

WNB
Whitenights Books
1663-1971

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Whitenights was purchased as the marital home of Roger Clark (RC) and Sarah Bancroft Clark (SBC). Situated on Overleigh in the southern edge of Street, it was originally 'Overleigh Farm', acquired by the Clark family by marriage in 1723. It burnt down in 1878 and was extensively remodelled by Samuel Thompson Clothier. A substantial family home, it was added to in 1910 and became a focal point for that particular branch of the Clark family.

Roger Clark (1871-1961) was the second child and son of William Stephens Clark (WSC, 1839-1925) and Helen Priestman Bright Clark (HPBC, 1840-1927). His brothers and sisters were John Bright Clark (1867-1933), Esther Bright Clark, later Clothier (1873-1935), Alice Clark (1874-1934), Margaret Clark, later Gillett (1878-1962) and Hilda Clark (1881-1955). Roger Clark was born in Street and educated at Bootham School, York. He returned to Somerset to work at Clark, Son and Morland, studying briefly at the Yorkshire College in Leeds, becoming a partner in 1896 and a director from 1899-1937. He joined C & J Clark Ltd in 1899, becoming a life director in 1904 and also secretary. He was chairman of the company 1938-1941 and retired from the board in 1947. He was also a founder director of the Avalon Leather Board Company Ltd.

Roger Clark met Sarah Bancroft (1877-1973) on a trip to the United States, which includes a visit to Wilmington, Delaware to see some distant cousins related through the Rochdale Bright and Bancroft connections. Sarah Bancroft was the daughter of William Poole Bancroft (1835-1928) and Emma Cooper Bancroft (1848-1929). Roger and Sarah married in 1900 and had the following children: (William) Bancroft Clark (1902-1993), Priscilla Bright Clark, later Johnson (1906-1993), Hadwen Priestman Clark (1908-1924), Stephen Clark (1913-2011), Nathan Middleton Clark (1916-2011), Eleanor Clark later Robertson (1919-2009) and Mary Priestman Clark later Lovell (1922-). Sarah's sister Lucy Bancroft (b 1880) married Henry Tregelles Gillett (b 1870) in 1908 and subsequently settled in Oxford.

Particular interests of Roger and Sarah were local history, the arts, education, temperance and women's suffrage. They were responsible for the building of Hindhayes Infants School (as a memorial to their son Hadwen). Roger served as clerk of the London Friends' Yearly Meeting from 1920-1927 and of Mid Somerset 1930-1951. He was a keen contributor to the family literary society *Village Album* and was a member of Somerset County Council for 11 years.

EXTENT

45 boxes

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

The Whitenights book and object collection was divided by the six heirs of SBC in 1973 with further selections made in November 1984. Of these, some items were loaned to the Musum in 1974 and were subsequently stored in 45 cartons at

Greenbank House. Items not selected by the family were sold to N J Ogilvie, Castle Cary or donated to Oxfam.

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of 500+ books, serials, pamphlets and ephemera collected by Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark at Whitenights, Street. The principal subject areas covered reflect the personal interests of Roger and Sarah, mainly covering biography and family history (including John Bright); local and American history; Quakerism and religious texts; education; and shoe making and industry.

Many books have no attributed author or date. Some items are of an ephemeral and archival nature, including those relating to Rachel Wilson. Many of the older items have a provenance connection with other members of the Clark family. There are very few duplicate copies or editions. The earliest item dates from 1633. A summary of the approx. 65 items predating 1850 items is given below:

