
Inventory of the Lincoln Clark Papers, 1758-1880, bulk 1850s

The Huntington Library

San Marino, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lincoln Clark Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1758-1880,

Date (bulk): bulk 1850s

Creator: Clark, Lincoln

Extent: 550 pieces

9 Boxes in Chronological order

Repository: The Huntington Library

San Marino, California 91108

Language: English

Provenance

The correspondence of Lincoln Clark and his wife Julia Annah (Smith) Clark, together with an earlier group of family papers, was presented to the Library, on behalf of the grandchildren, by Mrs. Julia Lincoln (Ray) Andrews in 1943.

Access

Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information please go to following [URL](#).

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Preferred Citation

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Biography

Lincoln Clark (1800-86) was born in the little town of Conway, Massachusetts. He attended school at Hopkins Academy in Hadley, was graduated from Amherst College in 1825, studied law in North Carolina and was admitted to the bar. Departing from usual custom, he decided to settle in the South, and in 1837 took his young bride to Alabama. They established themselves in the town of Tuscaloosa, the then state capital, where he opened a law office and also rode the circuit. Within a short time he was raised to the bench, was elected attorney general for the state, and served in the legislature.

But the prospect of bringing up a young family under the slaveholding system became increasingly repugnant to the New England conscience, and in 1847 the Clarks freed their servants and moved to Dubuque, Iowa. In 1851 Judge Clark was elected a representative (Democrat) to the 32nd U. S. Congress.

At the outbreak of the Civil War the family moved again, this time to Chicago, where in private practice Judge Clark endeavored to recoup serious financial losses suffered during the depression of 1857. The last six years of his life were spent in the town of his birth, where he died at the age of eighty six.

- A. Dominant influence of New England religious principles through several generations of the family
- B. Everyday life in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, 1758-1836
- C. Judge Clark's letters to his wife, while traveling the circuit
 - 1. Alabama, 1837-47
 - 2. Iowa, 1848-51
 - a. Elected a Representative to the 32d Congress
- D. His letters, from Washington, D. C., to wife and family temporarily re-established in Massachusetts
 - a. Society and politics, 1852 & 1853
 - b. Westward extension of railroads
- E. Financial depression of the late 1850's
 - a. Move from Dubuque to Chicago, 1862
- F. Mrs. Clark's service in the U. S. Sanitary Commission in the South, during the War
- Mary Ann (Ball) BICKERDYKE, 5 pieces
- Catharine Lincoln CLARK, 31 pieces
- Julia Annah (Smith) CLARK, 47 pieces
- Lincoln CLARK, 368 pieces
- Isabel A. PRATT, 10 pieces
- Sarah C. (Smith) ROBINSON, 5 pieces
- Pandius Theodore Ralli, 9 pieces
- Erastus SMITH, 10 pieces
- Sarah C. (Williams) SMITH, 19 pieces
- William WILLIAMS, 9 pieces
- Clark, Lincoln. To Mrs. Clark: a gossipy letter from Washington, D. C. I dined at Col. King's [William Rufus King] on Friday... it was a real state dinner - no ladies - I was never behind the curtain where great men relaxed before... Jan. 26, 1852
- Clark, Lincoln. To Mrs. Clark: Iowa is not worth bargaining with, if she could be bargained with, because her political strength is so small... Washington, June 6, 1852
- Clark, Lincoln. To Mrs. Clark, regarding a visit to James Buchanan at Wheatland. Philadelphia, Feb. 10, 1857.
- Correspondence of Mrs. Lincoln Clark and her daughter Catharine, having to do with their war service on the U. S. Sanitary Commission, 1864 & 1865