

## New Parks

"The New Parks passed out of Crown hands in the late 16th century and by 1781 belonged to a Mr Clarke. The Clarke family remained the owners until 1843, when a good deal of the northern part was acquired by Thomas Stokes, a Leicester hosier, who built New Parks House in 1845-46."

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.nz/2013/08/60-robertson-aikman-of-ross-house.html>

It seems likely that the Mr Clarke referenced here is John Clarke[1] (1730-1793) who was married to Sarah nee Worthington. A comprehensive biography of his son - John Clarke[2] (1781-1858) is included in the Greater Wigston Historical Society Bulletin 60 (available online at <http://wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk/GWHS%20Bulletin%2060.pdf>). Although these Clarks aren't entered in the Clarke pedigree, the amount of overlap in the lives of these two families makes it seem almost certain that they were cousins of some sort, though their particular branch hasn't yet been identified.

The follow record from 1798 gives details of a land tax transaction where the proprietor is given as a Mrs S Clarke and the occupiers includes a Rob. Clarke. John Clarke[1] died in 1793, so the Mrs S Clarke here is probably his wife Sarah Clarke. The Rob. Clarke could well be Robert Clarke, the father of John Clarke[3] (father of CS Clarke).

No. of Reguler.	Names of Proprietors.	Names of Occupiers.	Sums Assessed.	Date of Contract.
	<i>Appt. Godland</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Clarke</i>	2 10 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>Town Land</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Gellert</i>	11 8 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>St<sup>r</sup> Auckland</i>	<i>Self</i>	14 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
70000	<i>Clay Keatue</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Moore</i>	2 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
7739	<i>Clay Moore</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Prosser</i>	7 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 1790	
	<i>Chas<sup>r</sup> Bull</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Phillips</i>	3 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>Bell &amp; Biggs</i>	<i>Ann Bull</i>	1 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Brown</i>	<i>Self</i>	1 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Siddons</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Gellert</i>	14 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> &amp; Robert</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Davis</i>	3 2 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Davis</i>	<i>Self</i>	1 2 10	
			114 11 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	

  

No. of Reguler.	Names of Proprietors.	Names of Occupiers.	Sums Assessed.	Date of Contract.
70737	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Vincent</i>	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Arnold</i>	6 9 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
70738	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Greenby</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Moore</i>	2 3 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Kollmans</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Moore</i>	6 2 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
920	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Faine</i>	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Fletcher</i>	3 19 27 March 1799	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Hull</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Batters</i>	5 16 8	
2173	<i>General Anderson</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Faine</i>	21 7 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 20 Feb 1799	
75248	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Revett</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Faine</i>	27 9 25 March 1800	
			07 7 "	

*Parish of New Parks*

57399	<i>Mrs S Clarke</i>	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Clarke</i>	71 0 0	24 June 1799
		<i>W<sup>m</sup> Barclay</i>		
		<i>W<sup>m</sup> Fairbairn</i>		

*Parish of Normanton le Heath*

<i>W<sup>m</sup> Farmer Esq</i>	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Green</i>	15 12 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Choyce</i>	12 10 1	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Don</i>	2 5 "	
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Choyce Esq</i>	<i>Self</i>	1 7 2	
	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Gamble</i>	14 15 1	
	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Cogswell</i>	4 1 6	
	<i>Rob<sup>t</sup> Farmer</i>	10 17 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Goude</i>	6 15 10	

John Clarke[3] and his two siblings were born in Duddington between 1791 and 1794, so the family weren't living at New Parks at that time. In 1824 a marriage notice in The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury (The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury (Stamford, England), Friday, November 26, 1824; pg. 3; Issue 4888. British Newspapers, Part IV: 1780-1950) describes John Clarke[3] as "Gen. of New Parks".

It is my conjecture that Robert Clarke leased the New Parks house from his relation John Clarke[1]'s widow Sarah sometime between 1794 and 1798. When Robert Clarke died in 1820 his son John Clarke[3] took over the lease and he and his wife Sarah made it their home. All of their twelve children were born there between 1827 and 1843.

