Guide to the Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers

WA MSS S-3437

Sarah Lerner

January 2019

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................................................ 3
Requesting Instructions ................................................................................................................................. 3
Administrative Information ............................................................................................................................... 3
  Immediate Source of Acquisition .................................................................................................................. 3
  Conditions Governing Access ....................................................................................................................... 4
  Conditions Governing Use ............................................................................................................................ 4
  Preferred Citation ......................................................................................................................................... 4
  Processing Information ................................................................................................................................. 4
Aaron Baker Clark (1855-1933) ....................................................................................................................... 4
Sarah Booth Clark (1861-1951) ....................................................................................................................... 5
Content Description ....................................................................................................................................... 5
Arrangement .................................................................................................................................................... 5
Collection Contents ......................................................................................................................................... 6
  Series I. Biographical Sketches .................................................................................................................... 6
  Series II. Aaron Baker Clark Diaries ............................................................................................................ 7
  Series III. Sarah Booth Clark Diaries ......................................................................................................... 9
  Series IV. Photographs ................................................................................................................................ 10
  Series V. Correspondence ............................................................................................................................ 11
  Series VI. Clippings ...................................................................................................................................... 12
  Series VII. Printed Volumes ........................................................................................................................ 13
Selected Search Terms .................................................................................................................................. 15
Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3437

CREATOR: Clark, Aaron B., Reverend

TITLE: Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark papers

DATES: 1671–1971

BULK DATES: 1876–1925

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.67 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers consist of biographical sketches, diaries, photographs, correspondence, and clippings that pertain to the missionary efforts of Episcopal minister Aaron Baker Clark and his wife, Sarah Booth Clark, relating to the Lakota people of the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Also present are printed dictionaries and hymns in the Lakota dialect, 1889-1901, and other printed books on topics such as religion, history, geography and poetry, 1671-1971. Materials in the collection span the dates 1671 to 1971, with the bulk falling between 1876 and 1925.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.abclark

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.abclark.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Walter Clark and Mrs. David Clark on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2000-2014.
Aaron Baker Clark (1855-1933) was an Episcopal minister from Westport, New York. He and his family lived on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota from 1889 to 1917, during which time he was a missionary.

He was born on January 27, 1855, to Aaron and Harriet Patience Clark. A graduate of the University of Vermont (class of 1876), he served as assistant principal of the Vermont Episcopal Institute (1874-1881) and as principal of the Vergennes graded schools (1881-1883). Following these positions, he later attended the General Theological Seminary of New York (1884-1886).

Clark became a deacon in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1886 and served as rector of the Greenwith and Schuylerville parishes in the Diocese of Albany, New York, until 1888. In 1887, he was ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Doane of the Western New York District. He acted as the rector of St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church in Belmont, New York, from 1888 to 1889.

Accepting a call to the Deanery of Niobrara in Dakota Territory to serve under Right Reverend William Hobart Hare, Clark—along with his wife, Sarah Booth Clark, and two sons, John and David—was received at the Rosebud Reservation in May 1889. The family’s arrival came not long after the Indian Appropriations Act of 1889, which diminished the reach of the Rosebud Sioux lands.

From 1887 to 1889, the Rosebud Mission was without a permanent Episcopal missionary. During the Clark family’s first year, the reservation consisted of fourteen chapels, churches, and stations. By this time, there were 260 communicants and 1,195 baptized Christians on Rosebud land. Conducting services in Sioux and English, Reverend Clark added to these figures throughout his time with the Lakota people.

Clark remained on the Rosebud Reservation for nearly three decades before undertaking direction of the Church at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1917. Five years later, he became missionary in charge at Gethsemane in Sisseton, South Dakota. Circa 1927, Clark served at the Good Shepherd Church in Wailukee on the island of Maui. He died on May 18, 1933, and was buried in Todd County, South Dakota.
Sarah Booth Clark (1861-1951)

Sarah Booth Clark was born in 1861 to Cyrus Austin Booth, a hardware merchant, and Sarah Booth White, both of Vergennes, Vermont. She married Aaron Baker Clark in 1886, in Vergennes.

