



Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

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Washington, D.C. 20001

What are Finding Aids?

Finding aids are narrative guides to archival collections created by the repository to describe the contents of the material. They often provide much more detailed information than can be found in individual catalog records. Contents of finding aids often include short biographies or histories, processing notes, information about the size, scope, and material types included in the collection, guidance on how to navigate the collection, and an index to box and folder contents.

What are Legacy Finding Aids?

The following document is a legacy finding aid – a guide which has not been updated recently. Information may be outdated, such as the Historical Society’s contact information or exact box numbers for contents’ location within the collection. Legacy finding aids are a product of their times; language and terms may not reflect the Historical Society’s commitment to culturally sensitive and anti-racist language. This guide is provided in “as is” condition for immediate use by the public. This file will be replaced with an updated version when available.

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The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation’s capital. Founded in 1894, it serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibits, and publications.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

Title: MS 47 Allen C. Clark Papers, 1867-1943

Processor: Gail R. Redmann

Allen C. Clark (1858-1943) was born in Philadelphia, son of Appleton P. and Elizabeth Clark. In 1863, he and his family moved to Washington, D.C. where he was educated in the D.C. public schools. He graduated from the Law School of National University in 1879. After working for the Collector of Taxes, he became trustee and secretary of newly formed Equitable Insurance Company in 1885. He also served as director of the National Capital Bank and the Columbia Title Insurance Company, and as a trustee of the Lincoln Hall Association and Law Reporter Printing Company.

In 1906, Clark became a manager of the Columbia Historical Society, and served as president from 1916 until his death in 1943. He contributed many articles to the *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* and also wrote several books on Washington history, including *Greenleaf and Law in the Federal City* (1901), *Life and Letters of Dolly Madison* (1914), and *Abraham Lincoln in the National Capital* (1925). He also was a member of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (now the Organization of American Historians), the Virginia Historical Society, and the Maryland Historical Society.

Scope and Content: The Allen C. Clark Papers, 1867-1943, consist of autobiographical and biographical material, correspondence, essays, newspaper clippings, and research notes. Clark's papers document his long career as an avid local historian. In particular, his autobiography and essays provide rich detail on life in early Washington, D.C.

This collection is arranged alphabetically by document type. Correspondence is arranged chronologically and essays and research notes are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Size: 0.7 cubic ft. (2 containers and one oversize folder)

Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: [Identified item], *Allen C. Clark Papers*. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C./City Museum

Related Materials:

Appleton P. Clark notary public appointment, 1885 Dec. 28. (MS 376). HSW

Appleton P. Clark correspondence, 1909. (MS 48) HSW

Elizabeth G. Clark autograph book, 1900-1908. (MS 49) HSW

Container List

Folder 1: “Autobiography to 14 Years,” By Allen C. Clark, including map of Clark homesite in Pennsylvania. (Duplicate copies of photographs used in the autobiography have been removed to the General Reference Photograph Collection.)

Folder 2: Biographical material: “Tributes to Allen Culling Clark” by the Columbia Historical Society on the occasion of Clark’s 80th birthday, February 15, 1938, including copies of birthday greetings from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Melvin Hazen, President of the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners (photocopies; original booklet stored in oversize folder); “Tribute to Allen C. Clark” by Columbia Historical Society, delivered upon his death, 1943; memorial tribute to Allen C. Clark printed in *Equitable Notes*, June 1943.

Folder 3: Bound volume of handwritten copies of essays, letters, and articles written by Allen C. Clark, 1870-1878. Includes Table of Contents; items arranged chronologically.

Folder 4: Correspondence and other personal papers, 1879-1943, including invitation and program for National University’s Law Department graduation, 1879; a letter and brochure from National Park Seminary, Forest Glen, Maryland, December 18, 1904; and Board of Trade membership certificate, 1939.

Folder 5: Essays, authored by Clark, arranged alphabetically by subject: Barron-Decatur Duel; Barry, James; Clark, Appleton Prentiss; Davis, Henry E.; DuHamel, Elizabeth C.

Folder 6: Essays, authored by Clark, arranged alphabetically by subject: Suter’s Tavern; Washington, D.C.—Early history; Washington, D.C.—East Washington; Washington, D.C.—Medallic history; Washington, Gorge (brief biographical sketch of Washington, 1786-1799).

Folder 7: Essays, by other authors, arranged alphabetically by subject: Stelle-Legereau Family (by Maud Burr Morris); Washington Stock Exchange (by Albion K. Parris).

Folder 8: Newspaper clippings, 1925-1934, related to Clark’s research for *Abraham Lincoln in the National Capital*.

Folder 9: Research notes, arranged alphabetically by subject: Corcoran, William W.; Eaton, Peggy. The Eaton file includes information on the Randolph family.

Folder 10: Research notes: Gordon, George. File includes a transcript of the will of George Gordon, who owned property in Georgetown.

Folder 11: Research notes, arranged alphabetically by subject: Washington, D.C.—Churches; Washington, D.C.—City Council; Washington, D.C.—Historic homes. The City Council file consists of *National Intelligencer* accounts of council activities from May 1802 to May 1805.

Folder 12: Scrapbook of newspaper clippings primarily relating to activities of Appleton P. Clark and Allen C. Clark, 1867-1893.

Folder 13 (oversize): "Tributes to Allen Culling Clark," 1938. Original of document described in Folder 2.