**SAMUEL CLARK & MARY “POLLY” (CAMPBELL) CLARK**

Samuel Clark was born in 1782 in Greenbrier County, Virginia, the youngest child of Alexander and Sarah (Laverty/Lafferty) Clark. His father died when he was 12 years old. On 22 January 1805, at the age of 23, he married Mary “Polly” Campbell, the ceremony performed by Minister John Wiseman in Monroe County (formed in 1799 from Greenbrier), and the marriage bond posted by James Campbell, presumably Mary’s brother. Mary “Polly” was born about 1784, the daughter of William Campbell of Monroe County, Virginia, and an unidentified wife.Samuel and Mary “Polly” continued to live on the Clark family farm in Monroe County and care for Samuel’s mother Sarah until her death some four years later, in December 1809.

Sarah (Laverty/Lafferty) Clark wrote her will on 26 May 1808, and it was proved in Monroe County in December of 1809. In that will, she stated in part: “Eighthly, I will and bequeath to my son Samuel Clark that part of my land on which I now live, being the old improved part of the same, and also my Negro woman named Grace and my Negro boy named Madison together with all the remaining part of my stock, furniture, and farming utensils not yet apportioned off, to be held by him and his heirs forever….” (Monroe County Will Book 1-A, p. 167.)

The 1810 census for Monroe County shows Samuel, Mary, and their first three children – Nancy S., William C., and Adaline W. – along with five slaves. It is apparent from this record that Samuel owned slaves in addition to those two inherited from his mother at the time of her death less than a year earlier.

Samuel and Mary “Polly” ultimately had seven children, all of them duly listed in a Bible belonging to Rebecca Jane, their fourth daughter:

Nancy Scott Clark, born 5 August 1806 in Monroe County, Virginia

William Campbell Clark, born 6 May 1808 in Monroe County, Virginia

Adaline W. Clark, born 9 November 1809 in Monroe County, Virginia

Alexander D. Clark, born 16 October 1811 in Monroe County, Virginia

Artimesia L. Clark, born 4 February 1813 in Monroe County, Virginia

Rebecca Jane Clark, born 7 January 1819 in Gallatin County, Illinois

Samuel H. Clark, born 7 July 1821 in Gallatin County, Illinois

As background for Samuel and Mary Clark’s next move, it is helpful to know something of the history of what later became Gallatin County, Illinois. The area is located between the Wabash and Saline Rivers at the point where they flow into the Ohio River, in the southeast corner of present-day Illinois. From earliest times there had been a large natural salt spring and stream several miles inland, and this spot was a well-known destination for Indians and wild animals in search of that essential mineral. By 1685 the area was controlled by the French, who in 1735 built the first permanent fort or settlement and salt works there, which they named Equality. In 1763 the French lost control of their claims in North America to England, and England remained in control of the region until George Rogers Clark of Revolutionary War fame (a second cousin of our own Samuel) and his band of 175 soldiers began a campaign at the behest of Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia to wrest the southern parts of what are now Illinois and Indiana from the British. Although only in his mid-twenties, George Rogers Clark defied the odds and in 1779 successfully captured the three French/English settlements in the area – Cahokia and Kaskaskia along the Mississippi River and Vincennes along the Wabash River – thereby securing a vast, mostly unsettled territory that included all of the present-day states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin as well as portions of Michigan and Minnesota. That huge area became known as Illinois County of Virginia, and then became part of the Old Northwest Territory (not to be confused with the later Northwest Territory containing the present-day states of Washington and Oregon). By 1800 the Old Northwest Territory was divided into the Northwest and Indiana territories, and by 1810 was further divided into the Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois territories. A trading post and village that had gradually grown up on the north bank of the Ohio River between the Wabash and Saline rivers became known as Shawneetown; and in 1809, when the Illinois Territory was first opened to white settlement, Shawneetown became the gateway to all of the new country, the nearby great rivers affording easy water transportation to newcomers from distant states. A land office was opened there in 1814, and new settlers flooded into the area.

