



Thomas Michael Clarkson

1858–1905

great-grandfather

When Thomas Michael Clarkson was born on April 17, 1858, in New York City, New York, his father, Thomas, was 33 and his mother, Catherine, was 37. His parents died young in New York. Thomas Michael was only one year old when his father died--and just six when his mother died five years later.

Family history as related by Mary Catherine (Sister St. Rita) Clarkson, Thomas' daughter, to Jim Barclay in October 1977 tells a slightly different story: "It is surmised that the family returned to Ireland only to send Thomas back to the states when he was 12 to live with the O'Grady's, his mother's sister, in Charleston, WV."

Records documenting Thomas' mother's death have not yet been found. However, there is documentation of his father's death in New York City. Perhaps Catherine took the children back to Ireland after their father died, and, when she died, the O'Grady's took over care of the children, bringing them back to the United States when they immigrated.

After New York, the next record found for Thomas and his siblings is the 1870 census, which shows him, as well as his siblings Anna and Richard, living with James and Honoria O'Grady in Moundsville, West Virginia. Other records suggest Honoria was related to Thomas' mother, perhaps a cousin. Sister St. Rita's account indicates she was Catherine's sister. The 1900 census shows James and Honoria arrived in the U. S. from Ireland in 1867. It is not clear where the Clarkson children lived between the time of their mother's death and the O'Grady family's arrival.

The 1870 census shows James O'Grady's occupation as stone mason, which may account for Thomas Michael's choice of occupation. According to Sister St. Rita, James O'Grady "favored his two 'aristocratic' daughters, while he made Thomas work hard around the house, the oil fields and later in a stone quarry. He worked with his Uncle Jim on the construction of the capital building in Charleston." The 1892 Wheeling city directory shows Thomas' occupation as stone cutter--and tragically that occupation also led to his early death, according to newspaper reports and Sister St. Rita's account. "It was in doing stone masonry that he contracted bronchitis and asthma--'stone mason's consumption."

Thomas married Sarah Josephine O'Dea on October 9, 1879, in Wheeling, West Virginia. They had eight children in 18 years. According to Sister St. Rita, "in later years, Sarah would confide, 'I didn't marry the man of my choice.'" Thomas did not have an easy time supporting his family. "During the 1892 quarry strike," Sister St. Rita recalls, "Thomas was forced to travel afar to find work so that his family could still eat. He was a very devout Catholic and a hard working laborer. As a young lad, he would walk 12 miles through the snowy mountains to attend Mass."

Thomas died on January 24, 1905, in Littleton, West Virginia, at the age of 46. According to the obituary from Littleton Enterprise (newspaper): "Thomas M. Clarkson died at his residence in Littleton Tuesday forenoon, January 24, 1905. For the last ten years, Mr. Clarkson has been afflicted with 'stone mason's consumption,' having formerly followed the occupation of stone cutter. He was the first employee of the Philadelphia Gas Co. in West Virginia, which position he held for five years. He was also financial secretary for the Ancient Order of Hibernians of West Virginia. He was born in 1859 in New York City and was 46 years old.

"Mr. Clarkson was a good citizen and his departure will be regretted by a large number of people both here and elsewhere. The funeral was conducted by Father O'Kane, of Mannington (Rev. Hermanns being absent) according to the rites of the Catholic Church, and also under the auspices of the A. O. H. Interment in the Catholic cemetery here on the 25th inst., witnessed by a large number of friends and relatives. A

brass band from Bellaire, Ohio, was in attendance. Floral decoration was a harp, the A. O. H. He leaves a widow and six children, two of whom have reached maturity."

Sister St. Rita was about ten when her father died, and she remembered his funeral: "It was a snowy January 24, 1905, when the Hibernian Order played their funeral music. As the funeral party's sleigh passed through the countryside blanketed in white," she remarked "When I die I want a band the same as my father had. Later she added, 'What a lovely ride!'" Aunt Anna (Anna Clarkson Higgs) replied, "Yes, but what a sad one."

Thomas was buried on the O'Dea family farm in West Virginia.

1858 Birth

Thomas Michael Clarkson was born on April 21, 1858, in New York City, New York, to Catherine Kelly, age 37, and Thomas J. N. Clarkson, age 31.

