

DeKalb History Center

Don Clarke Collection

Scope and content: This is a small collection of photographs of the Clarke family and some DeKalb County snapshots. Included are photographs of Elijah Henry Clarke, whose uniform is on display in the DeKalb History Center offices, and family history documents.

Provenance: Gift of Don Clarke, 1985. Accession #1985.30

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Reproductions of photographs and permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; the Don Clarke Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Lisa Dewberry, DHS intern, 2002.

Size: Two folders.

Biographical Sketch of the Clarke Family: William Henry Clarke was born in 1804 in Cumberland County, Virginia. He moved to DeKalb County with his wife Melinda Kirby in 1844 to become minister at Ebenezer Methodist Church. According to a history provided to the DeKalb History Center by Don Clarke, William Henry lived in the Charles Latimer house at Covington Highway and Welborn Road. He was minister also at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, representative for DeKalb County in the Georgia House of Representatives and worshipful master of the Masons Pythagoras Lodge 41 in Decatur. After the Civil War, he purchased 220 acres in Decatur on what is now Columbia Drive.

Elijah Henry Clarke was born in 1835 in Morgan County and also served as minister of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. He married Mary Jane Burdette and they had five children. He had a 300 acre plantation in DeKalb's 11th district. He achieved the rank of Captain of Company D of the 42nd Georgia Volunteer Regiment in the Confederate Army, and fought in the Battle of Atlanta and in battles in Mississippi, Alabama and North Carolina, where he surrendered with Johnston's Army at the end of the conflict. His second wife was Martha America White and Clarke had a store in the Snapfinger area, which went bankrupt. He had a sawmill later and is said to have built the communion rail at Wesley Chapel Church, demolished in 2010.

Description: There are pictures of the following people in the collection: William H. Clarke, Albert A. Clarke, Mary Jane Burdette, Elijah Henry Clarke, Stephen A. Stovall, Benjamin White, George Haynes, Eugene Clarke and Marion Clarke. There are also photos of Stone Mountain, East Atlanta School, and some photos of DeKalb County

firemen. There are homestead pictures from the May Avenue and Flat Shoals Road house, Miller Road in the Belmont area, Rev. William Henry Clarke and a view from Candler and Glenwood roads in the 1950s.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main entries: Clarke, William Henry (1804-1872)
Clarke, Elijah Henry (1835-1878)

Subject/Added entries: Peachtree DeKalb Airport
East Atlanta School
Clarke, Joe (1845-1929) Former Slave
Kirby, Alice Moore (1810-1863)
Stovall, Stephen Augustus
White, Benjamin Franklin
Sacred Harp; Shaped Note singing
Haynes, George W.
Stone Mountain (Ga.)
Clarke, Albert Andrew (1849-1922)

Folder	Contents	Dates
1	Photographs	1800-1985
2	Documents, Key to photographs, negatives	

A four generation sheet and Book of Remembrance for William Henry Clarke are located in the subject file for the Clarke Haynes Family