The United States government reserved a large tract of some 100 square miles where the salt springs were located and proceeded to develop salt-making into the major industry of the new territory. Even as Illinois moved toward statehood in 1818, coming into the Union as a free state, an exception was included in the new constitution, permitting the use of slave labor in the government-owned salt works for another ten years. Parcels of the reserved land were then leased to private individuals, additional salt wells were dug, and the heavily saline water was then evaporated down in huge kettles over open fires until all that remained was the pure salt. The finished product was then packed into barrels and shipped on flatboats to distant points via the Ohio, Tennessee, Wabash, Mississippi, and Missouri rivers. It was this exciting new frontier that evidently attracted the interest of young Samuel Clark back in Monroe County, Virginia.

We have no record of exactly when Samuel left Monroe County, but according to U.S. Territorial Papers, for the period 1810-1814 a “Samuel Clark of Illinois Territory” was awarded a federal mail contract for a route between Eddyville in Illinois Territory and Cape Girardeau in Missouri Territory, a distance of several hundred miles. If this was indeed our Samuel, it would appear he left his family behind in Virginia until about 1814, probably for reasons of their safety – there was still Indian activity in the area – and went to the wild Illinois Territory alone, returning home intermittently to Monroe County. The family’s fourth and fifth children – Alexander D. (b. 1811) and Artimesia L. (b. 1813) – in later census records consistently gave their birthplace as Virginia. In addition, there are early Gallatin County order books showing a Samuel Clark serving as a grand juror in 1814 and as a petit juror in 1819, and there are several instances around 1818-1820 of a Samuel Clark having provided surety in probate cases. These latter records are very likely our Samuel.

Around 1814 Samuel sold his inherited interest in his mother’s property in Virginia, took his young family, his slaves and household goods, and left Monroe County permanently for Illinois. He settled them in Gallatin County, formed in 1812 with Shawneetown as its county seat. On 25 October 1814 Samuel purchased 160 acres of federal land, paying two dollars per acre, that land described as the northeast quarter of Section 23, Township 9 South, Range 9 East. It was located within Gold Hill Township, on the road between Shawneetown and New Market, and was undoubtedly farmland. (Gallatin County Land Records, Vol. 86, p. 39.) Sometime later, Samuel purchased another tract of land located within Bowlesville Township of southern Gallatin County (Township 10&11 South, Range 9&10 East) some distance south of Shawneetown, near where the Saline River flows into the Ohio. It may be that he became involved in salt-making; however, there were also coal and iron ore deposits in this area, and it may be that Samuel planned on extracting these minerals on this second piece of land. No proof has been found for these potential activities.

The Gallatin County census for 1820 shows Samuel, Mary, and their first six children (Samuel H. was not born until July 1821) along with seven slaves. The Gallatin County Slave Register covering 1815-1819 indicates that the slave Grace Clark (b. 1781) gave birth to children Madison, Minty, Thomas, and twins Susan and Emily before 1818. Samuel’s seventh slave is not identified although may well have been the father of Grace’s children. Illinois was admitted to the Union as a free state in 1818, and any slaves not previously registered or “indented” by that date were automatically emancipated. Samuel registered Grace’s five children by 1818, but when asked about his intentions for Grace herself, gave a most interesting reply, as described in an 1825 affidavit by Joseph M. Street, the then Clerk of the Court, a transcription of which is included in a separate story.

Although no official record of his death has been found, Samuel Clark evidently died unexpectedly from unknown causes in Gallatin County around May or early June of 1821, just weeks before the birth of his and Mary’s last son, who was then named Samuel H., apparently for his father. This date range is based upon rather flimsy evidence, a doctor’s running account billing found in Samuel’s probate file and paid out of his estate in 1827. This hard-to-read bill lists the doctor’s services to the Clark family in chronological order, itemizing the services performed, any payment received, and also lists the responsible party. On 3 May 1821 Samuel is listed as the responsible party for services performed on that date; but for services performed on 18 June 1821, Samuel’s name has been crossed out and Mary’s name written in instead, leading to the conclusion that Samuel was no longer living and that Mary was now responsible for paying the bill. It can also be assumed that Samuel was buried in Gallatin County and probably had a wooden grave marker which has long since disappeared. An old history of Gallatin County indicates graves were routinely marked with wooden crosses and very few permanent grave markers from the earliest days in the county have ever been found.

