

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Newton Clark (1837-1918)

From: “Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland and Vicinity”ⁱ

HON. NEWTON CLARK. A varied, eventful and interesting career preceded the coming of Hon. Newton Clark to Portland in 1889, his chief incentive in thus selecting this city for his home being the better to fulfill his important responsibility as grand recorder of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of the state of Oregon, a position which he has maintained with special distinction, and for a longer time, than any other man in the state.

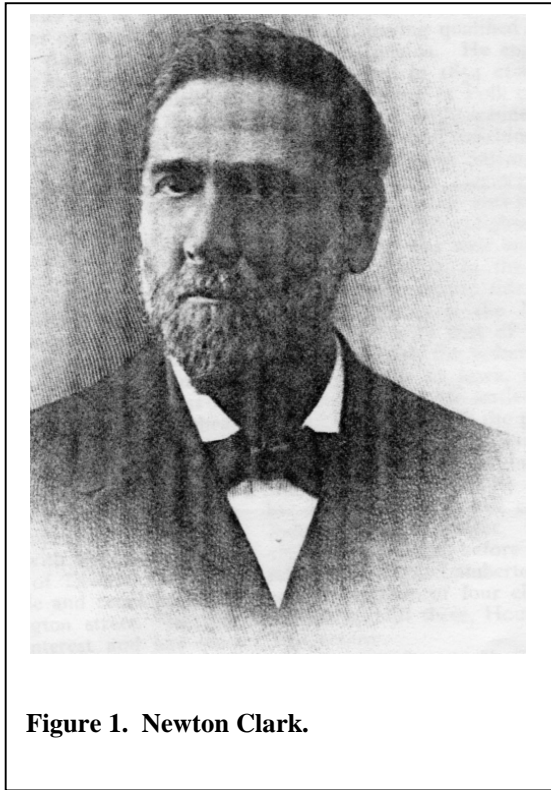


Figure 1. Newton Clark.

A native of McHenry County Ill, Mr. Clark was born May 27, 1837, and is a son of Thomas L. and Delilah (Saddoris) Clark, and grandson of Richard Clark. The latter was born in Ohio, and served in the war of 1812 under General Harrison. At a later date he settled in Indiana, still later taking up his residence in McHenry County, Ill., whence he removed to the farm near Baraboo, Wis., and there the remainder of his life was spent. Thomas Clark was born in Indiana, and in time followed the family fortunes to Illinois and Wisconsin. In 1863 he removed with his own family to Golden City, Colo., where he farmed at the foot of Table Mountain until coming to Oregon in 1877. The journey hence was via the overland trail, and was accomplished with horse teams and wagons, the travelers

halting at a farm on Hood river, in Wasco County, where Mr. Clark died, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife, who was born in Ohio, was a daughter of Henry Saddoris, an early resident of McHenry County, Ill. Mrs. Clark, who lives with her son Newton, her only child, still retains her bright faculties, and takes a great interest in the career of her son.

After completing his training in the public schools of Baraboo, Wis., Newton Clark graduated from Bronson Institute at Point Bluff, and thereafter taught school for a couple of years. This peaceful occupation was interrupted by the demand for his services in the Civil war, and he was mustered into Company K, Fourteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, at Fond du Lac, in September, 1861. This well-known regiment participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, Holly Springs, Champion Hill, the siege of Vicksburg (at which place Mr. Clark veteranized), the Red River expedition under General Banks, Sabine Cross Roads, Yellow Bayou, the siege and battle of Mobile, and the battle at Fort Blakely and Spanish Fort. Having charge of the headquarter's train of Maj.-Gen. I. B. McPherson, who commanded the Seventeenth Army Corps at the siege of Vicksburg, he had the Pleasure of furnishing the United States flag which was floated from the cupola of the courthouse in the capitulated citadel on the morning of its surrender upon that memorable Fourth of July. After the capture of Mobile Mr. Clark was placed on guard duty at Montgomery, Ala., and was thus employed until his mustering out at Mobile in the fall of 1863. At Corinth he was promoted and commissioned second lieutenant of his company, and was afterward promoted to the position of quartermaster and first lieutenant of the regiment, serving thus until the close of hostilities.

