the Durham College of Science in 1897 and the same year married Tom Clothier. Esther served on the local school board for many years and was an active member of the suffrage and pacifist movements. Tom and Esther had one son, Peter Thompson Clothier (1910-1994), who attended Leighton Park School, read Zoology at Oxford University and then entered C & J Clark Ltd in 1931, becoming a Director of Avalon Leather Board in 1936, a Director of C & J Clark Ltd in 1939 and finally Managing Director of C & J Clark Ltd for 5 years before his retirement in 1973. Peter inherited his parents' interests in politics and education and was a member of Street Urban District Council, chairman of Street Higher Education Committee and a governor of Strode Technical College.

Another noteworthy member of the Clothier family was Arthur Clothier's granddaughter Catherine Impey (1847-1923) – 'Katie' was first cousin to Tom Clothier and an Impey first cousin of hers from Essex was also married to Tom's elder brother Arthur Hassel Clothier (1853-1925). Katie was the second daughter of Robert Impey (1820-1886), a Friend from Essex who had travelled to Somerset to learn grass farming but who later established a large seed growing and tool business, with his two daughters Katie and Ellen (1845-1921) as assistants. Robert Impey married Mary Hannah Clothier (1823-1895) in 1843 and lived at Askew House, Street. Following the death of their mother in 1895, Katie and Nellie moved to the Old Tanyard House in 1900 where their mother and grandparents had formerly lived. Nellie had taken on the running of the family farm on Robert's death in 1886, which freed up her sister for her philanthropic and political work. Katie was active nationally and internationally in civil and feminist rights and also a dedicated teetotalist, vegetarian and member of the Board of Guardians in Wells. She edited the journal *Anti-Caste* from 1888 in order to promote Quaker debate in the UK on racial prejudice and oppression and was a founding member of the Society for the Recognition of the Brotherhood of Man. The sisters removed to a newly built chalet on Ivythorn Hill in 1914, which was later bequeathed to the Society of Friends in 1923 and has been leased to the Youth Hostel Association since 1923.

## **EXTENT**

24 boxes and oversize items

## **ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Donated to the Alfred Gillett Trust by a member of the Clothier family in May 2014.

## **SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT**

This collection was originally accommodated in 12 trunks and boxes with oversize items and includes family objects and costume.

## **DESCRIPTION**

This collection contains a range of material relating to numerous branches of the extended Clothier and Clark families (see 1. below), as well as local history (see 2. below) and material relating to the Society of Friends (see 3. below). As expected, considering the provenance of this collection, the Clothier, Clark and Impey families are particularly strongly represented. Photographs and silhouettes of members of the following families and associated houses are also available: Bright, Clark, Wood, Waring, Thompson, Clothier, Impey, Curry, Sturge, King, Bishop, Metford, Ansell, Elliott, Tregelles, Loader, Brooks, McLaren, Stephens, Mullett, Gundry

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**1. Papers relating to Clothier, Clark, Impey and associated families:**

**Aubrey**

Will, Mary Aubrey, 1733

**Bancroft**

Printed pamphlet autobiography, William Bancroft, Wilmington, USA. 1913

**Beaven**

Will, John Aubrey Beaven, Waterford, 1786; will, Thomas Beaven, Greinton, 1780; copy will, Thomas Beaven, Greinton, 1823; marriage certificate, Thomas Beaven, Melksham, clothier, and Elizabeth Clarke, New Sarum, 1752

**Bishop**

Framed watercolour, Sarah Bishop, undated; bundle of deeds and probate, John Bishop, Ludgate Hill, umbrella manufacturer, 1852

**Bragg**

Anon diary, 1815-1816; letters to Hadwen Bragg, Newcastle, 1814-1820; letter, Elizabeth Fry to Margaret Bragg, 1827; namecard, Margaret Bragg, undated

**Bright**

Notebook, May H Bright, 1875; Memo for dinner, Lord Aberconway's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1930; Letters, John Bright to 'Zib' [second wife Margaret Elizabeth Leatham], 1848-1850, 1868-1873; John Bright souvenir centenary edition, The Friend, 1911

