

ALEXANDER GIBSON CLARK AND AGNES LOUISE MOFFAT

Alexander Gibson Clark was baptised in Auchinleck, Scotland, in the county of Ayr which is about 25 miles south of Glasgow. A review of the Mormon church microfilm of the Auchinleck Parish Register indicates that he was the son of George Clark, a cotton weaver, and Margaret Gibson. The parish register also lists the baptism of his other brothers and sisters. The entries for the Clark family are:

James	baptised	September 5,	1802	Page 232
Christian	"	June 10	1804	233
John	"	May 18	1806	235
William	"	December 24	1809	239
Alexander	"	January 10	1813	242
Alexander	"	February 13	1814	242
Agnes	"	October 27	1816	257
George	(not recorded - estimated circa	1807-8)		

The register also lists the birth of Margaret Gibson on March 2, 1777, the daughter of John Gibson (tailor) and Christine Peden as well as other children of the same family. There were no entries for Alexander's father George in the Auchinleck register which starts in 1693, so it is assumed that he moved into the area. The families followed the Scottish custom of naming the eldest son after the paternal grandfather, the second son after the maternal grandfather, the third son after the father, the eldest daughter after the maternal grandmother, the second daughter after the paternal grandmother and the third daughter after the mother. From this summary it would be reasonable to assume that Alexander's grandparents would be James and Agnes Clark. Auchinleck in the period of 1790-98 had a population of 775 - in 1951 it was 6808.

You will note that there were two entries for Alexander Clark. It is assumed that the first one died in 1813 shortly after birth. No entry was found for his brother George and it is assumed he would be born circa 1807-8. The tombstone for James in Kincardine, Ontario cemetery would indicate that he was born in 1792. I remember my father mentioning that James needed verification of his birthdate for some legal records, and had written to Scotland for this. It was recognized that the date given him made him ten years older than he thought he was, but since it was a church record, it was considered to be right. There was a James Clark born December 2, 1792 listed in the register, but he is a son of John Clark. It is quite apparent that the person looking up the register recorded the wrong date of birth for him.

Alexander and his oldest brother James immigrated to Canada circa 1848. It is believed that they lived in one of the Scottish settlements in the Brampton area for a period of about two years before acquiring land in Kincardine Township. The Durham Road was surveyed in 1848 and 1849 and the government made an order in council on August 26, 1848 to offer a free grant to actual settlers of a fifty acre farm lot on one of the two concessions north or south of this road to encourage settlers to come into the area. The earliest record that I have found is their signed names along with