CHARLES CLARK FAMILY PAPERS
(Mss. 3982)
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size. 1.1 linear feet (469 items; 1 v.)

Geographic locations. Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Georgia, Texas, California, Mexico, Germany.

Inclusive dates. 1829-1972, undated

Bulk dates. 1851-1936

Languages. English.

Summary. Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, California; married to Emma Fowler of New Orleans, Louisiana. Papers of the related Fowler, Nutt, Macbeth, and Clark families. They consist of personal correspondence and legal papers of Nathaniel W. Fowler and John Slidell, family correspondence, writings, photographs, ephemera, account ledger and the travel journal of Charles Clark.

Organization. Series I, Correspondence, 1859-1961
Series II, Business Papers, 1851-1972
Series III, Personal Papers, 1873-1911, undated
Series IV, Printed Items and Photographs, 1862-1936, undated

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Related collections. Ruth Ker Batchelor Collection, Mss. 3018

Citation. Charles Clark and Family Papers, Mss. 3982, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Stack Locations. UU:253-254; 65:02
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

David Hamilton Fowler (1824-1864), the seventh son of the Duke of Roxborough and cousin to the Prince of Wales, immigrated from Scotland to New Orleans, where he later owned a steam boiler manufacturing company and was Master Mason of Mount Moriah Lodge Number 59. He served in the Confederate Army as a Captain in Company B, 16th Battalion, Louisiana Infantry, and died in Columbus, Georgia, as a result of the war. He was the father-in-law of Charles Clark, after whom the collection is named.

Fowler married Mary Elizabeth Macbeth (d. 1915), often called “Momo” in the correspondence. Mary’s mother, Elizabeth Long Macbeth (1835-1862), smuggled medicines through Confederate lines and became blind while imprisoned in Ship Island federal prison. Mary Elizabeth Macbeth’s brother, William R. Macbeth (1835-1862), was a banker with Judson and Company of New Orleans. He served in the Confederate Army as a Lieutenant in Company B, 16th Battalion, Louisiana Infantry, and died from injuries received in the battle of Shiloh.

David and Mary Elizabeth Macbeth Fowler had two daughters: Margaret Fowler, called “Maggie,” who married John G. Ayres, and Emma Fowler (b. 1853) who married Charles Clark (1849-1937). In 1874 at the age of 24, Charles Clark moved to San Francisco where he met Emma Fowler. In 1914, he became Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. Charles Clark and Emma Fowler Clark had five children: David Lyle Clark (1878-1904); Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark (1880-1971); Charles Edgar Clark (b. 1881); Jefferson Davis Clark (b. 1885); and Benjamin Palmer Clark (b. ca. 1886).

Charles Clark’s parents were John Taylor Clark (1821-1856) and Margaret Nutt (1830-1874). Margaret Nutt was the daughter of Dr. Rushworth Nutt (1781-1867) and Elizabeth Ker. Dr. Nutt, born in Northumberland, England, built Laurel Hill Plantation in Jefferson County, Mississippi, ca. 1815. John Taylor Clark, a lawyer, moved to Grand Gulf Mississippi, from Lebanon, Ohio. He was the son of James Clark and Charlotte Alter Clark, and the grandson of Jacob Clark, who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and was wounded at the Battle of Cowpens. John Taylor Clark died in 1856, and his widow Margaret married Charles B. New (d. 1878). The couple had one daughter, Margaret “Maggie” Nutt New, half sister to Charles Clark.

Harriett Clark Miles, Charles Clark’s aunt, married Judge Charles T. Miles. They lived in Elmwood, Mississippi.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Included are correspondence, financial and legal papers, printed material, writings, photographs, ephemera, and one manuscript volume from the Fowler, Nutt, Macbeth and Clark families.

Significant family correspondents include Charles Clark's half sister, Margaret Nutt New, his aunt, Harriet Clark Miles, and his sons, Benjamin Palmer Clark and Charles Edgar Clark; the letters of the two sons jointly constitute the bulk of the collection. The letters and writings of Charles Clark report on living in the San Francisco Bay area, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and the genealogy of the Clark and Nutt families, often noting who is buried in the various cemeteries at the plantations once belonging to the families.

Financial and legal papers of David Fowler concern rental contracts involving John Slidell (1793-1871), promissory, purchasing, and partnership contracts between David Fowler and other businessmen of New Orleans before the Civil War, and, during the Civil War, legal disputes between Nathaniel W. Fowler (undated) and the United States Federal Marshal.

Also included are genealogical materials, photographs, and newspaper clippings. The single manuscript volume is an account ledger that was later used as a scrapbook. Printed stories and pictures are glued to its pages.
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I, Correspondence, 1859-1961
Correspondence includes information about the genealogy and history of the Clarks and extended family members; living conditions during and after the Civil War in Pass Christian, Rodney, and Clinton, Mississippi, and, a later time, in California; and work experiences in Texas, Louisiana, Mexico, and Germany.

Letters between David Hamilton Fowler (1859-1865) and William R. Macbeth (1860-1862) represent the earliest correspondence. The men correspond from St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota, during travel in which they draw comparisons between life in Minnesota and life in New Orleans. The letters of Mary “Momo” Elizabeth Macbeth Fowler to her grand-daughter, Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark in California cover a wide range of topics, including Margie’s music lessons, books, and the health and activities of her brothers (1864-1908). Letters of Elizabeth Long Macbeth report about living in Pascagoula, Mississippi, during Federal occupation (1863-1876).

