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# Guide to the Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers

WA MSS S-3437



Sarah Lerner

January 2019

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
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, undated .....	6
Series II: Aaron Baker Clark Diaries, 1876-1920 .....	7
Series III: Sarah Booth Clark Diaries, 1910-1920 .....	9
Series IV: Photographs, 1890-1925, undated .....	10
Series V: Correspondence, 1905-1915 .....	11
Series VI: Clippings, circa 1906, undated .....	12
Series VII: Printed Volumes, 1671-1971 .....	13
Selected Search Terms .....	15

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3437

**CREATOR:** Clark, Aaron Baker, 1855-1933

**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 (Lak#óta/Lakhóta) 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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.abclark>

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## 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 <https://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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Walter Clark and Mrs. David Clark on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2000-2014.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Aaron Baker Clark and Sarah Booth Clark Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Aaron Baker Clark (1855-1933)

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, Aaron 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.

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## **Sarah Booth Clark (1861-1951)**

Sarah Booth Clark (1861-1951) was born 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 Clark (1887-1967), David William Clark (1889-1970), and Hobart Hare Clark (1894-1934).

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## **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 (Lak#óta/Lakhóta) 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 captures the Clark family and the Rosebud Reservation, while the latter reveals Aaron Clark's concern surrounding the funding of sectarian schools. Clippings in the collection provide context for Aaron 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.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into seven series: I. Biographical Sketches, undated. II. Aaron Baker Clark Diaries, 1876-1920. III. Sarah Booth Clark Diaries, 1910-1920. IV. Photographs, 1890-1925, undated. V. Correspondence, 1905-1915. VI. Clippings, undated. VII. Printed Volumes, 1671-1971.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Biographical Sketches, undated

Series I contains biographical sketches of Aaron Baker Clark and David William Clark.

Series I is arranged alphabetically.

	Aaron Baker Clark (1855-1933)	undated
b. 1, f. 1	Aaron Baker Clark (original Thermo-Fax)	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Aaron Baker Clark (preservation copy)	undated
	David William Clark (1889-1970)	undated
b. 1, f. 3	David William Clark (original Thermo-Fax)	undated
b. 1, f. 4	David William Clark (preservation copy)	undated

**Series II: Aaron Baker Clark Diaries, 1876-1920**

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 recorded. In addition, there are several handwritten brief dictionaries (Dakota to English) and accounting records included.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 5	Diary	1876
b. 1, f. 6	Diary	1889
b. 1, f. 7	Diaries	1890
b. 1, f. 8	Diaries	1891-1892
b. 1, f. 9	Diaries	1892
b. 1, f. 10	Diaries	1893
b. 1, f. 11	Diaries	1894
b. 1, f. 12	Diary	1894
b. 1, f. 13	Diaries	1895-1896
b. 1, f. 14	Diaries	1896
b. 1, f. 15	Diary	1897-1898
b. 1, f. 16	Diaries	1898-1899
b. 1, f. 17	Diaries	1899
b. 1, f. 18	Diaries	1900
b. 1, f. 19	Diaries	1901
b. 1, f. 20	Diaries	1901-1903
b. 1, f. 21	Diaries	1903-1905
b. 1, f. 22	Diaries	1905-1906
b. 1, f. 23	Diaries	1907-1908
b. 1, f. 24	Diaries	1909
b. 1, f. 25	Diaries	1910-1912
b. 1, f. 26	Diaries	1912-1914
b. 1, f. 27	Diary	1914-1916
b. 1, f. 28	Diary	1916-1917
b. 2, f. 29	Diary	1917-1918

b. 2, f. 30

Diaries

1918-1920

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**Series III: Sarah Booth Clark Diaries, 1910-1920**

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

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 31	Diaries	1910
b. 2, f. 32	Diaries	1911-1912
b. 2, f. 33	Diaries	1912-1914
b. 2, f. 34	Diaries	1913-1915
b. 2, f. 35	Diaries	1915-1916
b. 2, f. 36	Diaries	1917-1919
b. 2, f. 37	Diaries	1919-1920

