

Starr Clark: Obituary

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Obituary.

The funeral services of the late Starr Clark whose death was noticed in our last issue, were held at his residence on Wednesday last. The following obituary notice was read by his pastor, Rev. M. D. Kinney :

Starr Clark was born in Lee, Mass., Aug. 2d, 1793, and was therefore 73 years of age at his death. When two years old, his parents removed to Utica, in this State, where his childhood and youth were passed. A few years of his earlier manhood were spent in Connecticut, where he married his wife, who now survives him, in 1815. Fifty-one years, by the providence of God, they have been permitted to bear the burdens and share the pleasures of life together. The year following their marriage they removed to Ithaca, Tioga county, in this State. Here in the seventh year they were together powerfully wrought upon by the Holy Spirit, and in their own home, after struggling in earnest prayer nearly all one night, they were together happily converted to God. They joined the Congregational Church soon after, and onward to the present have ever maintained an irreproachable Christian character.

Full fifty years—a round half century—they have lived in daily exemplification of the beauty and power of the Christian religion. Bro. Clark has often referred to this year as the Jubilee year in his Christian life.

In 1832, thirty-four years ago, he removed with his family to this town, since which time he has been very prominently connected with its business and political and religious history. For a whole generation last past no name in this whole region has been more widely known or more profoundly respected than Starr Clark.

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For years he was the only man that took a daily paper, and his place of business was the general rendezvous for getting the latest news of the day through the Albany Journal, whose daily he has taken for about thirty years.

With the political history of this locality he has been prominently identified, following the lead of the great Clay when that illustrious statesmen had only a small minority in the county. He had but one fundamental article in his political faith, and that was - Impartial Justice to all men, without regard to condition or color. For a quarter of a century, during that long and dark period when the colored man

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Yes, we should do justice to his history if we did not on this occasion say that always, by voice and vote, by influence and money, he has proved himself the life-long friend of the colored man.

In all his business relations his Christian integrity has never, to my knowledge, been questioned. His character in this respect is above reproach and without a moral blemish. Never aspiring to become wealthy, he has, by his industry and honesty and economy, made a comfortable living for himself and his family.

For the last eighteen years he has been connected with the M. E. Church of this village, and has maintained through his entire membership a blameless life. His piety has commended itself by his daily example to all with whom he has mingled. He was always at Church, unless prevented by sickness, and was one of its most liberal supporters. Yes, I may say, without giving offense, that he was, according to his ability, the most liberal man in the Church. Giving to the cause of God was to him a Christian duty and privilege. Last Sabbath noon, when I saw him for the last time, he asked me if I had any collection for benevolent purposes in the morning. I replied no. He said if you did, I want to make my contribution now. And this was his habit of ways when absent.

In his family he was a kind, Christian husband and father. There have been born unto him nine children, four of whom died very young, the other remaining five he has been permitted to see grow up to manhood and womanhood—all of them professing the faith and venerating the Bible and loving the God of their father.

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He loved his children most tenderly, and they have been the greatest comfort to him in his declining years. Though the most of them were far removed from him, they were always near to him in thought and affection. It would have been a great comfort to him as well as them to have had them all around his dying bed, hearing his last words, and witnessing his departure to the untrodden shore. But they knew that he loved them none the less because away, nor died less peacefully because they were not near. For the best of all was, God was with him.

He remarked to me Sabbath noon, "I know not how long I shall live -probably not long; but I have little anxiety about it. I am doing up my work with every day. The books are now balanced between me and my Maker. The account is settled, and I am fully ready for the Lord's will." When dying, he said to his aged companion, "Jesus is very precious" "I am going to my eternal home." "The Lord will lead me through" With a strange smile lighting

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We cannot hold back our tears as we stand by his bier, for by his death we all have lost—family, Church and community, but we are sure our loss is his eternal gain. While we weep we will still rejoice that he has lived so long and so well, that he suffered so little in his sickness, and died in such calm resignation to the will of his God.

How beautiful the close of life to one so ripe in years and Christian experience—life ending amid the benedictions of the good on earth and the welcomes of the saved in heaven.

Family, wife and sons and daughters and brethren and neighbors, let us all here rededicate ourselves to the cause of Christ, that our life may be pure, and our death triumphant.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Who wrote Starr Clark's obituary?
2. Where was Starr Clark born?
3. When did he move to Mexico, NY?
4. How do you know Starr Clark was well respected in his community?
5. What social issues did he support?
6. If you could ask Starr Clark a question, what would it be?
7. Use your research skills to collect enough information to answer your question posed to Starr Clark in #6.



Starr Clark Tin Shop, Mexico, NY; Image courtesy of Mexico Historical Society.