

Chapter 26 A History of Clarks

The community of Clarks in the 8th Township derives its name from Henry J. B. Clark's brickyard, the North State Brick Company, located in the area prior to the Civil War. The brickyard was listed in the 1860 census and was located on the Guion map of 1864. The startup of this brickyard coincided with the completion of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad from Beaufort to Goldsboro, NC about 1858. Prior to the railroad there would have been no effective transportation for the community's products.

During the Civil War, Union forces built earthwork fortifications on the east side of Bachelor Creek, on both sides of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. The Clark's brickyard area was used a depot for supplies for the fortifications and the large Yankee camp between the creek and the brickyard on the north side of the railroad. ¹

One of the oldest homes in the area was the John Humphrey home located near the brickyard, purchased by John Humphrey in 1878 from E. R. Stanley, the home originally a log structure. The house built prior to the Civil War, burned in 1966. Most of the extant structures in the community date to about 1880-1910. ²

Never a large community, the 1893 North Carolina directory lists a population of 25. About 1910-20, there were three merchants in the community, George R. Stewart's general store and post office, the Joseph E. Register store (farm equipment) and the Abner Wetherington store (aka Craven Supply Co, farm equipment).

In 1883 John Humphrey was a Justice of the Peace, in 1893, a North Carolina directory lists George Thomas Eubanks as a magistrate in the 8th township. Amos T. Wetherington was also a magistrate in the 8th township.

John Humphrey was appointed postmaster for Clarks in 1892, but does not appear to have served according to postal records.³ At one time the Post Office in Clarks was in the George R. Stewart store, later it was located in the George and Mattie Moore Stevenson home (formerly the Joseph E. Register Store) until the service was discontinued in 1962. The post masters for Clarks were: ⁴

<i>Postmaster</i>	<i>Service Date</i>
George Thomas Eubanks	21 July 1892
Annie A. Taylor	15 April 1907
George R. Stewart	27 June 1910
Annie Moore Stewart	4 March 1915
Goldie Stewart Morris, Acting	1 October 1940
Mattie Moore Stevenson	19 Jul 1941
Discontinued	31 October 1962



***Figure 59 Clark, NC
Postal Cancellation***

The railroad serviced Clarks via a siding, but there was not a regular depot in Clarks, the freight depot for the area being Tuscarora. There was regular rail service for Clarks. The timetable at the right appeared the October 1897 New Bern Weekly Journal.⁵

Clarks was involved in brickmaking from the 1850s until the late 1940s. First was Henry J. B. Clark's brickyard, there was also the Jones and Abbott brickyard, the Enterprise Brick and Tile Manufacturing Company, the Clark Brick and Tile Company, and the Carolina Brick Company that operated in the area.

Also, at least two dairy farms were in the area in the early 1900s. John Humphrey and Kelley McKeel operated dairy farms in the community. John W. Humphrey took over the dairy operation from his father and later moved his dairy operation to the Beaufort, NC area.

A. & N. C. R. R.			
TIME TABLE NO. 2.			
Going East SCHEDULE		Going West	
No. 2	Passenger Trains	No. 4	
Lv. p m	STATIONS:	Ar. a m	
3 20.....	Goldboro.....	11 27	
3 40.....	LaGrange.....	12 32	
4 12.....	Kinston.....	1 32	
5 15.....	Ar. New Bern, Lv.....	9 20	
5 25.....	Lv. " " Ar.....	9 20	
6 37.....	Ar. Morehead city Lv.....	8 47	
No. 1, †			
Mx'd Fl. and	STATIONS:	Mx'd Fl. and	No. 2, *
Pass. Tr.		Pass. Tr.	
Lv. a m		Ar. p m	
7 20.....	Goldboro.....	8 00	
7 53.....	Best's.....	6 50	
8 10.....	LaGrange.....	6 50	
7 35.....	Falling creek.....	5 20	
9 24.....	Kinston.....	3 00	
9 28.....	Caswell.....	5 15	
9 33.....	Ar. Dover, Lv.....	3 00	
10 15.....	Lv. " " Ar.....	4 20	
10 40.....	Core creek.....	4 00	
11 15.....	Tuscarora.....	3 28	
11 31.....	Clark's.....	3 20	
12 05.....	Ar. New Bern, Lv.....	2 50	
1 20.....	Lv. " " Ar.....	10 47	
2 13.....	Riverdale.....	10 12	
2 26.....	Croatan.....	10 09	
2 50.....	Havelock.....	9 49	
3 12.....	Newport, Lv.....	9 00	
3 25.....	Wildwood.....	8 27	
3 31.....	Atlantic.....	8 30	
3 47.....	Ar. Morehead city, Lv.....	8 20	
3 54.....	Ar. M. city Depot, Lv.....	8 00	
P. M.		A. M.	
*Monday, Wednesday and Friday.			
†Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.			
G. L. HILL, Superintendent.			

