

## CLARK FAMILY HISTORY

Compiled by  
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Great grand daughter

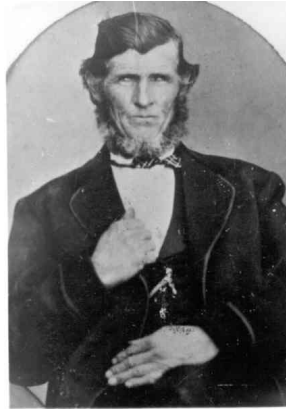
This history was digitized by Roger E. Grua  
3<sup>rd</sup> great grandson  
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The families in the Clark group are all of fine sturdy stock and are people to be proud of. The Clarks are descendants of William Clark who came to Pennsylvania with William Penn in 1682 and established the village of Chester and later the city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. These early Clarks belonged to the Society of Friends, commonly known as the Quakers. It is quite a coincidence that the Dalleys and Sheffers were also of Quaker stock.

William and Thomas Clark, whom we believe to be our earliest ancestors in America, descended from the Stuart line of kings of England and were of Scotch-Irish lineage. Early in the 1600's they became associated with the Society of Friends and were very close friends of William Penn. It was natural then that they should join with Penn in his venture to set up a Quaker colony in the new world. They took an active part in the colony and William served as a judge and as a member of the first Assembly, the governing body of the colony of Pennsylvania. The family can boast of many members who served in the Revolutionary War and who built homes and took up and cultivated land in Pennsylvania and the surrounding states. The same can be said of the ancestors of the Sheffers, though they did not come to this country as early as did the Clarks according to the available information. Phillip Sheffer served with General Washington through the Revolutionary War from the time that he was 16 years of age. The Dalleys did not come to America until after 1846, but they, too, were Quakers in their native England, and were known to be weavers by trade.

This family and their descendants have all been progressive citizens, over the long period of their history and those of the present are active in community affairs wherever they reside, just as were those sturdy, God-fearing people of earlier days who worked to help found this country and especially to develop this western state of Utah.

## Richard Clark



Richard Clark, son of George and Peggy (Margaret) Hanna Clark, was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Atremus Holman once told me that his mother, Nancy Clark Holman said that there were nine children in the family of George and Peggy Clark. Which one of the nine Richard was is not known. According to Richard's patriarchal blessing given him at Nauvoo, February 12, 1845, Richard was born "December 12 - record burnt;" an old account book of George Sheffer Clark's gives Richard's birth as February 3, 1785; another says Richard's birth date was February 1787; a paper in Joseph B. Clark's handwriting reads "Richard Clark, born March 20, 1776; and an old Manti Temple record sheet gives Richard's birth year as 1778. This same record sheet which is dated, October 27, 1891, gives the birth place of the first seven children of Richard Clark as Jefferson County, Ohio. It is then quite probable that Richard and Ann Elizabeth Sheffer were married in Pennsylvania about 1800 and moved westward to Ohio at that time. Later the family moved to Richland County, Ohio and about 1825 to Marion County, Indiana.

Richard Clark and his family were rather strict Methodists, but when they heard the Gospel from Franklin D. Richards in about 1842, all of the children who were home at the time embraced the Gospel and were baptized, except Nancy who was young. George Sheffer Clark was not at home when his parents joined the Church but became converted soon afterward, and was baptized in 1843. Soon after joining the church the Clark family moved to Nauvoo, Illinois to be with the Saints and help in the building of the beautiful Nauvoo Temple. Richard Clark was an expert cabinet maker and did a great deal of work on the interior finishing of the temple.

In 1846 when the Saints were driven from Nauvoo, the Clarks joined the trek across Iowa and soon purchased farm land near Council Bluffs, Iowa, They also kept an inn for travelers as they had previously in Ohio and Indiana.

In May of 1850, in company with some of their married children, Richard Clark and his wife set out across the plains to come to Utah and establish a home in the sage-brush covered

valleys of the mountains. They traveled in Captain Cook's company ([see editor's note below](#)) and arrived in the Great Salt Lake City on September 3, 1850. They attended a conference on September 8, 1850 and were there instructed to go to Utah Valley to settle. Richard Clark's son, George Sheffer Clark, was placed in charge of the group which was made up of Richard Clark and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Sheffer Clark; George Sheffer Clark and wife, Susanna Dalley Clark; John Greenleaf Holman and wife, Nancy Clark Holman; Lewis Harvey and wife, Lucinda Clark Harvey, and his parents, Jonathan Lewis Harvey and Sarah Harbert Harvey; Charles Price and family; Henry Jolley and family; and the widow Harriet Marler and her family; together with teamsters John Wilson and Ezekial Holman. These people established a settlement on a sloping low hill in what is now the eastern part of Pleasant Grove, setting up their little community in a grove of cottonwood trees just south of a small cabin where herd boys were living while tending the cattle of Lewis Robson and Calvin Moore. The site of the little settlement was only a short distance from the meadow land that had been staked off two months before by William Henry Adams, John Mercer and Philo T. Farnsworth for their own new home sites. The Clarks and their group arrived on September 13, 1850 and became the first permanent residents of the community which they named Pleasant Grove.

Richard Clark was of Scotch-Irish descent and spoke with a slight Irish brogue even though his family had long been in America. He was a stern, yet devout and kindly man. His family was well disciplined and he did his best to give them an education. The evenings of the children were devoted to school work, with the father conducting spelling lessons, debates, and reading classes. To Richard it was a sin to lack the ability to read and write and express ideas, and all his children were drilled in these important qualifications. He was expert in his trade and able to build extremely well; and to instruct others in the art of working with woods. He was concerned with having his family know how to get along and he always owned enough acreage to raise some food and to teach his sons how to till the soil and grow what they needed to eat.

Richard Clark worked at his trade during all of the time he lived in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois but he was quite ill and not able to do a great deal of heavy work when he arrived in Utah. Ezekiel Holman, a boy of 16, had driven Richard's wagon across the plains and to Pleasant Grove. He was almost an invalid for the last three years of his life, but experience and advice was invaluable to the younger men of the little new settlement, as he taught them how to build their homes. He was the father of eleven children to whom he left a rich heritage in the things he had taught them. Richard Clark died in Pleasant Grove February 5, 1853/4. (Editor note – Richard's tombstone says 1854 – REG)

This history was scanned and typed into a computer and photo added in July 2007 by Roger E. Grua, grandson of the author, Suzanna Mae Clark Grua, and third great grandson of Richard Clark.

Editor's note: The Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel index lists Richard Clark and family as being in the James Lake Company in 1850. The link to this website is:  
[www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearchresults/1,15792,4017-1-182,00.html](http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearchresults/1,15792,4017-1-182,00.html)

Those of the Richard Clark family traveling in the James Lake Company and their ages are:

Clark, Ann Elizabeth	(65)
Clark, George Sheffer	(33)
Clark, Richard	(73)
Clark, Susannah	(19)
Harvey, Lewis	(28)
Harvey, Lucinda Clark	(26)
Harvey, Maria Josephine	(infant)
Holman, Abigail Elizabeth	(13)
Holman, Ezekiel Jonathan	(16)
Holman, John Greenleaf	(21)
Holman, Nancy Clark	(21)