Following his military services Mr. Clark engaged in farming on the paternal farm near Baraboo, Wis., and in 1869 removed to Dakota as a government surveyor, where for seven years he was engaged in running township and section lines over the greater part of the territory now called North and South Dakota. He had his own corps of assistants, and while surveying also managed to engage in farming with considerable profit. He was identified with many of the pioneer undertakings in the great Dakotas, and among other things to his credit built the first frame house in Minnehaha county, now in South Dakota, and which was located two and a half miles from Sioux Falls, but now adjoins the city limits. Mr. Clark served for one term in the territorial legislature which met at Yankton in 1873, and he was chairman of the county commissioners of Minnehaha county for three years. Clark county, S. D., was named in honor of Mr. Clark,

In 1877 Mr. Clark joined his father at Fort Laramie and with him came overland to Oregon, the journey taking from the middle of June until the 1st of September, from the Fort to Hood River, Oregon. Here Mr. Clark bought one hundred and sixty acres of school land, combining farming with surveying, and eventually was employed by the government to survey section and township lines in Oregon and Washington. This occupation proved a hazardous one, and during the seven years spent mostly in the Cascade mountains, he was often obliged to carry his food on horseback, and when the exceeding roughness of the roads made this impossible he had to carry it on his back. This life gave him an intimate knowledge of the Cascade Mountains and he was a member of the first party of white men to visit the interesting Lost Lake lying northwest of

Mt. Hood. The great glacier lying on the eastern slope of Mt. Hood, known as the Newton Clark Glacier, bears his name.

In April 1889. Mr. Clark was appointed to his present high office of grand recorder of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of the state of Oregon, and soon afterward took up his permanent residence in Portland. He still owns the Hood River farm, which, however, is rented to other parties.

In Baraboo, Wis., Mr. Clark married Mary Ann Hill, a native of Edinburg, Scotland, and who was reared in Wisconsin, a daughter of William Hill, who served in a Wisconsin regiment during the Civil war. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clark, of whom Lewis is a civil engineer in Portland; Grace, Mrs. Dwinnell, resides in Baraboo, Wis.; and Jeanette is assistant recorder to her father. Mr. Clark became identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen in 1881, in which year he became a member of Riverside Lodge No. 68 at Hood River, and still retains said membership. He served as master workman, and was an active member of the Grand Lodge previous to his present appointment. He served as representative to Supreme Lodge at Sioux Falls with the degree of honor. In Masonic circles he is also well known, and is still a member of the Minnehaha Lodge No. 5, of Sioux Falls. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic he is identified with Canby Post No. 67, of Hood River, of which he is past commander, and ex-aide on the department staff. A staunch Republican, he has never interested himself in political undertakings further than to cast his vote. Mr. Clark is a member of the Commercial Club, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

From: "History of Early Pioneer Families of Hood River Oregon,"ⁱⁱ 1914.

At the request of the Historian of the "Hood River Pioneer Association" I am writing the "short but simple annals of the poor."

I was born May 27, 1838, in the state of Illinois. Parents removed to Bareboo, Wisconsin in 1840, where I grew to manhood. October 14, 1860, I married Mary Hill, a bonnie Scotch-English lassie born on the Clyde in Scotland, and younger by one month, than myself.

Four children have been given us, of whom, William Lewis and Jeanette (now Brezelton) are still living, the former in Hood River, the latter in Portland.

Three years ago we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary, and although all our days are golden, we are patiently waiting another with the diamonds.

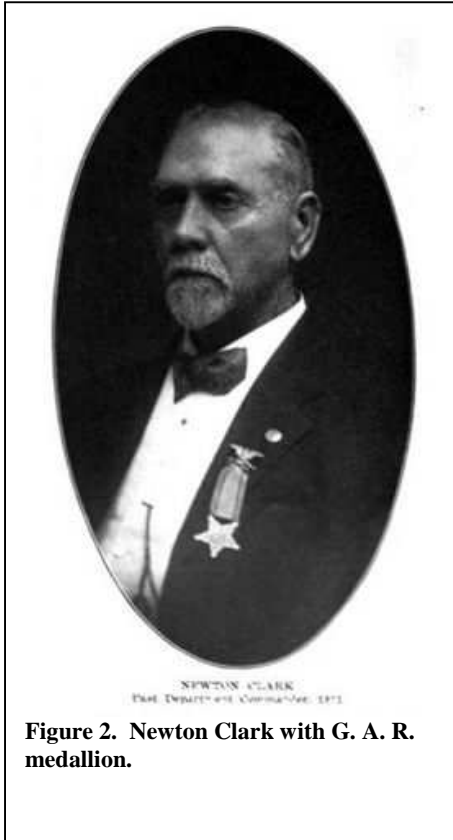


Figure 2. Newton Clark with G. A. R. medallion.

September 27, 1861, I enlisted in Company K, Fourteenth Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers Infantry for the Civil War, as private. August 28, 1862, I was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. April 12, 1863, was detailed by order of Major-General J. B. McPherson, as acting Assistant Quartermaster to take charge of the Headquarters train of the Seventeenth Army Corps, then about to engage in the Vicksburg campaign.

July 4, 1863 I had the honor of furnishing the U. S. flag which was floated from the cupola of the Vicksburg Courthouse when the army took possession of that building

November 15, 1863, was commissioned as First Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster. December 11, 1863, re-enlisted at Vicksburg, Miss., for three years, or during the war. October 9, 1865, was mustered out of the service at Mobile, Ala., and Regiment returned to Madison, Wisconsin, where it

disbanded.

