

Clement Family photographs

Collection ID: DN152

Accession #: 2021.20

Finding Aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige



INSTITUTE *of*
Museum *and* **Library**
SERVICES

Summary Information

Repository	Chester County History Center
Creator	Clement, Robert, 1923-1993
Title	Clement Family photographs
Date [bulk]	circa 1923-before 1950, undated
Date [inclusive]	circa 1923-2006, undated
Extent	1.6 linear feet
Location note	Chester County History Center Photo Archives
Language	eng
Language of Materials note	eng
Abstract	The Clement Family photographs mostly date from circa 1923-before 1950 and measure 1.6 linear feet. The photographs include photos of Cecelia, Joseph, and Robert Clement and family, the Clement Family home, Pine Creek Mills, Joseph Clement's artwork, and unidentified miscellanea.

Preferred Citation note

[Identification of item], Clement Family photographs, DN152, Chester County History Center Photo Archives, West Chester, PA.

Historical Note

Joseph Massey Clement was born in 1894 in England and moved to America at age 10. He died in 1950 in Chester Springs, PA. Clement was an illustrator for publications including Cosmopolitan Magazine, the Saturday Evening Post, Liberty, Collier's, Red Book, This Week, and the New York Herald Tribune.

Clement's only introduction to art was at the School of Industrial Arts (now the University of the Arts in Philadelphia) from around 1916 to 1921, which is where he met his wife, Cecelia. During this time, Clement also served in the army from 1917-1918, during World War I.

In 1938 or 1939, Clement gave up illustration to become the supervisor of the Works Progress Administration Model-Making Unit in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Clement's models were exhibited at the Franklin Institute in 1942.

Cecelia Clement was born around 1891 to Francis J. McKnight and Henrietta Waltman McKnight. As noted above, she attended the School of Industrial Arts, but little is known about her subsequent career or if she even had one. She died in 1988.

Joseph and Cecelia's son, Robert Clement, was born on May 30, 1923 in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Downingtown High School in 1940 and attended Drexel University to study electrical engineering before serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Clement retired from the education television and theatrical services department of West Chester University in 1986 after 20 years of employment. During that time, he also recorded the soundtrack for the movie, *The Blob*, was a projectionist at the Coatesville Drive-In Theatre, founded Conestoga Electronics, worked for Keene Radio in Phoenixville, and managed West Chester's Warner Theater for two years until its closing in 1984.

Robert Clement was married to Jane Evans Clement.

In 1926, Joseph M. Clement purchased Pine Creek Mills in Chester Springs, PA (also referred to as Clinger-Moses Mill and Clement's Mill). The mill was first constructed in 1795 and was burned and rebuilt from 1860-1865. John Clinger was the owner of the land in the 1700s and constructed the original grist mill. It was then owned by Peter Evans in the mid-19th century, and was sold to Antrim and Joseph Morgan in 1850, who then lost the property to creditor, John Moses. The mill remained with the Moses family until it was sold to Joseph Clement in 1926. The main house on the mill complex burned down in 1929 and was subsequently rebuilt.

Robert Clement converted a barn on the mill property into a motion picture theater and donated the original wooden mill to the Smithsonian Institute.

Sources:

Miller, Jim. "Clinger-Moses Mill/Clement's Mill," MillPictures.com, 2021. Accessed December 7, 2021: <https://millpictures.com/mills.php?millid=1260>

Scope and Contents note

The Clement Family photographs mostly date from circa 1924-before 1950 and measure 1.6 linear feet. The photographs include photos of Cecelia, Joseph, and Robert Clement and family, the Clement Family home, Pine Creek Mills, Joseph Clement's artwork, and unidentified miscellanea.

The collection is largely arranged by original order. Though it is unclear if this original order was created by a member of the Clement family, the material naturally falls into the following categories: the Clement family, Pine Creek Mills, Joseph Clement's artwork, and miscellanea.