Birth record shows DOB as 21 Apr 1958. Family residence at the time of Michael's birth was 24 Ludlow St., New York, New York.

21 Apr 1858 • New York City, , New York, USA

1858 Thomas Michael Clarkson birth record, New York City

DATE OF BIRTH.		NAMES OF PARENTS.	NAMES OF CHILDREN.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	
				No.	Street.
1858 April	9	Whitwell Jacob	Jeff	54	N ^o Duval St
"	11	Ward, John & Eliza	Sarah		104 St. John
"	"	Craft Andrew & Maria W	Charles A J	396	5 th
"	15	White, Michael & Maria	"	318	Remond
"	16	Christianson, Tho ^s & Sarah	Mary	112	Mary
"	21	Salachiga, Tho ^s & Catherine	Thomas M	24	Ludlow
"	19	Carthelovey, Mary & Phoebe E	Maria M S	169	Church
"	"	Boz, William & Ann L	Francis		Wells St.
"	23	Cornell, John S & Kate H	Eva E		"
"	24	Browley, George & Maria	George H		"
"	25	Callahan, Patrick & Bridget	Kate		"
"	22	Coffey, Samuel & Walter H	Rebecca	49	Brooklyn
"	"	Charley, William & Bridget	Ellen	4	Manhattan
"	23	Capora, John	John	144	W 4 th St
"	24	Carroll, George	George	4	South
"	27	Coffey, John	"		Manhattan
"	29	Callahan, Patrick & Bridget	Charles		104 St. John
"	"	Christen, Frederick W & Emily H	Beulah W	141	West 15 th
"	25	Chambers, Robert	Mary & Charlotte	176	Division
"	30	Conrad, Charles	"	54	Manhattan

1870

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Moundsville, West Virginia, in 1870.

Residence Post Office: Moundsville; Thomas J. Clarkson's minor children lived with the O'Grady family (Catherine's relation, maybe a cousin, and her husband) after their parents' death.

1870 • Moundsville, Marshall, West Virginia, USA

1879

Marriage

Thomas Michael Clarkson married Sarah Josephine (Sallie) O'Dea in Wheeling, West Virginia, on October 9, 1879, when he was 21 years old.

Image of marriage records: http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_view.aspx?Id=12412243&Type=Marriage

**Sarah Josephine (Sallie) O'Dea**

1857–1927

9 Oct 1879 • Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia, USA

1879

Clarkson ODea Marriage License

AUTHORITY.

I, _____, hereby give my free consent for me
to intermarry with _____ this _____ day of _____

Witnessed for by me
Sarah O'Dea

Certificate of Facts Ascertained from the Person retaining the License.

Full Name of Husband, *Thomas Clarkson*
Full Name of Wife, *Sallie O'Dea*
Age of Husband, *21 years*
Age of Wife, *21*
Place of Husband's Birth, *New York*
Place of Wife's Birth, *Delaware*
Place of Husband's Residence, *Wheeling, W. Va.*
Place of Wife's Residence, *Wheeling, W. Va.*
Given under my hand, this *9th* day of *Oct*, 1879
G. P. Cook Clerk

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF OHIO, TO-WIT:

To any Person Desirous to Celebrate Marriage:

You are hereby authorized to join together in the Holy Rite of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or religious denomination, and the laws of the State of West Virginia, *Thomas Clarkson*
and *Sallie O'Dea*
and

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the County Court of said County, this *9th* day of *Oct*, 1879
G. P. Cook Clerk

Minister's Return of Marriage.

I CERTIFY, that on the *9th* day of *Oct*, 1879, at *Wheeling, W. Va.* I united in Marriage the above named and identified parties, under authority of the proper Clergy.
John S. Morrison

The foregoing is a correct statement of the facts ascertained concerning the parties, and a true copy of the Marriage License issued from this office and returned, with the Minister's Certificate thereto annexed.
G. P. Cook
Clerk of the County Court

9 Oct 1879

1880

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1880.

A widow, Sarah Passey/Cassey/Casey, age 50, and her four children are shown living with Thomas and Sarah. It's not clear if or how they might be related.

