THE CLARK FAMILY 1

INTRODUCTION AND THOMAS CLARK THE DRAGOON (BORN 1781)

I am Linwood LeBoeuf Clark (born 1907), the son of Linwood Lincoln and Mabel LeBoeuf Clark, the Grandson of James Hodgson and Lucinda Tyler Clark and the Great Grandson of Thomas and Elizabeth Hodgson Clark, and that should tie the family connection back far enough to identify the principal people that this story will refer to. I am writing this in the year 1980, and today is November 6th. This narrative is based on stories handed down to me from my Father as was told him by his Father, plus information written down by my Father in approximately 1937 when he was 70 years old; he lived to be 97 plus.

The Clark family comes from stock dating back to the days of Robin Hood and will come under the terms of folklore. The story goes that one of our ancestors used to play with Robin Hood’s sward spurs in the attic of the house of one of the family. When Robin Hood was dying of wounds received in trying to escape from the officers, he was asked where he wanted to be buried and he said “wherever this arrow, which he shot out of the attic window, lands.” The first arrow landed in the river, so he had to shoot a second arrow.

The first authentic record we have is of a James Clark who was born in 1742 in Yorkshire County, England, we don’t know where. However he was married to a Sarah Birkson July 17, 1765 at Campsall, Yorkshire, England. His wife was born in 1748. They had six children as follows:

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Elizabeth Christened March 28, 1766 Born at Sutton Campsall, Yorkshire, England

William Christened February 26, 1769 All the children except

James Christened May 10, 1772 Elizabeth were born in

Sarah Christened March 17, 1776 Wragby, Yorkshire, England

Benjamin Christened October 25, 1778

Thomas Christened June 24, 1781

My father told me that there were five brothers and that they all went into the military service, three of them being sent to India, and one to America, however he must have been wrong since I can only account for four brothers.

Neither have I any information about the families of the two sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah. Thomas (born 1781) is the ancestor that this branch of the family is descended from.

Thomas was assigned to the Queens Black Dragoons and took part in the Irish Rebellion. He was an excellent horseman and was master of horse of that regiment. He served until a vicious horse fell on him, rupturing him, and he was given an honorable discharge. I have a Photostat of his discharge papers which indicate he was in the 21st Regiment of Light Dragoons. These papers indicate that he was five feet five inches tall and was twenty-one years old. An interesting fact is that the discharge papers are signed by Lieutenant General B. Tarleton, who was commander of the regiment. He was a brother of Guy Tarleton of fame in the British army during our Revolutionary War. The discharge is dated October 20, 1802. I have the original discharge papers someplace, but have put them away for safe keeping and have done such a good job I cannot find them.

An odd circumstance, Thomas was in the Kilmainham Hospital and when my wife and I were driving from Dublin to Cork in Ireland in 1971 we passed a sign that said Kilmainham, but it didn’t register until later that that was undoubtedly where Thomas was.

Thomas was married on February 14, 1810 to Elizabeth Hodgson at West Ardsley, Yorkshire, England. Elizabeth was born August 29, 1785 at Upper Green, West Ardsley, Yorkshire. We have a copy of her genealogy as a part of these records. Thomas and Elizabeth had ten children. The first two, Benjamin and Sarah were born on Baghill, West Ardsley, Yorkshire; the other eight were born at Gawthrope, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England. The genealogical charts of the family are included with this narrative, but we are more particularly interested with line of James, who was born January 12, 1820 and christened April 2, 1820, and this is the family line we will follow to the present time. Great Grandfather Thomas became a farmer after being discharged from the service, and raised his family somewhere near the home of Waterman, the great traveler and naturalist. He also raised a few hunters for sale to the British aristocracy. Sometime in the early 1830s, about 1832, Thomas and Elizabeth decided to emigrate to the United States and traveled by ship to New Orleans, Louisiana, and then up the Mississippi River to Southern Illinois.

My Father was told by his Father, James, that Benjamin had been apprenticed out and to join the family he had to run away and meet them at a certain point as the ship dropped down the river, but he fell asleep and was nearly left behind. However the captain of the ship was persuaded to send a boat after him, and brought him aboard. They bought land in Scott County, Illinois near Winchester and farmed there until 1851. Thomas died April 24, 1842 in Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. Benjamin, the oldest, had married a Sarah Fozzard in England. Sarah married Benjamin Coultas in Morgan County, Illinois.

George was also married in Morgan County to Mary A. Harrel. Thomas never married; James married Lucinda Tyler in Bangor Maine on January 27, 1866.

Charles married Martha Alexander in Lane County, Oregon. Hodgson was killed in Idaho in 1851. Benjamin was killed in 1866 as the result of having his legs cut off by a mowing machine accident.