

## William C. Clark

Very little is actually known about William C. Clark but there are a few clues in the records which provide a little information. From the existing records that give an age for him we can calculate that he was born in 1815 in North Carolina. One source dated 1937 stated that William was the son of Rev. James B. Clarke and Morvina Bledsoe. There were many mistakes in this document so I don't know how much to credit it.

There is a William Clark listed in Cabarrus County North Carolina in 1830 on page 172. This is possibly our William Clark.

It should also be noted that John Clark II (a grandson to James Clark) married Charlotte Arey a first cousin to William's future wife, Amanda. Is it possible that William is related to this John Clark?

William C. Clark was a Methodist minister. This is documented in the Minutes of Methodist Annual Conferences. These conferences appear to have been held in various places and entries record the advancement of William C. Clark in the ministry. The first entry is dated 4 January 1837 in Wilmington, North Carolina and is recorded on pages 441 and 442. William is admitted on trial (presumably as a minister) and is stationed at Rutherford with John Morse.

On 10 January 1838 at the Columbia, South Carolina conference William remains on trial, station not listed. Entry is on page 522.

At the Cheraw, South Carolina conference on 9 January 1839 William is admitted into full connection and is ordained a Deacon. This is listed on page 610 and the location is not listed.

On 8 January 1840 the conference was held in Charleston, South Carolina. On page 30 it states that William was assigned to Lincolnton District, stationed in Lincolnton with D. G. McDaniel.

The conference was held in Camden, South Carolina on 6 January 1841. On page 123 of the minutes it is recorded that William is elected and ordained an Elder and is assigned to the Cheraw District, stationed at Deep River.

The minutes of the 12 January 1842 conference in Charlotte, North Carolina record that William is assigned to the Columbia District and is stationed at Pee Dee.

On 8 February 1843 William is assigned in the Wilmington District and is stationed in Conwayboro, as recorded on page 328.

On 25 December 1844 the conference is in Columbia, South Carolina. William is assigned to the Cokesbury District and is stationed at Union with Ira L. Potter. This is recorded on page 553.

On the 24 of December 1845 William is stationed in Concord, his assignment is to Lincolnton District. The conference is held in Fayetteville, North Carolina and the record is on page 36.

A William Clark received a 10 acre land grant #4635 on 18 April 1846 on Island Creek as recorded in book 151, page 17, entry 73. This may not be William C. Clark but may be his uncle.

On 13 October in 1846 William C. Clark married Amanda Area in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Amanda was living in Cabarrus with her family even though her father had just died in March of 1846. One of the bondsmen for their marriage was a John Zimmerman. The only Zimmerman families I could find in the area at that time were living in Lincoln County. It is possible that William was from Lincoln County and was a friend to this John Zimmerman. Their marriage was in the Marriage and Death Notices of the Southern Christian Advocate and also in the North Carolina Marriage Records

13 January 1847's conference is held in Charleston, South Carolina as recorded on page 90 of the minutes. William is still assigned to the Lincolnton District but is now stationed in Yorkville.

The first known child of William and Amanda was born on 5 December 1847 in Lincoln County. They named him James Albert Clark. Could the name James be a clue to the name of William's father?

On 12 January 1848 the conference is in Wilmington, North Carolina, page 141 of the minutes records William as being assigned to the Cokesbury District and stationed in the Greenville Circuit.

An entry on page 191 for 20 December 1848 has the conference meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina and William is assigned to Lincoln District and stationed in Pleasant Grove.

The conference of 1849 is recorded on page 248 and has William assigned to Lincolnton District and stationed in Catawba.

The second child was born in North Carolina, presumably in Lincoln County. He was born on 14 Mar 1850. He was called Clingman after his mother's mother, Catherine Clingman.

Later that same year during the census of 1850, on 6 Aug, the family is listed as living in Lincoln county North Carolina. William is listed as being a Methodist Minister.

The entry for 1850 is recorded on page 303 and has William assigned to Georgetown District, stationed at Chesterfield.

One source stated that William C. Clark performed marriages in Albemarle, North Carolina. City or County is not clear. It should also be stated that a search of the Methodist Church records does not reveal William's name. He was not listed as an ordained Minister. He was probably a lay minister or possibly a traveling preacher. Without further information it is impossible to know.

In June of 1851 their third child was born. They named her Catherine. Some records say she was born in South Carolina, but most indicate that she was born in North Carolina.

On 10 December 1851 the conference is held at Georgetown, South Carolina as recorded on page 352. William is assigned to Georgetown District as is stationed in the Black River Circuit.

There is no entry recorded for 1852 but in 1853 the conference is held from 5 to 11 January in Sumterville, South Carolina. William is assigned to Lincolnton District and is stationed in Morganton.