**Bryant**

Will, Thomas Bryant of Greinton, 1742

**Bull**

Marriage certificate, John Bull, glover of Worcester and Elizabeth Beaven of Glastonbury, 1796; will, John Bull, 1814; apprenticeship indenture, John Bull of Somerton to John Harris and Hannah Beasley, glovers, Worcester, 1768; letters, Eliza Bull to Mary Clark and Thomas Clark, undated; marriage settlement, John Bull of Worcester to Elizabeth Beaven of Glastonbury, 1796

**Clark**

Wills, John Clark of Greinton, 1715, 1792; will, Elizabeth Clark, 1750; will, Eleanor Aubrey Clark, 1763; will, Thomas Clark, Catcott, 1741; marriage certificate, John Clark, Grenton, husbandman, and Ann Coaksley, 1723; birth certificates (children of Thomas Clark and Mary Metford): Sarah Clark, Grenton, 1801, Thomas Clark, Grenton, 1792, John Clark, Grenton, 1785; birth certificate, Lewis Clark, son of Thomas Clark and Elizabeth Bull, Bridgwater, 1836; will, Thomas Clark, 1846; will, Mary Clark Metford, 1836; marriage settlement of Thomas Clark, Brewton [Bruton], grazier and Peggy Hayward of Rhyme Intrensica, 1766; Apprenticeship indenture, Thomas Clark, to Walter Chandler, Bristol, cutler, 1774; Letters, Thomas Clark and Mary Metford Clark to daughter Sarah Clark, 1814-1815, to Cyrus Ovens and Mary Clark Ovens, 1809-1830s; letters from brothers John Clark and Thomas Clark, Bridgwater, 1820s; letter, Sarah Clark to Eliza Bull, c 1815; typescript diary, Sarah Clark of Street and Bridgwater, 1818-1823; Sketch of Thomas Clark, S C Smith,

1834; Printed pamphlet, 'A brief estimate of the manifold gifts and grace of God to man', Thomas Clark, 1834; Freedom of City of Bristol, Thomas Clark, cutler, 1781; Journal of Sarah Clark, Street and Bridgwater, 1818-1823; Pamphlet of Latin Verse Machine 'General history...', John Clark, 1837; Typescript letter, James Clark to John Clark re marriage to 'giddy girl', undated; Article, 'The prevention of TB from the social side', Hilda Clark, Journal of the Royal Sanitary Institute, vol XXXV (4), 1914; 'Prize essay on the Somerset Levels...', John Aubrey Clark, 1854; various Clark family trees, various dates

Esther Bright Clark: Letters to Esther Bright Clark whilst at school and university, on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and marriage, from friends (incl. Mabel Spence Watson, S J Tanner, Mary/Lucy Harrison), c 1891-1895, various relations, c 1897-1927, and close family (including parents William Stephens Clark and Helen Priestman Bright Clark, c 1880-c 1893; aunts (including Mary Bright Curry, Lillie Bright Roth) and great aunts (including Margaret Tanner, Anna Maria Priestman, Mary Priestman, Priscilla Bright McLaren, Lucy Priestman, c 1886-1909; siblings (John Bright Clark, Roger Clark, Alice Clark, Hilda Clark, Margaret Clark), 1890s; governess Isabella Pasley), c 1881-1891; Letters, EBC to Priscilla Bright McLaren, c 1894-1905; Bills for wedding of Esther Bright Clark, 1897; Letters, John Anthony Clark to aunt Esther Bright Clothier, undated; Letters, Esther Bright Clark to Beatrice Clothier, undated; School and university certificates, Esther Bright Clark, 1889-1897; Membership card, Street Band of Hope, 1879

