

**Clement Family Papers**  
**1798-1968**  
**Doc 187-194**

**Introduction**

The Clement Family Papers are letters of the Charles and Elizabeth (Wood) Clement family of Rutland, Vermont, 1798-1968. The collection was maintained by John P. Clement (1893-1968) and was donated to the Vermont Historical Society by his sister, Mrs. Sallie Pease, in 1971. They were great-grandchildren of Charles and Elizabeth Clement. The collection is housed in eight records storage cartons and occupies 8 linear feet of shelf space.

The papers were originally organized and indexed for the Vermont Historical Society by Loriman S. Brigham and Edward A. Hoyt. They were rehoused and this summary guide written in 1996 as part of a grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The original index is appended to this guide and should be referred to for a detailed description of the contents of the collection.

**Biographical Sketch**

The Clements were a prominent family in business and politics in Rutland, Vermont. Charles Clement had an early interest in the marble quarries, operating Clement and Sons with his two oldest sons, Wallace and Percival. He was also part owner of the Rutland Railroad and the Clement National Bank. Wallace continued his father's businesses after his death in 1893, and Percival carried on the family interest in railroads, while publishing the *Rutland Herald*. He also became active in politics and was elected governor in 1918.

Charles Clement was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, May 1, 1807. He married Elizabeth Wood (1807-1904) in Sherburne, Vermont, in 1831. They had eight children: Wallace Charles (1835-1921); Frederic Percival (1838-1841); Anna Elizabeth (1840-1876); Melville Wood (1842-1843); Herbert Rogers (January, 1844- June 1844); Percival Wood (1846-1927); Fayette Rogers (1849-1850); Waldo Park (b. 1851). Charles Clement died in New York City, November 24, 1893.

Charles' children:

Wallace Charles Clement (1835-1921) married Sarah Salome Fish (1832-1906) in 1858. They had five children: Florence Anna (1860-1870); Charles Fish (b. 1862); Frederic Percival (b. 1864); Charlotte Howard (1864-1923); Henry Wood (1866-1958).

Anna Elizabeth Clement (1840-1876) married Edson Ptolemy Gilson in 1865 and they no children.

Percival Wood Clement (1846-1927) married Maria Hinman Goodwin (1847-1917) in 1868. They had ten children: Edith (August 14-August 28, 1870); Edward Brewer (1871-1872); Elizabeth Wood (1874-1954); unnamed son (October 27-30, 1875); Caroline Hinman (b. 1876), married Horace Spalding Brown; Ethel Scovil (b. 1879), married William Henry Field and had three children; Margaret Goodwin (1880-1975), married William Wilfred Rhodes and had one child; Anna Elizabeth (b. 1885), married John Appleton Knowles and had three children before divorcing in 1919, Anna remarried Wyllys Edmund Dowd and had two children; Robert (b. 1886), married Philippa Queen; stillborn daughter (1888).

Waldo Park Clement (b. 1851) married Hannah Allen Thomas (1852-1917). They had five children: Mary Charlotte (b. 1878), married Richard Conover; Allen Thomas (b. 1881); unnamed son (July 3-6, 1882); Waldo Park (b. 1886); Catherine Woodbury (b. 1894), married Francis Bangs.

#### Wallace's children

Charles Fish (b. 1862) married Helen Baum Finletter and had three children: Charles (1889-1978), married Helen Driver; Thomas Finletter (1890-1973), married Ethel Riegel White; William Baum (1892-1893).

Frederic Percival (b. 1864), married Maud Morrison, and had three children: Maud Morrison (1893-1978), married Scott Howe Bowen; Frederic Percival (1895-1918); Roger Conant (b. 1896).

Henry Wood Clement (1866-1958) married Agnes Josephine O'Neill (d. 1952), and had three children: John Pixley (1893-1968); Sarah Charlotte (1897-1983) married Alfred Morgan Pease; Hugh O'Neill (1899-1975).

#### **Scope and Content**

The Clement Family Papers are primarily letters of the family of Charles and Elizabeth Wood Clement. In addition to immediate family and direct descendants, the collection includes papers of Elizabeth Wood's family, and the Pixley family (one of whom married Charles and Elizabeth's grandson in 1892).

