

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Clemens, Joseph (1862-1936)** **MC 2001.17**

Material: Diaries (1892-1921)

Volume: 1.5 linear feet (Document Boxes 1-4)

Donation: Mary Strong Clemens, 1953

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Joseph Clemens was born on December 9, 1862, in the rugged county of Cornwall in England. His family of Cornish iron miners migrated to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and then to Eichelsburg, Pennsylvania. Joseph was the only one of five brothers who did not follow the family tradition and become a miner.

In 1890, at the age of 28, Joseph Clemens entered Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania after probable preparation at the Williamsport Seminary. At Dickinson, he pursued the philosophical course and studied to be a missionary. While at Dickinson, he was a charter member of the Sigma Chi chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A very hard-working mature student, he was the treasurer for the Union Philosophical Society and the treasurer of the Dickinson Prohibition Club. He also played in the College orchestra and sang in the College choir, and at the same time served as class poet and as a member of the Democratic committee at the college Y.M.C.A.

After graduation in 1894, Clemens served as a pastor for the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal Conference, and in 1896 married Mary Strong. In 1901, he became a chaplain for the United States Army. His main duties were in a "military-missionary" capacity in the Philippine Islands, and he remained in the area until his retirement from active service in 1918. He then studied for time at the University of Southern California. Afterward, Joseph Clemens and his wife returned to the Philippines and devoted their lives to botanical research until his death on January 21, 1936 in New Guinea.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Joseph Clemens Collection is housed in four document boxes and is composed almost entirely of diaries. This collection of diaries was given to the College by Mary Strong Clemens in 1953. The collection has been divided into two series: Diaries and Miscellaneous. The Diaries series is arranged chronologically, and for each diary is a typed transcript prepared by Nelda Ikenberry in 1996. The diaries contain Clemens' daily thoughts and accomplishments from 1892 to 1921, including his experiences while in school, in the army, and while researching abroad. The earlier diaries focus on his life at Dickinson, including details about fraternity meetings, classes, interaction with his professors, and studying. In the later diaries, his religious calling is apparent through his daily quotes from the Bible and references to God's work. Throughout the diaries, Clemens also talks about his interactions with people abroad.

Among the Miscellaneous papers is a copy of a letter written by Mary Strong Clemens, and some papers reflecting Joseph's military service as chaplain. Some of the military materials include pledges from fellow servicemen not to drink alcohol, and a copy of Clemens' discharge orders.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### **BOX 1 - MC 2001.17**

#### DIARIES

Folder 01)	1892 Diary
Folder 02)	1892 Transcript
Folder 03)	1893 Diary
Folder 04)	1893 Transcript
Folder 05)	1895 Diary
Folder 06)	1895 Transcript

### **BOX 2 - MC 2001.17**

#### DIARIES (cont.)

Folder 01)	1896 Diary
Folder 02)	1896 Transcript
Folder 03)	1898-1899 Diary
Folder 04)	1898-1899 Transcript
Folder 05)	1902-1903 Diary
Folder 06)	1902-1903 Transcript
Folder 07)	1904-1905 Diary
Folder 08)	1904-1905 Transcript
Folder 09)	1906-1907 Diary
Folder 10)	1906-1907 Transcript

**BOX 3 - MC 2001.17**

DIARIES (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1908-1909 Diary
- Folder 02) 1908-1909 Transcript
- Folder 03) 1910-1911 Diary
- Folder 04) 1910-1911 Transcript
- Folder 05) 1912-1913 Diary
- Folder 06) 1912-1913 Transcript
- Folder 07) 1914-1915 Diary

**BOX 4 - MC 2001.17**

DIARIES (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1914-1915 Transcript
- Folder 02) 1916-1917 Diary
- Folder 03) 1916-1917 Transcript
- Folder 04) 1918-1919 Diary
- Folder 05) 1918-1919 Transcript
- Folder 06) 1920-1921 Diary
- Folder 07) 1920-1921 Transcript

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 08) Clemens, Mary Strong  
Copy of a letter to Dr. E. E. Tuck - Sep. 19, 1952
- Folder 09) Papers reflecting military service
- Folder 10) Albert St. Church Messenger, Brisbane Central Mission - April 1953  
Bilibid Prison cash receipt - December 5, 1905  
Note regarding botanical collections - undated