

LHB
Laurence Barber research papers
1690, 1740--c 1982

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Laurence Henry Barber (1885-1966) came from an established and prosperous Quaker family resident in Ecclesall Bierlow near Sheffield, and was educated at Repton School in Derbyshire. His father was a solicitor in Sheffield whose own father James Barber had been adopted and trained as a doctor who later emigrated to Canada. Laurence also trained in the field of law but never practised.

Laurence was the eldest of three sons and three daughters of Jonathan Barber (1856-1943) and Constance Stainforth Siordet (1863-1955). Laurence left the Society of Friends to serve in the York and Lancaster Regiment during 1914-1918 and was firstly married to Dorothy May Cooper in Nottingham in 1913. Barber's second wife was Nellie Barker, whom he married in Kent.

Barber spent most of his career in the steel industry as a sales executive based in Cwmbran, Newport and Cardiff working for Guest Keen Nettlefords. Shortly before he retired, he was based in London editing their Group periodical. In retirement, he was appointed in 1950 to set up a museum for C & J Clark Ltd in the Counting House in Street and also took over responsibility for establishing the company Records Office. He had previously worked freelance as a researcher for Clarks and had written most of the 125th anniversary company history, *Clarks of Street 1825-1950*, published in 1950. In 1955, Clarks published his *Somerset Central Railway Centenary, 1854-1954*. He did much to document the early history of the family and company and to organise the archive and shoe collections relating to family and firm.

Laurence lived briefly at Compton Dundon Vicarage and then at Greenbank House, Street. Laurence and Nellie had two children, including a son Michael G Barber (b c 1930) who worked for Clarks as a management trainee from the age of 20 after leaving the army. Michael held various positions within the company, including Servicing Officer and Servicing Manager for Clarks Overseas Shoes Ltd, and four years in Ghana as General Manager of the Happy Shoe Co Ltd. Michael returned to Street as Senior Buyer for Clarks Ltd in late 1971.

Laurence was a member of Street Unity Club and the British Legion and was a keen golfer, cricketer and tennis player. He died in Taunton in Nov 1966 at the age of 81 and was survived by his widow. Bancroft Clark noted in *Clarks Comments*, Apr 1967: "His death at this time is not only a great sorrow and a blow but it is also a handicap, as we are engaged in writing two histories of the company where his knowledge and unrivalled memory were playing and would have continued to play a vital part".

Barber used the pen name of Peter Barber when writing academic articles and signing paintings and drawings (he sold drawings and cartoons to the golfing press) and was also known as Peter to family and friends.

EXTENT

43 boxes, plus oversize items

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

This collection combines Barber's own research notes with original items removed from company and family archive collections. The exact provenance of these original items is not clear.

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

This collection combines Barber's own research notes with original items removed from company and family archive collections. The original order and location of these original items is not always clear and it will take considerable work to match up original items with where they may once have been located within the company and family archive collections. Some items now found within LHB are known to be 'missing' from the Trust's catalogued archive collections, but a full survey is needed in order to determine the extent of the re-arrangement of original items by Barber during the 1950s and 1960s.

The current system of arrangement of the collection is based loosely on the original order when re-boxed in c 2011. The collection was previously stored in a number of filing cabinets under a series of subject headings (see Description) determined by Barber:

- Clarks factories – Street and non-Street
- Newscuttings relating to Clarks
- History of Street
- General history (Somerset)
- Clark family

DESCRIPTION

This collection comprises two types of collection. Firstly, papers relating to C & J Clark Ltd, the history of Street and shoemaking, and the history of the Clark family and their close kin have been compiled by Barber and his successors. Barber's research notes were primarily collated during the 1950s up to the mid 1960s. Secondly, Barber and his successors extracted numerous original items from the company and family archive collections, and stored these (presumably temporarily) with the research papers. These original items date c 1690-mid 20th c.

Within each of Barber's subject heading, sub-files are arranged according to topic of research, as follows (some merged and simplified here):

i. CJC factories – Street and outside:

Showrooms, London and elsewhere; Fashion shows; Exhibitions; Advertising; Street factory buildings; Factory power and steam engines; Outside factory buildings; Avalon Industries; CIC Ralphs; Sales offices; Peter Lord and James Baker; Peter Yapp; Clarks UK; Clarks Overseas; Clarks Australia; Clarks Canada; Clarks Europe; Clarks India; Clarks New Zealand; Clarks South Africa; Clarks USA; Clarks USSR; Early history of C & J Clark; Stuckey's Bank; Rugmaking; Trademarks; Economic history of C & J Clark; General history of C & J Clark; News Analysis, Clarks; Shoemaking methods, development, sole room history and lastmaking; Annual reports, C & J Clark [BOXES 1-5]

