

## Guide to the Carlton Clark Sexton Family Papers

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### **Descriptive Summary:**

Creator: Gaylord Lee Clark, 1888 – 1969

Title: Carlton Clark Sexton Family Papers

Dates: 1299-1979 [Bulk 1847 – 1979]

Quantity: 3 linear feet

Abstract: This collection contains a journal belonging to Fannie Eleanor Smith, a scrapbook compiled by Sarah Hunter Smith, military orders and Civil War bonds, personal correspondence and genealogical research compiled by Clark tracing the Clark-Smith family.

Accession: 755-2022

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### **Biographical Note:**

This collection of family papers was donated by Carlton Clark Sexton. Mr. Sexton is the great-grandson of Gaylord Blair Clark of Mobile, and the grandson of Gaylord Lee Clark. Gaylord Lee Clark was born August 11, 1888, in Mobile, Alabama. He lived in Baltimore, Maryland from the 1920s until his death on February 6, 1969, at the age of 80. Mr. Clark attended Episcopal High School and attended college at the University of Virginia where he received his BA, MA and BL by 1907. Mr. Clark practiced law in Mobile, Alabama for two years, then moved to Baltimore in 1910 where he continued his career in law. Mr. Clark enlisted in the military in 1915 and served as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of the 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 29<sup>th</sup> Division until the Armistice in 1918. When he returned, Mr. Clark married Juliana Brent Keyser in April 1921. He also became the assistant state's attorney for Baltimore until 1924 when he then became associated with the general practice law firm Semmes, Bowen & Semmes. Mr. Clark took up a personal hobby of tracing and gathering evidence of his family's genealogy. His extensive findings are housed in this collection.

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### **Scope and Content:**

This collection contains a personal journal written by Fannie Eleanor Smith, a Civil War era scrapbook which belonged to Sarah Hunter Smith, as well as correspondence, genealogical research, news clippings collected and assembled by Gaylord Lee Clark. A strength of this collection is the prominence of primary documents created by women. The journal gives genealogical history from a woman's perspective. The scrapbook created by Mrs. Smith gives

insight into the Southern domestic life during the Civil War. Also included in this collection is the handwritten Will of Sarah Hunter Smith.

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### **Provenance:**

Gift of Carlton Clark Sexton, 2022

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### **Arrangement:**

Materials are organized into 3 series based on material type.

Series I. Journal belonging to Fannie Eleanor Smith, undated.

This is an 8" x 7" journal with approximately 41 pages of written content. These are the recollections of the lives of Sarah Hunter and her husband, by their daughter Fannie Eleanor Smith.

Series II. Scrapbook belonging to Sarah Hunter Smith, 1862- 1865.

This item is in fragile condition. According to signatures on the inner cover and pages throughout the book, it appears to have belonged to Sarah Hunter Smith (Mrs. Robert White Smith). The first entry date is April 19, 1862. Throughout the scrapbook are newspaper clippings and personal notes on various homesteading techniques, news updates on the war, and other printed materials. In between the pages are inserts which include the following: *Counsel to Men a Sermon Preached at Christ Church Mobile by Bishop Wilmer* (March 15, 1896); a handwritten recipe for spiced beef by Mrs. R. W. Smith; and a handwritten advertisement on "The Acid Iron Earth Company" letterhead by R. W. Smith Secretary and Treasurer requesting the immediate service of horsemen for Confederate war efforts (October 9, 1861). Also in this scrapbook are entries titled "By Whom Recommended" and "Names of Persons-Destinations," most likely in reference to the previously mentioned advertisement.

Series III. Genealogical Research and correspondence, 1299-1979.

- i. Clark Family Data
- ii. James Family and Branches
- iii. Smith-Clark Letters,
- iv. Mobile Smith Family Records

Series III is ordered according to the original family groupings created by the donor.

This Series includes all research and correspondence compiled by Gaylord Lee Clark in his efforts to document genealogical histories of the Clark, Smith, and James family lineages. Included in these materials are extensive printed material including war bonds, Confederate currency, business documents. Also included are certificates for business in the Mobile Alabama Railroad, family recipes, newspaper clippings, marriage announcements, obituaries related to his family history, and the will of Sarah Hunter Smith which was drafted by herself in 1849.

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None

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#### **Preferred Citation:**

[Title of Item], Carlton Clark Sexton Family Papers, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

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**Guide prepared by:** Skyler Oliveira

**Guide updated by:** D. Gurt

**Guide last updated:** 7/20/2023

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**Related Content:**

CLARK, GAYLORD LEE (Acc. 526)

GEARY, DANIEL (Acc. 546)

MCCALL, DOY LEALE (Acc. 278)

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**Content List:****Box # 1**

