

CLARKE, BESSIE JANE

Birth

January 18, 1866 in
Saylorville, Iowa



Death

January 7, 1944 at
Norwalk, Iowa

Cause of Death

Congestive Heart Failure

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 130
Lot was purchased by George Clarke Estate on May 10, 1942

Maiden Name

Kirk

Father

James Kirk born in Licking Co., OH

Mother

Hester J. Griffith born in Licking Co., OH

Marriage

Bessie J. Kirk to George Clark on January 28, 1891 in Polk Co., IA
Ref: Book 5, 1889-1892, page 50 of Polk Co., records on file at IGS Library

Return of Marriages in Polk Co., Iowa for the year ending October 1, 189_
77-1078

George Clark
Residence: Norwalk, Iowa
Occupation: Farmer
Age next birthday: 26
Birthplace: England

Father: Tom Clark

Married

January 28, 1891

Bessie Kirk

Residence: Grimes, Iowa

Age next birthday: 26

Birthplace: Des Moines, Iowa

Father: James Kirk

Mother: Hester Griffith

Married at Grimes, Iowa

Witnesses: Mr. Joe Serod and James & Nettie Kirk

Minister: E. A. Walker

Census

1870 – Walnut Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 422A; July 7, 1870

Dwelling 172; Family 181

Kirk, James	40	farmer	OH
		Real estate, \$3600; personal property, \$1640	
Esther	40		MD
William F.	17		OH
Mary	16		OH
Henry	13		OH
James	11		IA
Charles	07		IA
Jennette	06		IA
Bessie	05		IA
Edwin	9/12		IA

1880 – Walnut Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED175; Page 583A; June 22, 1880

Dwelling 159; Family 163

Kirk, James	50	farmer	OH	OH	OH
Easter	50		DE	DE	DE
Frank	26		IA	OH	DE
Nettie	15		IA	OH	DE
Bessie	13		IA	OH	DE

1885 – Webster Twp., Polk Co., Iowa; State Census;

Dwelling 119; Family 120

Kirk, James	54	farmer	OH
		SE ¼ SW ¼	
Hester	54		DE
Bessie	18		Polk Co., IA
Nettie	20		Polk Co., IA

Frederick	20	farm hand		Polk Co., IA
1895 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Page 116				
Clark, George	29			ENG
Bessie	29			IA
George	03			Warren Co., IA
Joseph	01			Warren Co., IA
1900 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED138; Page 7; June 14, 1900				
Dwelling 150; Family 153				
Clarke, George	35	farmer		ENG ENG
		Born May 1865		
Bessie J.	34	4 children; 4 children living	IA	OH DE
		Born January 1866		
George F.	07	Born July 1892	IA	ENG IA
Joseph C.	06	Born February 1894	IA	ENG IA
James P.	03	Born December 1896	IA	ENG IA
Catherine L.	01	Born November 1898	IA	ENG IA
1905 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Post Office, Norwalk, IA				
Card #427				
Clark, Bessie J.	39		IA	OH DE
1910 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED212; Page 10B; May 3, 1910				
Dwelling 142; Family 143				
Clark, George	44	farmer		ENG ENG
		Married 14 years		
Bessie	44	5 children, 5 living	IA	OH DE
George	17	farm labor at home	IA	ENG IA
Joseph	16	farm labor at home	IA	ENG IA
Paul	14		IA	ENG IA
Kate	12		IA	ENG IA
Henry	04		IA	ENG IA
1915 –				
1920 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 218; Page 8B; January 21, 1920				
Dwelling 201; Family 203				
Clark, George	54	farmer		ENG ENG ENG
		Came to US in 1882		
Bessie J.	53		IA	OH DE
Paul J.	24		IA	ENG IA
Henry F.	13		IA	ENG IA
1925 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Book 79				
Clark, George	59			ENG

		Father was Thomas Clark, born in ENG No mother was given
Bessy J.	59	IA Father was James Kirk, born in OH Mother was Easter Griffit, born in DE
George F.	32	IA Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessie Kirk, born in IA
Joe	31	IA Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessie Kirk, born in IA
Paul	29	IA Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessie Kirk, born in IA
Henry	19	IA Father was George Clark, born in ENG Mother was Bessie Kirk, born in IA

1930 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 18; Page 7B; April 24, 1930
Dwelling 149; Family 149

Clark, George	64		Eng	Eng	Eng
		Came to US in 1882			
Bessie J.	64		IA	OH	DE
Paul	34	farmer	IA	Eng	IA
Henry F.	24	farmer	IA	Eng	IA

1940 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED91-19; Page 2B; April 5-6, 1940
#34 – own home; value of home, \$800; same house as in 1935

Clarke, George	74		Eng
Bessie	73		IA

Funeral Home

C. D. Eicher at Dunn's

Deaths – Book 5; page 56; Clerk's Office, Indianola, Warren Co., IA

Bessie Jane Clark – born January 18, 1866 in Iowa; died January 7, 1944; cause of death was congestive heart failure; father was James Kirk, born in OH; mother was unknown and born in OH.

Deaths

[The Des Moines Tribune, Monday, January 10, 1944, page 8]

Clarke – Services for Mrs. George Clarke of R. R. #1, Norwalk, will be held at Dunn’s Funeral Home Sunday afternoon at 2 o’clock. Interment Orillia, Rev. O’Brien of Norwalk, officiating.

Obituary

[Indianola Record, Friday, January 21, 1944, page 5]

Mrs. George Clarke, whose maiden name was Bessie Jane Kirk, daughter of Hester and James Kirk, was born January 18, 1866, in what is now known as Highland Park in north Des Moines.

A few years later she moved with her parents to a farm east of Grimes, remaining there until her marriage to George Clarke of Norwalk, January 28, 1891. Mr. Clarke preceded her in death May 8, 1942.

After living north of Norwalk for three years they moved southwest of Norwalk where she lived until her death January 7, 1944, at the age of 77 years, 11 months, and 20 days.

She is survived by five children: George, Paul and Henry of Norwalk, Joe of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Kathryn Van Pelt of Leon; one sister, Mrs. Nettie Seibert of Minburn; 10 grandchildren; nephews; and nieces.

She joined the Presbyterian church of Grimes when a young girl. She was a devoted mother to her children. She had an unselfish nature and was always willing to help others.

History of Polk Co., Iowa – 1880; Webster Twp.; page 972

Kirk, James – Farmer, section 4, P. O. Des Moines. Was born in Ohio, January 2, 1830, and was there raised. While young he learned the cooper’s trade, and followed it until the spring of 1858, when he came to this county. He has lived here since, following farming, and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land. His residence is surrounded by fine shade trees, and is well located. He was married in Ohio, September 22, 1861, to Miss Hester J. Griffith. They have had eleven children, of whom seven are living: William F., Henry B., Mary, James, Charles F., Jennette and Bessie. Four are deceased: Edgar, and three infants.