

FOREWORD

Mrs. Mabell Clark Walker has compiled the record of a family which settled in what is now Howard County nearly 200 years ago. The numerous Clarks and their kin have generally remained and prospered in the same area. After the Civil War one Confederate Clark left to found a family branch in Texas, and some family lines were based in metropolitan localities near Howard County, but the exigencies of business and profession only made for considerable dispersion after World War II.

Here is a story of extensive landowning, largely interested in agriculture, complemented with a mill and stores. Banking and a wide range of business endeavors have recruited in the two branches of Clark descendants. The law profession has had Clarks since the 1890's. Politics has continued to be a corollary interest since the election of a Clark state senator in 1856, through such offices as county treasurer, states attorney, judgeships, and civil service, to a contemporary senator Clark in Annapolis. Some of the name have been claimed by Education, including a Clark presently serving as acting president of a university, teachers and several university professors, and at least one Clark who was on a college Board of Visitors and Governors. A few Clarks have made considerable reputations in classical art, and in the civilization of Central America.

"The Clarks of Maryland" were actively interested in public schools and roads, moral questions, community problems, and church, social, and cultural promotion. Several were inclined to the sport of horse racing. The Clarks often appear on military musters, back as far as the War of 1812.

The family has to be understood in perspective. From the beginning the Clarks have been allied with Virginia and Maryland families. Some of their progenitors were at Jamestown, hence the Clark brothers, who apparently arrived from Northern Ireland in the 1790's, soon found earlier American origins. They were strong family people.

Certainly, members of the numerous Clark clans always will be grateful to Mrs. Walker for her long dedication, and for her arduous research. More than likely even the unrelated will find some fascination in the story of one Family of Howard County. Her work contributes to genealogists and to local social history.

Louis Dorsey Clark
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Lurherville, Maryland