

[Clark, John S.]

GENERAL CLARK HAD NOTABLE CAREER

One of the Most Distinguished Historians in the State

FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR

Became a Recognized Authority on the Iroquois Indians  
and Early Jesuit Missions—House Filled With Relics

Auburn, April 13.—In the death of Gen. John S. Clark, which occurred last Sunday, the city of Auburn has lost one of its oldest and most distinguished citizens, and Cayuga county and Central New York one of the few surviving men who, by their interest in historical research, formed a connecting link between the times of early settlement and the later development of the country.

General Clark was born in the town of Mentz, Cayuga county, November 2d, 1823. His father was Israel S. Duvall, and his mother's maiden name was Clark. For some unknown reason he early petitioned the Legislature, and obtained consent, to change his name to Clark.

On October, 17th, 1842, he married Mary Anne Crofoot. Five children were born of the union, of whom only one, Smith D. Clark, survives. In 1887 his first wife died, and in the same years general Clark married Euretta Clark, who survives.

Fought in the Civil War

Civil and mechanical engineering attracted him in his youth. At the outbreak of the civil war he obtained a commission as captain of Company G, Nineteenth New York Voluntary Infantry. He served with distinction and was promoted to the grade of colonel and later general. In one engagement of the war General Clark was reported to have been killed, and an obituary published in one of the newspapers of the time was treasured by the General as "giving a satisfactory account of his life up to the period when his career was supposed to have terminated."

In his later years General Clark devoted much of his time to historical studies, becoming a recognized authority on the life and customs of the Iroquois Indians and the early Jesuit missions. His home in North street was filled with literature upon the subjects gathered from every possible source, and with relics dug from the soil of Cayuga and adjoining counties.

In particular, a map showing the location of the Jesuit missions, with historical data connected with them, and a map of the Iroquois trails, showed his accurate scholarship in these directions and earned for him the award of the Cornplanter medal by the Cayuga County Historical society in 1904.

[Clark, John S.]

City Engineer of Auburn

For many years General Clark was city engineer of Auburn and his maps are the basis of many deed and land transactions. Although his interest in military matters lapsed after the war, he was one of the four Cayuga county generals who established four medals as prizes to be awarded to the members of the four squads of Company M Third Infantry, excelling annually in the school of the soldier.

He died at the ripe age of 89, and his last days were spent among his books and papers.

The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon and was attended by a large gathering from all ranks of citizens. The Rev. A. [Arnold] S. Yantis, pastor of the Universalist church, officiated. Burial was in Fort Hill cemetery.

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