

## **CLARKE, GEORGE**

### Birth

May 12, 1865 in Culmon,  
Devonshire County, England

### Death

May 8, 1942 at his home north  
of Prole, Warren County, Iowa



### Cause of Death

### Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 130  
Lot was purchased by George  
Clarke Estate on May 10, 1942



### Father

Thomas Clark

The Home Place

### Mother

Mary A.

### Marriage

George Clark to Bessie Jane Kirk on January 28, 1891 in Polk Co., Iowa  
Ref: Book 5, 1889-1892, page 50 of Polk Co. records on file at IGS Library.

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Return of Marriages in Polk Co., Iowa for the year ending October 1, 1891  
77-1078

George Clark  
Residence: Norwalk, Iowa  
Occupation: Farmer  
Age next birthday: 26  
Birthplace: England  
Father: Tom Clark

Married  
January 28, 1891

Bessie Kirk  
 Residence: Grimes, Iowa  
 Age next birthday: 26  
 Birthplace: Des Moines, Iowa  
 Father: James Kirk  
 Mother: Hester Griffith  
 Married at Grimes, Iowa  
 Witnesses: Mr. Joe Serod and James & Nettie Kirk  
 Minister: E. A. Walker

Census

1870 –

1871 – Worcestershire, England; Folio 102; Page 13; Piece 3076  
 Page 13; Civil Parish: Alvechurch

Clark, Thomas	30	Buckland, Staffordshire, England
Mary A.	30	Alcester, Worcestershire, England
Catherine A. E.	08	Coughton, Worcestershire, England
George W.	06	Coughton, Worcestershire, England
Hariett	03	Hill, Worcestershire, England
Bertha J.	01	Forlydate, Worcestershire, England

1880 –

1881 – Warwickshire, England; ED1; Piece: 3105; Folio 9; Page 9  
 Registration District: Alcester; Street address, Cottage 3; Civil Parish: Sperall

Clarke, Thomas	40	Agriculture laborer	Buckland, Berkshire, Eng
		Born about 1841	
Mary Ann	42	born at Alcester,	Warwickshire, England
George	16	Agriculture laborer	born, Coughton, Warwickshir
Harriet	14	Great Alne,	Warwickshire, England
Bertha Jessie	11	Tardebigge,	Worcestershire, England
Alfred	09	Alvechurch,	Worcestershire, England
Annie Selina	04	Coughton,	Warwickshire, England

1885 –

1895 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Page 116

Clark, George	29	ENG
Bessie	29	IA
George	03	IA
Joseph	01	IA

1900 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED138; Page 7; June 14, 1900  
 Dwelling 150; Family 152

Clarke, George	35	farmer Married 10 years Born May 1865	ENG	ENG	ENG
Bessie J.	34	4 children; 4 children living Born January 1866	IA	OH	DE
George F.	07	Born July 1892	IA	ENG	IA
Joseph C.	06	Born February 1894	IA	ENG	IA
James P.	03	Born December 1896	IA	ENG	IA
Catherine L.	01	Born November 1898	IA	ENG	IA

1905 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Post Office, Norwalk, IA  
Card #426

Clark, George	39		ENG	ENG	ENG
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1910 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED212; Page 10B; May 3, 1910  
Dwelling 142; Family 143

Clarke, George	44	farmer Married 19 years	ENG	ENG	ENG
Bessie	44	5 children, 5 living	IA	OH	DE
George	17	farm labor at home	IA	ENG	IA
Joseph	16	farm labor at home	IA	ENG	IA
Paul	14		IA	ENG	IA
Kate	12		IA	ENG	IA
Henry	04		IA	ENG	IA

1915 – Norwalk, Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA  
Card #221

Clark, George	49	farmer	ENG	ENG	ENG
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1920 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 218; Page 8B; January 21, 1920  
Dwelling 201; Family 203

Clark, George	54	farmer Came to the US in 1882	ENG	ENG	ENG
Bessie J.	53		IA	OH	DE
Paul J.	24		IA	OH	DE
Henry F.	13		IA	OH	DE

1925 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Book 79

Clark, George	59		ENG		
		Father was Thomas Clark, born in ENG Mother unknown			
Bessy J.	59		IA		
		Father was James Kirk, born in OH Mother was Easter Griffit, born in DE			
George F.	32		IA		
		Father was George Clark, born in ENG			

Joe	Mother was Bessy J. Kirk, born in IA 31	IA
Paul	Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessy J. Kirk, born in IA 29	IA
Henry	Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessy J. Kirk, born in IA 19	IA

1930 - Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 18; Page 7B; April 24, 1930  
Dwelling 149; Family 149

Clark, George	64		Eng	Eng	Eng
Bessie J.	64		IA	OH	DE
Paul	34	farmer	IA	Eng	IA
Henry F.	24	farmer	IA	Eng	IA

1940 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED91-19; Page 2B; April 5-6, 1940  
#34 – own home; value of home, \$800; same house as in 1935

Clarke, George	74		Eng
Bessie	73		IA

### Funeral Home

Funeral was from the home

### Obituary

[The Indianola Record, Friday, May 15, 1942, Page 2]  
[Prole News Items]

George Clark, Sr., died at his home north of Prole Saturday. Mr. Clark had been ill for several months. He was a native of England and came to this country when quite young. He owned and operated a farm in this neighborhood for many years. He is survived by his widow, four sons, George, Joseph, Henry and James, and one daughter, Mrs. Otto Van Pelt. The funeral was held at the Methodist church in Norwalk Monday afternoon. Burial was in the Orillia cemetery.

