Clark Blickensderfer photographs collection

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
August 16, 2016
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator - Photographer</td>
<td>Blickensderfer, Clark, 1882-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Clark Blickensderfer photographs collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>circa 1909-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>9.75 Linear feet (804 photographs and notes in 2 file cabinet drawers and 7 boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preferred Citation note**

Clark Blickensderfer photographs collection (Ph.00033), History Colorado, Denver, Colo.
Biographical note

Clark Blickensderfer, a self-taught pictorial photographer specializing in capturing the American West, was born in Denver, Colo. on September 17, 1882 to Dr. James Clark and Eva (White) Blickensderfer. Clark attended East High School in Denver and went on to study civil engineering at Columbia University in New York City. On June 8, 1910 he married Elizabeth Walker (b. circa 1889) and they had four children James Clark Blickensderfer (1912-1990), Richard Holmes Blickensderfer (1914-1977), Catharine Blickensderfer Yeager (1920-2006), and Elizabeth Blickensderfer Ashe (1924-1998). Blickensderfer took up photography circa 1910-1914 and frequently photographed in Rocky Mountain National Park and other regions around Colorado. In addition to landscape photography, he was passionate about ornithological photography as well. Blickensderfer was a charter member of the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC), and also served on the photographic committee. He frequently held photography lectures and tutorials at the club and held his very first exhibition at the 3rd annual CMC photography exhibit. A member of the Pictorial Photographers of America organization of New York, Blickensderfer exhibited many of his photographs in salons and galleries across the world. Blickensderfer remained active in photography until the time of his death in 1962.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains 804 glass plate negatives, autochromes, lantern slides, and prints made by self-taught photographer Clark Blickensderfer, circa 1910-1930. The images depict landscapes mostly in Colorado but also in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Washington, and Wyoming; buildings and cityscapes mostly in Denver, Colo., but also in California, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico; animals including various species of birds and mammals; flowers; and portraits of family, friends, and unidentified individuals. Many of the photographs were shot by Blickensderfer with a "soft focus" style of pictorialism photography. Also included in the collection is a set of 61 index card written by Blickensderfer circa 1909-1930 with notes and details describing of some of his photographs.

Arrangement note
This collection is arranged by photograph format and then by image number. Within each photo format, the images are listed by subject matter. Some photographs may be cross-listed if they have more than one subject.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Information**

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

**Copyright statement**

History Colorado holds copyright to the photographs in this collection.

**Conditions Governing Access note**

Glass plate negatives in this collection are stored offsite and require two weeks advance notice for access. Contact cosearch@state.co.us to arrange for access to the glass plate negatives in this collection.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Donated by Elizabeth Blickensderfer Ashe, James Clark Blickensderfer, and Catherine Blickensderfer Yeager in 1987.

**Processing Information note**

This collection was processed by Emily Moazami in January 2015.

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**Related Materials**

**Other archival collections**

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Arizona--Photographs
- California--Photographs
- Denver (Colo.)--Photographs
- Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Colo.)--Photographs
- New Mexico--Photographs
- Pennsylvania--Photographs
- Washington--Photographs

Personal Name(s)

- Ashe, Elizabeth Blickensderfer, 1924-1998 -- Photographs
- Blickensderfer, Clark, 1882-1962 -- Photographs
- Blickensderfer, Elizabeth Walker, b. circa 1889 -- Photographs
- Blickensderfer, James Clark, 1912-1990 -- Photographs
- Blickensderfer, Richard Holmes, 1914-1977 -- Photographs
- Yeager, Catharine Blickensderfer, 1920-2006 -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Birds--Colorado--Photographs
- Domestic life--Colorado--Photographs
- Flowers--Colorado--Photographs
- Indians of North America--New Mexico--Photographs
- Mesa Verde National Park (Colo.)--Photographs
- Rocky Mountain National Park (Colo.)--Photographs

