

THE CLARK NEWS

JANUARY

No 18

1952



IT'S A CLARK CENTURY!

During the recent Clark Reunion in Grantsville some of us were discussing the fact that we are approaching the end of the first century of Clarks in these mountain states. It was in 1852 that Thomas Henry Clark and Charlotte Gayley and their children arrived in Grantsville and began the task of making a home.

Some expressed the opinion that since 1952 will be our Centennial year we ought to do something to mark the occasion. A bigger and better Reunion was suggested but met with such a cool reception that it was soon dropped. There was some talk of having a Reunion in some town other than Grantsville since the past three Reunions have thrown the entire weight of the project on the same shoulders. That seemed to be looked on with more favor than another at Grantsville and since a great many did not want to drop the Reunions altogether it was sort of left in the air with the balance of opinion apparently in favor of the next Reunion being held in Oakley, Idaho. After all, Oakley is nothing but a transplant of Grantsville, with Charley Brown thrown in for local color. Hey, who said that?

Speaking for myself and not for anyone else, I think Colleen Tate has the best idea set forth in the discussions. She suggested that we make up a book that would give the family history of the first one hundred years. I like it for several reasons, principally because if we do not write it no one else is going to and secondly, if we do not do it pretty soon the facts and figures will have become lost and then no one can ever do it, no matter how he might want to.

Then, of course, I have a third reason for wanting to see it done. I'd like to have a copy of a book that would give all the known history of my Clark ancestors. It would be highly prized in my family and I think if we would leave a history of the first century, the Clarks of a hundred years hence will sense their responsibility and write a history of our century for their children.

The ultimate form such a book would have to take would depend upon the wishes of the family. I think it should have ample illustrations and as complete a history of the family as it is possible to obtain. Beyond that there are many possibilities and the family ought to work

them out so that it will represent the wishes of the family and not those of one individual.

How much would such a book cost? It would depend upon two things: the size of the book and the number of copies we ordered. I checked with our local bookbinder just to get an idea of the cost and the way I described it to him he said it would cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per copy. For myself, I've got books that cost me more than \$10.00 per copy that wouldn't mean half so much to me and I think it's a good deal, but what about the rest of you?

Are you interested in it? If you are, is your interest active, or is it of the passive sort? We cannot start such a task unless we are assured of the cooperation of the family. Will you submit items of interest that you may possess? Will you write up your own family history? Will you purchase your copy of the completed work? Or, are you so busy with your own affairs that you don't have time for it? All of these questions must be answered before it could be started.

I think the only way to determine the wishes of the family is to ask each to express himself concerning it. Will each of you, when you have finished this edition of the Clark News, set down and write me a letter telling me what you think of it. I send out 150 copies of the Clark News. If I get 150 answers I'll know it's a good deal, that is, if the shock doesn't kill me. If I get a dozen answers, I can be pretty sure that getting the other information would come in the same way and thus avoid a lot of trouble.

THE 1951 REUNION:

For me it is a little difficult to report the Reunion held in October. It is hard for me to see the Reunions with the detachment that one must have for an absolutely clear report. We had a good program. A number of people spent a lot of time and effort preparing it. We had an excellent supper that a great many people spent a lot more time and effort preparing, but there was obviously something lacking. For lack of a better name I shall call it enthus-asm. The whole thing sort of reminds me of a woman Felix Finklestein encountered.

Finklestein decided to sell vacuum cleaners on a house to house basis. He received his demonstration outfit and set out to sell. Calling on his first lady prospect, he proceeded to put the machine and its gadgets through their various paces. Finally he came to the grande finale, the bug killer.

"You see," he explained, "Ven you see a bug in your house, you get outt de vacuum gleaner and put dis attechment on, so. Den you put in it de insect powder, so. Den you turn on de machine and point it at de bug. In no time, he's dead."

"But why go to so much trouble?" asked the practical housewife. "If I see a bug, I just step on it and it's dead."

Felix was thoughtful for a moment, then he said: "Ya, dot's a good idea too."

Whatever conclusion Felix and his friend arrived at, I still think that when you've got a lot of bugs a machine is the thing to get them with and when you've got a lot of Clarks a Reunion is the best thing in the world to bring them together. Too many families for too many years have accomplished wonders through their reunions. Let's get the errors out of this one, not abandon it.

