1808  AARON CLARK.  $100,000

Formerly a distinguished lottery dealer, in which business he made his money. He has been Mayor of New York.

Wealth and Biography of Wealthy Citizens.
p. 6
1945
Clark, Aaron
From: Clinton, N.Y.
Last residence: N.Y. City

Records show one
Aaron Clark
Paymaster in Lt Col Putnam Farrington's Regt
N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 8, 1814
Expiration of service: Oct 3, 1814
The Resigned Firemen went after the new chief again next year when they combined with the Whigs to support Aaron Clarke for Mayor and ran a slate of Council candidates, every man of which was pledged to remove Gulick's successor. And they whipped Tammany badly. They elected Mayor Clarke captured the city government and elected their municipal slate.

FROM: History of the New York Fire Department
p. 167
Lowell M. Limpus
E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
New York. 1940
AARON CLARK.

There was a three-cornered canvass for speaker, General Root, Mr. Romaine, and John C. Spencer being the candidates. Mr. Clark, who had been clerk for four years previous, was an anxious candidate for reelection. Between the three rivals for speaker the clerk was in a fix. The day before the legislature convened, what professed to be "intercepted letters" appeared in an Albany paper. They were addressed to the three candidates for speaker, proffering support to each, and giving each a dig. Mr. Clark's style was so cleverly imitated that the letters created considerable amusement. But the end of the laugh did not "trammel up" the consequences of the joke. Mr. Clark removed to this city and opened a lottery office, then a great business not unlawfully followed. Then, as now, nothing paid so well as dashing, spirited advertising. Mr. Clark saw this, and filled the newspapers, inviting attention to "Clark's Wheel of Fortune," "Clark's Lucky Star," "Clark's Golden Numbers," etc., etc. His rival lottery ticket vendors exhumed his alleged Albany letters, professing devoted zeal for three candidates for speaker. This both annoyed and damaged him. But worse than this, "in the course of human events" Mr. Clark became a candidate for mayor of New York; and now the letters were brought out by the Tammany Hall Press. By this time they had become in the public mind veritable letters. And then, the joke having been carried too far, the culprit who wrote them relieved Mr. Clark from injustice and persecution by publicly confessing himself the author.

Autobiography of Thurlow Weed p. 397
Harriet A. Weed, Editor
Boston, Mass. 1884.

1808 Aaron Clark

A. M., Hamilton College, 1833
Hamilton College Alumni Register, 1812-1922.

AARON CLARK, A. M. Esq., 1808, resident of Paris, A. M., was a member of the Philomathean Society. He died in 1861.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.
Died: At the city of New York, on Thursday the 25th day of November, instant, after a short but severe illness, Mr. Anson Clark, aged about 23 years, a young gentleman of modest department, and of very respectable promise. He was a brother to Aaron Clark, of this city, and has left a mother and many relatives to lament this mournful dispensation of Providence. --The Albany Argus, Nov. 30, 1819.
MARRIED:—On Thursday evening last (May 24) by the Rev. Timothy Clowes, Aron Clark, Esq., Attorney at Law, to Miss Catharine Maria Lamb, oldest daughter of Col. Anthony Lamb, both of this city

Albany Argus
May 25, 1815.
1808  Aaron Clark.

1829  Samuel Pitts.

Died: At the city of New York, on Thursday the 25th day of November, instant. After a short but severe illness, Mr Aaron Clark, aged about 23 years, a young gentleman of modest deportment, and of very respectable promise. He was a brother to Aaron Clark, of this city, and has left a mother and many relatives to lament this mournful dispensation of Providence.

The Albany Argus, Nov. 30, 1819.
AARON CLARK

Was born in the town of Worthington, Massachusetts, on the 16th of October, 1787. He was descended from Daniel Clark, born in 1623, a resident of Windsor in Connecticut in 1639, who married June 13, 1644, Mary, daughter of Thomas Newberry, and died August 12, 1710; Daniel of Hartford, born in 1654, who married in 1678, Hannah, daughter of Daniel Pratt; Aaron, born May 14, 1712, and died November 5, 1758, who married on October 11, 1742, Sarah, daughter of John and Sarah Fowler, born December 13, 1713, and died March 29, 1771; and David, born August 20, 1756, who, for his second wife, married January 10, 1787, Lydia Benjamin of Worthington; and the last named were the parents of the subject of this sketch.

In his early boyhood Aaron removed with his parents to the State of Vermont, and probably to the town of Middlebury, or the vicinity. Soon afterwards he had the misfortune to lose his father, whose death occurred June 9, 1799, by accidental drowning in the town of Whiting, Vermont.

