THE CLARK FAMILY 4

OTHER CLARK FAMILY MEMBERS

Though this narrative is primarily concerned with the James Clark branch of the family there is some information on the rest of the family. Sarah married Benjamin Coultas in Morgan County, Illinois, in 1830. Subsequently they moved to Wichita, Kansas where he died, and then she and her son Walter went to Ventura County California where she died in December 1877, and is buried in the cemetery at Springville, which is in the Oxnard area.

George was married in November 1841 to Mary Harrel in Morgan County, Illinois. He came to Oregon with the 1851 wagon train and took up land in the Rogue River Valley. In April 1869 there was a dispute over land and sheep with his brother-in-law. Joseph Southwell, Mary Clark’s husband, was shot and killed by his brother-in-law, for which the brother-in-law served time in jail.

Thomas Clark never married. More of him later. (A family tree found elsewhere says Thomas had a wife named Ann but shows no record of children. – editor)

Elizabeth Clark we have no information on, so maybe she died in England, don’t know.

James Clark we will cover in more detail later.

Charles Clark married Martha Alexander in Lane County, Oregon on July 31, 1853. They had three children; Sarah, Mary and William. Sarah married Charles Johnson and they had two children, Addie and Will. Addie married an Ernest Grigg, who was a minister, and they had three girls, Edith who I believe married a man by the name of Apple, and the last I remember they lived in San Jose; Cavie married a minister name of Greg; the third daughter was Marion. I know she married, but that is as far as I can go. Mary Clark married Charles Radclif and they had three children, Jennie, Allie and Clark. I don’t know much about Jennie, but I believe that Allie married a man by the name of Kistner, and they lived in Oakland. Clark I know was married and he had some children. He lived in Petrolia just westerly of the church. I believe he died in Petrolia.

William married Dora Hunter and they had six children, Otto, Lila, Norine, Knowles, Charles, Mabel and Creta. William ran the ranch in Petrolia. The family called him “granpe”. He was an excellent horseman and was still winning events at rodeos when he was in his eighties.

Mary married Joseph Southwell in Morgan County Illinois in June 1844, and went to Oregon in 1851 with the rest of the family. It was her husband who killed her brother George in a dispute over land cattle. Accounts indicate that Joseph Southwell was a mean character, even in Illinois.

Grace, who was wounded in the attack in Idaho, married Joshua J. Vandevert in Lane County, Oregon in April 1853, and I believe that some of the Vandevert family still live in Oregon. (They did until 1993. – editor)

Hodgson was killed in the attack on the wagon train in Idaho.

This is a brief coverage of the Clark family except for my Grandfather James and this branch will be followed up to the present date.

Thomas and James went to Humboldt County and for a time traveled between California and Oregon. In 1853 Thomas went back to Illinois and Kentucky to bring back another group to Oregon, and another bunch of good stock.

One story is told that a drover in some train was bringing a head stone over to his mother’s and brother’s graves, but whether it was Thomas or not we do not know. The 1854 trip of Thomas is the story that Mrs. D. F. (Leah) Menefee has written extensively in the Oregon Historical quarterlies of 1976-77.

Thomas and James moved back and forth between Humboldt County, California and Lane County, Oregon, and continued to acquire land and cattle. Sometime in the late 1850s or early 1860s Thomas and James sold their property in Oregon to help out a brother-in-law or Father-in-law of Charles. Charles had married an Alexander girl and her father was quite prominent in Oregon. He apparently committed himself to build a wagon trail or road across the Cascades. He was sued and I understand that the brothers Thomas and James turned their holdings over to the Alexander family.

About 1863 Charles and his family moved to Humboldt County, packing his three children over the mountains in a pack saddle, Will and Mary on one side and Sarah on the other. However his wife, Martha, did not like it in California, and after a short time they moved back to Oregon. Martha died in 1865 when her son William was three, and he was raised by sisters until they married, and then he was raised by his bachelor uncles and Father. After Martha’s death Charles moved back to Humboldt County and the three brothers, Thomas, James and Charles established a partnership in Petrolia. They continued to drive cattle to Marin County and sell it to the people in San Francisco. James had a butcher shop in Eureka and for several years supplied meat to Fort Humboldt. At that time Lieutenant U. S. Grant was in command. Knowles Clark also comments that his grandfather’s interest in the butcher shop, so I presume it was a joint venture of the brothers. Knowles says that the meat market was at the foot of “F” Street and that the butchering was done where the present Ocean View Cemetery is located. The brothers also contracted to carry mail from Eureka to Petrolia, but this was a losing business due to the bad roads and lack of bridges.

In the winter they had to swim their horses across the Eel, Bear and Mattole Rivers. Grandfather James said that he would enter the Eel River about where Fortuna is now, and end up on the other side some five miles farther down the river. The mail was tied to the saddle.

The Russ family at that time had a dairy on False Cape and Mrs. Russ often helped with the milking.