### **Clothier**

Marriage certificate, James Clothier, yeoman, Street, and Mary Bond of Glastonbury, undated; Silhouette, Celia Clothier junior, undated; Miniature, Julia Clothier, undated; Silhouette, John Clothier, undated; Silhouette, Sarah Clothier, undated; Scrapbook belonging to children of Arthur Clothier and Keturah Clothier, Middle Leigh, undated; Diary, James Clothier, 1715-1757; Account book, James Clothier, 1734-1756; Clothier family letters, 1757-1820s incl. from Arthur Clothier; Commonplace book containing notes on land surveying, James Clothier, 1780 (at rear: commonplace book, Samuel Clothier Bryan, 1735); Commonplace book, Celia Clothier, 1783; Roll of penmanship examples, Arthur Clothier, Sidcot School, c 1804; Survey of lands of John Clothier, 1804, with survey of Street, 1811 and JWCC notes on quarries, c 1825; Papers relating to Samuel Clothier incl. journal for USA trip, 1805, letters to family, 1805, bond/agreement with Thomas Clark, 1808; Tax assessments, John Clothier of Street, 1809, 1811, 1814, 1816-1818; Militia warrant, James Clothier, 1822; Commonplace book, Sarah Clothier, 1826; Diaries of Celia Sturge Clothier, 1826-1842 [1837, 1838 missing] and typescripts for 1826, 1831; diary, 1839; Renewal of licence for Arthur Clothier to work as tanner at Leigh, Street, 1829; Volume of original pieces, Sarah Clothier, 1834; 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday poem for grandmother Hannah Clothier, 1834; Volume of 'Dr Watts hymns and verses', Henrietta E Clothier, 1839 Volume containing 'Fates' [forerunner of Village Album], Sarah Clothier, 1840-1860; Clothier family correspondence, 1840s; Clothier family letters incl. to Sarah Clothier, 1840s-1850s; Plan of the estate of John Clothier, Street, 1848; Letters, Sarah Clothier to Catherine Thompson, 1850s; Will, Martha Julia Clothier, 1858; Temperance certificate, Keturah Clothier, 1859; Will, Arthur Clothier, 1860; Childhood writings, Arthur Hassell Clothier, undated; notes on tithes for Street Debating Society, undated; Wedding certificate, Arthur Hassell Clothier, Street, tanner, and Caroline Impey of Chelmsford, 1880; A B Clothier family poetry album, 1892; Visitor book, Beatrice

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Clothier, 1902-1947 [incl. typescript memorandum re WW1 Conscientious Objection, Wilfred Hinde, 1968]; Postcards to A H Clothier from Violet Clothier and Peter Thompson Clothier, 1930s

John William Columbus Clark: Wedding certificate, JWCC and Catherine Thompson of Bridgwater, 1851; Paris journal, 1849; notebooks, 1880s-1890s incl. on local history and family history; diary, 1892; letters to JWCC, undated; papers relating to accounts and estate, 1888-1899; letters to JWCC from Philadelphia, USA, 1890s; passports, 1849, 1856; obituary, 1895; notebook on visit to Ireland, 1890; copy tithe apportionment, Street parish, c 1884

Samuel Thompson Clothier and Esther Bright Clothier: Wedding certificate, Samuel Thompson Clothier, Street, stone merchant, and Esther Bright Clark of Street, 1897; intent of marriage, 1897; marriage certificate, 1897; Letters, Esther Bright Clothier and Samuel Thompson Clothier to family during USA visit, 1919-1920; letters, Peter Thompson Clothier to John Anthony Clark, undated; miniature notebooks, Peter Thompson Clothier, undated; Letters to Esther Bright Clothier, undated; Letters, STC to EBC, 1897-1913; STC to Catherine Clothier, mother, undated; Diaries, EBC, 1881-1887, 1919, 1921; drafts for Village Album, undated; Exercise book, EBC, 1894-1908; Roll of thanks, STC, 1907; STC pencil drawings, undated; ms notes and drafts re history of building construction, housing, domestic architecture, religion and faith, undated; testimonials/references, undated; STC price list and notes on Street quarries (Herbert and Melbourne George), undated; Clarks Courier article re retirement of Peter Clothier, 1973; Family tree, Peter Clothier and Violet Hughes, undated