Photographs of the Clement family date from 1923 through 1992 and include portraits and candid shots of Joseph, Cecelia, and Robert Clement in addition to unidentified family members. The photographs of unidentified family members appear to have been taken in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The photographs of the Clement Family home, Pine Creek Mills, date from 1926-2006 and include shots of the interior and exterior of the home, the property, renovations, and floods.

The photographs of Joseph Clement's artwork were likely taken before Clement's death in 1950 (some sources list his death year as 1956). These photographs include published final works in addition to sketches and personal artworks.

The miscellanea dates from 1940 to 1990, with a significant amount of undated material. The miscellaneous subjects include photos of the Warner Theater in West Chester and the Historic Scheafferstown Folk Festival.

Arrangement note

This collection naturally falls into four categories – the Clement family, Pine Creek Mills, Joseph Clement's artwork, and miscellanea.

These photographs were already somewhat arranged into the categories above, though it is unclear by whom.

Administrative Information

The Clement Family photographs were gifted to the Chester County History Center by Sandra Momyer of Historic Yellow Springs in 2021.

Momyer was placed in charge of these materials when the Historical Commission of West Pikeland Township dissolved after the death of Leila Smith.

Controlled Access Headings

Clement, Joseph, 1894-1950 Chester Springs (Pa.)

Clement, Robert, 1923-1993

Clement, Cecelia, about 1891-1988

World War II

World War, 1939-1945

Artists

Illustrators

Families

mills (buildings)

Chester Springs (Pa.)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date	# of items
1	1	Cecelia Clement	undated	27
1	2	Joseph Clement	Before 1950	1
1	3	Robert Clement (baby and toddler photographs)	Circa 1923-1929	58
1	4	Robert Clement (school age and class photographs)	Circa 1929-1942	26
1	5	Robert Clement (WWII)	Circa 1941-1945	11
1	6	WWII photographs by Robert Clement	Circa 1941-1945	66
1	7	Robert Clement (adult)	undated	12
1	8	Family photographs with Joseph, Cecelia, and Robert Clement with unidentified others.	Before 1950	10
1	9	Clement Family vacations	undated	82
1	10	Clement Family car	undated	9
1	11	Clement Family photographs (color)	1992	3
1	12	Clement family and friends (unidentified)	1903, undated	16
1	13	Miscellaneous school photographs (including the Mount Vernon School and West Chester High School)	1934, undated	35
1	14	Pine Creek Mills exterior	undated	35
1	15	Pine Creek Mills interior	1990, undated	5
1	16	Pine Creek Mills grounds	Undated	23
1	17	Pine Creek Mills floods	2006, undated	8
1	18	Pine Creek Mills snow	undated	26
1	19	Joseph Clement and unidentified people at Pine Creek Mills	undated	21
1	20	Pine Creek Mills renovation	Circa 1929	11
1	21	Warner Theater, West Chester	1990	11
1	22	Historic Shaefferstown Folk Festival	1967	28
1	23	Object photographs	undated	8
1	24	Photograph album pages (Joseph Clement, Robert Clement, and Nelson Eddy pictured)	undated	13
1	25	Unidentified photographs	1940, 1963, undated	20

Album		Album of Joseph M. Clement and his illustrations	Before 1950	1
2	1	Cecelia and Robert Clement	Circa 1923-1928	2
2	2	Joseph Clement	Before 1950	1
2	3	Robert Clement	Circa 1923-1928	3
2	4	Joseph Clement artwork	Before 1950	25
2	5	Pine Creek Mills, exterior	Circa 1926-1929; after 1929	19
2	6	Pine Creek Mills, interior	Circa 1926-1929; after 1929	30
2	7	Unidentified infants	undated	2
OS folder		Illustration by Joseph Clement for Home Magazine	Before 1950	1
OS folder		Illustration by Joseph Clement of the Clinger-Moses Mill Complex ("Pine Creek Mills")	Before 1950	1