

The Surname of CLARK

'Clark' as a name is derived from the same origin as Smith, Taylor, Hunter, and many others which were adapted from a trade. There is no reliable account of when it was first used as a surname, altho the original possessors of the name were engaged in the trade of a

CLARK, one who could read and plead the benefit of the clergy. Hence, Clark and Clarke.

-Baring-Gould, S. "Family Names: Their Story." J.B. Lippincott Co, Philadelphia, 1910. p. 136.

Later, the name was used to designate the town clerk (rhymes with 'bark'). Its great prevalence thruout the United Kingdom is because every town had its clerk. Indeed, the name is

...ninth in number--if Clark and Clarke are reckoned as one name--in the Registrar General's comparative list of names.

-Lower, M.A. "Patronymica Britannica: A dictionary of the Family Names of the United Kingdom." John Russell Smith, London. 1960.

There is no "true" spelling of the surname, for example

There was no standard spelling in the century when 'Deacon' George lived, hence it is immaterial whether his surname is spelled 'Clark' or 'Clarke.' It often appears as 'Clarke' in records, but is 'Clark' in his will (dated 1678). After spelling became stereotyped, the form 'Clark' was most generally adopted by his descendents.

-Bryant, George Clarke. "Deacon George Clark(e) and Some of His Descendents." Anthoensen Press, Portland, Maine. 1949. p. 17.