



**Research Results: Clark surname & adoption**

Researcher: Susan L. McCabe      www.frederick-research.com

Date: January 25, 2005      Prepared For: XXXXXXXXXX

Research Sites: Handley Regional Library-      Stuart Bell, Jr. Archives  
PO Box 58  
Winchester, VA 22604

Winchester/Frederick County Courthouses

Enclosed you will find research guide pages for published materials available in the Stuart Bell Jr. Archives at Handley Regional Library. The items marked with a check indicate enclosed materials. Those resources marked "o" means I found nothing in that publication. Items researched are those that apply to your time period. Special collections available at the archive were also searched. Collection reference numbers are cited.

With the information you had sent, I began research in the marriage records of both the county courthouse and the archives in an attempt to find the parents of your George E. Clark and wife Annie Wine. Because I am unable to look at the original records, the discrepancies in names/surnames may be a problem in the transcribing of the records. (I was hoping to find the originals myself, to determine my own transcription- no luck there). I found Annie Wine to be listed as Anna Weir, daughter of Aljourn and \_\_\_? Weir, in a marriage record. The information taken from the Sydney Feathers transcriptions are also confusing, so I have included all pages where the Clark surname appeared. George E. is the son of Sampson B. and Sarah Clark as determined by the marriage recording. Earlier marriages show Sampson/Samson or Samuel to a Sarah. It is difficult to pinpoint from these records which marriage is the one for the parents of George E. Clark, as the only Sarah I see marrying a Clark is to Samuel (not Sampson). Unless the marriage record itself is in error, we are looking for Samson (Sampson) L. Clark.

There is also a Samuel P. Clark, and a Samson S. Clark, and a Samson B. Clark. As you can see, I had to be very careful, and hope that I am not crossing families. Eventually, I determined that all the "Samuel's" could be ignored.

The second area of research was in the deaths and burials. You will find enclosed the pages listing ALL Clark surname burials in the Frederick County area as published in *Index to Burials in Frederick County, Virginia*. all the pages. The Wine/Weir surname did not appear in this publication. (This book is available for sale through the archives; see enclosed flyer). Having these lists may help with future research, as you progress back.

Next, I reviewed all the published materials that fit the time frame for the 3 generations of the Clark family. Very little was found, but items listed on the enclosed Selected Titles list are enclosed. This includes additional marriage and marriage bond information. I believe some of these Clark men have more than one marriage, and so the census records became very important to determining time frames, family groups, and hoping to find the right mother with child to correctly follow the lines.

Let us begin with George E. Clark, father to Harry Richmond Clark. I find George with wife Annie in the 1900 census, Gainesboro district. George is shown as born August, 1872, age 27 years. Annie is born October 1881, age 18. Both are shown to have no children at this time. They are living next door to Jacob Clark/e who is too close in age to George to be his father. We can determine a relationship by checking back to 1880.

Moving back a generation for parents of George E. Clark, I found in 1880 a George at age 10 with his family residing in the Gainesborough District. Enclosed will show his siblings. George is son of Sampson B. and Sarah E. Clark, and we see that Jacob is indeed his older brother. There is also a Sampson L. Clark, who I would believe to be another older brother. We go back yet another 10 years, to 1870, and see the household of Sampson B. Clark and wife Sarah and with Sampson L. in the household, with his wife Rhoda and two young children. It does not indicate whether these children belong to Sampson L. and Rhoda or Sampson B., and George is not yet born. If the 1880 list is correct, George is the son of Sampson B. and most likely with his second wife.

In 1860, we find Sampson B. with a wife named Mary. Sampson L., David, Joseph, Sarah and Louisa are all the children of this wife. Therefore, the Clark line here must follow information on Sarah. Birth records will have to be carefully considered, but the marriage of George E. Clark indicates his mother was indeed Sarah.

I then went forward to 1910 in hopes of finding young Harry. I find George E. with wife Annie and son Harry R., Gainesboro District page 36A. Here is where I was thrown a loop, as I had spent many hours of time following the George E. Clark line for several generations. After not finding the 1910 George E. online (where they are nicely visible, although not always transcribed correctly), I came across a locally transcribed list of Gainesboro district families and could then find the microfilm of the 1910 census. The copy is very poor, but after studying its content, I came to see that Harry Richmond Clark was adopted. All along, it was my understanding that Jonathan Mercer Clark adopted his daughter Annie, mother to Harry. Did I misunderstand your notes? At any rate, the Clark family materials are enclosed and I will let you know what I have uncovered, but at this point we have to hope for some court records leading us to Harry Richmond Clark's biological family. There may be records in the circuit courts. You may do some preliminary searching online through the Library of Virginia in Richmond, where all the circuit court records are indexed online (or in the process of being indexed).

Now, I went through all birth and death records. For the time period after 1853, there should be records. Once again, I hit brick walls. I was able to find only one birth for all these Clark children! This was a daughter to Rhoda and Sampson L.

I checked for wills, and have enclosed the index for any Clark's. Again, although state law should have reported these deaths, we find very little. The will for Sampson B. Clark is not a will, but only an inventory of his estate and a sale of personal property. It is 17 pages long, and I did not copy it. There are lists of all the area neighbors and family members who purchased things, so it could be an interesting addition to your papers and you may want to obtain this later. Your least expensive means of getting this is to write to the archives, specify Will Book 37, pages 1 through 17 for Sampson L. Clark.

While all this looking was going on, I gave some attention to Jonathan Mercer Clark. In 1910, he is shown in Gainsboro district with Jackaline and 3 children, including Gracie. In 1900, there is an older Jonathan, with wife Meredith (not enclosed), but no son

Jonathan of the correct age. Going back to 1880, I find two families with a son Jonathan aged 14, but could not determine which one would be your family.

There was extensive searching for any and all birth/death/marriages/census/wills. All that was useful is enclosed.

#### What Else Can I Do?

There are still plenty of materials that I had no time to dig into, and I hesitated to go further without attempting to seek the adoption possibilities. It is not likely that I can find adoption material, but I can certainly try. If you want to continue with the Clark family materials, there are still deed records, church records, taxes, local family histories, manuscript files (which include letters from other researchers), and what I call potluck collections. Your earlier Clark men could have been in the Civil War, so military records are also unchecked. Given the quantity of copying that I have sent you, please keep in mind that I did not save these copies for myself. If you find a lead you may want followed, please use the references by name and the indexes to specify what you are seeking.

#### What Else Can You Do?

I explored further (on my own time), the quantity of materials for the Clark family that is online at the Church of the Ladder Day Saints (where the 1880 census material can be found). There are family files to explore right online. There are reference numbers to files so you can find out who gave the materials to the church, and if you are lucky, the donors have proof of what they are sharing. You will find this site full of family group records.

Also, play with the Library of Virginia web site for birth records. Once you gather up all that is available online, you may want to narrow your searches to more specific goals, and I can help you once again.

***Please remember that there is no guarantee materials can be located.***

*Additional time may be required.*

*Genealogy is for sharing. Materials found may be shared with other researchers.*

Susan L. McCabe  
235 Liza Kates Lane  
Winchester, VA 22603

540-888-3426  
[www.frederick-research.com](http://www.frederick-research.com)