

George T. Clark Collection



HISTORY *Colorado*

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Indexing Terms</u>	5
<u>Accession numbers</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7

Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
Title	George T. Clark Collection
Date	1859-1916
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Language	English
Collection [Box]	0.25
Abstract	George T. Clark (1837-1888) came to Colorado in 1860 and became one of the leading pioneers of Colorado. He was elected the third mayor of Denver in 1865-66, was the first cashier of the First National Bank of Denver and engaged in banking in Central City and Georgetown. This collection (1859-1916) includes archival material, including a Jefferson Territory proclamation, and photographs preserved by George T. Clark and his family. These items give a glimpse into the life of a prominent Colorado pioneering family.

Preferred Citation note

Cite as: George T. Clark Collection, Mss.00119, History Colorado. When appropriate cite individual items with accession numbers such as: Transcript, George T. Clark Collection, Mss.00119 (accession SHNH.9626), History Colorado.

Biographical note

George T. Clark was born in Douglas Worcester County, Massachusetts on February 24, 1837. Clark moved to Wisconsin in 1849 and in the spring of 1860 moved to Colorado. He served as a Denver agent of the Western Stage Company and Henschley and Company's Express until 1861. Although not related, he was connected with Clark Gruber and Company's Banking House and Mint. He was appointed Treasurer of the Territory of Colorado by Governor Gilpin and also served as Treasurer of Arapahoe County and the city of Denver in 1863. He became a partner in the banking house of Clark and Company and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1864. In 1865 he was elected the third Mayor of Denver and with Hon. Jerome B. Chaffee organized the First National Bank of Denver of which he was the first cashier until October 1, 1866.

Clark then took charge of the banking house of George T. Clark and Company at Central City and Georgetown. He was assistant Secretary of the Legislative Council of 1870 and was appointed Territorial Treasurer by Governor McCook and reappointed in 1872. He was delegate to every Republican Convention held in the Territory and was Secretary of the State Republican Central Committee in the campaign of 1876 and was chosen Secretary of the Senate on November 1, 1876.

Clark married Katherine M. Goss (1845-1929) on October 27, 1864. Katherine came to Colorado with her parents, Carver J. and Betsy Goss, in a covered wagon in 1859. The couple had two children, Fannie and Frank. George T. Clark died on November 6, 1888 from "nervous prostration and partial paralysis" at his home on South 15th Street in Denver.

Scope and Contents note

This small collection (1859-1916) contains archival material and photographs that mostly belonged to George T. Clark and his family. Items of particular note are: an original proclamation (1861) of Governor R. W. Steele of Jefferson Territory dissolving the Territory of Jefferson upon the arrival of Governor William Gilpin, the first Governor of the Territory of Colorado and a letter (1865) notifying Clark of his election to mayor of Denver.

Photographs of Katherine Goss Clark's father and brother are also included. One item included in the collection that was not preserved by the Clark family is a transcript of a portion of George T. Clark's diary.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers without restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection has mixed provenance. See accession numbers. Most of the collection was donated at different times (1929 and 1937) by Fannie Wigginton, Clark's daughter. The transcription of the diary was donated by Chalmers Hadley on April 19, 1916.

Processing Information note

Re-processed by Leigh Jeremias, April 2013.

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- Pioneer Club (Denver, Colo.).

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Correspondence.
- Invitations.
- Membership cards
- Photographs.
- Proclamations
- Transcripts.

Subjects - Places

- Colorado Territory (U.S.)
- Jefferson Territory (Colo.)

Occupation(s)

- Bankers--Colorado.
- Mayors--Colorado--Denver.

Subjects - People

- Brookfield, Emily Lorton, 1821-1914
- Clark, George T., 1837-1888
- Clark, Katherine M., 1843-1929
- Gilpin, William, 1813-1894
- Goss, Carver J., 1854-1895, Jr.
- Goss, Carver J., 1822-1882
- Hadley, Chalmers, 1872-1957
- Steele, Robert W., (Robert Williamson), 1820-1901
- Wigginton, Fannie, 1867-1944

Subjects - Topics

- Colorado--Politics and government.
- Overland journeys to the Pacific.

Accession numbers

SHNH.9626; OH.137; H.1182; H.1183; H.1184

Collection Inventory

FF 1 Transcript: George T. Clark's Diary (April 1860-July 1860). ca. 1913-1916 1.0 Item(s)

Accession number

SHNH.9626

FF 2 Proclamation: Robert W. Steele, Governor of the Territory of Jefferson June 6, 1861 1.0 Item(s)

Accession number

OH.137

FF 3 Invitation: Friends of Mr. Mrs George T. Clark November 3, 1864 1.0 Item(s)

Accession number

OH.137

FF 4 Correspondence: [James] Hall to George T. Clark April 5, 1865 1.0 Item(s)

FF 5 Membership Card: George T. Clark, Pioneer Club 1871-1872 1.0 Item(s)

Accession number

OH.137

FF 6 Photograph: Carver J. Goss 1859 1.0 Photograph

Accessin number

H.1182

FF 7 Photograph: Carver J. Goss, Jr. [ca. 1900-1910] 1.0 Photograph

Accession number

H.1183

FF 8 Photograph: Emily Lorton Brookfield (Auntie Annie A. Brookfield) [ca. 1905] 1.0 Photograph

Accession number

H.1184

Other number

scan number 10038346