1880 • Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia, USA

1892

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1892.

Thomas' occupation is shown as stonecutter. Looking at Google maps, it appears this house has most likely been torn down for a freeway at some point.

1892 • 3026 McColloch, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia, USA

1900

Portrait of Thomas Michael Clarkson



Abt. 1900 • Littleton, Clay, Wetzel, West Virginia, USA

1900

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Littleton, West Virginia, in 1900.

This photo shows Thomas Michael Clarkson, Sara Clarkson, Annie and Mary O'Dea, Patrick O'Dea, wife Katharine, Katie O'Dea (or maybe Thomas' sister Anna Marie?), Paul, Anna, and Thomas Homer.



1900 • Littleton West Virginia, USA

1900

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Littleton, West Virginia, in 1900.

Census record shows Thomas and Sara owned their house free of a mortgage. No occupation is shown for any family member. Photo posted by Al_Fricke, another Ancestry member, is attached and may be the house where the family lived at this time.



1900 • Littleton, Clay, Wetzel, West Virginia, USA

1900

Thomas Michael Clarkson, Anna, Paul, Mary

Great grandfather Thomas Michael Clarkson, with his children Anna, Paul and Mary.



abt 1900

1902

Residence

Thomas Michael Clarkson lived in Littleton, Colorado, in 1902.

Photo shows Thomas Michael Clarkson with his children, Anna, Paul, and Mary.

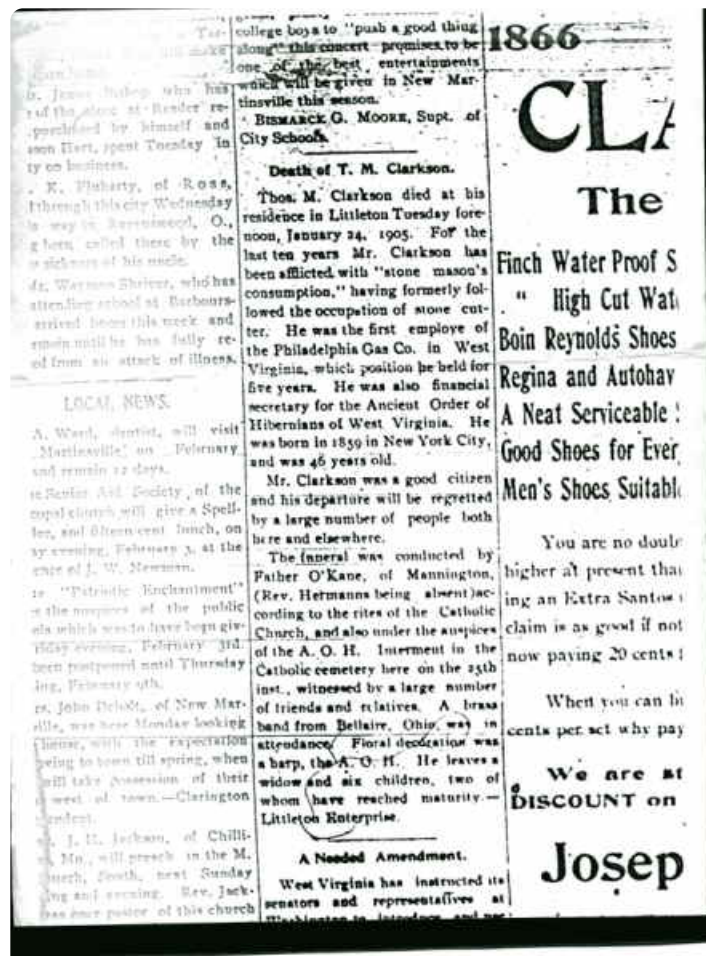


Abt. 1902 • Littleton West Virginia, USA

1905

Death

Thomas Michael Clarkson died on January 24, 1905, in Littleton, West Virginia, when he was 46 years old.



24 Jan 1905 • Littleton, Wetzel, West Virginia, USA

Burial

Our Lady of Assumption Cemetery, Littleton, Wetzel, West Virginia, USA

1905

Probate

10 Feb 1905 • Wetzel, West Virginia, USA