Aaron was graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., and soon after his graduation he was appointed tutor in the college; but in a short time he resigned his tutorship in order to accept the office of private secretary to Governor Daniel D. Tompkins. Afterwards he entered the office of General Erastus Root, (D.C. 1793) at Delhi, New York, as a student at law. On his admission to the Bar he practiced his profession awhile at that place. From Delhi he went to Albany; and in 1815 was elected clerk of the Assembly, which position he held till 1820. While in this office he prepared a series of rules of parliamentary practice, which is still considered a valuable manual.

He was married in Albany in the year 1815, to Catharine Lamb, eldest child of General Anthony and Mary (Treat) Lamb, and a granddaughter of General John Lamb of the Revolutionary army. She was born in the city of New York, January 17, 1796, and died in that city on the 23rd day of April, 1832.

From Albany Mr. Clark removed to the city of New York, and entered the North River Bank as a clerk, at the foundation of that institution. He was afterwards cashier of that or some other bank in New York; which position he left to fill a more lucrative one as agent under the lottery grants of Messrs. Yates & McIntyre. He had a partner who possessed a remarkable tact for advertising, and they acquired a large fortune in the business.

In 1835 he was elected an assistant alderman, and in the following year an alderman. In the spring of 1837 he succeeded Cornelius W. Lawrence as mayor of the city, being the candidate of the Whig and Native American parties; and was re-elected the following year. His first election was by an overwhelming majority; and in November 22, there was a grand celebration of the great victory. Delegates—some of whom afterwards became eminent in public life—were present from most, if not all, the New England States, as well as from several of the Middle and
Southern States. At the dinner which was given in the evening Mayor Clark presided. The company present was very large. Before being seated, the Mayor, standing at the head of the table in the center of the hall, commanded in a loud voice, "Let Massachusetts sit at my right, and Virginia at my left;" but gave no instructions as to the location of the delegates from the other States. He was a gentleman of a remarkably fine appearance; was a fluent and graceful speaker, and presided with great dignity. An account of this celebration, an event more rare in those days than now, was republished in Miles's Weekly Register, with the principal speeches made on the occasion.

It will be remembered that during the first year of Mr. Clark's official life as mayor a disastrous financial revulsion swept over the land. In the excited and confused state of affairs great distress prevailed, especially in the large cities. It was with great difficulty that violent proceedings were prevented; and the liberality of the wealthy, and the wisdom and energy of the magistrates, were taxed to an unusual degree. Mayor Clark proved equal to the demands of the times. He was a man of great energy and decision of character, and these traits were frequently illustrated in his official career.

Mr. Clark was actively engaged in prosecuting the preliminary measures for introducing into the city a large and better supply of fresh water, and it was during his first term as mayor that ground was broken for laying the conduits from Croton Lake. He also succeeded in putting a stop to the very serious increase of dependent poverty of poor aliens, who became at once a heavy burden upon the charities of the city, and an additional element of dangerous power.

But Mayor Clark did not confine his attention altogether to municipal affairs. He participated with the merchants and other leading men of the city in efforts from promoting its commercial welfare, and that of the nation as well. In his diary, under date of February 14, 1838, John Quincy Adams mentions his having presented to the Congress a "petition signed by Aaron Clark Mayor of New York City, and sundry others, for a ship canal across the isthmus of Panama."

Mr. Clark became a large landholder in the city of New York and in Brooklyn. He was actively interested in various corporations and societies. He was a director for some time in the North River Bank, and was the first president of the Merchants' Insurance Company—corporations still existing. He was admitted a corresponding member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, April 28, 1856.

In private life Mr. Clark was justly esteemed by a large circle of friends; and his generous efforts in behalf of the poor and distressed were remarkable. In his last years of retirement he cultivated his taste for literary studies, and also applied himself—too diligently, it was thought—to the acquisition of a foreign language. His health failed, and his memory yielded to bodily weakness. His death occurred at his residence in Brooklyn on the second of August, 1861, and his funeral took place at Trinity Church in the city of New York.
The children of Aaron and Catharine Clark were: Anthony, Mary, George William, George Aaron, John Anson, and Agnes Mathilda. Of these, Mary, who married Orlando Forsyth, alone survives.

The substance of the foregoing memoirs was prepared by the late Joseph Palmer, M. D., but the committee have revised and enlarged it in some particulars. For the genealogical data the committee are chiefly indebted to Mr. George Lamb, of Boston.


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