**Journal of Fannie Eleanor Smith, undated. (Boxed with series II), 1 linear foot.**

**Scrapbook of Sarah Hunter Smith, April 1862- March 1865. (Boxed with series I), 1 linear foot.**

**Box # 2 – oversized**

Civil War bonds belonging to "James Family" section, 1862-1894

## **Box # 3**

### **Genealogical Research, 1299-1979. 1 linear foot.**

#### **1. Clark Family Data**

##### **1.1 Clippings, Dates, undated**

- Copy of Clark (Clarke) family surname and history
- Newspaper Articles a/b Civil War
- Magazine Pages "Confederate Veteran" Memorials

##### **1.2 Correspondence, 1847-1957**

##### **1.3 Handwritten Notes, undated**

- Genealogical Research

##### **1.4 Printed Materials (1/2), 1622-1931**

- Application Material for *New England Historic Genealogical Society*
- Documents and Research on Captain Daniel Clark
- Genealogical Research for Clark Family Lineage
- Genealogical Research for Fish Family Lineage

##### **1.5 Printed Materials (2/2), 1916-1932**

- Descriptive List of Gaylord L. Clark for Military Enlistment
- "Magazine of the Society of the Lees of Virginia" Vol. II No. 2, Nov 1924
- "Magazine of the Society of the Lees of Virginia" Vol. V, No. 2, Dec 19
- "University of Virginia Alumni News" Vol. XXI, No. 1, Sept 1932

#### **2. James Family**

##### **2.1 Clippings, 1902**

- "Daughters of the American Revolution"
- "Dropped Stitches from Mobile's Past"
- Newspaper Clipping about James Family Lineage
- "Through the Years – Beulah Church"

##### **2.2 Correspondence, 1849-1957**

##### **2.3 Handwritten Notes, ?-1932-?**

- Genealogical Research
- Draft of "Cousin Emily Virginia James Semple's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday"

##### **2.4 Printed Materials, 1299-1946**

- Genealogical Research for James Family Lineage
- Three Booklets of Compiled Essays of Women from the James Family Line
- "Letter from Alfred R. James"
- Excerpt from "A Glance into the Great South-East"
- "Letter from Mary Semple Gayle Law"
- Printed Copy of "Cousin Emily Virginia James Semple's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday"
- Marriage Announcements

#### **3. Smith-Clark Letters**

##### **3.1 Civil War Papers and Orders, 1861-1913**

- Clippings "Mobile's Part in the Battle of Shiloh"
- Telegraphs from Southern Telegraph Company
- Handwritten Correspondence and Orders from 1861-1865
- Official Testimony - Warrant of Pardon for William H. Seward, Dec 1865
- Official Testimony – Re-entry to the Union William H. Seward, Dec 1865
- "War of the Rebellion – Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies"
- 3.2. Clippings, 1902-1924
  - Engagement and Marriage Announcements
- 3.3 Correspondence, 1846-1934
- 3.4 Stamp and Currency Collection, Dates N/A
  - Stamp and Currency Collection of Gaylord L. Clark
- 3.5 Handwritten Notes, Dates N/A
  - Genealogy Research on Clark Family Lineage
  - Essay by Gaylord L. Clark "Hamlet's Madness"
- 3.6 Printed Materials, 1848-1950
  - Name Cards for Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord B. Clark
  - "Southern and Atlantic Telegraph Company" Booklet
  - "Opinion as to Legality of License Tax" by Gaylord B. Clark, May 1883
  - St. Thomas Church Dedication of Parish Memorial, Dec 1950
  - "To the Congress of the United States" by Pelatiah Webster
  - Virginia State Song Card
  - "Prospectus – V.M.J. Biography" of the Virginia Military Institute
  - Excerpt from "Braxton Bragg: General of the Confederacy" by Don C. Seitz
- 3.7 Railroad Documents, 1865-1893
  - Handwritten and printed materials showing co-ownership in the Mobile Alabama Railroad Co. by Gaylord B. Clark and Francis B. Clark
- 3.8 Wallet and Ribbons of Gaylord L. Clark, 1906-1914
  - Wallet and Contents
  - Ribbons from the University of Virginia
- 3.9 Will of Sarah Hunter Smith, 1849
- 4. Mobile Smith Family Records
  - 4.1 Clippings, 1889-1948
    - Robert White Smith Obituary, 1889
    - Four Copies of *The Mobile Press Register*, Sunday February 29, 1948
  - 4.2 Correspondence, 1853-1906
    - Handwritten Document "Gen'l Clark – Same Nicholas Esq"
    - "Letters Re Plantation – Ranch Place", Fannie E. Pollard
    - Pension Letters
    - Handwritten Ledger of Homestead Expenses and Payments
  - 4.3 Recipes and Receipts, 1930-1946
    - Handwritten and Printed Copies of Smith Family Recipes
  - 4.4 Printed Materials, 1913-1930s (?)

- "Address Delivered by Colonel Robert White at Celebration of Birthday of General Robert E. Lee", January 18, 1913
- "Through Mobile Gates with Father Time", Copies of Newspaper Advertisements from The First National Bank of Mobile, Alabama

Original Folders

- "Clark Family Data"
- "James Family"
- "Smith-Clark Letters"
- "Mobile Smith Family Records"