

## THOMAS EMMONS CLARK

Was born February 11, 1788 at Colchester, Conn. He was graduated at Union College where he acquired a thorough classical education, which was strengthened by a tutorship in the same institution. The study of law he commenced with Judge Jonas Platt, of Whitesboro, and on its completion was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1811. He began practice with Charles M. Lee, admitted at the same time with himself, and with him and afterwards with others he practiced continuously for over forty years. As a lawyer his merits surpassed his reputation. If he was less conspicuous as a speaker than some of his illustrious peers of the Oneida Bar, he made up in solid acquirements and strong native sense what he lacked in more showy qualities. He was rather learned than brilliant--rather given to convincing the understanding than exciting the imagination. He was a large reader, a laborious and profound scholar; a man with whom it was impossible to come into contact without feeling the impress of his learning and his worth. His knowledge of the classics, as of law, was thorough, while he was largely versed in metaphysics, theology and the Bible. He was singularly unambitious and unaffected. Earnest for his clients, he never thought of himself, or uttered anything merely for effect. Without the least assumption of dignity, there was in him a dash and a directness of purpose that were equally evident in his brusque, noisy talk and wholesome laugh, his headlong gait and his swift and all but unreadable writing. Temperate and simple in his habits, he rose with the day, and often prepared with his own hands the Johnnycake and sage tea that formed his frugal breakfast. Integrity was in him a master principle,--so remarkable indeed, as to rise at times to sternness. And so uniformly good natured was he that he could not be provoked into anger; kind and genial, with a smile for all, and a frankness of manner that none could resist. Steadfast in doing what he thought he owed to his own party and his own church, he yet enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens of all parties and all creeds. And when elevated by them to positions of responsibility, he filled them faithfully and without ostentation. He was a Member of Assembly in 1828, and of the Senate in 1848-9. Of the Presbyterian and afterwards of the Dutch Reformed Church he was long an elder and a Bible class teacher. For to a respected and respectable life he added the crowning grace of a consistent Christian discipleship. For many years Mr. Clark lived in the house now occupied by Sylvester Dering, and afterwards in East Utica, where a farm that adjoined his residence engaged much of his attention in his later years. He died at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. Wood, April 14, 1857.

His wife, who was a daughter of Samuel Wells of Paris, N. Y., and a sister of Mrs. William Williams, had preceded him several years, having died March 10, 1844. Mrs. Clark was foremost in labors of Christian endeavor. Few ladies of the place have equalled her in active, efficient charity. For the calls of society, so-called, she felt little interest, and bore but lightly the burdens of household care, in the church, in the Sunday School, in various forms of religious enterprise, she found enough and more than

CLASS OF 1807--Thomas Emmons Clark--2

to command all her faculties. They had a son and two daughters, of whom the only survivor is Mrs. George M. Wood, of late a resident of here and in Clinton, but now of New Jersey.

FROM The Pioneers of Utica, N. Y. p. 298  
M. M. Bigg  
Curtis & Childs  
Utica 1877.

THOMAS E. CLARK, Esq., 1807, a resident of Paris, Oneida Co., N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. He died in 1867.  
Philomathean Catalogue 1850.

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