Personnel, management and pensioners; Shareholders; Pay, pension, benefits; Prices and pay in shoe trade; Trade unions and works committees incl. minimum rates of

pay, 1920s, and minutes of Foremen's Conferences, 1919-1937; Federation of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers; Boys' Club; Saving Club; Sport; Amateur Operatic Society, 1920s-1940s; Examples of C & J Clark Ltd stationery; Reports and history of footwear industry; Machine shoemaking; Shoemaking in Northampton, Leicester, America; Shoe machinery; Sewing machinery and sewing machines; Shoemaking constructions and techniques; Lasting machinery; Skiving machines; Sole rounding machines; Machines in Shoe Museum; Material relating to John Halliday [BOXES 6-11]

ii. Newscuttings relating to CJC

Clarks companies; Clark family and family history; Analysis of Works News (*Clarks Comments*) [Box 12-14]

iii. History of Street

Histories and publications; Road names, origins and parish boundaries; Buildings – architects, general information, Clark family houses and land, individual buildings; Crispin Hall; The Grange; Street Library; Street Meeting House; Outworkers' cottages; Roads and development; Shops, businesses and inns; Bailey's, Glastonbury; Clark, Son & Morland, Glastonbury; Street Club and Institute; Music and bands; Politics; Sport; Temperance movement; Population; People (alphabetical); W B Henderson [headmaster of Strode School]; Strode family; Street Urban District Council; Services – waterworks, health, floods, electricity; Religion, places of worship and history; Religious Society of Friends, Street; Religious Society of Friends – general incl. B B Le Tall; Education in Street – Infant School, Board School, Technical School, Strode School, Elmhurst School; Street Fire Brigade [BOXES 15-25]

iv. General history (Somerset)

Somerset towns and villages (alphabetically); Glastonbury; Glastonbury thorn; Alfred Gillett fossils; Wells, Somerset people (alphabetically); Somerset population; Somerset employment; Somerset churches; Somerset customs; Somerset archaeology; Industrial archaeology; Somerset Central Railway (later Somerset and Dorset Railway); Somerset tramways; Western Rebellion; General British history; *Guide to Street* [BOXES 25-27]

v. Clark family [BOXES 28-43]

- Early Clark ancestors

- Papers relating to Clark family individuals and descendants: John Clark III (1680-1758) and John Clark IV (1724-1793); Thomas Clark senior (1759-1850); Thomas Clark junior (1793-1864) and Eliza Bull; John Clark (1785-1864), inventor (incl. papers relating to Latin Verse Machine); Joseph Clark I (1762-1831) and Frances Sturge; Joseph Clark II (1799-1877) and Martha Clothier Gillett; Joseph Clark III (1840-1928), including diaries and manuscripts, 1850s-1870s; James Clark (1811-1906) and Eleanor Stephens (1812-1874); Sarah Brockbank Satterthwaite Clark (1818-1913); Amy Clark (1837-1911) and Fielden Thorp (1832-1921); William Stephens Clark (1839-1925) and Helen Priestman Bright Clark (1840-1927); John Bright Clark (1867-1933) and Caroline Pease (1866-1908); John Anthony Clark (1908-1985); Roger Clark (1871-1961) and Sarah Bancroft Clark (1877-1973), Nathan Clark (1916-2011), Mary Priestman Lovell nee Clark (1922-); Bancroft Clark (1902-1993) and Cato Smuts Clark (1904-1968); Alice Clark (1874-1934); Margaret Clark Gillett (1878-1962); Fanny Clark Reynolds (1840-1930); Ann Elizabeth Clark

(1844-1924); Eleanor Clark Impey (1845-1921); James Edmund Clark (1850-1944), Lucretia H Kendall 1853-1937); Edith Clark Hinde (1852-1943); Francis Clark (1853-1938) and E M Smithson (1860-1927); Alfred Joseph Clark (1885-1941); Hugh Bryan Clark (1887-1977); Agnes Clark de Paula (1889-1992); Cyrus Clark (1801-1866)

- Papers relating to connected families: Bancroft, Beavan, Bull, Rakes, Bragg, Bright, Bryant, Clothier, Tuttiet, Mullett, Brigdon, Feilden, Fry, Farrison, Gillett, Gurney, Impey, Isaac, Metford (incl. family silhouettes by Samuel Metford), Morland, Pease, Poole, Priestman, Rowntree, Smuts, Stephens, Sturge, Player, Cotterill, Thompson, Tregelles, Wheeler, Tanner, Wilson; family inter-relationships; family and connections

- Papers of Roger Clark, mainly relating to local history, c 1776-1981

- Oversize volume, 'Descendants of James Clark, their relatives, Connections and Friends', L H Barber, undated

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Access to the collection is by advance appointment only. Access to some collections may be restricted due to Data Protection or commercial sensitivities. 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

Barber's own 'Black Book' index to the museum and archive collections is available (LHB 39). A brief box list is available, plus partial listings of boxes 5, 7, 28-33, compiled by Judeth Saunders, 2012-2014 and a rough box list compiled by Charlotte Berry, 2014. The collection requires detailed listing at item level in the future.

RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION

The research notes of Barber are scattered throughout the Trust's archives, particularly those relating to the Clark family (Millfield and Whitenights).

PUBLICATION NOTE

It is not known to what extent this collection has been used in published research, although it was probably used within Barber's own publications on the family and company history, such as the unattributed *Clarks of Street 1825-1950* (1950).