General note
Collection Inventory

Series 1: Glass plate negatives, circa 1910-1928  6.0 Linear feet (554 glass plate negatives in 2 file cabinets)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains 554 glass plate negatives that were shot by Clark Blickensderfer, circa 1910-1928. The bulk of the material depicts landscapes shot throughout Colorado including Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; Estes Park; Garden of the Gods; Grand Lake; Balcony House, Spruce Tree House, and Square Tower House at Mesa Verde National Park; and Rocky Mountain National Park, among other sites. Other landscapes were shot in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, including depictions of Yellowstone National Park (Wyo.) and Yosemite National Park (Calif.). Among the landscape shots, there are also several celestial scenes that depict the moon, sun, and clouds. Blickensderfer also photographed buildings and cityscapes including scenes around Denver, Colo. such as the state Capitol building, churches, parks, post offices, residences (dwellings), schools, and industrial scenes of factories, among other topics. In addition to Denver, he also photographed buildings in Georgetown and Estes Park in Colo., as well as sites in Arizona, California, and Pennsylvania. Photographs of note include adobe buildings photographed at Native American San Ildefonso pueblo in New Mexico. There are numerous portraits in this series including photos probably depicting Blickensderfer's sons and daughters James Clark Blickensderfer (1912-1990), Richard Holmes Blickensderfer (1914-1977), Catharine Blickensderfer (1920-2006), Elizabeth Blickensderfer (1924-1998); his wife Elizabeth Walker Blickensderfer (b. circa 1889); a set of pictorialism style portraits of a child named Mary Edna (last name unknown) posing in Egyptian, Dutch, and ballet clothing; and images depicting Native Americans from the San Ildefonso Pueblo tribe and a performance of a Snake Dance in Taos, New Mexico. Finally, this series also contains a few photos of animals such as sheep and donkeys; birds such as owls and ptarmigans; and flowers including wildflowers in Colorado.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 1: Landscapes, undated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona - Grand Canyon: 87.558.340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona - Unidentified: 87.558.422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California - Point Loma: 87.558.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado - Adams County: 87.558.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado - Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park: 87.558.386, 87.558.444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado - Boulder Creek (Boulder County and Weld County): 87.558.385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado - Clear Creek County: 87.558.411, 87.558.433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Estes Park: 87.558.100, 87.558.419, 87.558.426, 87.558.442, 87.558.430, 87.558.454, 87.558.455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Golden: 87.558.508 - 87.558.510</td>
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## Landscapes,

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Catalog Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve</td>
<td>87.558.361, 87.558.363, 87.558.450 - 87.558.452</td>
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<td>Colorado - Larimer County</td>
<td>87.558.395</td>
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<td>Colorado - Lester Mountain</td>
<td>87.558.58, 87.558.59</td>
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<td>Colorado - Lookout Mountain (Jefferson County)</td>
<td>87.558.72, 87.558.195</td>
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<td>Colorado - Platte River</td>
<td>87.558.86 - 87.558.88</td>
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<td>Colorado - Red Rocks Park</td>
<td>87.558.89 - 87.558.91</td>
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<td>Colorado - Rocky Mountain National Park</td>
<td>87.558.18, 87.558.21, 87.558.64, 87.558.75, 87.558.111, 87.558.389, 87.558.395, 87.558.453</td>
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<td>Colorado - Saguache County</td>
<td>87.558.515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Torreys Peak</td>
<td>87.558.80 - 87.558.81, 87.558.83 - 87.558.85</td>
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</table>

**Related Archival Materials note**

For other photographs related to Native Americans and Indian antiquities see also Series 1: Cityscapes and buildings - New Mexico - San Ildefonso Pueblo and Series 1: People - Native Americans.
Clark Blickensderfer photographs collection

