

Guide to the James Newman Clark Collection, 1867-1972

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Overview of the Collection

Repository:

Special Collections & Archives
McIntyre Library
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
P.O. Box 4004
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702 - 4004
(715) 836-2739
<https://library.uwec.edu/archives/>

Reference Code: USGZE UHC249**Collection Number:** University Historical Collection 249**Accession Number:** 94-96 / 06-87**Creators:** Clark, James Newman**Title:** James Newman Clark Collection**Dates:** 1867-1972 (bulk 1867-1928)**Quantity:** 2 linear feet (2 record cartons)**Location of Collection:** A10/1e**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

Summary: Personal and business papers of James Newman Clark, a farmer, taxidermist, and ornithologist in Meridean, Wisconsin. Also files relating to the donation and display of Clark's collection at University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

Biographical Note

James Newman Clark was born in 1842 and emigrated from New York to Wisconsin with his parents in 1849. In 1868, he bought a farm on the Chippewa River near Meridean / Meridian, Wisconsin. Clark's varied economic ventures -- included fur trapping, harvesting maple syrup and honey, and growing ginseng, and goldenseal - made him a prosperous farmer. In 1886 he married Jennie

Norrish, and together they raised a family of six children.

His diaries indicate that he was an interested bird watcher by the early 1880s. In the late 1880s, he began assembling taxidermy supplies and mounting birds both for himself and for collectors. Although he received no formal training in taxidermy, his mounts were considered to be exceptional and collectors were willing to pay well for them. His interest in ornithology is reflected both in his careful records about the specimens he collected and in his communications with ornithologists concerning correct identification of specimens. The seminal publication *Birds of Wisconsin* relied heavily on Clark's notes, and Clark's home served as an informal ornithological museum. After Clark's death in 1928, his ornithology collection was donated to the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire in 1959. At UW - Eau Claire, Biology Professor David Crowe studied Clark's work and curated the Clark specimen collection. The collection is currently on display in L.E. Phillips Hall Science Hall on the UW-Eau Claire campus.

Content Description

The collection consists largely of the surviving personal papers of James Newman Clark, which include diaries, correspondence, account books, photographs, and miscellaneous publications. The collection also includes materials pertaining to the administration of Clark's specimen collection at UW - Eau Claire and a faculty member's research on Clark.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: Donated to McIntyre Library Special Collections & Archives, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire by David Crowe in 1993 and 2004.

Access Restrictions: Collection is open to the public.

Use Restrictions: Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. Copyright not owned by the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

Preferred Citation: James Newman Clark Collection, 1867-1972. UHC249. Special Collections & Archives. McIntyre Library. University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Eau Claire, WI.

Processing Note: Processed by Colleen McFarland in April 2006

Arrangement: By series

Subjects

Personal Names:

Clark, James Newman, 1842-1928 -- Diaries
Clark, James Newman, 1842-1928 - Correspondence
Crowe, David (David B.)

Subject Terms:

Birds -- Wisconsin
Ornithologists -- Wisconsin -- Dunn County
Ornithology -- Wisconsin -- History Farmers -- Wisconsin -- Dunn County

Geographical Terms: Chippewa River Valley (Wis.)

Detailed List of Contents

Series 1: Diaries

This series consists of handwritten diaries kept by James Newman Clark, documenting continuously nearly all of his adult life. Clark's entries tend to be brief, describing daily activities, the weather, and some business transactions. Dates: 1867-1925

Extent: 1 linear foot (1 records carton)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 1/1-32	Diaries	1867-1925
Box/Folder 1/33	Typed excerpts from diaries	1881-1925

Series 2: Correspondence

This series contains incoming correspondence primarily regarding the identification and sale of ornithological and other biological specimens. Dates: 1889-1929

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (9 folders)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 2/1-9	Correspondence	1889-1929

Series 3: Account Books and Collecting Notes

Various notebooks and ledgers comprise this series. Two account books documents financial transactions by individual and organization, while the farm account book provides financial information by crop produced. The remaining notes relate to Clark's ornithological work and include records of his taxidermy collection. Dates: 1890-1928

Extent: 0.25 linear feet (4 folders)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 2/10	Account books	1890-1903, 1911-1916
Box/Folder 2/11	Farm Accounts	1922-1928
Box/Folder 2/12	First arrivals of migratory birds	1891-1899
Box/Folder 2/13	Notes on collections	undated

Series 4: Miscellaneous

Photographs, information on the display of Clark's collection at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, David Crowe's research file on Clark, miscellaneous publications, and newspaper clippings are housed in this series Dates: 1897-1925

Extent: 0.25 linear feet (6 folders)

Container	Contents	Dates
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Box/Folder 2/14	Clippings	1948-1972
Box/Folder 2/15-16	David Crowe materials	1967-1969, undated
Box/Folder 2/17	Lists of specimens	undated
Box/Folder 2/18	Miscellaneous	1897-1925, undated
Box/Folder 2/19	Photographs of Clark	Undated
Box/Folder 2/20	Photographs of birds in display cases	Undated
