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William Clarke (bef. 1609 - aft. 1671)

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William Clarke

Born **before 23 Apr 1609** in **England** 

Son of [Ralph Clarke](#) and [Unknown \(Unknown\) Clarke](#)

[ANCESTORS](#) 


Brother of [Anna \(Clarke\) Woodmansey](#), [Elizabeth \(Clarke\) Ludlam](#), [William Clarke](#), [Jane Clarke](#), [Arthur Clarke](#), [Sarah Clarke](#), [Mary \(Clarke\) Searson](#), [Rachel Clarke](#), [Rebecca Clarke](#), [Frances Clarke](#), [Benjamin Clarke](#) [half], [Rachel Clarke](#) [half], [Deborah Clarke](#) [half] and [Joseph Clarke](#) [half]

Husband of **Martha (Unknown) Clarke** — married before 1633 in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England 

Husband of **Katherine (Babington) Clarke** — married 18 Jul 1647 in Buckminster, Leicestershire, England 

Father of [William Clarke](#), [John Clarke](#), [Anne \(Clarke\) Skinner](#), [Elizabeth Clarke](#), [Mary Clarke](#), [William Clarke](#), [Joseph Clarke](#), [Martha Clarke](#) and [John Clarke](#)

[DESCENDANTS](#) 

Died **after 1 Jun 1671** after age 62 in **Leicestershire, England** 

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Clarke-5314 created 6 Feb 2015 | Last modified 8 Jul 2023

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Biography

1609 Birth and family



William Clarke is Notable.

William Clarke, son of Raph, was baptized 23 April 1609 in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England. ^[1]

William was baptised on April 23, 1609. According to his will, he had a brother Joseph, but little else is known about his early life. ^[2]

Occupation

Apothecary. ^[2]

He was an English apothecary (pharmacist) ^[3]

Resided

County of Leicester, England^[2]

1633 First Marriage: Martha

By 1633 he had married Martha, possibly Robson. ^[4]

William Clarke was married twice, first to an unknown woman who bore him two children. ^[2]

1643 English Civil War

During the English Civil War, William sided with the parliamentarians. The town of Grantham was captured by Royalists on 23 March 1643 and on April 11 he was indicted for high treason. On 11 May 1643, however the town was recaptured by Oliver Cromwell and Clarke was released. ^[2]

Following the war William attained wealth and landholdings, but lost much of his fortune following the restoration. ^[2]

1647 Second Marriage: Katherine Babington

On 18 July 1647 he married secondly in Buckminster, Leicestershire, Katherine (Babington) Storer, widow of Edward Storer. She died after 5 February 1691/92. ^[5]

His second marriage was to [Katherine Babington Storer, widow](#), who was from the same line as Anthony Babington. Katherine had several children from a previous marriage to Edward Storer; ^[2]

1. Edward Storer,
2. Arthur Storer. (Wikidata shows Arthur as William's son. ^[3]
3. Katherine Storer,

All of his sons except John followed him into the trade of apothecary.

1654 Isaac Newton Connection

Isaac Newton stayed in William Clarke's household while attending the grammar school in Grantham, where Joseph Clarke, William's half-brother, was usher. ^[5]

William Clarke provided lodgings for a young Isaac Newton whilst he attended the King's School in Grantham. ^[2]

In 1654, William provided boarding to Isaac Newton as he would be attending the King's School with Edward and Arthur Storer. Newton's mother remained in Woolsthorpe-by-

Colsterworth, which was about eight miles away from the Clarke residence. Many of Newton's biographers have noted that it was the lessons learned from Clarke that sparked Newton's interest in chemistry.^[2]

According to the Clarke's grandson, Ralph Clarke, also an apothecary in Grantham, Newton left signs of his presence in the garret where he slept in the apothecary's house on Grantham's High Street: he carved his name into the boards, and drew charcoal drawings of birds and beasts, men and ships, and abstract shapes on the walls. Newton was said to have had 'a passion' for Clarke's step-daughter, Katherine Storer (later Mrs. Vincent).^[2]

Retirement

Clarke eventually retired to Loughborough in Leicestershire, leaving his business to his son, William. William apparently had some tensions with his family as his 1671 will contained a clause stating that: "If any be not thanken (sic) that person or persons shall have none".^[2]

1671 Will, Death, Estate

Will, Complete

William Clarke's Will, dated 1st June, 1671^[6]

"In the name and service of the Lord my God, I William Clarke of Loughboro in ye County of Leicester, apothecary, being at his present position by the mercy of God in good and perfect health of body and also of a sound mind, judgement and understanding, so make and ordaine this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following. Placing my soul into the hand of God, my merits, humbly and earnestly beseeching Him to adopt of me only in my merits, meditation and confession of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer and humbly beseeching Him to beget and [illegible] in me more and more to that lovely home wherein sometimes I pause, glad because of my salvation in the same Jesus our real friend of the bible, and of never fading importance, received for this reason for all times, now awakened by the power of God, brought by the faith to Salvation. Also I commit my body and soul to be decently buried at the supervision of my friends. Here I bequest and give my personal estate to be disposed of as followeth.