Figure 60 Atlantic & NC Railroad Schedule, 1897

The Abbott and Jones Brickyard operated about 1905 and became the Carolina Brick Company, and relocated to Hyman's Siding. The Clarks Lumber Company operated about 1910, one of the several lumber camps operating in the area of Clarks. A lumber milling business also operated in Clarks in 1911 but the location of the old mill is unknown.



Figure 61 Clarks Lumber Co, 1913

An advertisement in the 1911 New Bern Weekly Journal by James M. Register lists a millwork plant for sale in the upcoming town of Clarks. The ad also lists J. M. Register home for sale on a three-acre lot with a young orchard of fruit trees.⁶ This property may have been item 9 on the map, the home of Lehman and Florence Wetherington. The following map locates some of the homes and businesses of Clarks about 1920.

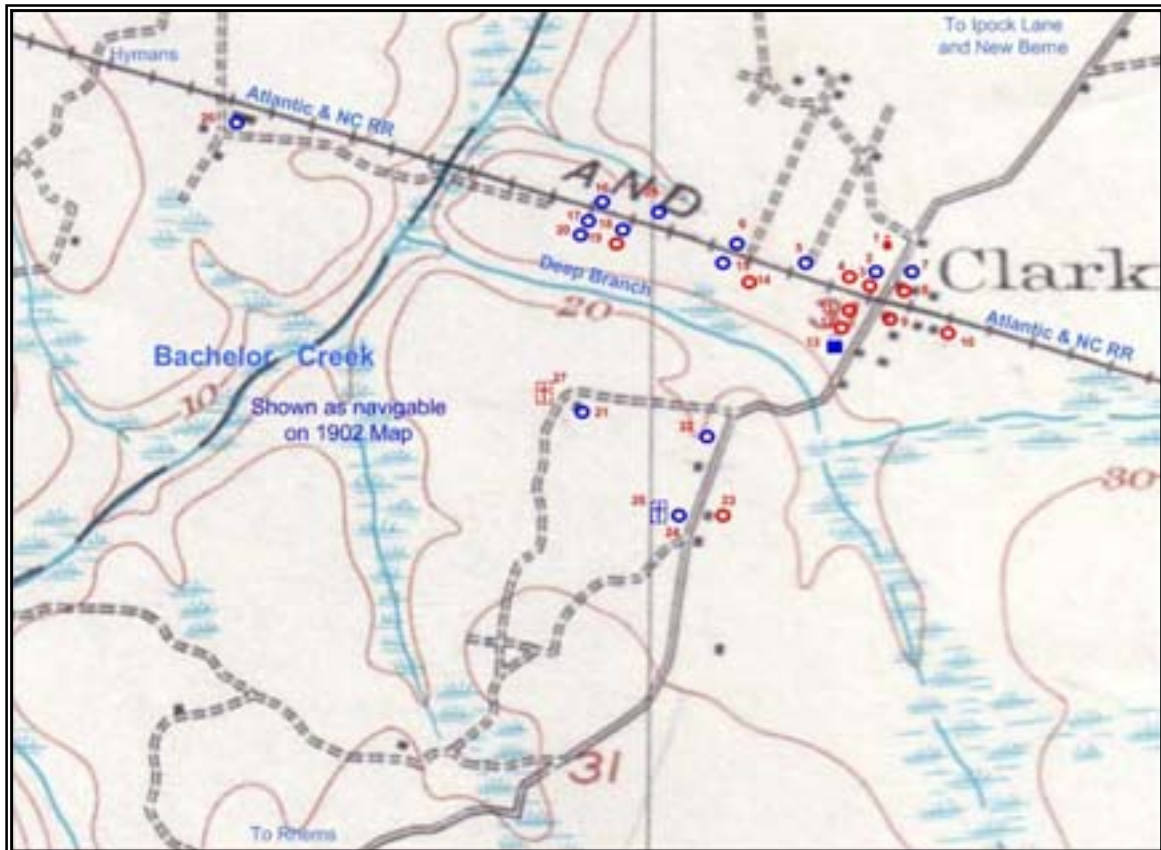


Figure 62 Map of Clarks, NC, circa 1920

1. The **Clarks United Methodist Church** was established in 1905. Originally a one-store wooden structure, the original church was replaced in the 1970s. The old building was purchased by William G. Humphrey and moved to the Jay Lee Humphrey, Sr. homeplace where it stands in 2005.
2. The **John and Delila Stewart** home, now demolished was a wooden structure. In the late 1930s, Jay Lee and Nannie Humphrey lived in this house.⁷
3. **The George R. Stewart General Store.** The store, once located between the Stewart home and the road, was relocated to the west side of the house. From 1910 to 1940 the local post office operated out of the store.⁸
4. The **George R. Stewart** home still stands in its original location, a two-story frame home build in 1888.⁹



Figure 63 *George Stewart Home and Stewart General Store*

5. A two-story house, facing the railroad, was the home of John W. Humphrey and later a Mr. Terry. The home was demolished in the 1960s.¹⁰
