

**EDU**  
**Papers relating to education in Street**  
**1883--1963**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY**

The Clark family has interests in local education dating back to c 1804 when Friends founded a First Day School in Street. Fanny Clark established an infants' school in Vestry Road in 1826 and the British and Foreign Society schools were similarly set up by local Quakers in the early 1830s.

William Stephens Clark played a key role in providing education in Street and was an active member of the Somerset County Education Committee. He was also chairman of the Higher Education Committee, founding the Somerset School of Cookery at the Grange in 1897 (run through a local education committee). This later became a special school for 'feeble minded' girls in 1917 and then operated as an equivalent boys' special school from 1925 (both later became part of Sandhill Park nr Taunton). William then set up Strode Technical School in 1899 in order to provide a wide range of technical and leisure evening classes locally, introducing shoemaking from 1914. Evening classes had been made available in art, geology, agriculture and other subjects from 1871 and continued to run at the Technical School site until 1961. A Work School of the Technical School was set up at the Barn and Grange in the 1950s, offering technical, managerial and specialist classes, a function which was eventually replaced by in-house training by C & J Clark Ltd and Strode College in the 1960s.

William and his daughter Alice Clark set up Strode School as a private secondary school in 1913. William had campaigned unsuccessfully for the county council to set up a school, so William financed one himself and sited it adjacent to the Technical School. William covered the fees until the school was taken into council control and moved to Elmhurst in 1920 (family home of Cyrus Clark and later a grammar school). In 1925, the original school building became the Day Continuation School which had been operational since 1914 in order to enable boys and girls of school-leaving age to continue their education whilst working at Clarks and Clark, Son & Morland half-time. Strode School (later a secondary modern) became Crispin School on a new site adjacent to Strode Technical College (previously Strode Technical School) from 1962.

Roger and Sarah Clark built Hindhayes Infant School in 1928 in memory of their second son Hadwen. It was built at a verandah school following the Derbyshire Schools system of George Widdows from 1911.

Millfield School is situated at the family home of William Clark, completed in 1889 and designed by architect George Skipper. Following the death of Alice Clark, it was leased to the 'Boss' Jack Meyers and turned into a successful public school.

**EXTENT**

3 boxes

**ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Deposited by the Librarian, Strode College, in 1997.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Street Art Night Class Committee: Minutes, 1883-1891; Street Technical Institute: Cash book, 1929-1954; registers, 1936-1943; admission register, 1941-1944; minutes of governor meetings, 1955-1963; fee registers for summer school, 1938-1952, punishment book, 1917-1957; log book (handicraft school), 1913-1959; Street Evening School: Log book, 1907-1947; Street Higher Education Committee: Minutes, 1900-1955; Street Local Higher Education Committee: Minutes of Sub-Committee for the Shoe Industry, 1924-1940

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## **LANGUAGE**

English

## **FINDING AIDS**

An item level description is available.

## **RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION**

Other archives relating to education in Street are available at ACC2013/A80, Laurence Barber (LHB), No One and Whitenights (WN). Local authority archives relating to education in Street are available at Somerset Archives.

## **PUBLICATION NOTE**

D. E. Jenkins. 1977. 'The influence of the Clark family on education in Street' (unpublished masters' dissertation).