

**MIL**  
**Millfield Papers**  
**1733-1933**

**Administrative and biographical history**

The Clarks family of Street became closely connected with Quaker families with origins in the Newcastle and Rochdale areas of the North of England as a result of the marriage of William Stephens Clark (1839-1925) to Helen Priestman Bright (1840-1927). Helen Priestman Bright Clark was the daughter of Elizabeth Priestman (d 1841) and the politician John Bright (1811-1889), who were closely linked to the Taylor, Bragg, Wilson, Wheeler, Tanner and McClaren families.

Also of note as campaigners for women's rights amongst HPBC's maternal relations are Priscilla Bright McLaren (1815-1906), Anna Maria Priestman (1828-1914) and Margaret Priestman (later Wheeler, later Tanner) (1817-1905), who all had a direct input into the raising of Helen from a young age. Helen's grandmother Rachel Priestman (1791-1854) was a Quaker minister. The direct connection with the Clarks family is represented within this particular collection in three of the children of William and Helen, namely Alice (1874-1934), businesswoman and campaigner for women's rights, Hilda (1881-1955), doctor and aid worker, and John Bright Clark (1867-1933), businessman.

The mansion house Millfield was built in c 1889 by William Stephens Clark as his family residence for his six children, superseding Greenbank House which was situated immediately adjacent to the C & J Clark shoe works situated in the centre of Street village (Greenbank was named after HPBC's childhood home in Rochdale and was her first married home from 1866). The house was sold by the family in 1935, following the death of Alice Clark, and is now the site of Millfield School.

**Extent**

93 boxes

**Archival history**

These papers 'which came from Millfield' belonging to the heirs of Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark were listed by F Coole as a draft catalogue in 1963. This catalogue was subsequently typed up in Mar 1981, totalling 73 boxes. These papers were originally housed at Millfield, and were transferred to the cellars of Whitenights, another Clark family residence, on the death of Alice Clark. It is not apparent on what terms the papers were deposited with the Trust, or when this took place.

This catalogue was checked, amended (especially with information about dates of items) and reboxed into smaller boxes by Derek Patch in 1999. From this point, the collection consisted of 93 boxes, with new reference numbers. The reference number listed in the paper catalogue is now given in the Access database field 'Location – temporary', with the new reference number cited in 'Location – permanent'. A small collection of papers from Millfield not listed in 1963 were catalogued by Derek Patch in 1999 [box 93].

Charlotte Berry

4 Aug 2010

Rev. 19 Jan 2011, 7 Jul 2011, 21 Dec 2011, 30 Oct 2014

## **Description**

**Priestman family papers, Newcastle, 1733-1910** (including Taylor branch and also the Malton Priestmans) [boxes 1-10]

**Bragg, Wilson and Priestman family papers, 1761-1889** [Bragg and Wilson correspondence, 1752-1879, 1922, and Wilson-Bragg-Priestman diaries, 1768-1855, 1889, including Ladies' Temperance Committee notebooks [? Newcastle, 1844-1851 and Friends' minute book, 1761-1762]] [boxes 11-17]

**Priestman sisters' correspondence** (Anna Maria Priestman, Mary Priestman, and Margaret Tanner) and letters to HPBC, William S Clark, Priscilla Bright McLaren, Jane G Pease, John Hadwen Bragg, Alice Clark, Esther Clark, Roger and Sarah Clark, 1830-1928; also includes miscellaneous papers and papers relating to Women's Suffrage eg Women's Liberal Associations and Women's suffrage, Union of Practical Suffragists, Bristol WLA; Southern and southwest counties union of WLAs; accounts of conferences and meetings; speeches and addresses by Anna Maria Priestman; Contagious Diseases' Acts; Peace, Anti-Vivisection and temperance papers, 1837-1916 [boxes 18-28]

**Wheeler and Tanner family papers, 1762-1914** including letters relating to Wheelers in Russia (including Sarah Tanner nee Wheeler) and the death of her father Daniel Wheeler senior (1771-1840), missionary, in Philadelphia, 1762-1856; Tanner family correspondence including of Margaret A Tanner nee Priestman with her family and Sarah Wheeler Tanner, 1826-1914 [boxes 29-33]

**John Bright family papers, c 1823-1923** including correspondence of John Bright to his first wife Elizabeth Priestman, his second wife Margaret Elizabeth Leatham, his daughter Helen, [his parents-in-law] Jonathan and Rachel Priestman, and other Priestman and Bright relations [boxes 34-40]

**McClaren family papers, 1841-1906**, including letters from Priscilla Bright McClaren to Rachel Priestman, Margaret Tanner, Anna Maria Priestman, Mary Priestman, John Bright, HPBC, her niece A F Cross, W S Clark, Sophy Sturge and Margaret Clark [boxes 41-46]

**Papers relating to James Clark and Cyrus Clark, 1790-1906** including diaries of Fanny and Joseph Clark; diaries of James Clark; letters from James Clark to Eleanor Stephens Clark; diaries of Eleanor Stephens; correspondence of Cyrus and Sarah Clark [box 47]

**William S Clark papers, 1841-1924**, including letters to/from W S Clark; diaries of his children, and papers of Sophia Sturge Clark, Amy Thorp and Fielden Thorp; letters from WSC to HPBC [boxes 48-54]