Conference records for 1854 through 1857 are missing and there is no further mention of William C. Clark in the conference records.

William is born some time in 1854 in North Carolina.

Frederick is born early in 1860, probably January, in North Carolina.

A William Clark living in Anson received land grant #4847 on 11 May 1860. This was 2 ½ acres of land adjacent to Amos Liles. This grant is recorded in book 164, page 114, entry 505.

The Wm. C. Clark family is living in the Cedar Hill District, of Anson, North Carolina on 15 June 1860 as recorded on page 32. They are in the Ansonville Post Office. Living in the household are Wm. C. Clark, age 45, Amanda 37, James 12, Clingman 10, Kate 7, William 5 and Frederick 5 months old. Again William is listed as a M. E. Minister. Cedar Hill is just north of the town of Ansonville, almost to the Stanly county line.

W. C. Clark served with Company A of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the North Carolina Confederate Army. The following entry was found: "Clark, W. C., Private. Born in Anson County where he resided as a 'minister of the gospel' prior to enlisting in Anson County at the age of 46, May 22 1861. Present or accounted for until discharged on October 2, 1861 by reason of 'general debility and jaundice which is impairing his mind'".

No other known records have been found to this date regarding William C. Clark. Family tradition states that William C. Clark was killed at Appomattox, in Virginia at the very closing of the Civil War. The tradition is that he was a chaplain in the Confederate Army. A search of the records for known chaplains does not reveal his name. An expert in Civil War concerns said that if he was killed in action he was probably not a chaplain. Chaplains typically stayed back from the front lines out of harms way. If he was killed outright he was probably buried by the Union forces in a mass unmarked grave. If he was only wounded he could have been sent to either the Farmville Hospital or possibly the Petersburg Hospital. If he died in either from his wounds he again would have been buried in a mass unmarked grave nearby. None of the known hospital records mention him. After the surrender of Lee the Union Army took over the operation of the hospitals and records were not well kept.

It should be stated that William's son James was also at Appomattox at the time of the surrender and family tradition should be fairly reliable regarding the time and place of William's death. Due to the common name which he had positive identification of which military unit he served in has been difficult.

42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Company H, North Carolina was raised in Stanly Co NC on March 25, 1862. The company officially mustered on May 10, 1862. Officers Jackson M. HARTSEL-Captain resided in Stanly Co where he enlisted at age 25 appointed Captain on March 25, 1862. Lieutenants: Alexander BROOKS Alfred CRISCO Joseph HARTSELL Eli HUNEYCUTT Jonathan MANN James TURNER

Other officers and privates: Adam ALMON . . .  
J.M.CARTER Wilson CARTER William CLARK

William COLEY . . .(other rosters indicate this is  
probably William P. Clark)

### **Amanda A. Area**

Amanda A. Area was born in North Carolina some time between 1822 and 1826, presumably in Cabarrus County. The 1830 and 1840 Cabarrus County census records list her father Abraham Area and note children of the correct age to include Amanda.

In the census of 1830 for Cabarrus County, North Carolina the household of Abram Area is recorded as including one male under 5 (Peter 2), one male 5 to 10 ( Henry 12), two males 10 to 15 (Alexander, 16, William , 14), one male 40 to 50 (Abraham 45), one female under 5 (Jane 3), 2 females 5 to 10 (Amanda 8 and Elizabeth , about 6), and one female 40 to 50 (Catherine 43), though the ages are not exact this would identify all but the youngest male children. Caroline, 18 was married in 1828 and is not accounted for here.

The 1840 census for Cabarrus County lists one male 10 to 15 (Peter 12), one male 20 to 30 (Henry 22), one male 50 to 60 (Abraham 55), one female 10 to 15 (Jane 13), two females 15 to 20 (Amanda 18 and Elizabeth about 16), and one female 50 to 60 (Catherine 53).

Amanda received her share of the money from the sale of her mother's estate the receipt is signed by her husband William C. Clark and is dated 21 Mar 1856.

Amanda is noted in the estate settlement of her brother Henry A. Area in Nov of 1866, presumably she was still living. His will was amended in 20 Mar 1866 to add provisions for his sisters Mary Eliza Black and Amanda A Clark.

Amanda Clark is living in DeSoto County, Mississippi on 15 June 1870, with Post Office listed as Arcabutta. Living with her are James 22, Clingman 20, William 16, and Tick age 12. Kate her daughter is living with her aunts in Oktibbeha, Mississippi, attending school. Amanda is listed as a farmer age 46.

There is very little information in addition to that provided for William C. Clark. Her oldest children are found in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. No mention is ever made of her. One story says that after the war she moved to Texas. Since she had no money she stayed at the homes of Masonic members and took a rather long time getting there. Other than the 1860 and 1870 census no other record of her two youngest sons has been found.