

**Finding Aid:**

**Title:** Robert Clark Collection- "West Virginia State Department of Education & West Virginia Organization of Higher Education Papers 1901-1950"

**Description:** This collection was given to the Glenville State College Archives by Clark's niece, Barbara C. Simmons. There is a deed of gift included with the collection. These materials reflect Clark's time as an educator in West Virginia. It includes materials produced for the training of teachers in West Virginia, speeches and essays written and presented by Robert Clark to groups, essays on the West Virginia education system, correspondences, progress and committee reports, lecture notes, outlines, and a measuring scale for spelling ability.

**Source:** Clark, Robert, (1885-1972), Educator.

**No. of Boxes:** 1 box, 4.8 in. (.4 linear feet.)

**A & M Box#** GSC20100706

**Inclusive Dates:** 1901-1950

**Bulk Dates:** 1920-1945

**Donor:** Donated by Barbara C. Simmons (Niece of Robert Clark) on 6/25/10

**Index Names:** Robert Clark, H. Y. Clark, Humboldt Yokum Clark, George H. Colebank, Jasper Newton Deahl, F. W. Stemple

**Index Terms:** West Virginia University, Marshall College, Raleigh County Schools, Fairmont High School, Mannington Elementary School, Mannington High School, Grafton High School, University High School, Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, West Virginia State Board of Education, West Virginia State Education Association

**Biographical Note:** Clark, Robert, (1885-1972), educator

Robert Clark was born on September 26, 1885 in Hemlock, Upshur County, WV. The first school which Robert taught at was a one-room Parting Springs School in the Middle Fork District of Randolph County in 1904, when he was 19 years old. At this small school, which was 3 miles from the family farm, Robert taught his younger brother, Humboldt Yokum Clark, which was only 4 years younger than he.

Between 1905 and 1908, Robert attended the West Virginia Wesleyan Academy and passed his high school and college preparatory courses. From 1908 to 1912, Robert pursued his B. S. degree and obtained it from the West Virginia Wesleyan College. During his time at Wesleyan, he excelled in Chemistry, Math, and Grammar. He also participated in other extracurricular activities, which included the student newspaper, *The Pharos*. During his senior year, he was editor-in-chief of the paper. Robert later obtained his Masters Degree from the George Peabody College of Nashville, TN.

He went on to marry Myrtle Bond and had three children, Roberta in 1919, Richard in 1920, and Jo Anne in 1926. Robert, as well as his brother Humboldt, became very successful in the education field in West Virginia. Robert was responsible for many of the standards that came about because of the growth associated with the public school

system as his time as an administrator. By 1925, Robert had become the State Supervisor of Teacher Training. He would later hold positions as the President of the West Virginia State Education Association and also became the Assistant Superintendent of Monongalia County Schools.

Robert strove to find a rational medium ground in the highly debated “subject matter centered” and “child centered” teaching methods that were being explored in his time. He also held much importance in Parent/Teacher Associations, adequate transportation to and from schools, and the financial obligations of the state in regards to individual county’s needs. Robert spent his career attempting to improve West Virginia’s education system and was very instrumental in its early beginnings. He passed away on April 7, 1972.

**Scope and Content:**

Clark, Robert, (1885-1972), Educator. This collection contains 1 box with 6 linear inches of papers and booklets. This collection includes Robert Clark’s personal notes, speeches, philosophy, and reports. Material types include handwritten notes, miscellaneous programs, a spelling scale, and typewritten papers.

**Restrictions:** NONE

**Organization and Arrangement:**

All metal objects were removed. Documents were placed in protective covers. The processing archives staff worker, Jason Gum, could not find any legible original order so the collection was organized as stated below.

**Folder titles:**

**File Folder 1:** West Virginia Education Materials, Policies, Booklets, and Programs  
1911-1928

- Test Service Bulletin No. 77
- Manual of the Board of Education and Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Public Schools of Morgantown, West Virginia, Adopted April 18, 1911
- West Virginia University Handbook for Students Preparing to Teach 1929-1930
- A Declaration of Policy by The State Board of Education of West Virginia, Approved January 6, 1927.
- Senate Bill No. 278
- West Virginia State Education Association Official Program of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Meeting in Clarksburg, W. VA., November 13-14-15, 1930

- W. V. Teacher Training Bulletin No. 5, 1925. Teacher Training In West Virginia
- W. V. Teacher Training Bulletin No. 4, 1926. Teachers' Examination Hand Book
- W. V. Teacher Training Bulletin No. 8, 1928. Training and Certification of Teachers for Junior and Senior High Schools in West Virginia

**File Folder 2:** Speeches and Presentations by Robert Clark 1922-1953

- Some Important Qualifications of Training Teachers. 1922
- Address Delivered at the American Legion Convention in Charleston. 1937
- Annual West Virginia State Educational Association. 1937
- School Finances. 1940
- The Challenge of Work. I am an American Day Program. 1943
- Diagramming. 1953
- Mr. Deahl- Mr. Education. Undated
- Statement of Purpose. Undated
- West Virginia Public School System at the Cross Roads. Undated
- Local Committee Sets Up Arthurdale School Plan
- Consolidated and Village Schools as Avenues for Redirecting Learning Programs in Rural Areas. Undated
- Teaching English in the Public Schools. Undated

**File Folder 3:** Essays Written by Robert Clark

- Examinations and Subject Matter.
- The Parent Teacher Association from the Standpoint of the School Administrator.
- A Harmful Educational Controversy
- Statement Pertaining to Changes and Adoptions in Elementary Text Books for Monogalia County for the School Year 1937-1938.
- A Philosophy of Education
- Why Practice Teaching

**File Folder 4:** Robert Clark Correspondences 1937-1950

- A Message From the President of the West Virginia State Education Association, September 1937.
- Notes to Newspapers Reporters Concerning Absenteeism of Teachers in Public Schools, February 19, 1946
- To Principals and Teachers of Monongalia County, March 27, 1946
- Letter to the editor of the Morgantown Post, December 8, 1950

**File Folder 5:** Progress and Committee Reports

- Progress Report on Co-Operation with the State Chamber of Commerce to Solve Major Problems of the West Virginia Public Schools, July 1954
- Committee Report on the Administrative Organization of Higher Education in West Virginia

**File Folder 6:** Lecture Notes and Outlines from Lectures Attended by Robert Clark

- Class Notes and Impressions- A Series of Lectures on Spelling, 1930
- How Can West Virginia Best Serve the Public Schools, 1948
- The Meaning of Philosophy, Undated

**File Folder 7:** West Virginia Education Essays by Others

- Teacher Training in West Virginia, Prepared by Students in a History of Education Course
- About Me and My Public School Career in West Virginia by George H. Colebank

**File Folder 8:** Measuring Scale for Spelling Ability, Aprox. 1922

**File Folder 9:** Pre-Processing Inventory of Donation by Barbara "Clark" Simmons

**FINDING AID INFORMATION:** Created by Jason Gum 7/06/10 Modified: None

**RELATED COLLECTION(S):**

[Humboldt Yocum Clark Collection- "Educator H.Y. Clark Materials \(1889-1985\)"](#)  
[A&M Box# GSC20090205](#)

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