- *First I give unto my good and loving wife **Katherine Clarke** all at my messuage and endourment now in the tenure and occupation of Widow Kirke, butcher, situate in Grantham close by the Wood-Yarde. Also the kitchen belonging to the same, and with all the other appertinences so belonging thereto, to be disposed of to her own use and benefit during her naturall life. *And a further lstate to be disposed of as followeth: And I give and bequeath unto my Sonne **Joseph Clarke** all that remaining part of my tithe and interest in the shop, with all the wares, goods and the deed books thereunto belonging and remaining part therein. I set him up at Loughboro all I reserved to myself during my naturall life.*
- *All the rest of my lstate, real and personal, lands, houses, goods and chattells whatsoever. My Will is that the they shall be equally and indifferently be divided betwixt my daughter **Martha Clarke** and my Sonne **John Clarke**, provided notwithstanding that in both the said hands, various goods and chattels upon equal preferrment shall amount about the double value of the shop, met by goods, wares and deed books thereto belonging.*
- *Upon my wish is that the amount surplus or overplus or double value shall be sub-divided into three parts and distributed equally at my loving brethren Dr **Humphrey Babington** and my loving brethren **Mr Joseph Clarke, Physician**, betwixt my sonne Joseph Clarke, daughter Martha Clarke, and my sonne John Clarke at Low Estate, of my said wife Katherine Clarke, as before.*
- *As many or any of them shall be disposed of for their preferrment in marriage or otherwise according to the discretion of my said wife, and my said wife in the meantime to advise them whereof as the occasion may require.*
- *That I give unto my sonne **William Clarke** from the day and date of my decease, my late dwelling house in Grantham now rent in his name and living and the garden in Deadmans Lane with all the appertinences thereto belonging, though it is not to be his by virtue of his mothers. joynture untill my death.*

- *And revoking and legally making null former Wills by me made, I do make and ordain my dear and loving wife to be my supervisor of this my last Will and Testament, and my loving brother Dr Humphrey Babington, Doctor of Divinity, and my loving brother Mr Joseph Clarke, Physician my supervisors thereof, earnestly intreating them to take the name of all my pleasures upon them to see that this my Will be fulfilled. And for their great pains and kindness therein I give unto each of them ten shillings a man.*
- *In witness required of the said William Clarke, have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of June Anno Domini 1671.*
- *In the presence of: Edward Storer; Susan Storer, Frances Key*
- *If any be not thanken that person or persons shall have none.*

Summary of Will

William Clarke's will, dated June 1671 and proved 23 October 1682 by his widow Catherine Clarke. The will named^[5]

- Catherine Clarke, executor
- son Joseph Clarke
- daughter Martha Clarke
- son John Clarke
- son William Clarke, executor
- brother Humphrey Babington, D. D., and Mr. Joseph Clarke, physician (overseers)
- Edward Storer, Susann Storer, and Frances Key, witnesses

Death and Burial

He died aft. June 1, 1671^[2]

He died 1 June 1671 (Gregorian)^[3]

William Clarke was buried at Grantham 21 September 1682. ^[7]

Children

Children of William and Martha (possibly Robson) Clarke. All baptized in Grantham:

1. William Clarke, bp 5 May 1633, bur 10 Oct 1633 in Grantham ^[5]
2. John Clarke, bp 30 Nov 16324, bur 4 Dec 1634 in Grahtam^[5]
3. Anne Clarke, bp 10 Dec 1637, d. between 30 July 1713 and 19 une 1714 in Maryland.^[5]
4. Elizabeth Clarke, bp 2 Dec 1638, bur 28 Feb 1638/9 in Grantham^[5]
5. Mary Clarke, bp 12 July 1640, bur 4 aug 1642 in Grantham^[5]
6. William Clarkle (again), bp 26 Sept 1641, bur 24 Aug 1698 in Grantham.^[8]

Children of William and Katherine (Babington)(Storer) Clarke

1. Joseph Clarke, b. say 1650/51 in Grantham, bur 4 July 1721 in Loughborough, m (1) 13 June 1676 in Wanlip, Leicestershire, Rebekah Woodward; m (2) Buchminster 27 __ber 1690, Frances Key^[8]
2. Martha Clarke, bp 28 Mar 1652^[8]
3. John Clarke, bp 28 Dec 1653^[8]

Sources

1. ↑ Register of St. Wulfram, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Cited by Battle, p. 69
2. ↑ 2.00 2.01 2.02 2.03 2.04 2.05 2.06 2.07 2.08 2.09 2.10 2.11 Wikipedia, William Clarke. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Clarke_%28apothecary%29
3. ↑ 3.0 3.1 3.2 William Clarke. (Q8006850) https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q8006850. Accessed April 23, 2017. jhd
4. ↑ Battle, 76

5. ↑ [5.0](#) [5.1](#) [5.2](#) [5.3](#) [5.4](#) [5.5](#) [5.6](#) [5.7](#) Battle, 77
6. ↑ Copied from original document by Vivien Horry, and converted to HTML format by Chris Horry. Spelling and grammatical errors from the original document have not been corrected
7. ↑ Register of St. Wulfram, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Cited by Battle, p. 71
8. ↑ [8.0](#) [8.1](#) [8.2](#) [8.3](#) Battle, 78

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See also:

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