



Marguerite Clark

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Marguerite Clark (1883-1940) was a renowned Broadway and silent film actress, second in popularity only to Mary Pickford. She was born in the Avondale neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio, and attended Ursuline Academy until age sixteen, after which she moved to New York and debuted on Broadway in 1900. Over the next decade, she secured her reputation on Broadway, performing with actors such as DeWolf Hopper and John Barrymore and under directors like Cecil B. DeMille. Moving to film, Clark worked with Famous Players-Lasky and made thirty-nine films by 1921, performing such roles as *Snow White*, and Little Eva and Topsy in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In 1921 she starred in her fortieth film, made by her own company, and then retired to New Orleans to be with her husband, Harry Palmerston Williams. Following Williams's death in 1937, Clark moved to New York to live with her sister, where she remained until she died in LeRoy Sanitarium in 1940.

Important Dates

- February 22, 1883: Helen Marguerite Clark is born in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1900: Clark makes her Broadway debut.
- 1909: Clark stars in *The Beauty Spot*, establishing her hallmark style roles.
- 1914: Clark signs with Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, a motion picture and distribution company.
- August 15, 1918: Clark marries Harry Palmerston Williams, a New Orleans plantation owner and millionaire businessman.
- 1919: Clark enrolls as a yeowoman in the naval reserves.
- 1921: Clark stars in *Scrambled Wives*, made by her own company.
- May 19, 1936: Clark's husband dies in an airplane crash.
- 1937: Clark sells Wedell-Williams Air Service Corporation, the business she inherited after her husband's death.
- September 20, 1940: Clark enters LeRoy Sanitarium in New York.
- September 25, 1940: Clark dies from pneumonia.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Marguerite Clark, Helen Marguerite Clark, Harry Palmerston Williams, DeWolf Hopper, Beauty Spot, Scrambled Wives.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific films Clark was in.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Miss Clark Wants One](#)" *Marion Daily Mirror* (Marion, OH), February 27, 1911, Image 4, col. 6.
- "[Who?](#)" *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), June 23, 1916, Image 20, col. 2.
- "[New Notes from Movieland](#)" *Albuquerque Morning Journal* (Albuquerque, NM), July 27, 1916, Image 3, col. 3-4.
- "[Her Health Is Her Fortune](#)" *Lake County Times* (Hammond, IN), July 20, 1917, Image 9.
- "[Miss Clark To Be War Bride](#)" *Topeka State Journal* (Topeka, KS), July 25, 1918, Image 1, col. 7.