

**THE CLARK GENEALOGY,  
EMBRACING A  
FULL ACCOUNT OF  
THE CLARK REUNION**

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The Clark Genealogy, Embracing a Full Account of the Clark Reunion by Henry A. Jones

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**HENRY A. JONES**

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EMBRACING A FULL ACCOUNT OF

THE CLARK REUNION

COMPILED AND ARRANGED

By HENRY A. JONES

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*SOUTHINGTON, CONN., JULY 17, 1890*

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## INTRODUCTION.

For many previous weeks there had been a communication of letters between the cousins of Southington and its vicinity and the cousins scattered in widely remote States. All the distant cousins had expressed an intense desire to be present, for they well knew that the event would be, as it has proved, a memorable one, so memorable that many will never forget it. The great distance rendered the coming of many, who would have found a warm welcome here, almost an impossibility. As it was, there were representatives from the granite hills of New Hampshire, from the Empire State, from the groves of Pennsylvania, from Washington, D. C., from Kansas, and even from the land of plenty and gold, California.

On the succeeding pages can be found a full account of the gathering, and the greater part of the literary exercises. An apt poem of merit was read by Mrs. H. G. Arnold. It should have found its appropriate place in this record; but, as its publication was declined by the author, it is with many regrets that the compiler is unable to insert it. It was voted that the family tree, of which mention will be made, should be given to Aunt Anna, and at her decease, to the oldest living representative, thus descending.

The following poem of greeting was composed and read by Mrs. Harriet A. Stannard :

I've been asked to write a poem, for this our festal day,  
And am in a sad predicament, for I don't know what to say.  
I never was a poetess, I can only string a rhyme,  
And when you've heard one specimen, 'twill answer for all time.

Clark tongues have long been famous for the power they have to  
wag,

They've been said to talk unceasing, and the interests never flag.  
But I know you'll all agree with me, it's not all foolish matter,  
If you'll stop at any group to day, and listen to the chatter.

But a truce to all this nonsense, I was here to give you greeting,  
To express to you our pleasure, at this, our cousins' meeting.  
To welcome you to Yankeeland, the home your fathers had,  
So full of pleasant memories, and ah! so fraught with sad.

We're descendants of one grandsire, who though unknown to fame,  
Left us the fair inheritance of an untarnished name.  
The good book says that "Children are the heritage of the Lord,"  
And grandfather had the blessing, as the eleven names record.

In many States they scattered, as work or interest led,  
For all were taught to labor to gain their daily bread.  
And now their toils are over, their earthly tasks all done,  
They have nearly all passed over, we have left us only one.

The youngest of that household is with us here to-day,  
Aunt Anna! we are happy to see you while we may;  
And I know these other cousins, who have come so far to meet us,  
Will all enjoy your presence here, and your happy smile to greet  
us.

Upon the shore of old Compounce meet generations four,  
To have a Clark reunion, and to talk of days of yore;  
May each one who is present have a happy, joyous day,  
Full of bright associations to look back to on their way.

May our Heavenly Father bless us, and guide us each and all,  
Through all our various duties, till at last we hear His call,  
"Come home to me my children! Come rest, forever more,  
In the mansions I've prepared for you upon the Heavenly Shore."

## THE GENEALOGY OF THE CLARK FAMILY.

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THE following record extends far back into the shadowy past of 170 years ago,— just 22 years after the first settler came within the limits of what was afterwards to be called the town of Southington to settle, — when old Compounce was gliding in his birch canoe over this beautiful lake.

The present occasion does not demand a full and lengthy detail of this, our widely-renowned family; and, indeed, if it did, time and the meagre information which I can obtain in regard to our "*way-back*" ancestors, would prevent this from being anything but an imperfect sketch.

Such information, however, as I have been able to glean concerning their history, I trust can be depended upon as reliable and authentic.

The history of this family, of whom we who are to-day here assembled are the *direct* and *lineal* descendants, must, for want of more extended information, commence with Joseph Clark, *our* great-grandfather, and the grandfather of our *only* living aunt (on the Clark side) Aunt Anna, who is with us to-day. For the facts connected with the older history of the family we *all* are indebted to her.

Joseph Clark was born Sept. 15, 1720. He lived to be 58 years of age, dying April 22, 1778. On June 2, 1752, he married Joanna Fairchild, who was born Sept. 21, 1727. She survived her husband 14



years, living to the age of 65, when on Nov. 26, 1792, she died.