Landscapes,

Colorado - Youngs Peak: 87.558.151


New Mexico - White Sands National Monument: 87.558.383

Utah - Bryce Canyon National Park: 87.558.355 - 87.558.358

Utah - Zion National Park: 87.558.353 - 87.558.354, 87.558.818

Washington - Devils Gulch: 87.558.23

Washington - Mt. Olympus: 87.558.13 and 87.558.22


### Subseries 2: Cityscapes and buildings, undated

**Arizona and Nevada - Hoover Dam:** 87.558.129, 87.558.225 - 87.558.240

**Arizona - Mesa Grande:** 87.558.406

**California - Los Angeles - Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana:** 87.558.408

**California - San Francisco:** 87.558.360, 87.558.436

**California - San Juan Capistrano:** 87.558.374, 87.558.443

**Colorado - Colorado Springs:** 87.558.349

**Colorado - Denver - Banks:** 87.558.501

**Colorado - Denver - Capitols:** 87.558.73, 87.558.120, 87.558.132, 87.558.367, 87.558.377, 87.558.392, 87.558.410, 87.558.483 - 87.558.485, 87.558.488, 87.558.504, 87.558.593, 87.558.598

**Colorado - Denver - Churches:** 87.558.125, 87.558.345- 87.558.347, 87.558.486, 87.558.512, 87.558.580

**Colorado - Denver - Country clubs:** 87.558.403

**Colorado - Denver - Dwellings:** 87.558.348, 87.558.440, 87.558.514, 87.558.575, 87.558.588

**Colorado - Denver - Dwellings - 866 Grant Street (Blickensderfer's house):** 87.558.201
Cityscapes and buildings,


Colorado - Denver - Libraries: 87.558.487, 87.558.489


Colorado - Denver - Parks - Valverde Park: 87.558.584 - 87.558.586

Colorado - Denver - Parks - Unidentified: 87.558.576, 87.558.578, 87.558.601


Colorado - Denver - Schools - East High School: 87.558.128

Colorado - Denver - Schools - Cathedral High School: 87.558.199, 87.558.581 - 87.558.583, 87.558.597
Cityscapes and buildings,

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theaters: 87.558.477, 87.558.479, 87.558.602, 87.558.610</td>
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<td>Union Station: 87.558.366 [?], 87.558.475, 87.558.502, 87.558.502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Estes</td>
<td>Park - Dwellings - Blickensderfer's cabin: 87.558.196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado -</td>
<td>Georgetown: 87.558.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico -</td>
<td>San Ildefonso - Pueblo: 87.558.206, 87.558.209 - 87.558.224, 87.558.251</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Santa Fe: 87.558.376, 87.558.421</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taos: 87.558.417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania -</td>
<td>Pittsburgh: 87.558.198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Related Archival Materials note

For other photographs related to Native Americans and Indian antiquities see also Series 1: Landscapes - Colorado - Mesa Verde National Park and Series 1: People - Native Americans.
Subseries 3: People, undated

Related Archival Materials note

For other photographs of Blickensderfer's family, please also see Series 2- People.


Related Archival Materials note

For other photographs of Blickensderfer's family, please also see Series 2: People.

Clark Blickensderfer (1882-1962): 87.558.102

Elizabeth Walker Blickensderfer (b. circa 1889) [Blickensderfer's wife]: 87.558.324 - 87.558.325, 87.558.331


William Ervin [?]: 87.558.195, 87.558.506, 87.558.507, 87.558.595,

Mary Edna [unknown last name]: 87.558.26 - 87.558.53

Catholic nuns: 87.558.483
Fishermen: 87.558.87, 87.558.438, 87.558.589, 87.558.594


**Related Archival Materials note**

For other photographs related to Native Americans and Indian antiquities see also Series 1: Landscapes - Colorado - Mesa Verde National Park and Series 1: Cityscapes and buildings - New Mexico - San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Newspaper carriers: 87.558.350


**Subseries 4: Plants, undated**

Weeds: 87.558.72

Flowers: 87.558.74, 87.558.119, 87.558.819

**Subseries 5: Animals, undated**

Birds: 87.558.123, 87.558.150, 87.558.171, 87.558.428, 87.558.429
Mammals: 87.558.416, 87.558.421

**Series 2: Autochromes, circa 1910-1928  2.0 Linear feet (185 autochromes in 4 boxes)  Box 1-4**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains 185 autochromes shot by Clark Blickensderfer, circa 1910-1928. The images depict landscapes the bulk of which were shot in the Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park region in Colorado. Other photographs in this series include celestial photos depicting phases of the moon; buildings including the Stanley Hotel (Estes Park, Colo.) and the Cheesman Park pavilion (Denver, Colo.); portraits possibly depicting Blickensderfer's sons and daughters James Clark Blickensderfer (1912-1990), Richard Holmes Blickensderfer (1914-1977), Catharine Blickensderfer (1920-2006), and Elizabeth Blickensderfer (1924-1998), as well as unidentified individuals; flowers including Colorado wildflowers and still life photos of flower bouquets; and animals including birds.