The majority of the letters in the collection are between family members whose roots are in Sherburne and Rutland, Vermont, but who lived in various parts of the country including Tacoma, Washington; Reno City, Oklahoma; Illinois; California; Florida; and New York. The letters tell of births, marriages, sickness, and death. They describe occupations, business deals, new homes and climates, education, and travel. The letters not only set forth information but are clearly part of an ongoing communication where questions are asked, plans are coordinated, and opinions solicited and expressed.

The earliest papers in the collection concern Elizabeth Wood's family including some financial papers of her father, Josiah Wood, and correspondence of her brother Park, who traveled west to teach and practice law and died in 1832.

The collection then focuses on Elizabeth Wood and Charles Clement who after their marriage in 1831 moved west to Evansville, Illinois, where Charles tried to set up a business. Some members of the Wood family also moved to Illinois and there are several deeds for land in Tazewell County, Illinois. Charles and Elizabeth returned to the east coast in 1839. Charles became involved in the Rutland marble business in 1851 forming the firm of Clement and Son which eventually included two of his sons, Wallace and Percy. He also founded the Clement bank in 1883; it too became a family concern. The marble business is discussed in the letters Wallace wrote while in the west in 1857 trying to sell marble for his father, and in 1870 while trying to make inroads in the marble market in the southern United States. Charles also had an interest in the railroad business and became part owner of the Rutland Railroad in 1882; there are some papers on that railroad and railroads in general in this collection.

Elizabeth raised four children (four others died in their youth) and maintained correspondence with them as they traveled off to school and eventually moved away to pursue careers and raise their own families. Elizabeth's five sisters: Nancy French (1804-1871), Sophronia Goodwin (1806-1897), Salome Fish (1812-1892), Harriet Barrett (1814-1896), and Mary Johnson (1817-1879), and her brothers, Cephas (1810-1881), and Park (d. 1832), are all represented in this collection as are many of their children. Salome and Thomas Fish had five children: Sarah Clement (b. 1832), Harriet (Hattie) Condit (1848-1884), Henry (1845-1898), Edwin (1834-1877), and Mary Dimmitt (1837-1882), and they too are correspondents in this collection. In the 1860's Edwin Fish was in the dry goods business with Wallace Clement, and Wallace wrote of his connection with Edwin in letters home. When Edwin became involved with a gristmill business he wrote frequently to the Clements. In later years (1880s) there is correspondence with Salome's daughter Hattie, and her children, Percy and Harry Condit. There are letters from brother Cephas in California where he ventured in 1849, and from his daughter Mollie Kellogg, who wrote in 1881 about finances and her interests in mines in the western states. Cephas' second wife, Katherine, also wrote and in 1896 was at the Guyer Home in Peoria, Illinois. Harriet Barrett occasionally wrote about her life in Illinois and then in Reno City, Oklahoma; and her daughter, Helen Hickox, also wrote to her aunt Elizabeth from Reno City after her mother's death. There are scattered letters from Mary Jones, Sophronia's daughter, who in the 1890's was in Dundee, Illinois, then moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Other Wood descendants that appear in the letters are Hattie French, Charles Woolhaver, and Henry Goodwin.

Of Elizabeth and Charles' four children who lived to adulthood, Wallace was the most prolific correspondent. He moved back to Illinois and married his cousin Sarah Fish in 1858. He corresponded with his parents and his younger brothers encouraging their education, seeking his father's business advice, and describing Illinois politics.

Wallace and Sarah had five children, Florence, Charles, Frederic, Charlotte, and Henry (Harry). Florence died in 1870 at age ten and the collection includes letters of sympathy. When the other children were old enough to leave home or attend school Sarah, like her mother-in-law, became a faithful correspondent with each while also maintaining contact with her siblings, and nieces and nephews. She was also interested in genealogy and helped found the Vermont chapter of the Colonial Dames in 1897; there are letters about family history and the Colonial Dames.

Sarah and Wallace's eldest son Charles, married Helen Finletter in 1888 and the year or two preceding their marriage there was much anxiety expressed in the letters to each other that they did not have enough money to marry. References to Charles and letters from him indicate that he designed cars and trucks. Frederic married Maud Morrison in 1891 and was involved in several businesses, and lived in the area of Harrisville and Watertown, New York, from 1902 until at least 1911. Frederic's twin, Charlotte, married Thomas Ripley in 1891 and they moved to Tacoma, Washington, where Thomas worked for a lumber company. Charlotte's letters describe Washington, her travels, and her children. The youngest child, Harry, married Agnes O'Neill in 1892. He too tried many different businesses including selling coal. In 1911 he was in New York City at the Technology Club working on a calculating machine with Graber and in 1912 he moved back to Rutland where Graber Calculating Machine Company opened a factory.