Note that the New Parks estate seems to consist of several houses and/or estates - one of these was owned by Thomas Worthington who later married Jane Clarke, sister of John Clarke[3].

The following are some newspaper extracts that reference New Parks during this time.

We are happy to record, that the present week has presented a more cheering aspect for the farmer, than several of the preceding ones. With some exceptions, the weather has been fine, though accompanied with cold nights; and harvest has commenced in many parts of the county.

A most violent thunder storm, accompanied with hail and rain, was experienced at and near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday afternoon. The lightning was of the most vivid description, and the rain and hail fell in the greatest abundance. At Ravenstone, the hail fell in such large pieces as to cause destruction to almost every pane of glass in the hothouses of — Fosbrooke, Esq. We are informed, that one hundred pounds will not cover the injury which has been sustained by Mr. Fosbrooke, from the storm. The roads were inundated with water to a considerable depth and extent; the water poured down the adjoining closes into the highway in torrents. About two hours before, the rain came down in such large quantities at Mountsorrel and Melton Mowbray, as to overflow the streets, and force itself into different houses, in spite of every exertion to keep it out. At Melton, our informant tells us, a boat might have sailed along the streets, so great was the influx of water. The flood on the Ashby road, which we noticed last week, did considerable damage to the highway, many parts of which, for more than a mile in extent, were so uprooted and injured, as to render it necessary to employ workmen ever since in filling up holes and levelling the mounds of sand which had been thrown together by the water. Several small bridges on the road side, leading to the adjoining lands, were forced down by the stream, and the materials with which they were erected, washed to some distance from the spot. The appearance of this road on Friday morning, from the bridge on this side of Abbey-gate, to the entrance of Mr. Worthington's close, leading to **New Parks**, resembled a river, and was in many places on the level turnpike road, five and six feet in depth. The hay washed from Mr. Worthington's close, must have been very considerable, as great quantities of it were to be seen beside the hedges, when the flood abated. So alarming a scene did the overflow of the road present, that after the Ashby mail had gone some distance in the water, the passengers became apprehensive for their safe return (for proceeding on their journey then, was out of the question), and actually began to undress themselves, in order to escape from their danger by swimming. Fortunately, however, this was rendered unnecessary, by the dexterity of the coachman, who succeeded in turning his horses' heads, and taking the mail back to the inn, without sustaining any accident.

On Thursday last, part of the 93rd Regiment of Highlanders, with their kilts on, passed through the town.

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quittal was taken by consent of the prosecutor's counsel.

#### BURGLARY AT NEW PARKS.

JOHN SPRING and GEORGE CARTER were charged with having burglariously broken into the house of Mr. Thomas Worthington, at New Parks, in the night of the 12th of December, and stolen therefrom several articles of wearing apparel, &c. JOSEPH LEADER, a Jew-boy, dealing in pens and pencils, was included in the indictment, but was admitted king's evidence.—The case was as follows:—

On the night of the 12th of December, the prosecutor retired to rest, after seeing that the doors and windows were all fastened; and in the morning, at 6 o'clock, when he came down stairs, he found that a window had been opened, and several articles of wearing apparel and other property stolen. Near the house, there were prints of the feet of two or three persons, one of whom (conceivably to render detection more difficult) had cut off his shoes and stockings, and walked barefoot. The prosecutor came over to Leicester in the forenoon of the 13th, and gave information of the robbery to the Police.—On the same day, according to Leader, the prisoners (one of whom, Spring, was his fellow lodger in Abbey-street, and, he said, had been out all night,) asked him to pawn and sell some clothes for them, promising to give him a shilling for his trouble. He consented, and pawned a coat at Mr. Watson's, in Belgrave-gate, Carter and Spring standing outside the shop. They then went to Mr. Daniel Walker's clothing-shop, in Cank-street, where Carter sold a coat for 3s. 6d. The next shop at which they called was Mr. Markham's in Belgrave-gate, at which Leader sold a pair of shoes. On leaving the shop, Policeman Broughton (No. 6) took him into custody, & also Spring; the policeman saw Carter standing opposite the shop, but was unable to apprehend him too; Carter, therefore, set off, and was not taken until Thursday the 16th inst, when Mr. James Hollier apprehended him in Hinckley. Spring, after his apprehension, was taken to New Parks; and his shoes and stockings having been removed, his feet were compared with the prints left on the ground by the barefooted burglar, and exactly corresponded. On one foot, he had a large bunion; and this tallied to a nicety with the impression of such an excrescence in the footmarks near the house of Mr. Worthington. On the person of Spring, also, there was found a black coat, worn under a fustian jacket; and in his jacket-pocket a carving knife. The coat and knife were identified by Mr. Worthington as his property; and the coats disposed of at Mr. Watson's and Mr. Walker's were also identified. Mr. Walker said that he believed Carter to be the man from whom he bought one of the coats, but he could not positively swear to him.

