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R. Marie Taylor Clark

# Ross County Genealogical Society

P. O. BOX 395

CHILICOTHE, OHIO 45601

20 November 1985

Attention Newsletter Editor:

We thought you might want to put a note in your newsletter about Marie Clark's untimely death as she had so many friends in this area. There were several errors and omissions in the local newspaper article so we are sending the following information along with the clippings for your files.

Marie organized our Ross County Genealogical Society in 1973 and was the first president. She also held the offices of vice president, corresponding secretary and chaired numerous committees.

In addition to the works mentioned in the newspaper article, she was well known for the copies of many Ross County cemeteries that she made and placed in several libraries.

She was also a member of the Ross County Historical Society and did volunteer work at their museum for many years.

Some of us first met Marie when SCOGS (South Central Genealogical Society) was organized in 1970 with George Robinson as president. This group started following a workshop held at the public library in Waverly with Bernice Francis and Jane Renkin. Marie was chairman of the committee that copied "Tombstone Inscriptions of Grandview Cemetery" which was published in 1972 along with a reprint of the "History of Ross and Highland Counties". Meetings were held once a month on Sundays at area libraries. It is no longer in existence but was the forerunner of many county organizations.

Our society is setting up a fund for a permanent and suitable memorial.

Joanne Johnson  
RCGS Newsletter editor



Ruth Marie Clark

## Noted Ross genealogist dies in crash

By MARTHA FILIPIC and SHERRY TIGGETT  
Gazette staff writers

Her friends said she was a woman with vision. She was the "tops." She also was a devoted mother.

Today, those friends and family are mourning the death of Ruth Marie Clark.

A head-on crash on Blain Highway Tuesday morning killed Mrs. Clark, 52, of 1589 Rozelle Creek Road. She was one of Ross County's foremost genealogists, and a founder of the Ross County Genealogical Society.

"It seems like everyone knew Marie," said long-time friend Margaret Mootz. She added, "It's a terrible shock. She had so much going for her. She was just tops."

According to a report at the Ross County Sheriff's Office, Mrs. Clark lost control while she driving north on Blain Highway, about a half-mile south of Bishop Hill Road. She was rounding a curve in a pickup when she lost control, the report said.

Linda White, 30, of 1747 Scott Road, Frankfort, was traveling north in another pickup, and said she could see Mrs. Clark was trying to regain control when the two trucks collided. White, a physical education teacher at Huntington Elementary School, was treated and released from Medical Center Hospital, taken there by the Twin Township emergency squad. Mrs. Clark was pronounced dead at the hospital. She was taken by a Huntington Township squad.

Mrs. Clark's daughter, Pam Kellough, said this morning that her mother was on her way to another genealogical society member's house when the accident occurred. Kellough said her mother knew she wouldn't be back in time to open the Genealogical Society on South Paint Street, so she wanted to leave the key so members could get in.

The society had a meeting Tuesday night.

Kellough said her mother delved into genealogy when her own mother died about 18 years ago. "Years and years ago when her mother died, there was information she didn't know." That's what got her interested.

Arledge said Mrs. Clark contributed much to the group. "She had a lot of vision when it came to the (genealogical society). Some members get bogged down in the day-to-day things, but she would say, 'Maybe we should be thinking about doing this,'" Arledge said.

One of Mrs. Clark's biggest disappointments was that the organization decided not to buy a computer, Arledge said. She was looking ahead to the day when everything would be computerized, and thought it would be a great help to budding genealogists.

As a certified genealogist — a title that takes a long time to earn — Mrs. Clark seemed to be most interested in land records, devoting much of her time and energy recently to indexing

and describing estates from 1850 on, Arledge said.

Mootz said her friend "did her part" in all the organizations in which she belonged. "If she had a job, you knew it would be well-done," Mootz said. Her daughter added, "She was always there when she was needed. That's true in every facet of her life," Kellough added.

Mootz said even with all her connections with different clubs and organizations, Mrs. Clark's family always came first. Her husband, Patrick Clark, is a Huntington Township trustee. They had three grown children and six grandchildren.

"I just don't have the words to express our loss, and our feelings, and our sympathy for her family," Mootz said.

In her years as a genealogist, Mrs. Clark became a noted author and lecturer on genealogy in Kentucky and Ohio.

In 1972 her first book, "History and Tombstone Inscriptions of Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe" was published. Other works include: "Kohn Family Newsletter," (1974); "1875 Landowner Atlas of Ross Co., Ohio," (3 indexes) (1975); "How to Trace Your Ancestors, a Guide," (1976, rev. 1978); "Bicentennial Atlas, Ross County," (1976); "Ross County Families," (vols. 1-2, 1976-1979); Estate Settlements for Ross County Ohio (1798-1850).

Her most recent books, "Ohio Lands, Chillicothe Land Office," and "Ohio Land, South of The Indian Boundary Line," were published in 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Mrs. Clark began teaching genealogy courses at Ohio University-Chillicothe in 1976. She did that off and on until last year, said officials at OU-C.

Over the years she has had a number of articles published in the genealogical quarterly "Gateway To

## Obituaries

### R. Marie Taylor Clark

Mrs. R. Marie Taylor Clark, 52, Rozelle Creek Road, was dead on arrival 9:22 a.m. Nov. 12 at Medical Center Hospital following an automobile accident on Blain Highway.

She was born July 1, 1933, in Ross County to Charles and Minnie Kohn Taylor. On June 5, 1951, she married Patrick E. Clark who survives.

Also surviving are daughters and sons-in-law, Pamela M. and Gerald W. Kellough, Blain Highway, and Lori and Robert G. Penn, Piketon; son and daughter-in-law, Patrick Lee and Marcia Clark, Boulder, Colo.; six grandchildren, Zebulun, Leah and Sarah Kellough, Bailey Clark, and Robyn and Jessany Penn; a sister, Rosemary Freeland, Baptist Hill Road.

Mrs. Clark was a member of Piketon Church of Christ and was a certified genealogist.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Ware Funeral Home, with Thomas Smith officiating. Burial will follow in Floral Hills Memory Gardens. Friends may call at Ware's after 5 p.m. Thursday. Memorial contributions may be to the Piketon Church of Christ Sunday School Fund, P.O. Box 366, Piketon, Ohio 45661.

ALSO SURVIVED BY A  
HALF BROTHER, GILBERT  
HARDESTY

She was also listed in Who's Who in Genealogy and was a member of --

Ross Co. Historical Soc  
Friends of the Library  
Civil War Roundtable  
Pike Co. Genealogical Soc  
Ohio Genealogical Soc &  
First Families of Ohio  
other local groups  
and

National Genealogical Soc.  
First Pioneers of Ross Co

Mrs. Clark was the Cradle Roll teacher at the Piketon Church of Christ. There she taught Sunday School to toddlers.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Daughters of American Colonist.

Mrs. Clark was asked to write a column for the Ross County Advertiser, Huntington Happenings, because she was so active in community and civic organizations, her daughter said.

She was a council member for the Huntington Homemakers, a member of Friends of the Library, a certified records researcher, and she belonged to the Republican's Women's Club.

But Kellough said she never was too busy for her family: "She was a woman who brought herself up from humble beginnings and made herself into a professional in her field — but more than that — she was mom."

Calling hours for Mrs. Clark will be held after 5 p.m. Thursday at the Ware Funeral Home. The funeral ser-

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

GENEALOGY