6. **Clark Brick and Tile Company Office** was a one-story brick building facing the railroad. The company was incorporated in 1911. Use was discontinued during the early 1930s and the building was demolished about 1967 when the city of New Bern placed a water pipeline through the property.
7. **Amos T. Wetherington** build a two-story home near the Abner Wetherington store (his uncle). A successful local businessman, the large home was also known as the Wetherington Hotel for the family's hospitality.¹¹
8. **Abner B. Wetherington Store.** Built as the Craven Supply Company about 1910 by Abner Wetherington, the two-story brick store was operated by Lehman Wetherington (son of Abner). After Lehman's death the store was sold to Howard Wethington and remains in the Wethington family as of 2002.
9. **Lehman Wetherington Home.** Built in 1888 and later owned by Lehman and Florence Wetherington, the two-story frame home still stands in 2002 and is currently owned by Ben Pitts, Jr.¹² County tax records name the property "Eubanks".



Figure 64 *Lehman Wetherington Home and Wetherington Store*

- 10. Abner Roy and Lorena Wetherington Home.** A two-story frame house with several outbuildings. Sold and abandoned after the death of Rena Wetherington in the early 1980s, these abandoned buildings are now part of the Craven County Industrial Park. The John W. Humphrey family also lived in this home during about 1910-1920. County tax records refer to the property as “Humphrey Land”.¹³



Figure 65 Abner Roy and Lorena M. Wetherington Home

- 11. Joseph Register Store.** Built by Joseph Register in 1880, the two story brick store was converted into a home. Mattie Moore Stevenson was postmistress 1941-1962 and a portion of the home was used for the local post office until 1962. Currently the home of Charlotte Mallard Stevenson, daughter-in-law of Mattie since 1944.¹⁴