The couple had three sons: John Booth (1887-1967), David William (1889-1970), and Hobart Hare (1894-1934).

Content Description

The Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers consist of biographical sketches, diaries, photographs, correspondence, and clippings that pertain to the missionary efforts of Episcopal minister Aaron Baker Clark and his wife, Sarah Booth Clark, relating to the Lakota people of the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Also present are printed dictionaries and hymns in the Lakota dialect, 1889-1901, and other printed books on topics such as religion, history, geography and poetry, 1671-1971. Materials in the collection span the dates 1671 to 1971, with the bulk falling between 1876 and 1925.

Spanning the entirety of the Clark family's time on the reservation, the papers chiefly contain accounts of life with the Lakota people. Diary entries from both Aaron and Sarah Clark note weather observations, illnesses, schoolwork, housework, travel, and births, deaths, and marriages. The diaries also record religious events on the reservation, specifically baptisms, confirmations, and convocations. In addition, there are several handwritten brief dictionaries (Dakota to English) and accounting records included.

The papers also contain photographs and correspondence. The former capture the Clark family and the Rosebud Reservation, while the latter reveal Reverend Clark’s concern surrounding the funding of sectarian schools. Clippings in the collection provide context for Reverend Clark’s letters.

Printed volumes in the collection consist of works belonging to the Clark family written both in English and Dakota. These materials range in content: dictionaries, religious texts, poetry, geography, history, chess, and romance.

Arrangement

Collection Contents
Series I. Biographical Sketches
Series I contains biographical sketches of Aaron Baker Clark and David William Clark.
Series I is arranged alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Aaron Baker Clark (original Thermo-Fax)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Aaron Baker Clark (preservation copy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>David William Clark (original Thermo-Fax)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>David William Clark (preservation copy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series II. Aaron Baker Clark Diaries

Series II contains diaries kept by Aaron Baker Clark. His accounts focus primarily on his religious work. Entries document illness, travel, weather, schoolwork, and housework. Births, deaths, and marriages as well as baptisms, confirmations, and convocations are also recorded. In addition, there are several handwritten brief dictionaries (Dakota to English) and accounting records included.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1891–1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1895–1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1897–1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1898–1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 18</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 19</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1901–1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 21</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1903–1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 22</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1905–1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 23</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1907–1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 24</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 25</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1910–1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 26</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1912–1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 27</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1914–1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 28</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1916–1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 29</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1917–1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 30</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1918–1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series III. Sarah Booth Clark Diaries**

Series III contains diaries kept by Sarah Booth Clark. Her accounts document cooking and housework, interactions with others on the Reservation, and the weather.

Series III is arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 31</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 32</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1911–1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 33</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1912–1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 34</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1913–1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 35</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1915–1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 36</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1917–1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 37</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>1919–1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series IV. Photographs**

Series IV contains photographs of the Clark family as well as various members and residents of the Rosebud Reservation.

Series IV is arranged alphabetically by subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3 (Oversize), f. 61</td>
<td>Aaron Baker Clark</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 38</td>
<td>Sarah Booth Clark</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 39</td>
<td>Clark family</td>
<td>1890, 1913, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 40</td>
<td>Clark home</td>
<td>1917, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 41</td>
<td>Fort Thompson</td>
<td>1921, pre-1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 42</td>
<td>Rosebud Homestead, Camp Remington</td>
<td>1906–1909, 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 43</td>
<td>Rosebud Reservation</td>
<td>1907–1925, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 44</td>
<td>Rosebud Reservation</td>
<td>1915, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 45</td>
<td>Rosebud Reservation</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series V. Correspondence

Series V contains correspondence (incoming and outgoing) with Aaron Baker Clark. Letters document concerns surrounding the use of tribal funds for Roman Catholic schools, the presence of sectarian insignia in federal schools, and conflicts between Roman Catholic teaching methods and Protestantism.