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[The Indianola Record, Friday, May 15, 1942, Page 7]

George Clark was born in Culoman, Devonshire county, England, May 12, 1865, and came when a boy of 18 to Pennsylvania Station near Philadelphia. There he found employment on a farm where he remained for over two years. Then he decided to come west and located in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1885.

That same year he came to Norwalk. He rented a farm from B. Vorse, a banker of Des Moines. This farm is about a mile north of Norwalk, located on the main highway leading to Des Moines.

It was while living on this farm that he was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Jane Kirk on January 28, 1891.

In 1894, he purchased a farm about four miles southwest of Norwalk where he successfully followed the occupation of farming until the time of his death, May 8, 1942, at the age of 76 years, 11 months, and 26 days.

Mr. Clarke became a member of the church of England before he came to America, and never identified himself with any other church. He was always interested in the better things of life.

Mr. Clarke is survived by his wife; five children, four boys, George, Paul and Henry of Norwalk, and Joe of Des Moines, and one daughter, Katherine (Mrs. Otto Van Pelt) of Decatur, ten grandchildren, and a large number of good neighbors and friends.

Mr. Clarke was an English pioneer who possessed the spirit of adventure and self-reliance, depending on no one but himself to find a way of life, or make it. He attended strictly to his own business. He practiced the spirit of fair play in his dealings with his fellowmen. He was honest and upright and despised dishonesty, and lack of integrity on the part of those whose only business was to try to get something for nothing. Mr. Clarke believed in the policy of live and let live.

He was unselfish in disposition, and merited the respect of all who knew him. He was a kind husband and a faithful father and friend. He made the best of every condition of life. His earthly life is over, but his good name cannot be forgotten.

The funeral services were held in Norwalk in the Methodist church and were conducted by the Rev. W. H. Slack, pastor, and the Rev. A. N. Simpson, retired minister of the Church of Christ, Norwalk. Interment was in the Orillia cemetery.

Card of Thanks: We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the many kind deeds performed at the time of our bereavement, and our appreciation for the expressions of sympathy and for the floral offerings. Mrs. Bessie Clark and family.

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Misc.

[The Indianola Weekly Herald, Thursday, February 12, 1891, Page 3]  
Norwalk News Items

George Clark after trying it for a number of years has proved to his own mind and full satisfaction that it is not good for man to be alone, so last week he was married to Miss Bessie Kirk; it took George several years to solve this problem but as he has finally worked it out, it is to be hoped it will prove satisfactory with both.

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Misc.

Declaration of Intention on file in Clerk's Office, Indianola, Iowa.

George Clarke, age 58 years, occupation of farming, height of 5 feet 8 inches, weight of 150 pounds, gray hair, hazel eyes was born in Plomtree, England on the 12 May 1865. He emigrated to the United States from Liverpool, England on the vessel SS Headrietic, White Start

Line. His last foreign residence was Plomtree, England. He arrived at the port of Queenstown, New York, on or about the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1882.

Subscribed and sworn to on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1923.

Dunn's Funeral Home Record

George Clarke; residence, near Norwalk, Iowa; born May 12, 1865 in England; died May 8, 1942 at residence; age 76yr 11mo 26da; cause of death was myocarditis; father was unknown, born in England; mother was unknown, born in England; wife was Bessie Jane Clarke; he was a farmer; burial date was May 11, 1942; buried at Orillia, Iowa; physician was E. J. Kelley; service at M. E. Church, Norwalk, Iowa; minister was Rev. Slack and Rev. Simpson.

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The following was taken from Ancestry. Not sure this is the right person.

George Clarke May 12 1865 Cullompton Devonshire England; played by sea; (Dad: Tom died) farmed out 8 years old (slaved, bonded) work for room & board; age 16-18 took Adriatic Steam Boat to USA got a loan to come; Reg No: 2884922 of Alien Registration Dept. of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service; worked in Pennsylvania driving oxen; Farmer: Norwalk Warren Iowa USA; (sec 27 twp. 77 range 25) (2 307 9-2-1893 Daniel Stolrn Stolby/ 76 162 11-(23) 29-1915 John F Ford/ 84 224 3-24-1928 2-22-1928 Ed Allen)