- 1663, *To all people upon the earth a sweet salutation*, Sarah Cheevers
- 1699, *The Christian-Quaker and his divine testimony*, W Penn
- 1700, *Collection of Christian writings*, Roger Haydock
- 1703, *Epistle to Quarterly and Monthly Meetings in England and Wales etc*, Anon
- 1703, *New England judged by the spirit of the Lord*, Anon
- 1706, *The rule and exercises of holy dying*, Anon
- 1706, *Melius inquirendum or An answer*, Richard Claridge
- 1709, *Journal*, George Fox
- 1712, *Pamphlets*, Anon
- 1712, *Some papers of William Couch*, Anon
- 1715, *Memoirs of persecution*, John Whiting et al
- 1761, *Life of Samuel Bownas*, Anon
- 1763, *The life of David King of Israel*, Thomas Ellwood
- 1765, *Fox's journal*, [George] Fox
- 1772, *The life of Armelle Nicolas*, Anon
- 1774, *Works of John Woolman*, John Woolman
- 1776, *Spiritual diary and soliloquies*, John Rutty
- 1782, *No cross, no crown*, William Penn
- 1783, *Minutes of Yearly Meeting, London*, Anon
- 1786, *Poetical works*, John Scott
- 1788, *Quaker memorials etc*, various authors
- 1789, *History of the people called Quakers*, John Gough
- 1790, *God's protecting providence...*, Jonathan Dickenson
- 1794, *Some account of... Sarah Chubb*, Anon
- 1795, *Life and religious exercises of Mary Neale formerly Mary Peisley*, Mary Neale
- 1800, *The prize for youthful obedience*, Anon
- 1802, *Extracts: minutes and advices, Yearly Meeting from its first Institution*, Anon
- 1805, *The principles of religious as professed by Quakers*, Anon
- 1806, *Poems on various occasions*, Elizabeth Bath
- 1807, *Life of Pennington*, J G Bevan
- 1807, *Portraiture of Quakerism*, Thomas Clarkson
- 1808, *Abolition of slave trade*, Thomas Clarkson
- 1812, *Remarks... on popular principles*, Josiah Thomas
- 1813, *Memoirs of William Penn*, Thomas Clarkson

- 1814, *Tithes abolished and priestcraft detected*, E Tovey
1816, *Sharpless family 1682-1882*, Joseph Sharpless
1819, *Letters written during a tour through the USA, summer and autumn 1819*, E Howitt
1820, *The trials of Henry Hunt etc*, Anon
1821, *The inside of Ilchester Bastile*, Anon
1822, *Memoir of the life travels of Martha Routh*, Martha Routh
1823, *A concordance of the Old and New Testaments*, Rev John Brown
1825, *Extracts from a diary*, John Benwell
1825, *Letter Anna Braithwaite to Elias Hicks on the nature of his doctrines*, Anna Briathwaite
1828, *Letters of Isaac Pennington*, Isaac Pennington
1829, *Delineations... of N W Somerset*, John Rutter
1830, *Album presented by Mary Greenwood to Hannah Fielden*, May 1830
1830, *Album*, Elizabeth Priestman
1833, *The aurora borealis*, Society of Friends
1834, *The English reader: pieces in prose and poetry*, Murray Lindley
1834, *Letters of Elias Hicks*, Elias Hicks
1835, *The Gospel labours and Christian experiences of John Churchman*, anon
1836, *A journal of George Fox*, George Fox
1836, *Life, travels and Christian experiences: Samuel Bownas. Life of John Roberts*. Anon
1836, *Life of Thomas Ellwood*, Anon
1836, *The crisis of the Quaker contest*, Anon
1836-1842, *Temperance Herald* (serial, Bristol)
1837, *Explanation and vindication of the principles and doctrines of Quakers*, Robert Barclay
1837, *Memoirs of James Gough*, James Gough
1838, *The West Indies in 1837*, J Sturge and Thomas Harvey
1839, *The journal of Thomas Shillitoe*, Thomas Shillitoe
1839, *Guide to Chilton-super-Polden*, William Stradling
1840, *Fruits of a father's love*, William Penn
1843, *Glastonbury: history of Abbey and Borough*, Anon
1844, *Reminiscences of life in the parish of Street*, W Pursey
1849, *Memorandum of the wonderful providences of God to a poor unworthy creature*, John Coad

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, French, German, Latin

FINDING AIDS

This collection was preliminary listed by Florence Coole in 1973, prior to the division of the books by the heirs of SBC: this indicates the selections of 'The Six'. A further list was made of the books loaned from Whitenights to the Museum in Jan 1974, and a revised version shows further division by the heirs in Nov 1984. A box list is now available on the Access database, prepared and checked by Derek Patch in 2000. The magazines were listed in 2002. The collection would benefit from more detailed bibliographical research and cataloguing, particularly the earlier, ephemeral and manuscript items.

RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION

An extensive collection of family papers relating to Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark is held by the Alfred Gillett Trust. For further details, see Whitenights Papers (WN). See also the print collection Millfield Bookcase (MFB).

PUBLICATION NOTE

It is not known whether any publication has resulted from use of this collection.