

## **Ann Elizabeth Sheffer Clark**

Compiled by Suzanna Mae Clark Grua  
Great grand daughter of Richard and Ann Elizabeth Sheffer Clark

Digitized and updated by Roger E. Grua  
3<sup>rd</sup> great grandson

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Ann Elizabeth Sheffer, eldest daughter of Philip Sheffer and Margaret Vance, was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1785. Her father was in active service with George Washington during the Revolutionary War and her mother was noted for her fine cooking and her excellent home and beautiful sewing. Tradition in the Sheffer family says that Philip Sheffer broke off all of his teeth biting the lead for bullets and that in the last days of the war he served as a Wagon Master for his General. Philip Sheffer was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1758, but after the Revolution he moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania and then to the State of Ohio, where he lived first in Harrison County and then in Ashland County, Ohio. In the obituary written for the Ashland Standard at the time of his death, R. V. Kennedy said that "Phillip Sheffer was universally esteemed, and example of integrity, moral worth and industry ... he had no enemies." Philip and Margaret had a large family and many descendants.

About the year 1800, Ann Elizabeth Sheffer was married to Richard Clark. They lived for a short time in Pennsylvania and then moved to Jefferson (Ohio) County where they took up farm land and where several of their children were born. George Sheffer Clark, their seventh child being the last of the children in Jefferson County. He was born in 1816 and shortly after his birth the family moved northward and westward and settled for a time in Richland County, Ohio, later moving to Marion County, Indiana and living near Indianapolis. It was in Indianapolis that the Clarks heard the Gospel of the L.D S. Church and soon accepted it and were baptized. After joining the church, they soon sold their property and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois to be with the other people of their faith. Since most of their family were grown and married or on their own, Richard and Ann Elizabeth took with them only five youngest children. They were very happy to associate with their beloved prophet and other leaders of the church and Richard worked unceasingly as a cabinet maker in the building of the Nauvoo Temple. Elizabeth, as her mother before her had done, always kept an inn as well as doing a great deal of cooking. She became known as an excellent midwife and practiced that profession until the end of her life. The troubles of the saints in Nauvoo were a great sorrow to all and when the saints were driven from their beloved city, the Clark family packed all that they could take with them and moved along across Iowa to Council Bluffs, where they bought a farm and also maintained an inn for about four years. They were very devout and truly believed that Brigham Young was called to take the place of the martyred Prophet Joseph Smith. They had been present in the Bowery meeting when the "mantle

of Joseph” had been seen to rest upon Brigham Young as he addressed the grief-stricken Latter-day Saint people.

In the spring of 1850 the Clarks sold their property and joined with some of their married daughters and one son to make the trip across the plains to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, traveling in the Captain Cook company. (See Editor’s note below)

The Cook company arrived in Salt Lake City on September 3, 1850, and attended conference on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Their son, George Sheffer Clark, had been in the first party to enter the valley under Brigham Young and had gone on a number of exploration trips before driving Brigham Young back to Winter Quarters. It was not surprising then, that the Clarks should volunteer to go to settle in Utah Valley when Brigham Young asked for settlers to go to settle near where William Henry Adams and others had staked off their land. The Clarks and some other families set out for a few days after the conference and reached the grove of cottonwoods in what is now Pleasant Grove in the late afternoon of September 13, 1850. They made camp and the very next morning began to build shelters and clear land for some log houses. Elizabeth was glad to have her daughters and her daughter-in-law in the party and she helped the younger women set up their housekeeping.

Elizabeth was a skilled housekeeper and cook, and a trained midwife, as well as a splendid gardener. She had carefully guarded large sacks of seeds all the way across the plains and she meant to have a good garden the next year. She had always kept an inn before coming to Utah and now her home was open to the Church authorities who came visiting and she busied herself with the health matters of the new settlement. It is said that hardly a birth occurred that she did not officiate at during the rest of her life. There were no doctors in the community for a number of years and the people made good use of her skill. Her garden prospered the very first year and everyone sought a few seeds of the particular kind of peas that she grew. Not only were her vegetables good, but she made the very first flower garden in town and many of the elderly people had recalled, during the past few years, how her blue larkspur and other plants looked at her home, which stood directly across the street from the present seminary building. After the fort was built in Pleasant Grove in the summer of 1853, most of the settlers moved inside the fort wall and Elizabeth, whose husband had died in February of that year, moved to the small home mentioned. She kept active in her garden until her death the years or more later. She drove her own wagon when going on maternity cases for many years, but later insisted that some man come to drive her when she was needed in sickness or a birth.