Length of time in service - a little more than four years. Battles engaged - Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862; Battle of Luka, Sept. 19, 1862; Battle of Corinth, Oct. 3-4, 1862.

Being in command of an outpost on the Chewalla Road, brought on the great battle by the first shots at daylight on the third. In this battle the Company which had been greatly reduced by disease and death, went into line with twenty nine men and at the close of the battle had only seven remaining, of which I was one.

Battle of Port Gibson, Miss. - May 1, 1863; Battle of Raymond - May 12, 1863; Battle of Jackson - May 14, 1863; Battle of Champion Hills - May 16, 1863. May 19 to July 4, 1863, siege and capture of Vicksburg. Bank's Red River Expedition March 11 to May 20, 1864. Battle of Yellow Bayou - May 19, 1864; Battle of Tupelo - July 14, 1864; Battle of Nashville - Dec. 15-16, 1864; Siege and capture of Mobile - March 27 to April 9, 1865. Being on detached service part of the time, saw several battles in which the Regiment was not engaged.

In 1869 went to Dakota Territory and located at Sioux Falls. In 1877 came to Oregon, settling at Hood river the first week in September of that year. Jan. 1, 1914 - am at Hood River yet.

Mr. Clark has given us an accurate account of his work up to the close of the Civil War, but would add nothing more; knowing that his friends and neighbors want his later work recorded, I have endeavored to supply the omission, yet realizing that it would be far more interesting and acceptable if given in his own words.

D M C. • Historian

After enlisting in 1861, Mr. Clark took his wife and baby girl back to her old home in Wisconsin, that she might have her mother's protection in his absence.

Before telling his wife goodbye he said to her: "If I never come back remember that you have our little Minnie to live for, work for her and she will be a comfort to you."

Long, lonely days and nights followed his going, but the mother was comforted with his last words and rejoiced that their baby was safe. Little do we realize what is before us. A sudden sickness and little Minnie was called to her Eternal Home. It was hard for the mother, it was hard for the soldier at the front, but grief has its mission and makes better and truer human hearts.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Clark returned from the war. In 1869 they moved to Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory. He built the first frame house in Sioux City, later served as City Superintendent of Schools, also as County Commissioner and member of the territorial legislature. Clark County in South Dakota was named in his honor.

Mr. Clark's parents had moved to Colorado and he went there to visit them, and in the summer of 1877 drove with them from Colorado to Hood River, Oregon,-arriving in Hood River about the first of September. They selected adjoining tracts of land.

Early in the year 1878 Mrs. Clark and her three children came to their new home in Hood River. That summer a new school house was built one half mile west of their home, it was a commodious building for those days and severely taxed the resources of the community. In recognition of Dr. Barrett's work it was named the Barrett School. Newton Clark was one of the directors. The school flourished from the first, and in addition the building became a center for neighborhood activities in which Mr. Clark's Family played a conspicuous part. Spelling bees, Farmers Clubs, Debating Societies and Church organizations had this spot for a starting place.

In the capacity of School Director Mr. Clark rendered good service, all his dealings were characterized by wisdom and fairness. His children were regular attendants at the school and their intelligent work and willing co-operation helped to make the work a pleasure to the teacher and a pride to the community.

A. surveyor is a necessity in a new country and in this field Mr. Clark served his country well; he was not only the busiest man but the most sought after, by the new settler, having established more section lines than any other surveyor in this county.

A glacier on Mt. Hood bears his name commemorating his activities in that locality. He was one of the party that re-discovered the beautiful lake that was lost in the wilds of Mt. Hood's forests. They gave it the name of "Lost", located it on the map, and cut a trail to it, that others might follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Clark was a charter member of the Hood River local lodge of A.O.U.W. and in 1888 was elected Grand Recorder for that organization, a position which he held for twenty years.

While filling this office his residence was in Portland. Resigning his work 1909 he returned to Hood River and erected a substantial dwelling on the hill overlooking the town; here they led a quiet life for several years.

When the war called away the younger men he returned to Portland taking his place again in the working ranks at the desk of the Grand Recorder, and here the angel of Death" found him, doing his bit" for his country. He had reached the age of eighty years and one month, but time had dealt kindly with him and he never appeared old. His death occurred June 27, 1918. Mr. Clark was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Canby Post of G.A.R. These organizations participated at his funeral. Mrs. Clark was ill in Portland and unable to attend.

One month later she came to Hood River with her daughter; she was feeling unusually well and took an automobile ride in the evening. When her daughter went to call her in the morning, she found that her mother had passed away in her sleep without pain or sickness she had joined her husband in that land where partings are no more.

ⁱ **“Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland and Vicinity”**: Oregon, Chicago: Chapman Pub. Co., 1903.

ⁱⁱ **“History of Early Pioneer Families of Hood River Oregon.”** Hood River Pioneer Association, 1900-1951.