**Helen P B Clark papers**, including letters from HPBC to WSC, 1865-1919; also to Rachel and Jonathan Priestman, John Bright and other Bright family, Margaret Tanner, Anna M Priestman and Mary Priestman, Eleanor S Clark, Priscilla Bright McClaren, and letters to HPBC from family and others, including Mary A Estlin, 1845-1916; diaries from childhood-1921 [box 55-70]

**Papers relating to Clarks, Street and to local history – 'Millfield and other family records'** Household account books of WSC and HPBC, 1870-1903; letters from conscientious objectors to Esther Clothier, 1914; Avalonian budgets, 1814-1845; plans of Millfield, 1866; tradesmen books and household lists, 1910-1940; Millfield visitors' books, 1871-1934; guest book of Alice Clark, 1888-1889; household receipts, 1933-1934; papers relating to the Sturge family, Leonard Roth, James Clark and Cara Clark, 1891-1933; Street records including opening of Crispin Hall and Street Library, 1885-1924; records relating to Street Co-operative Society, 1866-1934;

Charlotte Berry

4 Aug 2010

Rev. 19 Jan 2011, 7 Jul 2011, 21 Dec 2011, 30 Oct 2014

temperance papers of HPBC and WSC, 1870-1920; papers of Dr Hilda Clark relating to TB cases, 1915-1930; S Sheppard Dale etchings of Glastonbury, 1885 and Wells, 1886; family photographs, 1840-1910; newspaper cuttings, 1895-1913; Glastonbury Antiquarian Society booklets, 1877-1899; prospectus, Glaston Tor School, 1931; printed publications relating to history of Somerset; 'The League' (National Anti-Corn Law League publication), 1844-1846 [boxes 71-79]

**Papers relating to John Bright**, including newspaper cuttings etc., 1840-1924; copy letters of John Bright to Richard Cobden, 1850-1865; printed speeches, addresses, re-printed letters and pamphlets, 1840-1913; 'Sayings of John Bright' Centenary Memorial Volume, 1911; photograph album, 1883 [boxes 80-85]

**John Bright Clark papers, 1872-1915** including letters to HPBC, 1872-1921; letters to WSC, 1879-1915; letters to Mary Priestman, 1876-1912, Annie M Priestman, 1893-1910, Margaret Tanner, 1878-1904, Priscilla Bright McLaren, 1879-1902, Roger Clark, 1884-1894, and sisters Hilda Clark, Margaret Clark and Esther Clark, 1873-1910; letters from Frederick Carr to HPBC, 1893-1894 [box 86]

**Alice Clark papers, 1858-1932** Letters from Alice Clark to HPBC, 1881-1921 (and vice versa 1878-1925); WSC, 1888-1918 (and vice versa 1878-1925); Priscilla Bright McLaren, 1881-1908 (and vice versa 1883-1906); Mary Priestman, 1879-1910; Anna M Priestman, 1885-1910 (and vice versa 1887-1910); Hilda Clark, 1885-1919; Roger Clark, 1887-1912; Margaret C Gillett, 1880-1919; Esther Bright Clothier, 1912 (and vice versa 1885-1933); also letters to Alice Clark from Cara Clark, 1905-1906; John Bright Clark, 1879-1910; Mary Priestman, 1883-1912; M A Tanner, 1887-1904; J C Smuts, 1909; also diaries and notebooks, 1888-1932 [boxes 87- 91]

**Other Clark papers** including family trees and pedigrees relating to Clark, Bancroft, Satterthwaite, Sturge etc; letters from John Bright to his daughter Mrs Lillian Roth, 1871-1888; family letters from Margaret Tanner and other Priestmans, 1839-1904; letters from John Bright, 1849-1916; manuscript of verse by Anna Maria Priestman, undated; photograph of suffrage camp at Weymouth, 1914; manuscript volume of Rachel Bragg, giving a history of English counties, 1806 [boxes 92-93]

**Books** Nearly 300 volumes were previously stored in the 'Millfield Bookcase' and mainly relate to Quaker history. These are now catalogued under MFB and were originally listed in 1977.

### **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 typed list originally compiled in 1963 was prepared in 1981. This was revised in 1999 and is now available on the Access database.

Charlotte Berry

4 Aug 2010

Rev. 19 Jan 2011, 7 Jul 2011, 21 Dec 2011, 30 Oct 2014

**Related units of description**

Alfred Gillett Trust Archive contains other collections relating to the Clark family of Street, including the print collection 'Millfield Bookcase'. See also the Women's Library (Priestman sisters etc), Friends Library etc (John Bright etc). Some correspondence of Priscilla Bright McLaren is held at the University of Nottingham. The correspondence of Jan Smuts with Alice Clark, Hilda Clark, Helen Priestman Bright Clark and Margaret Clark Gillett is held at the National Archives Depot, Pretoria, South Africa. Some transcripts are held privately in Street, and some copies are also held at the Rhodes House Library, University of Oxford.

**Publication note**

This collection was used extensively in Sandra Stanley Holton 2007 *Quaker women: personal life, memory and radicalism in the lives of women Friends, 1780-1930*.