

CLEMENTS CENTER FOR
SOUTHWEST STUDIES
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

You are invited to the Brown Bag Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
12 noon to 1 pm
Texana Room, DeGolyer Library
6404 Hyer Lane & McFarlin Blvd.

*"A Mixture of So Many Bloods":
The Clarkes and the Problem of Mixed-Race
Identity in Montana*

Andrew Graybill

Director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies



Image: John and Mamie Clarke, c. 1920s. Photo courtesy of Joyce Clarke Turvey.

Around 1840, a disgraced former West Point cadet named Malcolm Clarke took a position with the American Fur Company and moved to Montana. Like many white traders of his time, Clarke married an Indian woman, and the family became powerful members of frontier society, operating lucrative trading posts on the Upper Missouri River and serving as brokers between white and native worlds. But this era of relative racial inclusion quickly eroded after the absorption of the territory (and the wider West) by the federal government during the period after the Civil War. This talk, based on his current book manuscript under contract with W. W. Norton, uses several generations of the Clarke family to explore the crucible of racial identity in Montana between 1850-1950.

Graybill is the director of the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and associate professor in the Clements Department of History. He received his PhD in history from Princeton University and was the Clements Research Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America in 2004-2005. Graybill is a historian of the North American West, with particular interest in expansion, borders, race, violence, and the environment.

For more information or if you need special accommodations, please contact swcenter@smu.edu or 214-768-3684.



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