Our ancestor, like Joseph of old, was no doubt a man of great wisdom and discretion, for in early manhood he selected for his life-long partner a *Fairchild*. SHE must have been a *very fair child*, judging by her *fair* posterity who are here to-day.

He was a man of some degree of prominence in his day, a Christian, and doubtless a devout man, inasmuch as he was for several years a deacon in the Congregational Church at Middletown. He was also the Town Clerk (and Middletown at that time ranked as the third town in importance of the State). The very chair in which he sat, and *perhaps* recorded the *deeds* of other men, is now in the possession of one of his posterity, your cousin, Harriet A. Stannard. Withal he was a gentleman of "the old, old school," and dressed in the old Continental style, as evidenced by the fact that the silver knee-buckles which he wore, came afterwards into the possession of one of his grandsons, our late Uncle George.

Our grandparents had six children, four of whom were sons, and two daughters. I record their names in the order of their birth.

Hannah, born February 22, 1753. This fact can be associated with an important one in the history of our country, for on that very day George Washington, the Father of our Country, became a man.

Did not Joseph and Joanna (I mean the fair child) have an idea of "the fitness of things," and launch their *posterity* on an auspicious occasion?

The next was a son, Joseph by name, born July 24, 1757. Then Catharine, born June 21, 1761.

Then Daniel (he might have been a prophet), born

Aug. 17, 1763. Then George, born April 12, 1766. And last, and I trust not least, our own grandfather, Seth Clark, who was born at Middletown, Conn., on July 11, 1768.

He was married at Middletown, Nov. 16, 1789, to Chloe Bailey. This is another fact that our forefathers had an idea of "the fitness of things." For, on the very year in which the citizens of the United States commenced living under our present constitution, *he* took a "*constitutional*," selecting a worthy partner, and fulfilling the Bible precept, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." May the constitution and his posterity live on forever!

Chloe Bailey, our grandmother, was born Feb. 19, 1771, *\*probably* at Haddam, Conn., as *her* father, Benjamin Bailie, there died in 1785, when she was 14 years old. At the age of 18 she married Seth Clark, and died at Southington, July 17, 1834, aged 63. Many of the older cousins here present remember Elizabeth Bailey, her mother, as during the last years of her life she lived in Southington, where she died Aug. 8, 1838.

Her name, with three of the names above alluded to, completes the list of our great-grandparents.

These, our ancestors, spent their youth and manhood amid an interesting and critical period of our country's history. The six children of Joseph and Joanna Clark, at the time of the Declaration of Independence, averaged 12 years of age. Those were the days that "tried mens' souls;" when patriotism was not an empty *name*, for its avowal and exercise involved many privations, toils, hardships, and struggles, even to the death. Men fought not only for

\* From subsequent information it has been learned that Chloe Bailey was born in Providence, R. I.

their country but for their homes. That these young men and women were imbued with the same noble feelings is undoubtedly true, for the following generation, and especially that part of it embracing our uncles and aunts, possessed, to a remarkable degree, that *sterling* quality, love of home.

Seth Clark had the goodly number of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, the youngest of whom and the seventh daughter, the *only surviving* member of *his* family, is — by the blessing of God — with us, to make memorable this *unique* family gathering. Dear Aunt Anna is one whom we all know so well; one whom we all hold so dear; the *only living* bond connecting the past with the present. Her brothers, her sisters, our uncles, our aunts, aye! even dearer than these names, for some can say our father, and some even a *dearer* name, our mother; all have passed away, and we all hope, and I feel, that we can *safely* trust, that they have gone to a brighter and happier land.

Soon after his marriage, Seth Clark moved to Southington, for his second child, your aunt Joanna, was here born in 1792. He resided in Southington during the remainder of his life, pursuing for the greater portion of his time, his vocation, that of saddler and harness-maker, an honest, and *hence* an honorable calling. He died at the home of his youngest daughter, our Aunt Anna, who lived at that time in the part of the town now called Marion. His death occurred Jan. 27, 1851, at the advanced age of 83.

I will now record, in the order of their birth, the names of his eleven children.

Sally W., born at Middletown, Nov. 20, 1790; one hundred years ago.