Agnes O'Neill was the daughter of Josephine Pixley and Jefferson O'Neill, and this collection includes papers of her Pixley ancestors. They begin with Edwin and Warren Pixley in Saratoga and Hillsdale, New York, in 1835, but focus primarily on correspondence between John W. Pixley of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and his niece Josephine Pixley (Agnes' mother) in Hillsdale, New York. John's letters offered money to send Josephine to school in 1856 and continued through her education at Poultney, Vermont; Amenia, New York; and back to Poultney where she enrolled in the Ripley Female College. John continued to support Josephine with money for tuition and social activities. In 1865 Josephine wrote of the possibility of marriage to a doctor from Montana, and by early 1866 her letters are addressed to Josephine O'Neill. Her uncle consistently offered money to buy land and build a house. He also wrote to Dr. O'Neill in 1871 offering him money for professional training and for recuperation from an unidentified health problem. John's letters continued until his death in 1874 after which time the bulk of the Pixley papers concern Josephine's involvement in the settlement of his estate. There is correspondence with Edgar French in Milwaukee who handled the estate and there was much disagreement. In 1879 the disagreement and dissatisfaction between O'Neill and French became so bad that French resigned. Josephine's correspondence indicates that she hired John W. Dorr (possibly a nephew) to take over from French and there are accounts and letters concerning errors in French's work. In the 1880's letters continued between Dorr and Josephine and Dorr described a fist fight he had with Edgar French and a possible lawsuit. By 1887 it is apparent that the Clement boys, Harry and Fred, had met Josephine's daughter Agnes and in 1888 Harry wrote that he was boarding with Mrs. O'Neill while attending school.

The last sixty years of the collection focus on John Pixley Clement, Harry and Agnes' son. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, 1909-1911, and Yale, and while at school he wrote home regularly reporting on classes, grades, and school activities. After finishing his undergraduate work at Yale in 1915 he started at the Yale Law School. In 1915 he enlisted in the Army and his letters through September 1916 tell about military affairs and his service at Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. In 1918 he was sent abroad and wrote home with descriptions of England and France where he stayed until 1919. John kept in close contact with his family and there is correspondence with his sister Sallie, and brother Hugh as well as some of his cousins, many of whom attended east coast colleges, and who served during World War I as soldiers or nurses. John returned to the United States in 1919 and by 1921 was living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, running a bookshop. He corresponded with John Pell of Ticonderoga, New York, and Vrest Orton of Weston, Vermont. There is mention in his letters of writing he was doing for the *Rutland Herald*, and he corresponded with writers Harrison Parker, and Carlos and Mary Drake. John's letters also include references to his work at the Vermont Historical Society where he had several roles, including head of the publications committee, acting director (1944-46) and president (1959-65).

At the end of the collection there is a series of miscellaneous papers including some undated papers of Park Wood, and Elizabeth Clement's journal, 1877-1900, recounting her family history and with periodic entries on her birthday. There are business papers of Wallace Clement and household bills for their Rutland home in 1913 and 1915. There are also letters of Anne Veazey of Rutland, ca. 1881-1887. Her father, Wheelock Veazey, was a lawyer in Rutland and was most likely a colleague of Charles, Wallace, and Percy, and Anne was acquainted with the Clement children, but it is not clear why the papers are a part of this collection. The correspondence is between Anne and her family and friends while she was attending school in Nashua, New Hampshire, in 1882, and then when she was living in Montreal and Brooklyn.

The miscellaneous series ends with several folders of photographs, and notes on the genealogy of the Clement, Fish, Wood, Woodbury, and O'Neill families.

## **Organization**

The collection is divided into two series, I. Correspondence, and II. Miscellaneous. The correspondence is arranged chronologically.

