

**VOYAGE OF
GEORGE CLARKE,
ESQ., TO AMERICA**

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Voyage of George Clarke, esq., to America by E. B. O'Callaghan

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E. B. O'CALLAGHAN

**VOYAGE OF
GEORGE CLARKE,
ESQ., TO AMERICA**

VOYAGE
OF
George Clarke, Esq.,
TO
AMERICA.
WITH

Introduction and Notes,

By E. B. O'CALLAGHAN.

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ALBANY, N. Y. :
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1867.



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INTRODUCTION.

GEORGE CLARKE, whose Account of his first Voyage to *America* we find among the Manuscripts in the Secretary of State's Office, *Albany*, and now put into Print, filled several publick Offices in the Colony of *New York*, and was finally Lieutenant Governour of that Province from 1736 to 1743.

He was the Son of *George Clarke*, of *Swainswick, Somerset-*

shire, England. Under the Head of *Swainswick*, in *Collinson's History of Somersetshire*, I, 154, 155, we find that five Bells hang in the Tower of the Church of St. Mary of that Place. On the 2d of these Bells is the following Inscription: "*George Clarke, Laurence Waldrun, John Nodes*, Churchwardens. R. P. 1664." On the 5th Bell, "These Bells were cast at the Charge of the Parish. *Bengeman Tanner Clarke, George Clarke, Laurence Waldrun, John Nodes*, Churchwardens. R. P. 1664."

There are various Inscriptions on

the Altar Steps of said Church, also, and among them the following :

“ Here lyeth the Body of *Elizabeth*, the Wife of *George Clarke*, who dyed the 7th Day of June 1670.”*

“ Here lyeth the Body of Mrs. *Beatrix Clarke*, Daughter of Mr. *George Clarke*, who departed this Life the 4th Day of July, 1690.”

We next find the following Entry in a Diary of contemporaneous

* If the Age of Lieutenant Governor *Clarke* at his Death, as indicated on his Monument, be correct, this cannot be his Mother. Possibly his Father might have contracted a second Marriage; as our *George Clarke* seems to have been born in 1676.

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Events; but must leave to the Reader to decide for himself whether the Gentleman of that Name mentioned in it, was connected with the Subject of this Notice :

“ On the 31 October 1682, Mr. *Edward Whitaker* (or the true Protestant Attorney, as some call him) was tried at the Kings Bench Bar by a substantiall Jury of the County of *Somerfett*, for speaking seditious and scandalous Words at the City of *Bath*, in the said County, about the latter End of July 1680; the Words were to this Effect; That

there was Talk of War and a Rebellion in the late Times, but he knew of none; 'tis true, there was a Warr by the Parliament and People in defence of their just Liberties; and that the late King was putt to Death by a judicall Proceſſe, and not murd'red; and that the People had Right to a Parliament every Year, and they ought to fitt, whither called or not. This was fully proved by three Witneſſes, viz, one *George Clark*, Eſq. a Juſtice of the Peace of that County, Sir *James Long*, and an Alderman of the City of *Bath*,

who heard this Discourse in a publick Coffee House in that City: but the said *Whitaker* not appearing, nor any for him, the Inquest was taken by Default; so that the Jury, without stirring from the Barr, found him guilty.”

George Clarke, the Subject of this Memoir, was born in 1676. He had Genius, says *Smith*,* but no other than a Common School Education. He was in early Youth articled to an Attorney; and the next we learn of him is in 1701,

* *History of New York*, II, 40.