Series V is arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 46</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1905 April–1912 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 47</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1905 March 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 48</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1905 March 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 49</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1905 March 23–26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3 (Oversize), f. 62</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3 (Oversize), f. 63</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1906, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 50</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1910 November 5–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 51</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1912 May–June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 52</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1914 July 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 53</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1915 February 12–13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series VI. Clippings

Series VI contains clippings pertaining to educational programs run by Roman Catholic missionaries. Series VI is arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3 (Oversize), f. 64</td>
<td>Clippings</td>
<td>circa 1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 54</td>
<td>Clippings</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series VII. Printed Volumes

Series VII contains printed volumes belonging to the Clark family. Materials are both in English and Dakota and include dictionaries, religious texts, poetry, geography, history, a chess manual, and romance.

Series VII is arranged alphabetically by title of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 55</td>
<td>Apocrypha (Oxford University Press)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 56</td>
<td>Book of Common Prayer (New York: Megarey)</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 57</td>
<td>Compendium of Ancient Geography by Monsieur D’Anville (New York: McDermut and Arden)</td>
<td>1814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 58</td>
<td>Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures, by Alexander Cruden (New York: Dodd, Mead &amp; co.)</td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 59</td>
<td>Dakota odowan, hymns in the Dakota language (Riggs and Williamson)</td>
<td>pre–1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 60</td>
<td>English-Dakota Dictionary (Williamson)</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 61</td>
<td>History of Charles the 12th, King of Sweden, by Voltaire (Hartford: Andrus)</td>
<td>1825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 62</td>
<td>The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments, According to the Authorized Version; With Explanatory Notes, Practical Observations, and Copious Marginal References, by Thomas Scott, Rector of Aston Sanford, Bucks (Boston: Samuel E. Armstrong)</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 63</td>
<td>Volume I</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 64</td>
<td>Volume II</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 65</td>
<td>Volume III</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 66</td>
<td>Volume IV</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 67</td>
<td>Volume V</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 68</td>
<td>Volume VI</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 69</td>
<td>Lalla Rookh, by Thomas Moore (New York: Hurd and Hougton)</td>
<td>1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 70</td>
<td>Marache’s Manual of Chess, by Napoleon Marache (New York: Dick and Fitzgerald)</td>
<td>1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 71</td>
<td>A New and Useful Concordance to the Holy Bible (London: R. Clark)</td>
<td>1671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 72</td>
<td>The New Testament (Oxford University Press)</td>
<td>1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 73</td>
<td>Okodakiciye wakan tadowan kin hymnal</td>
<td>1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 74</td>
<td>The Poems of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin)</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 75</td>
<td>Sententiae Selectae, or a Collection of Miscellaneous Sentences, Divine, Moral, and Historical, in Prose and Verse, English and Latin, Excerpted from the Works of Many Learned and Judicious Authors, and Digested into Alphabetical Order, for the Use of Schools, by Edward Curray (London: Cobb)</td>
<td>1732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 76</td>
<td>Sioux Dictionary (Grant)</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 76</td>
<td>The Works of Laurence Stern, Volume V (New York: Durrell)</td>
<td>1814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Dakota language -- Dictionaries
Dakota language -- Texts
Episcopal Church -- Missions -- South Dakota
Episcopal Church -- Rosebud Mission
Indians of North America -- Education
Indians of North America -- Languages
Indians of North America -- Religion -- 19th century
Indians of North America -- Religion -- 20th Century
Indians of North America -- South Dakota
Lakota Indians -- Missions
Lakota dialect
Missionaries -- South Dakota -- 19th century
Missionaries -- South Dakota -- 20th Century

Geographic Names
Rosebud Indian Reservation (S.D.)
South Dakota -- Religion
South Dakota -- Religions life and customs

Genres / Formats
Diaries -- United States
Photographs -- United States

Names
Clark, David, Mrs.
Clark, Walter Kinsley