The letters of Harriet Clark Miles (aunt of Charles Clark) to Charles Clark in San Francisco present information relative to relationships among the Clark family members, and cotton growing and weather conditions in Bolivar County, Mississippi (1867-1901). Letters of James Clark (brother of Harriet Clark Miles) include information relating to the Clark family history, the condition of family members located in Ohio and Mississippi, his plans to move his family to Kirkwood, Missouri, and centennial celebrations in Philadelphia (1875-1883). Correspondence of Margaret “Maggie” Nutt New to her half brother Charles Clark mention her concern for the health of his children, the anniversary of the mother’s death, and her daily activities in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and later Clinton, Mississippi, where she married a Mr. Cabiness (1875-1909).

The letters of Benjamin Palmer Clark and Charles Edgar Clark to their father Charles Clark in California constitute the bulk of the correspondence. Benjamin’s letters report his experiences working for the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, living in Dallas, and his observations while traveling on business in east Texas, Louisiana (Baton Rouge, Crowley, and New Iberia), and Mexico (1890-1961). Charles Edgar worked for W. L. Ayers and Company, a dry goods store, and his letters include reports of his work experiences, his efforts to join the army, and observations while on a business trip in Germany.

Correspondence also includes two letters (1862) from Alexander Smith to his wife relating his travel plans, the location of money for the family, instructions on mailing letters to him, and managing the household in his absence; a letter from Harry Turner, family grave keeper, written from Rodney, Mississippi, to “My Young Master” requesting money (1882); two letters from Florence Sillers to Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark informing her of the States’ Rights movement of the Mississippi Democratic Party, and the Mississippi Historical Society’s recognition of Doro Plantation, once belonging to General Charles Clark (1948, 1951).
Series II, Business Papers, 1851-1972
Legal papers of David Hamilton Fowler, Nathaniel W. Fowler, and Charles Clark include rental, purchasing, and promissory contracts concerning David Hamilton Fowler and John Slidell, among others; United States Marshal’s orders of seizure of property belonging to John Slidell rented by Nathaniel W. Fowler; a survey plat of property; letters of Charles Clark concerning his attempts to be appointed to the Court of Appeals of California (1904) and his campaign ephemera for Judge of Superior Court of Santa Clara County (1914). Other items include an electoral vote of South Carolina in favor of secession from the Union (undated); a sale of property from Sampson and Keen to John O’Neil (1859); a fragment of an application for compensation filed by the residents of Kaufman County, Texas, listing the names of family members killed serving in the Confederate Army; a National Register of Historic Places form nominated Laurel Hill Plantation House located in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

Financial papers include the state papers of Charles B. New in account with Charles Clark for 1877-1878; New Orleans City tax receipts of David Fowler (1867, 1870, 1872, 1883); stock certificates of the Upper Ouachita Coal and Mining Company held by David Fowler; stock certificates of the Southern Cotton and Steamship Company of Alabama and Georgia held by Mary Elizabeth Fowler; and Confederate Bonds held by Mary Elizabeth Fowler.

Series III, Personal Papers, 1873-1911, undated
Personal papers consist of writings such as Charles Clark’s description of the San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906, a fragment of a story, and an address entitled “Jefferson Davis’s Anniversary of his Death” delivered to the John B. Gordon Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of San Jose, California; a school essay by Margaret “Margie” Clark entitled “The Sphinx”; and a school essay by Charles Edgar Clark titled “Coffee” (1891).

Fragments of the travel diary of Charles Clark, addressed to his mother Margaret Nutt Clark New on the occasion of his move to California, describe railroad stations, animals, weather, and mention the names of landscape features (1873). The papers also include fragments of the diary of Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark while attending school in Cincinnati, Ohio (1898) as well as fragments of a memoir entitled “My Personal Experiences During the Civil War. By an old resident of New Orleans” (undated).

Genealogical materials include photocopies of transcripts relating the family history of the Clarks including Jacob Clark, James Clark, Charles Clark, Matilda B. Clark, Walter Sillers, and Walter Sillers, Jr. (undated).

Also included are recipes for Creole gumbo, layer cake, tomato preserve, brown bread, sausage cakes, apple graham pudding, chocolate cake, plum pudding, catsup, orange custard pie, chili sauce, and ginger pudding (undated) and ephemera such as a dance card.
of the Mistick Krewe of Comus (1896); a ticket to the Opera House (1889); a paper pop-up from the Krewe of Proteus (1891); and a broadside “An Ordinance to Dissolve the Union Between the State of Louisiana and the Other States with Her…” (undated). Finally, a manuscript volume (at first used as an account ledger, later used as a scrapbook) contains printed stories and pictures glued to its pages (earliest apparent date 1829).

Series IV, Printed Items and Photographs, 1862-1936, undated
Printed materials include a vellum diploma issued by the Sylvester-Larned Institute to Emma Fowler (1871); Western Union telegrams; recital program of the King Conservatory of Music on which appears the name Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark; the general catalog of St. Matthew’s School, San Mateo, California; report cards of David Lyle Clark (1892); and a map of the General Grant and Sequoia National Parks issued by the California State Automobile Association (undated).

Newspaper clippings include obituaries of David H. Fowler, William R. Macbeth, and Emma Fowler Clark (1862-1936); a political advertisement for Charles Clark for judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, California; and an editorial by Charles Clark on wild flowers (1911).

Photographs are comprised of a photograph copy of an ambrotype of David H. Fowler, William R. Macbeth, Mary Elizabeth Macbeth, and Mary Elizabeth Long Macbeth (ca. 1860); a photograph copy of Charles, Emma, and Margaret “Margie” Nutt Clark (post 1900); a postcard photograph of a market in Juarez, Mexico, from Benjamin P. Clark to his father, Charles (1921); a photograph of Laurel Hill Plantation house (ca. 1935); and a full plate ambrotype (in case) depicting two couples standing by Niagara Falls.
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