Following Samuel’s death, with six children already and in the late stages of pregnancy with a seventh, with no family nearby, Mary found herself in a desperate situation. Research has shown that she had at least one older brother, and perhaps two, James S. Campbell and William Campbell, who had also left Monroe County, Virginia, and by 1821 were living with their families several hundred miles to the west in Franklin County, Missouri. It appears Mary did not remain in Illinois even long enough for a probate to be instituted on Samuel’s estate but instead gathered up her children and her belongings and relocated to Franklin County, where she purchased property in Section 18, Township 42 North, Range 1 East, in the settlement known as St. Johns. She left behind the family property and slaves in Illinois, evidently making some hasty arrangement to rent out these assets and to have the income forwarded to her in Missouri. Inquiry by mail has turned up no mention in Gallatin County probate records of a guardian being appointed for the minor children following Samuel’s death, which would have been the normal practice, and no mention of an administrator being appointed for Samuel’s estate before 1827, when one Timothy Guard was appointed administrator debonis non, meaning he was appointed by the Court to take the place of an earlier administrator or one who refused to serve. Perhaps some future on-site research of these records in Shawneetown, Gallatin County, Illinois, will solve the mystery of what took place with Samuel’s estate between 1821 and 1827.

In the records of Franklin County, Missouri (Marriage Book A, page 9) is found the following: “State of Missouri, County of Franklin, St. Johns Township, personally appeared before me the undersigned, a lawful ordained minister of the Gospel, Kinkead Caldwell and Mary Clark, widow to Samuel Clark of the State of Illinois, both of the County and Township aforesaid, and was (sic) lawfully married by me. Given under my hand this twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four. Lewis Williams. Recorded 19th September 1825. Wm. G. Owens, Clerk.”

Then in a book entitled Divorces, Separations and Annulments in Missouri 1769 to 1850, by Teresa Blattner (Heritage Books, Inc., 1993, ISBN 1-55613-695-1) is found the following: “Kinkead Caldwell vs. Mary Caldwell – Filed during the April term 1828, in Franklin County. Kinkead claimed he and Mary were married on March 25, 1824, and she left him in 1826. This divorce was granted on June 11, 1828.” In the same volume appears the following: “St. Louis Enquirer, 11 Dec 1824: 8-69. NOTICE – Whereas my wife Mary did on the 26th day of October last leave without just cause…Kinkead Caldwell, Franklin Co., November 27, 1824.” Thus it would appear that Mary actually lived with Kinkead Caldwell for only seven months.

Mary was still using the name Caldwell at the time of the 1830 Franklin County census but later reverted to her previous married name, Mary Clark. Following this divorce, Mary, now 42 years old, apparently concentrated on her family.

The eldest daughter, Nancy Scott Clark, was living with her mother and siblings in St. Johns Township at the time of the 1830 census, when she would have been 24 years old, but by 1840 she had disappeared. She is not found in records of early Franklin County marriages, whereas records of the marriages of Adaline, Alexander, and Rebecca Jane were duly kept by James K. Rule, Minister of the Gospel of the Church of Christ, who performed those ceremonies. Missouri did not require that births and deaths be officially recorded until 1909; however, Rebecca Jane Clark kept a list in her Bible of many family births and deaths, including that of her mother Mary in 1861. On this list appears an entry for a child, “A. J. Leathers, born September 14, 1836,” and this entry appears alongside two other entries for the first two children of Alexander D. Clark, brother of Nancy and Rebecca Jane, making it appear likely that “A. J. Leathers” was also a grandchild of Mary and Samuel Clark. Their only daughter whose marriage and children are unaccounted for is Nancy, who may have married a John Leathers around 1835, had a son “A. J.” in September 1836, and then both mother and child died soon thereafter. In the 1850 census for St. Johns, Franklin County, this John Leathers was living with his older brother Alexander and family not far from where Mary Clark and the rest of her children and grandchildren were living (all but William Campbell Clark, who had returned to Illinois). Alexander Leathers and his wife Lucy had a son whom they named Andrew Jackson Leathers and who was born 14 September 1837, exactly a year to the day after the “A. J. Leathers” listed in Rebecca Jane’s Bible, and it may well be that this child was named for the nephew of Alexander and Lucy, the deceased son of John Leathers. If this scenario is correct, the only child of Nancy Scott (Clark) Leathers would also have been Andrew Jackson Leathers, born 14 September 1836 and died within a year. Nancy’s exact date of death and burial site are unknown.