### **Curry**

Letters to Mary Curry, Cumberland Lodge, Bath, re 'Book of Thoughts', c 1893; Marriage certificate, Richard Curry, Stratford, and Mary Bright, Southport, 1878

### **Impey**

Catherine Impey: Tinted portrait, E C Impey, undated; Notes on family and local history by Katie Impey, 1870s-1890s etc incl. on Keturah Tuttiet, undated, Thomas Bryant of Greinton, undated and duke's snuff box, undated; notes on and inventory of property of Misses Ellen Clothier Impey and Catherine Impey, 1896; family nutting picnic attendance lists, Copley Oaks, 1867-1903; Envelope of song lyrics and notation, C E Impey undated; Typescript 'Catherine Impey: the radiant soul', Thomas Morgan, undated; Commonplace book, 1859-1921; Blank subscription form, Free Distribution of Anti-Caste Literature, Fraternity etc, c 1895; Circular letter from Negro Liaison Committee, Street, Feb 1886 (C E Impey, secretary); Photograph albums, 1860s-1890s, incl. nutting picnics, District Lodge, 1874, Street Templar Band, undated, BWSA members, 1908  
Commonplace book of 'memoranda left by William Impey' (1790-1840), Hannah Impey for R Impey, undated; Bundle of deeds, Robert Impey, 1850s-1860s; Conveyance, C I Impey to A H Templeman re Portway, Street, 1922

### **Metford**

Papers re Sarah Clark Metford and husband William Metford of Bath, 1820s-1830s; letters from Sarah Clark Metford, incl to husband William, undated; speech given by William Metford at White Lion, Bath, 1831; Letters to Isabella Metford, undated;

'The early pilgrim's progress and minor poems', J C Metford, 1848; Poetry, Joseph Metford, 1787

### **Ovens**

Letters, Mary Clark Ovens to Thomas Clark, 1820s-1830s; bundle of deeds, Cyrus Ovens, late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> c

### **Parsons**

Apprenticeship indenture, Ann Metford Parsons to John Tyler, Reading, umbrella manufacturer, 1836

### **Priestman**

Copy family tree by Roland Priestman, 1929; receipt book for illnesses, Esther Priestman, Malton, 1830s-1850s

### **Stephens**

Poem by William Stephens of Truro (1756-1837), undated; typescript article 'William Stephens: a Bristol china painter', F Severne Macleenna, English Ceramic Circle, Apr 1953; sketchbook of William Newbery, artist, Axminster, given to Guilielma Stephens, Bridport, undated; Pamphlet, poem 'The rocking horse', Amy Stephens, 1810; Notebook of 'Pieces [poems for children]' copied by Amy Stephens for granddaughter Sophia D Clark, undated; Letters to and from Stephens family, 1820s Photograph of pencil sketch of William Stephens, after 1827 sketch by Amelia Opie, undated

### **Sturge**

Notebooks, Celia Sturge, 1777, 1780, 1783; Notebook, Nathan Sturge, 1773; Memories and echoes of bygone days, Margaret Thompson Sturge, 1904

### **Thompson**

Manuscript song lyrics, Claude Thompson, undated; Watercolour album, 'AJT', undated; Commonplace book, Catherine Thompson, 1849; Notebook, 'Fates at Joseph Thompson's', 1846; Volume for Budget, Anna Thompson, c 1841; Diaries for wedding tour of A Hugh Thompson and Josephine Thompson, 1891-1892

### **Tuttiet**

Commonplace book, Thomas Tuttiet, 1769; miniature of Keturah Tuttiet in mourning, undated; ledger, 1800-1883; Deeds, 1812

### **Watts**

Will, John Watts, Greinton, 1742

### **Wood**

Advert, Margaret Wood, confectioner, Rochdale, undated

## **2. Papers relating to local history:**

Title deeds, Manor of Somerton, Somerset, 1767-1832; Act for draining Kings Sedgemoor Drains, 1791; Copies of John Clark of Bridgwater's *Avalonian Guide to the Town of Glastonbury and its Environs*, 1815, 1827, 1839, 1857; British School minute book, 1839-1872; Poster, opening of British and Foreign School by James Clark, 1854; Green notebook, containing minutes for 'Street cum Walton British

