



Helen M. Cler  
Scrapbooks, 1904-1939

Collection 299

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sarah Peck, July 2024

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Helen M. Cler

**Inclusive Dates:** 1904-1939, bulk 1910-1939

**Physical Description:** 1 box, (0.98 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Helen M. Cler scrapbooks were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical Note:**

There are two possible Helen M. Cler's who could be the creator of this collection.

The first is Helen M. Cler Buck, born on March 18, 1929, in Pesotum, Illinois to Henry and Hilda (Schneider) Cler. She married Maurice Buck on November 27, 1947. Maurice died on June 10, 1993. She went to St. Malachy Catholic Church and was a member of the Red Hat Society. Helen died on October 16, 2005 and left behind two sons and three daughters.

The second and most likely creator, is Helen M. Flavin Cler, born on December 23, 1915 in Ivesdale, Illinois to James and Mabel (Cain) Flavin. She married Leo Cler on January 25, 1938. Leo died on December 25, 1989. She ran Cler's Café in Pesotum. An active church and community member, she attended St. Joseph Catholic Church and was a part of the Altar and Rosary Society and Pesotum's Women's Club. Helen M. Flavin Cler died on March 25, 2012, and left behind one son and two daughters.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains local newspaper clippings from Champaign County, IL. The majority of clippings focus on the cities of Colfax, Pesotum, Seymour, Sadorus, Ivesdale, Bondville, Rantoul, and Urbana. The collection is divided into bound volumes, with no defined sections. Major topics include wedding announcements, obituaries, club meetings, fires, wills, and church news. Few places and people are mentioned repeatedly. They are St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, St. John's Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, St. Boniface Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, John Doyle, Reverend J.J. Smith, the Pfeffer family, Mrs. Phillip Cler, and Father Anthony Wagner. Other topics included are World War I deployment, high school graduation, prayer cards, Civil War veterans, and smallpox outbreaks.



The Urbana Free Library

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**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged by volume.

**Related Material:**

Special Collections:

- Collection 17: Pesotum History
- Collection 382: Julia Cler Scrapbook

**Subject Terms:**

Catholic Church – Illinois – Champaign County  
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)  
Death notices – Illinois - Champaign County  
Fires - Illinois - Champaign County  
Funeral Prayer Cards  
Graduation (School)  
Knights of Columbus  
Obituaries  
Veterans – United States – Civil War, 1861-1865  
Weddings  
Wills – Illinois – Champaign County  
World war, 1914-1918

**Name Terms:**

Cler, Helen M.  
Cler, Phillip, Mrs.  
Doyle, John  
Flavin, Helen M.  
Smith, J.J., Rev.  
Wagner, Anthony, Father

**Container List**

**Box 1**

Volume 1: 1904-1911  
Volume 2: 1913-1939; bulk 1913-1916, 1932-1939  
Volume 3: 1912-1915  
Volume 4: 1910-1913  
Volume 5: 1910-1934; bulk 1918-1932