## **Related Collections**

Collections related to the Clement family include the John P. Clement Papers, Doc 152; the Colonial Dames Collection, Doc 186 (Sarah Clement helped found the Colonial Dames and this collection includes her records); and the Percival Clement Papers, MSA 8. See also the Vermont Marble Company Treasurer's Records for correspondence and business papers concerning Clement and Sons. Additional papers of

Wheelock Veazey can be found in the John P. Clement Papers mentioned above, and in the Wheelock Veazey Papers (Doc 99).

## Inventory

### I. Correspondence

Doc 187:1	1790s
2	1800-1809
3	1810-1819
4	1820-1829
5	1830-1832
6	1833-1837
7	1838-1839
8	1840-1841
9	1842-1849
10	1850-1855
11	1856-1859
12	1860
13	1861
14	1862
15	1863
16	1864
17	1865
18	1866
19	1867
20	1868
21	1869
22	1870 January-June
23	_____, July-December
24	1871
25	1872
26	1873 January-June
27	_____, July-December
28	1874 January-June
29	_____, July-December
30	1875
31	1876 January-February
32	_____, March-July
33	_____, August-December
34	1877 January-February
35	_____, March-May
36	_____, June-September
37	_____, October-December
38	1878 January-March
39	_____, April-June

- 40 \_\_\_\_\_, July-December  
Doc 188:1 1879 January-February  
2 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
3 \_\_\_\_\_, May-August  
4 \_\_\_\_\_, September-December  
5 1880 January  
6 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
7 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May  
8 \_\_\_\_\_, June-August  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, September-December  
10 1881 January-February  
11 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May  
12 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
13 \_\_\_\_\_, July-October  
14 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
15 1882 January-February  
16 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May  
17 \_\_\_\_\_, June-December  
18 1883 January-March  
19 \_\_\_\_\_, April-August  
20 \_\_\_\_\_, September-December  
21 1884 January-March  
22 \_\_\_\_\_, April-August  
23 \_\_\_\_\_, October-December  
24 1885 January-May  
25 \_\_\_\_\_, June-December  
26 1886 January-February  
27 \_\_\_\_\_, March-June  
28 \_\_\_\_\_, July-August  
29 \_\_\_\_\_, September-October  
30 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
31 1887 January-March  
32 \_\_\_\_\_, April-June  
33 \_\_\_\_\_, July-August  
34 \_\_\_\_\_, September  
35 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
36 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
37 1888 January  
38 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
39 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
Doc 189:1 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
2 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
3 \_\_\_\_\_, July  
4 \_\_\_\_\_, August 1-10  
5 \_\_\_\_\_, August 11-30

- 6 \_\_\_\_\_, September 1-15
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, September 16-30
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_, October
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December
- 10 1889 January-February
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_, May-June
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_, July-September
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_, October-December
- 15 1890 January-February
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_, June-August
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_, September-December
- 19 1891 January
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, February
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, March
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_, April
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, May
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_, June-July
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_, August
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_, September-November
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_, December
- 28 1892 January 1-10
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_, January 11-30
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_, February
- Doc 190:1 \_\_\_\_\_, March
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_, April
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_, May
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, June
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, July
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_, August 1-19
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, August 20-30
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_, September
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_, October
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_, November
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_, December 1-15
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_, December 16-31
- 13 1893 January-February
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_, March
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_, April
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_, May-June
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_, July
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_, August
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_, September-October
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, November



- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
22 1894 January  
23 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
24 \_\_\_\_\_, March 1-10  
25 \_\_\_\_\_, March 11-30  
26 \_\_\_\_\_, April  
27 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
28 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
29 \_\_\_\_\_, July  
30 \_\_\_\_\_, August  
31 \_\_\_\_\_, September-October  
32 \_\_\_\_\_, November  
33 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
34 1895 January-February  
35 \_\_\_\_\_, March  
36 \_\_\_\_\_, April  
37 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
38 \_\_\_\_\_, June-July  
39 \_\_\_\_\_, August-September  
40 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
41 \_\_\_\_\_, November  
42 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
43 1896 January 1-15  
Doc 191:1 \_\_\_\_\_, January 16-31  
2 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
3 \_\_\_\_\_, March  
4 \_\_\_\_\_, April  
5 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
6 \_\_\_\_\_, June-July  
7 \_\_\_\_\_, August  
8 \_\_\_\_\_, September  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
10 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
11 1897 January-February  
12 \_\_\_\_\_, March  
13 \_\_\_\_\_, April  
14 \_\_\_\_\_, May-December  
15 1898  
16 1899  
17 1900  
18 1901  
19 1902 January-February  
20 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
21 \_\_\_\_\_, May-August  
22 \_\_\_\_\_, September-November

- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
24 1903 January 1-14  
25 \_\_\_\_\_, January 15-31  
26 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
27 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
28 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
29 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
30 \_\_\_\_\_, July  
31 \_\_\_\_\_, August  
32 \_\_\_\_\_, September  
33 \_\_\_\_\_, October-November  
34 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
35 1904 January-February  
36 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
37 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
38 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
39 \_\_\_\_\_, July-August  
Doc 192:1 \_\_\_\_\_, September-October  
2 \_\_\_\_\_, November  
3 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
4 1905 January-February  
5 \_\_\_\_\_, March-July  
6 \_\_\_\_\_, August-December  
7 1906 January-July  
8 \_\_\_\_\_, August-December  
9 1907  
10 1908  
11 1909  
12 1910 January-February  
13 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
14 \_\_\_\_\_, May  
15 \_\_\_\_\_, June  
16 \_\_\_\_\_, July-October  
17 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
18 1911 January-February  
19 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
20 \_\_\_\_\_, May-June  
21 \_\_\_\_\_, July-September  
22 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
23 \_\_\_\_\_, November  
24 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
25 1912 January  
26 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
27 \_\_\_\_\_, March  
28 \_\_\_\_\_, April-June

- 29 \_\_\_\_\_, July-December  
30 1913 January  
31 \_\_\_\_\_, February-March  
32 \_\_\_\_\_, April-May  
33 \_\_\_\_\_, June-December  
34 1914 January-March  
35 \_\_\_\_\_, April-May  
36 \_\_\_\_\_, June-September  
37 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
38 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
39 1915 January  
40 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
41 \_\_\_\_\_, March  
42 \_\_\_\_\_, April  
43 \_\_\_\_\_, May-June  
44 \_\_\_\_\_, July-September  
45 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
46 \_\_\_\_\_, November  
47 \_\_\_\_\_, December  
48 1916 January-February  
49 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May  
50 \_\_\_\_\_, June-July  
Doc 193:1 \_\_\_\_\_, August-September  
2 \_\_\_\_\_, October  
3 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
4 1917 January  
5 \_\_\_\_\_, February  
6 \_\_\_\_\_, March-April  
7 \_\_\_\_\_, May-June  
8 \_\_\_\_\_, July-December  
9 1918 January-February  
10 \_\_\_\_\_, March-May  
11 \_\_\_\_\_, June-July  
12 \_\_\_\_\_, August  
13 \_\_\_\_\_, September-October  
14 \_\_\_\_\_, November-December  
15 1919 January  
16 \_\_\_\_\_, February-March  
17 \_\_\_\_\_, April-May  
18 \_\_\_\_\_, June-December  
19 1920  
20 1921-1922  
21 1923-1924  
22 1925-1931  
23 1932-1934

- 24 1935
- 25a 1936-1946
- 25b 1936, Correspondence with Elin L. Anderson
- 26 1947-1968
- 27 n.d.

## II. Miscellaneous

- 28 Wood, Park, papers, n.d.
- 29 Clement, Elizabeth, journal, ca. 1877-1900
- 30 Clement, Wallace, household bills, 1913
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1915
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_, business papers, 1882-1913
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1884-1921
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_, checks on Clement National Bank, 1888-1909
- 35 Goodwin, [Frederick Abbott], journal of Clement family trip to Mexico, ca. 1902
- 36 Clement, Hugh, Phillips Exeter Academy certificates, ca. 1917
- 37 Clement, Sallie, drawings and needlework, n.d.
- Doc 194:1 Fish, Salome W., poetry
- 2 Veazey, Anne, correspondence, ca. 1881-1883 February
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_, 1883 March-October
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, November-December
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, 1884-1887
- 6 Essays, poems, etc.
- 7 Invitations, calling cards
- 8 Maps, floor plans
- 9 Music
- 10 Printed
- 11 Miscellaneous
- 12 Photographs
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Genealogy
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, Fish family
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, Wood and Woodbury
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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