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School', 1854-1864 [committee: Keturah Clothier; Christiann Motley; Eliza and Ann Stephens; Julia and Henrietta Clothier; Sarah Anna Gregory; M J Gillett; Eleanor Clark; A J Clark; M A Ansell]. At rear of volume: list of prices for work at school Ink/pencil plan, Sharpham (traced from c 1520 map of Ricahrd Hurman of Walton), 1872; Leaflet, 7<sup>th</sup> Grand meeting of farm labourers of the West of England, Ham Hill, 1878; Street Junior Amateur Dramatic Society, rules, rota, notes, letters etc, 1886-1887; Programme, opening of SUDC waterworks, 1903; Plan of Glastonbury and environs, 1775 (copied 1904); Poster of elections, Somerset County Council, 1904; Souvenir pamphlet, Street Club and Institute, 1906; Souvenir pamphlet, Street Council School, 1913; Poster, unveiling of WW1 memorial plaque, Clarks, 1921; Bill, Street parish election for Urban District Council and Board of Guardians, 1922; STC plans: proposed infants school, Street, 1927; proposed domestic subjects centre, Street, for WSC, 1919; proposed cottage at Wraxhill for J B Clark (for W Raymond), undated; Elmhurst school assembly hall, 1928; proposed house at Overleigh for JBC, 1934; Poster, opening of Hindhayes School, 1928; Plan of Littleton Estate, undated

### **3. Papers relating to the Society of Friends:**

Lease for 1,000 years, Phillip Watts of Greinton, gent re land at Greinton [for meeting house], 1696; Parchment roll, list of public friends, Western Division ie Milverton, 1704-1806, inscribed 'P Metford'; Rules for Quarterly Meeting, Glastonbury, 1717 Parchment roll 'An act of what publick friends have had meetings', 1737-1755. Encl: paper roll '100 years list of ministering friends' / 'A catalogue of friends names', 1704-c 1725 [v fragile]; Yearly Meeting minutes, 1757, 1781; Parchment bound roll, 'A minute book for the women's monthly meeting, Western Division, 1774', Somerset ie Wellington, Minehead, Milverton, 1774-1785; Summons for non-payment of tithes (James Clothier, 1840; John Bessant, 1809-1820; Messrs Clark and Clothier, 1810; John Clothier, 1833); Poster, bicentenary celebration, Long Sutton Meeting House, 1919; Map of Street showing Street Meeting House 'as it was 1820 to 1850, JWCC, undated; Sketch of Compton Friends School for Boys (Jonah Thompson), copied by E C and C E Impey, undated

### **ACCRUALS**

Further accruals are expected in the future.

### **ACCESS CONDITIONS**

Access to the collection is by 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 rough box list is available, summer 2014, which adheres to the original order. The collection requires detailed future cataloguing.

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### **RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION**

Objects from the same collection are available at the Trust, mainly comprising Clark, Bishop, Bryant, Tuttiett, Thompson and Clothier family samplers and items of costume. Other archives relating to Esther Bright Clark (later Clothier) and the Clark family are also available at the Trust (HC, MIL and WN collections).

Additional papers of Catherine Impey are held privately. Papers of Catherine Impey are held at Rhodes House, University of Oxford (Anti-Slavery Papers). A complete set of the journal *Anti-Caste* held at Library of the Society of Friends, London

### **PUBLICATION NOTE**

Bressey, Caroline. 2013. *Empire, race and the politics of Anti-Caste* [biography of Catherine Impey]. London: Bloomsbury

Holton, Sandra Stanley. 2001. 'Segregation, racism and white women reformers: a transnational analysis, 1840–1912', *Women's History Review*, 10 (1), 5-26

--- 2007. *Quaker women: Personal life, memory and radicalism in the lives of women Friends 1780-1930*. London: Routledge