

**CLARA RENEE KEREN VROMEN PAPERS, 1927-2005**  
**2006.476.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Clara Renee Keren Vromen papers

Dates: 1927-2005

Accession number: 2006.476.1

Creator: Vromen, Clara Renee Keren.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The collection documents the prewar, wartime, and postwar experiences of Clara Vromen, originally of Enschede, Netherlands, along with her mother Minnie van Dam, her grandparents Clara and Isidor van Dam, and her brother Jaap Vromen. Included are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, a personal narrative, and clippings.

Languages: Dutch, German, English

**Administrative Information**

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Clara Renee Keren Vromen papers (2006.476.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Clara Renee Keren Vromen in 2006.

Related archival materials: Unused yellow Star of David badge printed with Jood (2006.476.2)

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Adam Fielding, September 2023

### **Biographical note**

Clara Renee Keren Vromen (also known as Clary) was born on September 27, 1931 in Enschede, Netherlands, to Abraham Vromen and Minnie van Dam. Minnie was born in Enschede on June 6, 1907 to Isidoor van Dam (1876-1952) and Clara Samson (1880-1964). She had two sisters: Hettie Wilhelmina van Dam (later Hettie van der Meulen, 1902-1975) and Edith Rebecca van Dam (1918-1988). Minnie and Abraham married on December 13, 1927 in Enschede.

Clara had one brother, Jaap Herman Vromen (also known as Jacob, b. July 21, 1930). Clara's father was a businessman and head of Hachsara, a Zionist youth movement. The family immigrated to Palestine and settled in Tel Aviv. Minnie and Abraham divorced in 1934, and Minnie and the children returned to the Netherlands and settled in The Hague. Minnie studied to become a hospital assistant.

In May 1940 Germany invaded and occupied the Netherlands. Minnie worked as a social worker, and received papers that protected her from deportation. By 1943 Minnie had gone into hiding under the false identity of Nellie Boorsman. She later used the false identity of Minnie Helene Lebeboer. Minnie hid her children first with two different families in Deurne, Netherlands. Jaap was later hidden with Annie (Anneke) and Johan Le Febre until liberation. Clara was hidden with a Catholic family, Riek and Gerard Hoefs and their children, in Utrecht, Netherlands. Clara remained in the house until liberation under the false identity of a cousin from Zeelandic Flanders.

Clara and her family were all reunited after the war. They moved back to their home in Enschede, but found that their apartment was occupied by strangers. The family then moved to Amsterdam. Clara moved to London in 1950 to study nursing, and immigrated to Israel in 1952. Both of Minnie's parents were briefly imprisoned in Westerbork, but survived the Holocaust.

Riek and Gerard Hoefs were named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1977.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The collection documents the prewar, wartime, and postwar experiences of Clara Vromen, originally of Enschede, Netherlands, along with her mother Minnie van Dam, her grandparents Clara and Isidor van Dam, and her brother Jaap Vromen. Included are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, a personal narrative, and clippings.

Biographical materials include identification documents, paperwork regarding Westerbork, and a list of gold and silver items owned by Isidor. There are also false identification cards for Minnie and Isidor under the names of Minnie Helene Lebeboer and Frederik Borger respectively. Other

material includes Clara Vromen's autograph book, personal narratives by Minnie in Dutch and English, and a collection of postwar clippings regarding hidden children in the Netherlands.

Correspondence includes wartime and postwar letters exchanged by Minnie, her sisters Hettie and Edith, her children, and her parents Isidor and Clara.

Photographs primarily consist of postwar family photographs, but also include prewar depictions of Minnie's wedding and the family house in Enschede, and postwar depictions of Riek and Gerard Hoefs and their children, whom Clara Vromen hid with during the war. Also included are annotated photograph collages of the family in the Netherlands during the war.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Corporate:

Westerbork (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Righteous Gentiles

Jews--Netherlands--Enschede.

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Netherlands.

Holocaust survivors.

False certification.

Geography:

Enschede (Netherlands)

Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Newspaper clippings.

Personal narratives.

Autograph books.

Correspondence.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.1	van Dam, Clara and Isidoor: Biographical papers, 1940-1944
1.2	van Dam, Minnie: Biographical papers, 1942-1951
1.3	van Dam, Minnie: Personal narratives, undated
1.4	Vromen, Clara: Autograph book, 1943-1945
1.5	Family correspondence, 1940-1944
1.6	Family correspondence, 1945
1.7	Family correspondence and empty envelopes, 1946-1989

1.8	Family history and miscellaneous, 1941-1992
1.9-1.10	Family photographs, 1927-2005 (2 folders)
OS 1	Clippings, 1944-1992