

The Clark Brick Mausoleum By John E. Norvell

Smith C. Clark 30, Mortimer (Mortimer) Clark 34 and Abraham Clark 28 are all buried in the Brick Mausoleum and all three died of TB in Nashville, or consumption, as it was called in the 19th Century.

The records of the City Cemetery show

Smith C. Clark

Born in Ithica, N. Y.

Sept. 12, 1833

Died in Nashville Tenn.

Feb. 8, 1863

Documentation

City Cemetery Lot Card

Abraham Clark purchased the Lot, 20 x 20 feet
March 4, 1863. Section 21 Lot 1

Interment Book

2-9-1863 Smith C. Clark 30 Years - Oak & Rock Ave.

1-9-1864 Mortimer Clark 34 Years - Oak Ave.

5-9-1864 Abraham Clark 28 Years - Oak Ave.

1909 Alphabetical List of the Dead

Smith C. Clark Vault

Section 21 Lot 1

Lot Owner A. Clark



The Clark Family of Ithaca New York.

A search of the 1840 and 1850 censuses for Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York lists Smith Clark, who was born about 1802, and most likely the father of the Clarks buried in Nashville.

This Smith Clark has been named in other genealogical records as Smith Condit Clark, the son of David C. Clark and Susannah Condit Clark. He married first Rebecca Van Houten, the mother of the men in the mausoleum; she died before 1846 when he remarried.

The 1846 *Ithaca Daily Chronicle* reports: "Married - On Sunday evening 9th inst. by William Lian, Esq. Mr Smith C. Clark, widower, to Mrs. Sally Ann Dexter, widow, all of this village."

It is the second wife, whom he married in 1846, who is listed in the 1850 census along with a son Mortimer (his birth date appears to be wrong in the census). Also listed in the 1850 census is Benjamin F. Dexter, the son of Sally Ann Dexter Clark and the unknown Dexter father.

The other son listed above in the cemetery record ~ Abraham Clark was not in Ithaca but seems to be in Cortland, NY working elsewhere, which was not uncommon in those days. He is listed in the 1850 Cortland Census in the household of William Copeland. Cortland was about 21 miles north east of Ithaca.

Further evidence that this is the family of the Clarks buried in Nashville is found in the 1840 Ithaca census which shows Smith C. Clark and four young sons in the record.

Name: Smith Clark

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Ithaca, Tompkins, New York

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 3

It must be noted that ages reflected in the censuses were often in error, so most likely the sons were born in the 1820s and 1830s. The mother of these sons was identified in another genealogical record as Rebecca Van Houten, whom Smith Clark married in 1821. She was deceased before 1846 when the elder Smith remarried.

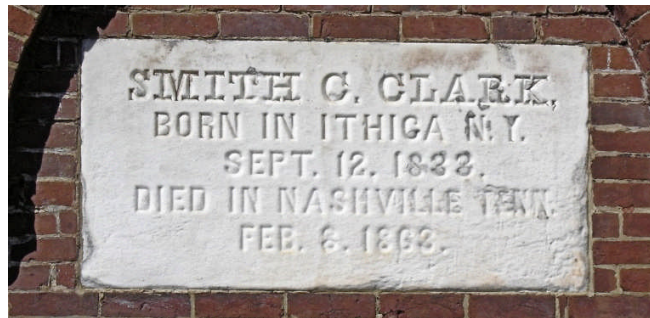
The elder Smith was dead by 1860, when his widow Sally Ann Dexter Clark is living with Benjamin Clark in Owego, Tioga New York, which is about 18 miles south east of Ithaca. Benjamin Clark appears to be the 4th son listed in the 1840 census. Benjamin remained in New York, and was living in Owego, Tioga County, New York as late as 1910 when he is listed in the census.

The 1860 Owego census also lists Benjamin F. Dexter in the Clark household as well as Mary J. Clark, a child of the elder Smith C. Clark and Sally Anne Dexter Clark born about 1848 and listed in the Ithaca Census in 1850.

This Benjamin F. Dexter joined the Union Army in Company H, New York 3rd Infantry Regiment on 14 May 1861 in Owego, New York and was mustered out on 21 May 1863 at Albany, NY.

The Clarks in Nashville.

Little information can be found at this point how the three brothers appeared in Nashville in the 1860s.



A Smith C. Clark deserted from the 106th NY INF in Feb 1863 in West Virginia. That said, the unit was recruited from northern New York, not the area around Ithaca. So most likely this is not the man in the mausoleum.

How they got to Nashville or what they were doing will remain a mystery for the time being. What we can be fairly confident of is that they were all from the Ithaca New York area and are all brothers who are buried there.