

**CHARLES CLARK AND FAMILY PAPERS**  
Mss. 3982  
Inventory

Compiled by  
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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## SUMMARY

<b>Size.</b>	1.1 linear ft.
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Georgia, Texas, California, Mexico, Germany.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1829-1973
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1851-1936
<b>Languages.</b>	English.
<b>Summary.</b>	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 and family correspondence, legal papers of Nathaniel W. Fowler and John Slidell, writings, photographs, printed items, ephemera, and the travel journal of Charles Clark.
<b>Access restrictions.</b>	Ambrotype is restricted due to fragility. Use copy print instead.
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Related collections.</b>	Batchelor-Nutt Collection, Mss. 3018
<b>Citation.</b>	Charles Clark and Family Papers, Mss. 3982, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Locations.</b>	UU:254; 65:2, OS:C

## 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 (died 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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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 (born 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 (born 1881); Jefferson Davis Clark (born 1885); and Benjamin Palmer Clark (born circa 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, circa 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 (died 1878). The couple had one daughter, Margaret "Maggie" Nutt New, half sister to Charles Clark.

Harriet 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 manuscript volumes 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, newspaper clippings, and a manuscript volume, originally an account ledger that was later used as a scrapbook. Printed stories and pictures are glued to its pages.

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Correspondence, 1859-1973, undated**

**Series II. Business Papers, 1851-1972**

**Series III. Personal Papers, circa 1829-1917, undated**

**Series IV. Printed Items and Photographs, circa 1860-1939, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1859-1973, undated**

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); and several letters from Margaret "Margie" Nutt Clark to Mrs. John Frank Morehead (Margaret Morehead), mainly pertaining to financial matters (1940-1960).

**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, and 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, circa 1829-1917, undated**

Personal papers consist of writings such as Charles Clark's description of the San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906, 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, and other narratives, reminiscences, and short stories; Margaret "Margie" Clark's school essay entitled "The Sphinx" and a volume of creative writings (undated); 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). Additional material includes two manuscript volumes entitled "My Family History," written by Olivia Agnes Rubel Sayre, relating to the Morehead and Rubel families (September 1916).

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 (oversize, 1891); and a broadside "An Ordinance to Dissolve the Union Between the State of



Louisiana and the Other States with Her..." (oversize, 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, circa 1860-1939, undated**

Printed materials include a vellum diploma issued by the Sylvester-Larned Institute to Emma Fowler (oversize, December 22, 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 an ambrotype and a photograph copy of said ambrotype depicting two couples standing by Niagara Falls (most likely David H. Fowler, William R. Macbeth, Mary Elizabeth Macbeth, and Mary Elizabeth Long Macbeth; circa 1860); two cartes de visite of Charles Clark (1874, undated); 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 (circa 1935); and a full plate ambrotype (in case) depicting two couples standing by Niagara Falls.

INDEX TERMS

Topic	Series found in
Bolivar County (Miss.)	I
Clark, B. P. (Benjamin Palmer), 1886-	I
Clark, C. Edgar (Charles Edgar), 1881-	I
Clark, Charles, 1849-1936.	I-IV
Clark, Margie (Margaret), 1880-1971.	I
Clinton (Miss.)	I
Fowler, D. H. (David Hamilton), 1824-1864.	II
Fowler, N. W. (Nathaniel W.)	II
Laurel Hill Plantation (Miss.)	I
Macbeth, William R., 1835-1862.	I
Miles, Harriet Clark	I
New, Maggie Nutt (Margaret Nutt)	I
Pass Christian (Miss.)	I
Rodney (Miss.)	I
Earthquakes--California--San Francisco Bay Area.	III
Slidell, John, 1793-1871.	I; II

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>Series I. Correspondence, 1859-1973, undated</b>
UU:254	1	1-2	David Hamilton Fowler, 1859-1865
		3	William R. Macbeth, 1860-1862
		4	Mary Elizabeth Macbeth Fowler, 1864-1908
		5	Elizabeth Long Macbeth, 1863-1876
		6	James Clark, 1875-1883
		7	Frank A. Montgomery, 1894-1900, undated
		8	Harriet Clark Miles, 1867-1901, undated
		9-11	Charles Clark, 1877-1936, undated
		12-13	Margaret "Maggie" Nutt New, 1872-1909, undated
		14	Emma Fowler Clark, 1876-1925, undated
		15	Charles B. New, 1874-1876
		16-21	Benjamin Palmer Clark, 1894-1961, undated
		22-25	Charles Edgar Clark, 1890-1927, 1964, undated
		26	Jefferson Davis Clark, 1904-1906
		27	David Lyle Clark, 1892-1898, undated
		28-30	Margaret "Margie" Nutt Clark, 1888-1960, undated
		31	Edgar Lee Clark, 1924, 1964-1973
		32-34	Miscellaneous letters and fragments, 1862-1951, 1969, undated
			<b>Series II. Business Papers, 1851-1972</b>
			<b>Legal papers</b>
		35-36	Nathaniel W. Fowler, 1862-1867
		37	David Hamilton Fowler, 1851-1864
		38	Charles Clark, 1877-1913
		39	Miscellaneous legal papers, 1859-1913, 1972
		40	Financial papers, 1860-1902
			<b>Series III. Personal Papers, circa 1829-1917, undated</b>
			<b>Papers</b>
		41-43	Writings, 1891-1911, undated
		44	Memoirs and journals, 1873, 1898, undated
		45	Genealogical materials, undated
		46	Recipes, undated
		47	Ephemera, 1889-1896, undated
OS:C	--	1	Ephemera (oversize): Krewe of Proteus card, 1891; broadside, undated
			<b>Manuscript volumes</b>
UU:254	1	52	Creative writings by Margaret "Margie" Nutt Clark, undated
		53	"My Family History" by Olivia Agnes Rubel Sayre, September 1916
		54	Scrapbook, circa 1829-1867, 1917, undated

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	OS:C	--	1	Loose item (oversize) removed from scrapbook: <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> segment, December 2, 1917
				<b>Series IV. Printed Items and Photographs, circa 1860-1939, undated</b>
	UU:254	1	48	Photographs (including ambrotype copy print), circa 1860-1939, undated
			49-50	Printed materials, 1871-1914, 1926
	OS:C	--	1	Printed material (oversize): Sylvester-Larned Institute diploma for Emma Fowler, 1871
	UU:254	1	51	Newspaper clippings, 1862-1936
	65:2	2	--	Ambrotype (original), circa 1860