Carter called two witnesses to speak to his character for honesty, both of whom said that they had known him for some years, during which he had borne a fair reputation.—In reply to Mr. Humfrey, the prosecutor's counsel, they admitted having heard that he (Carter) had been in gaol for eighteen of the last twenty-four months, but said that he was confined for an assault, and not for dishonesty.

The jury found both the prisoners guilty, and his Lordship ordered sentence of death to be recorded.

#### A FEROCIOUS ASSAULT.

LIST 3.—GAMEKEEPERS being Assessed Servants, at £1 5s. each.

ry	Adams, William, appointed by Chas. March Phillips, Esq. for Garendon, Dishley, Knightthorpe, Thorpacre, Hathern, Sheepshead, Gracedieu, and Merrill Grange	Hoyte, Samuel, by the Duke of Rutland, for Granby and Sutton, in the county of Nottingham, Barkstone, Plungar, Hose, Harby, Redmile, Bottesford, and Normanton, in the county of Leicesters
by	Adams, Henry, by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, for Bradgate, Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford, Mapplewell, Mapplewell Longdale, Cropstone, Austy, Ansty Pastures, Glenfield, Ratby, Newtown Unthank, Newtown Botcheston, Markfield, Stanton-under-Bardon, Barlestone, and the several parts of Charnwood Forest belonging to the said manors	Ireson, John, by Mrs. Sarah Otway Cave, for Westrill and Stanmore, South Kilworth and Husbands Bosworth, in the county of Leicester, and Stamford, in the county of Northampton
q.	Allcroft, Edward, by Richard Cheslyn, Esq. for the liberty or place of Langley Priory, the lordship of Diseworth, and the manor of Whartopp alias Wavertoft Grange	Kenney, James, by Charles Loraine Smith, Esq. for Enderby
ad	Almond, John, by Charles Nevill, Esq. for Holt, Medbourn, and Bradley	Lakin, Thomas, by F. W. Wollaston, Esq. for Shenton and Upton
st-	Beaumont, Samuel, by G. A. L. Keck, Esq. and others, for Evington	Lees, Thomas, by the Rev. W. N. Grealey, for Netherscal
q.	Beaumont, Samuel, by G. A. L. Keck, Esq. for Thurnby, Oadby, and Knighton	Pick, William, by the Rev. G. W. Sawyer, for Dalby Wolds
ito	Coleman, Joseph, by Henry Greene, Esq. for Rolleston and Norton by Galby	Pickering, Philip, by the Hon. Company of Bowyers of the City of London, for Isley Walton
ay	Cooke, William, by the Duke of Rutland, for Plungar, Barkstone, Redmile, and Stathern	Prince, William, by Sir E. C. Hartopp, Bart. for Aston Flamville, Sharnford and Knighton
k,	Cooke, David, by the Trustees of the late Rev. P. Story, for Lockington, Kegworth, and Osgathorp	Rickett, William, by the Duke of Rutland, for Belvoir, Bottesford, Easthorpe, Normanton, and Musson, in the County of Leicester, and Woolsthorpe, in the county of Lincoln.
m-	Cooke, David, by Sir George Crewe, Bart. for Hemington	Robinson, John, by G. A. L. Keck, Esq. for Stoughton, Houghton, Little Stretton, Galby, and Frisby.
on	Dawson, Joseph, by the Earl of Harborough, for Saxby, Stapleford, and Wymondham, in the county of Leicester, and Whissendine and Teigh, in the county of Rutland	Staples, William, by the Rev. Gilbert Beresford, for Aylestone
	Dean, Thomas, by A. L. Emerson, Esq. for Ulverscroft	Swingler, William, by the Rev. Henry Palmer, for Owston, Newbold, and Withcote
q.	Farley, James, by E. B. Hartopp, Esq. for Burton Lazars	Shimmeld, James, by the Duke of Rutland, for Knipton, Braunston, and Eaton
q.	Farmer, William, by Richard Arkwright, Esq. for Normanton Turville and Bassett House	Thompson, Jonathan, by Sir George Beaumont, Bart. for Coleorton
by	Hoyte, Mordin, by the Duke of Rutland, for Granby and Sutton, in the county of Nottingham	Turner, John, by John Clarke, Esq. for New Parks
	Hoyte, John, by the Duke of Rutland, for Croxton Kerrial, Bescoby, Saltby, Sproxton, Thorpe Arnold, and Waltham	Welch, Benjamin, by Miss Louisa Sawyer, for Dalby Wolds
on		Widdowson, John, by Sir Henry Halford, Bart. for Wistow, Newton Harcourt, Kilby, Fleckney, and Nether Kibworth
		Widdowson, John, by Sir C. M. Lamb, Bart. for Foston
		Widdowson, John, by Merton College, Oxford, for Kibworth Harcourt.

