

# Guide to the Frances Underhill Clark Papers, 1890-1937 (bulk 1922-1937)

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## Collection Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries
<b>Creator:</b>	Clark, Frances Underhill
<b>Title:</b>	Frances Underhill Clark Papers
<b>Inclusive Dates:</b>	1890-1937
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	1922-1937
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.70 cubic feet (3 boxes)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The bulk of these papers are letters to Clark from conscientious objectors and political prisoners sentenced under the Espionage Act and other legislation enacted during World War I, discussing their lives in prison, their philosophy on war and militarism, political issues, their legal cases, their families, lumberjack experiences, reaction to prison life, and current issues outside prison, 1922-1937. Some of the prisoners were Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members arrested after labor disturbances in Centralia, Washington. Included are six letters from Ray Becker, 1922-1927, and 41 letters from Warren K. Billings, 1924-1937. Other items include pamphlets, poetry, clippings, and photographs as well as three notebooks from her time at Vassar, 1890-1891.

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## Biographical Note

Frances Underhill Clark (1868-1950) was born into a Quaker family. She attended Vassar Preparatory School and was graduated from Vassar College in 1891. Her sister, Adelaide Underhill (Vassar '88), was for many years a librarian at the college. A year after graduation, "Fanny," as she was called, married Dr. George Edward Clark. Although the Clarks never had any children of their own, they informally adopted two orphaned boys and educated a niece. In communications with the Vassar alumnae office Clark described herself as a "homekeeper" and also listed volunteer activities during World War I. As a Quaker she was concerned with the protection of human rights and maintained a large correspondence with political prisoners -- socialists, labor organizers, and conscientious objectors -- many of whom had been sentenced under legislation such as the Espionage Act and the California Criminal Syndicalism Act. She died December 16, 1950.

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## **Scope and Content Note**

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## **Subject Headings**

### **Names:**

- Becker, Ray
- Billings, Warren K., 1894-

### **Organizations:**

- Industrial Workers of the World
- Vassar College--Students

### **Subjects:**

- Conscientious objectors
- Human rights
- Political prisoners
- Prisoners' writings
- Prisoners--Attitudes
- Socialism--United States
- Voluntarism

- War--Women's work
- Women social reformers
- Women, Quaker
- World War, 1914-1918--War work
- Labor and laboring classes--Washington--Centralia--Political activity

### **Places:**

- United States--Politics and government--20th century

### **Document Types:**

- Poems

### **VCL Categories**

- Politics

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## **Encoding Information**

Encoded by Laura Streett, November 2006

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

Francis Underhill Clark Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

### **Processing Information**

Original processing date unknown.

Updated November 2006

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Frances Underhill Clark

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## **Container List**

There is no container list currently available for this collection.

▼ Details

## Abstract

The bulk of these papers are letters to Clark from conscientious objectors and political prisoners sentenced under the Espionage Act and other legislation enacted during World War I, discussing their lives in prison, their philosophy on war and militarism, political issues, their legal cases, their families, lumberjack experiences, reaction to prison life, and current issues outside prison, 1922-1937. Some of the prisoners were Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members arrested after labor disturbances in Centralia, Washington. Included are six letters from Ray Becker, 1922-1927, and 41

Finding Aid Date

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