**Subseries 1: Landscapes, undated**


Celestial - Moon: 87.558.699 - 87.558.700

**Subseries 2: Cityscapes and buildings, undated**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Item Number(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado - Denver - Cheesman Park</td>
<td>87.558.665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Denver - Dwellings</td>
<td>87.558.668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Estes Park</td>
<td>87.558.628 [?]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Estes Park - Dwellings</td>
<td>87.558.704, 87.558.707</td>
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<td>Colorado - Estes Park - Hotels</td>
<td>87.558.743, 87.558.781, 87.558.784, 87.558.791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unidentified - Dwellings - Interiors</td>
<td>87.558.673 - 87.558.674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subseries 3: People, undated**

**Related Archival Materials note**

For other photographs of Blickensderfer's family, please also see Series 1- People.

- Catharine Blickensderfer (1920-2006) and Elizabeth Blickensderfer (1924-1998) [Blickensderfer's daughters]: 87.558.739, 87.558.755 - 87.558.756
- James Clark Blickensderfer (1912-1990) and Richard Holmes Blickensderfer (1914-1977) [Blickensderfer's sons]: 87.558.675 - 87.558.676, 87.558.687 - 87.558.688, 87.558.795
- Unidentified: 87.558.626, 87.558.713
Subseries 4: Flowers, undated


Subseries 5: Animals, undated

Birds: 87.558.658, 87.558.694 - 87.558.696, 87.558.717

Mammals: 87.558.686, 87.558.715

Series 3: Lantern slides, circa 1910-1930 0.5 Linear feet (62 lantern slides in 1 box)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains 60 glass lantern slides and 2 glass plate positive images photographed by Clark Blickensderfer, circa 1910-1930. The bulk of the slides depict landscapes around Colorado including many shot in the Rocky Mountain National Park region. Other lantern slides depict unidentified people including a fisherman and a woman in a horse drawn carriage; scenes around Denver, Colo. including St. Patrick's Mission Church and unidentified factories; and birds.
### Subseries 1: Landscapes, undated


### Subseries 2: People, undated

Fishermen: 87.558.526

Unidentified: 87.558.520, 87.558.615

### Subseries 3: Buildings and cityscapes, undated

Denver - Churches- St. Patrick's Mission Church: 87.558.572

Denver - Industry: 87.558.527

### Subseries 4: Animals, undated

Birds: 87.558.149

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**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains 3 fine art photographs shot by Clark Blickensderfer, circa 1925-1930. Two of the photographs depict a ptarmigan bird and the other depicts sand dunes at White Box 6.
Notes,

Sands National Monument in New Mexico. Also included in this series is a cardboard mount with a label that reads, "Exhibited at the Camera Club New York during May 1927."

Landscapes - New Mexico - White Sands National Monument: 87.558.815 circa 1925-1930

Animals - Birds: 87.558.816 - 87.558.817 circa 1925-1930

Series 5: Notes, circa 1909-1930  0.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents note

This series contains a set of 61 index cards written by Blickensderfer with notes and details describing some of his photographs. Many of the notes are labels or categories, which Blickensderfer may have used as subject place markers in the storage of his images. Other notes describe specific locations, subjects, Blickensderfer's image numbers, and his ratings of the photographs (good, very good, excellent, etc.). History Colorado photograph numbers were added to the right hand side of the index cards when they could be matched to specific photographs. On the back of 6 cards is a record of accounts presumably written by Blickensderfer to record contract house work he may have performed for various clients. The notes include client names, dates of work performed, and the type of work completed such as cleaning and painting walls. The work performed ranges in date from 1909-1914.