Made up to the 5th of September 1834



THREE GOLD BROOCHES are now, we understand, in the hands of Mr. Charters, Superintendent of the Borough Police, which can be had by the owners.

ROLLS COURT, JULY 8.—FLOWER v. HARTOPF AND OTHERS.—Lord Langdale gave judgment in this cause, which was argued on the 8th of June last. The case came on before the Court upon exceptions to the Master's report taken by John Clarke, of the New Parks, near Leicester, gentleman, the purchaser of a water corn-mill, mill-house, dwelling-house, and ground, in the borough of Leicester, contracted to be sold to him under a decree in the cause for £1,300. Upon reference to the Master, he reported in favour of the title, whereupon these exceptions were taken. The objections were, that the title to the property, which formerly belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster, was created under letters patent of 2nd Charles I., in which there was reserved to the king, his heir, and successors, a power of re-entry in case all or any of the mills thereby granted should be at any time in decay, and should not be repaired within one year after a decree made for that purpose in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster, which power of re-entry, if a present existing right, would, it was alleged, entirely defeat the purchaser's object; and, secondly, that the property as set forth in the abstract of title was not sufficiently identified with the property described in the printed particulars under which Clarke purchased. At the hearing of the arguments his lordship had allowed the exception on the latter objection; but on the former, namely, as to the Crown having a right of re-entry, he had reserved his decision until the present occasion. It is alleged on behalf of the purchaser, and in support of this exception, that the right of re-entry is either in the Crown or in the grantee of the fee farm rent; but he had carefully gone through the Acts, and especially the 2nd of Charles I., and could find nothing to sustain this allegation. The Crown had no right to re-entry except for the public good, and in those times water mills were of great importance, but their necessity for the convenience of the public having ceased, so also has ceased the power of the Crown. He, therefore, overruled this exception, and referred the case back to the Master, to review his report upon the other exception which he had allowed, as to the property being sufficiently identified in the abstract of title with the description given in the printed particulars.

Leicester Chronicle 15 July 1843

In 1843 John Clarke[2] went bankrupt and as a consequence was forced to sell the New Parks estate along with a large proportion of his vast property portfolio. The sale went ahead in 1844. The details of this can be read in the GWHS bulletin as referenced above. John Clarke[3] and family were forced out of the property and moved to Leicester central. Though it seems likely that John Clarke[3] had the intention of acquiring or leasing another country house (in 1846 a marriage notice for his daughter refers to him as "John Clarke, Esq., of Leicester, and Manor House, Turlington), three years later they were still living in Leicester when first John and then his wife Sarah contracted Cholera and died.

There is no information on what happened to the house that the Clarkes lived in at New Parks - a new house was constructed by the new owner Thomas Stokes in 1845 so it is likely that the old houses were simply pulled down.