Richard and Ann Elizabeth Sheffer Clark were the parents of eleven children as follows:

Margaret Ann Clark	Born about 1802	Died as a small child
Philip Vance Clark	Born about 1804	Died as a small child
John Clark	Born Sept. 23, 1806	Jefferson Co., Ohio
William Clark	Born Nov. 13, 1808	Jefferson Co., Ohio
Jacob Clark	Born Aug. 26, 1811	Jefferson Co., Ohio
Harrriet Clark	Born May 24, 1814	Jefferson Co., Ohio
George Sheffer Clark	Born Nov. 7, 1816	Jefferson Co., Ohio
Julia Ann Clark	Born May 19, 1819	Jefferson Co., Ohio
Clarinda Clark (twin)	Born April 18, 1824	Richland Co., Ohio
Lucinda Clark (twin)	Born April 18, 1824	Richland Co., Ohio
Nancy Clark	Born Feb. 26, 1829	Marion Co., Indiana

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)

The following was found in a *Daughters of Utah Pioneers* lesson book on pages 481-482. Year of lesson manual is unknown. (Roger E. Grua – July 2007)

*Ann Elizabeth Sheffer Clark*, eldest daughter of Philip Sheffer and Margaret Vance, was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1785. About the year 1800 she was married to Richard Clark. They lived for a short time in Pennsylvania and then moved to Jefferson County, Ohio, where they took up farmland and where several of their children were born. George Sheffer Clark, their seventh child, was the last of the children born in Jefferson County. He was born in 1816 and shortly after his birth the family moved northward and westward and settled for a time in Richland, Ohio, later moving to Marion County, Indiana, living near Indianapolis. It was there the Clarks heard the gospel of the Latter-day Saints Church, soon accepted it and were baptized. They then sold their property and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Since most of their family were grown and married and on their own, Richard and Ann Elizabeth took with them only their five youngest children. They were very happy to associate with their beloved Prophet and other leaders of the Church and Richard worked unceasingly as a cabinet-maker in the building of the temple. Elizabeth, as her mother before her had done, always kept an inn and busied herself caring for weary travelers and the sick. She became an excellent midwife and practiced that profession until the end of her life.

When the Saints were driven from their beloved city the Clark family packed all they could take with them and moved across Iowa to Council Bluffs where they bought a farm and also maintained an inn for four years. In the spring of 1850 they sold their property and joined with some of their married daughters and one son on the trek across the plains, traveling in Captain Cook's company. They arrived in Salt Lake City September 3, 1850. (See Editor's note above)

The Clarks and a few other families set out a few days after the September 8th Conference and reached the grove of cottonwoods in what is now Pleasant Grove, in the late afternoon of September 13th. They made camp and the next morning began to build shelters and clear land for log houses. Elizabeth was a skilled housekeeper and a splendid gardener. She had carefully guarded sacks of seeds all the way across the plains; now she planted her garden of vegetables and flowers and busied herself with the health problems of the new settlement. It is said that hardly a birth occurred in the first years of Pleasant Grove that Mrs. Clark was not in attendance. After the death of her husband in 1853, she kept active in her obstetrical work which she continued until her death some ten years later. At first she drove her own wagon on these maternity cases, but later she insisted that some one come to drive for her when she was needed. Richard and Ann Elizabeth were the parents of eleven children. She passed away at Pleasant Grove, Utah County, January 25, 1866, and was buried in the Pleasant Grove cemetery. - Goldie Clark Dickerson

(July 27, 2007 Goldie Clark Dickerson is a daughter of George Heber Clark and a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Suzanna Mae Clark Grua who wrote the original history)