**Series IV: Photographs, 1890-1925, undated**

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.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 61	Aaron Baker Clark	undated
b. 2, f. 38	Sarah Booth Clark	undated
b. 2, f. 39	Clark family	1890, 1913, undated
b. 2, f. 40	Clark home	1917, undated
b. 2, f. 41	Fort Thompson	1921, pre-1924
b. 2, f. 42	Rosebud Homestead, Camp Remington	1906-1909, 1920
b. 2, f. 43	Rosebud Reservation	1907-1925, undated
b. 2, f. 44	Rosebud Reservation	1915, undated
b. 2, f. 45	Rosebud Reservation	undated

**Series V: Correspondence, 1905-1915**

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.

b. 2, f. 46	Correspondence	1905 April-1912 February
b. 2, f. 47	Correspondence	1905 March 6
b. 2, f. 48	Correspondence	1905 March 9
b. 2, f. 49	Correspondence	1905 March 23-26
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 62	Correspondence	1906
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 63	Correspondence	1906, undated
b. 2, f. 50	Correspondence	1910 November 5-22
b. 2, f. 51	Correspondence	1912 May-June
b. 2, f. 52	Correspondence	1914 July 29
b. 2, f. 53	Correspondence	1915 February 12-13

## **Series VI: Clippings, circa 1906, undated**

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

Series VI is arranged chronologically.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. Clippings  
64

circa 1906

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b. 2, f. 54          Clippings

undated

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**Series VII: Printed Volumes, 1671-1971**

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.

b. 2, f. 55	Apocrypha (Oxford University Press) English	undated
b. 2, f. 56	Book of Common Prayer (New York: Megarey) English	1820
b. 2, f. 57	Compendium of Ancient Geography by Monsieur D'Anville (New York: McDermut and Arden) English	1814
b. 2, f. 58	Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures, by Alexander Cruden (New York: Dodd, Mead & co.) English	1878
b. 2, f. 59	Dakota odowan, hymns in the Dakota language (Riggs and Williamson) Dakota	pre-1974
b. 2, f. 60	English-Dakota Dictionary (Williamson) Dakota	1901
b. 4, f. 61	History of Charles the 12th, King of Sweden, by Voltaire (Hartford: Andrus) English	1825
	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) English	1827
b. 4, f. 62	Volume I English	1827
b. 5, f. 63	Volume II English	1827
b. 5, f. 64	Volume III English	1827
b. 6, f. 65	Volume IV English	1827
b. 6, f. 66	Volume V English	1827
b. 7, f. 67	Volume VI English	1827
b. 7, f. 68	Lalla Rookh, by Thomas Moore (New York: Hurd and Houghton) English	1867

b. 7, f. 69	Marache's Manual of Chess, by Napoleon Marache (New York: Dick and Fitzgerald) English	1866
b. 8, f. 70	A New and Useful Concordance to the Holy Bible (London: R. Clark) English	1671
b. 8, f. 71	The New Testament (Oxford University Press) English	1870
b. 8, f. 72	Okodakiciye wakan tadowan kin hymnal Dakota	1889
b. 9, f. 73	The Poems of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin) English	1881
b. 9, f. 74	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) English	1732
b. 9, f. 75	Sioux Dictionary (Grant) Siouan languages	1971
b. 9, f. 76	The Works of Laurence Stern, Volume V (New York: Durrell) English	1814

## 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 dialect  
Lakota Indians  
Lakota Indians -- Missions  
Lakota Indians -- South Dakota  
Missionaries -- South Dakota -- 19th century  
Missionaries -- South Dakota -- 20th Century  
Siouan Indians

### Geographic Names

Rosebud Indian Reservation (S.D.)  
Rosebud Indian Reservation (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
South Dakota -- Pictorial works  
South Dakota -- Religion  
South Dakota -- Religious life and customs

### Genres / Formats

Diaries  
Photographs

### Contributors

Clark, Aaron Baker, 1855-1933  
Clark, Sarah Booth, 1861-1951

### Acquired From

Clark, Walter Kinsley  
Clark, Alice Kinsley