

**Finding Aid for the Lynn H. Clark  
County Commissioner of Schools/  
Kent County Superintendent papers  
Collection 120**

**Finding aid prepared by Martha J. Bloem**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

June 1990

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Clark, Lynn H, 1898-1991
<b>Title</b>	Lynn H. Clark County Commissioner of Schools/Kent County Superintendent papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1918-1983, n.d.
<b>Extent</b>	2.92 Linear feet Four boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Lynn H. Clark (1898-1991) was the County Commissioner of Schools, later known as the Kent County Superintendent, for Kent County, Michigan from 1935 to 1961. His papers include scrapbooks, photographs, correspondence, music programs, publications and biographical information concerning his personal life and professional career. Of special interest are the scrapbooks, 1935-1961, containing news clippings about all aspects of the schools in Kent County. The scrapbooks are an excellent source of information on the development of the Kent County educational system. Also included are Kent County School directories from 1937 to 1963. Also included are titles, "Sparta School District #3 Records," 1848-1871, and "Michigan School Report," 1865.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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Lynn H. Clark (16 November 1898-15 April 1991) was born in Florence Township, near Centreville, St. Joseph County. He began his education in Oak Grove School, St. Joseph County, and graduated from Centreville High school in 1913. He attended Alma College for one year on a scholarship. Clark received his Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University and his Master's Degree from the University of Michigan.

During World War I, Clark was in officer's training school at Fort Monroe, Va. when the war ended. He came to Lowell, Michigan in 1922 as school principal, remaining there until 1925 when he became a member of the East Grand Rapids High School faculty, teaching science. Clark was one of five candidates who sought nomination for county commissioner of schools on the Republican ticket in 1935. He won the nomination and was elected to the position. He was reelected to the office until 1947, when the position became appointive and was reappointed to the office until his retirement in 1961.

Some of the highlights of his career as County Commissioner were his work in developing a county-wide Special Education program, and consolidation of county schools. Because of his life-long interest in music, one of the first programs he inaugurated was a county-wide music program in the rural schools.

Clark and his wife Ruth, lived in Rockford and have two children. For more biographical information, see the Portrait and Biographical file in the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department of the library and the biographies included in the collection.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The bulk of the collection documents Clark's career as Kent County Superintendent of Schools, 1935-1961. Of special interest in the collection are the scrapbooks kept by Clark containing news clippings about all aspects of the schools in Kent County. They give excellent documentation to the history of education Kent County. Also of interest in the collection are two volumes, "Sparta School district #3 Records," 1848-1971, and "Michigan School Report," 1865. The collection contains photographs, correspondence, music programs, and biographical information.

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## Administrative Information

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## **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department June 1990

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Janice Jenkins, 1986, accession number 1986.499

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Sparta Public Schools (Sparta, Mich.).

### **Genre(s)**

- personal papers

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### **Subject(s)**

- Education -- Michigan -- Kent County -- History

**Photographs****Collection Inventory**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence, 1935-1963, n.d.	1	1
Music Festival Programs, 1936-1940	1	2
Statement of Agreement between Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and Kent County, 1949-1962, n.d.	1	3
Music Programs for Kent County Rural Schools, 1949-1961	1	4
News clipping, "We Have With Us Today," 1935	2	1
News clippings, 1961, n.d.	1	5
Certificate, Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1962	1	6
Biography, Lynn Clark, 1983, n.d.	1	7
<b>Photographs</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
People. Clark, Lynn H., n.d.	1	8
People. Groups, unidentified, n.d.	1	9

**Scrapbooks**

Classrooms, interiors, n.d.	1	10
Schoolhouse, Grand Rapids District #3, n.d.	1	11
Schoolhouse, unidentified, n.d.	1	12
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, interior, n.d.	1	13
Kitchens, n.d.	1	14
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Sparta School District #3 Records, 1848-1871	2	1
Michigan School Report, 1865	2	2
The heavy Artilleryman's Field Pocketbook, 1918	2	3
<b>Scrapbooks</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
1935-1940	2	4
1940-1945	3	5
1945-1950	3	6
1952-1955	4	7

**School Directories for Kent County, Mich.**

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1955-1961	4	8
<b>School Directories for Kent County, Mich.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1937-1954	4	1
1954-1963	4	2