William Campbell Clark, oldest son of Mary and Samuel, was granted a power of attorney by his mother and the rest of his siblings in the Franklin County Probate Court in 1833 (Book B, page 75), whereupon he returned to Gallatin County, Illinois, presumably to oversee the final settlement of his father Samuel’s estate. There William married Adaline McCool in 1834, perhaps a childhood sweetheart. He worked as a blacksmith. In 1840 the family is found living in nearby Jefferson County, but by 1850 a widowed William and the children were back living in Equality in Gallatin County. The couple’s five children were Mary, Hercules, Martha Ann, Margaret, and William B. The father William is not found in the 1860 census, and the children are living with relatives of their deceased mother, leading to the conclusion William died before 1860. Although exact death dates for William and Adaline are not known, in the Equality Village Cemetery is a headstone inscribed simply “William Clark, Co. H, 29th ILL,” and nearby is another inscribed “A. Clark, born 1817, wife of W.C.” (Cemeteries of Gallatin Co., Illinois – Book 1, Listings by Glen Miner, found at http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~davidca/Gall-cem/listings.htm).

Adaline W. Clark, second daughter of Mary and Samuel Clark, married Perrin Farrar in Franklin County, Missouri. They had six daughters – Augusta, Mary, Martha, Josephine, Susan, and Artemisia – before Perrin died sometime prior to 1850. Adaline and her daughters lived next door to her mother Mary in the community of St. Johns as the girls were growing up, and Adaline died sometime before 1870, presumably also in Franklin County. As with older sister Nancy, Adaline’s exact date of death and burial site are unknown.

Alexander D. Clark, second son of Mary and Samuel Clark, first married Sarah Morris in Franklin County in 1835 and had two children, Marian M. Clark and James B. Clark. When Sarah died before 1840, Alexander then evidently married Hulda Campbell in 1842, a first cousin, the daughter of one of Mary Clark’s two brothers, either William or James. This second wife apparently soon died also, leaving no living children; and in 1849 Alexander married for the third time to Julia Ann Gregory, daughter of a family who lived nearby. Julia bore Alexander seven additional children – Langdon, Winfield S., Warren A., Thomas, Howard, Eudora, and Martha – although many of these children apparently did not survive to adulthood. Alexander himself died sometime between 1870 and 1880 in Franklin County.

Artimesia L. Clark, third daughter of Mary and Samuel Clark, never married. She lived with her mother Mary until Mary’s death in 1861, and after that time she lived with the family of her younger sister, Rebecca Jane (Clark) Murphy, and accompanied that family when they moved to Pulaski County in 1868. Artimesia presumably died in Pulaski County, although no record survives and her burial place is unknown.

Rebecca Jane Clark, the fourth and youngest daughter of Mary and Samuel, married Isaiah Todd Murphy in Franklin County in 1837. Around the time of this marriage, Mary Clark sold to Isaiah 40 acres of her property, and the newlyweds made their home there, acquired two additional adjoining properties, and raised a large family, only leaving Franklin County several decades later to follow two of their sons to Pulaski County. Isaiah and Rebecca Jane are buried in the Dixon Cemetery in Dixon, Pulaski County, Missouri, where they share a joint headstone.

Samuel H. Clark, the last child of Mary and Samuel Clark, never married. He worked as a carpenter and lived either with his mother, his brother Alexander, or Adaline Farrar, his widowed sister, apparently helping with their farming activities in addition to his carpentry work. Samuel died sometime after 1870 in Franklin County, although no record has been found of his exact death date or burial site.

Mary Clark lived the rest of her life surrounded by family: three of her four grown daughters, two of her three grown sons, and more than two dozen grandchildren. Her days must have been filled with activity and the work involved in helping to raise these youngsters. Mary “Polly” (Campbell) Clark died in Franklin County on 5 November 1861, according to a notation in the Bible of her daughter Rebecca, although, as with Samuel and many of their children, there is no existing record of her burial site and no grave marker has been found.