THE FAMILY MAIL BOX

Ever since I started this Clark News I have thought that pretty soon I'd have more spare time in which to do it. I have just learned that waiting for spare time to show up is waiting for a ship that just doesn't come in. So, all I can do is make a small hole in my schedule for the Clark business and use it to the best of my ability. I have set aside Monday nights for it, so maybe in the future I'll get it all taken care of. In the meantime I've got a few items here that have been collecting since last summer. I think the oldest item that is crying for a little attention is from my little cuzzin and play mate, Helen McMurray of Burley, Idaho. Her letter, dated July 19, 1951, says:

Dear Bernard:

I have been thinking about writing this letter for a year now. Just never get around to it. (Helen, try Monday nights) Wendell and I do enjoy receiving the Clark News. Read it all the way through. Am enclosing a check to help a little, also record sheets of our children. Best of luck to you in your work.

Then I think the next in line is from our long lost friend and brother from Summit, New Jersey, L.R. Wrathall. His letter is dated Aug 27.

Dear Bernard:

I have just received the July issue of the Clark News and thanks a lot. You are doing a swell job. Its too bad that some of the rest of us can't be fired up with a little of your drive. I agree with you that a private investigator might do better in genealogical research.

I am enclosing a copy of two of Thomas Clark's blessings. I notice that his birth is put for the year 1806 on one of them while other sources some times quote 1805. That does not matter too much I guess but is interesting.

My Aunt Ellen Rowberry Hinckly a few years before she died wrote a biography of Charlott Clark Rowberry and her family for my brothers and I. It is a rather lengthy article and would require some editing before it would be much use to you. Maybe one of us could do it some year.

In 1947 I turned over to the Bureau of Information on Temple Square a beautiful Nauvoo Temple plate that great grandfather brought across the plains. It was in such good shape without a crack or chip I thought none of us should keep it. I wish someone would look and see what they are doing with it.

I was interested in an article written by my old friend Allen Parkinson in which he told how my grandmother found a pair of shoes. The story was always told to me as follows: They were found tied in a small bush along a stream near camp on their way across the plains. They fit grandmother perfectly but her father wouldn't let her wear them until he had displayed them tied to the wagon and also after careful inquiry.

An interesting sequel to this story occurred a few years ago. We invited our daughter's Sunday School teacher to go with us on a picnic and during the course of the afternoon she told my daughter the story of her grandfather who disobeyed his parents and went wading in a stream after fastening his shoes in a small bush. He could never find them and had to walk the rest of the way barefoot.

The time and the ages agreed and I'm sure it was the same pair of shoes. Well, must close. Hope I can do something to help.
P.S. Have a heart--don't quote my letters in your News--especially as I write them. I'm the world's worst letter writer. If you want a little quote--do a little editing. (Oakey doakey, I put an apostrophe or so and a comma in).

FOR THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS:

The two letters quoted immediately above contained contributions to the Clark fund. Helen's contained \$5.00 and the other \$10.00. I mention this here because it brings me to another subject that is of vital importance to all.

I was in Salt Lake the other day and I went down to the Genealogical Society to see if something couldn't be done there to get us more information along our Clark line. They said, Yes, there is a great deal that could be done, but it will cost you money. I asked them how much and they said that any amount would help get it started. I talked to them about the money that we have already submitted and they got out our file and showed me what had been accomplished, largely a matter of establishing contacts etc in England, but not anything in the way of actual names that we can do anything about. I talked about the matter with them for some time and they felt that we should put more money into it and then we could look for results with more assurance. They suggested that we give them \$100.00. We had that amount on deposit in a Salt Lake bank so I went down and drew it out and closed the account. The balance of our funds I have here in Idaho Falls as it is easier for me to take care of it here. The American National Bank, if anyone is curious.

The Society has assigned a researcher to our problem and I talked with her. I told her our story and she is going to devote herself to the work and will keep in touch with us. I told her that we had a committee for that purpose and that they would get in touch with her rather than my doing it. I feel that if you three people on the committee would get together and talk with Mrs. Gardner, (I believe her name is) anyway, you can find out her name there at the Society. The work is being done under my name so you will have to give Bernard Price as the patron when you inquire. They wanted to know if they should employ a researcher to go through the books in the library for names. I suggested that perhaps our committee could do that. I believe, in any event, that if the committee will go there and talk the situation over, you can find out what you can do, and make arrangements to do it.

*Alvin
Butler
&
Paul
Clark*

Now, here is a final suggestion. For a year we have virtually no money paid into the family fund. I feel now that we are on our way toward a successful conclusion of our search but it is going to take money to complete it. Don't tell me about inflation and the high cost of living. I know that one. I've got a couple of kids of my own. But I do feel that it is now essential for us to build up our funds as rapidly as possible against the day when this research puts us in a place where we will need it. Let's have every one in the family put a little bit, at least, into the fund every month.

If you have ever said to yourself, "If someone else would do the work I'd pay the bill" your chance has come.