*Figure 66
Joe Register Store, 1880*



- 12. Robert Belo Pittman Home.** Reportedly built by Amos T. Wetherington in 1888. Robert and Vera Pittman home purchased the one story frame in the 1930s. Robert and Vera lived in the home for over fifty years.¹⁵

*Figure 67 Robert B.
Pittman Home, 1888*



- 13. Clarks School.** A brick schoolhouse, unusual for the county, was converted to a home in the 1930s. It was demolished in the 1970s. The local brick used for the school's construction was salvaged and used for a new home built on the site by Mike Stevenson in the 1970s.
- 14. Charles M. Pittman Home.** Built in 1916 for Charles and Annie Pittman. The Pittmans lived in the home until the 1930s. Ben Pitts, Jr. later owned the home and the house was occupied until the 1970s by the Pitts family.¹⁶
- 15. Jay Lee Humphrey, Sr. Home.** Built prior to the Civil War as a log structure, siding and several additions were added over the years. Purchased by John Humphrey in 1878, the home was later occupied by his son, Jay Lee Humphrey. Jay Lee Humphrey and family lived in the home until his death in 1964. The house burned in 1966 and the property was later used as pasture.
- 16. Hannah Chapman Home.** Located on property known as "Woodruff Land". The house and property was owned by Jay Lee Humphrey, Sr. and a small house on the site was rented to Hannah Chapman in 1920, the long-time black cook for Humphrey family. The house was demolished at a later unknown date.¹⁷
- 17. George Eubanks Store.** A general store was once at this site. Little else is known about the property.¹⁸
- 18. Enterprise Brick and Tile Manufacturing Company.** Owned by George T. Eubanks, this brickyard is listed in operation in 1904 – 1918. With the death of John W. Stewart, agent and Treasurer, advertisements for the company disappear from local papers and business directories. The operation likely ceased about 1919.¹⁹
- 19. George Thomas Eubanks Home.** This two story frame home, build circa 1917, was the home of George T. Eubanks and family until his death in 1938. The home was later purchased by Charles Prevost and the home remains in the Prevost family in 2002.²⁰



Figure 68 George Thomas Eubanks House, c. 1917

20. Tennant House. Located on land owned by Jay Lee Humphrey, Sr. The small one-story home was occupied by Jay Lee Humphrey, Jr and wife Nannie in the late 1930s. The home was demolished in the 1950s.²¹

21. John Humphrey Home. The two-story frame home was build by John Humphrey most likely after 1900. Occupied by John Humphrey until his death in 1917 and later the property was owned by his daughter, Clara Humphrey Foscue , until the late 1970s when it was acquired by William G. Humphrey. The home was partially restored in the 1970s, however it was destroyed by fire in the 1980s.



Figure 69 John Humphrey Home

22. John W. Humphrey Home. John W. Humphrey once owned a one-store frame farmhouse on the site. The property was later purchased by Ben Pitts, Sr., and the home was demolished about 1970. The property is currently owned by The Wolf Timber Company in 2002.²²

23. McKeel Farm. Once a dairy farm, the bulk of the property was acquired for the US 70 Bypass and the home moved nearby. The McKeel home, a two-story frame house built in 1920 still stands in 2002 on Clarks Road.²³



Figure 70 McKeel Farm House

24. Eubanks Homeplace. Site of the homeplace of Redding and Rachel Eubanks, parents of George T. Eubanks. The building was demolished in the 1940s. A family graveyard still exists in the area.

25. Woodruff House. A house once stood on this property prior to 1920. In 1955 only the brick chimney remained. The chimney was demolished in the 1960s.

26. Carolina Brick Company was located at Hyman's south of the railroad. The operation closed in the late 1930s and the buildings were demolished during the 1960s.

27. Humphrey Cemetery located near the John Humphrey homesite on Deep Creek south of Clarks. Gravesites include John Humphrey, Julia Arnold Humphrey and Laura Eleanor Humphrey. Unmarked gravesites include Charles Manly Humphrey and an infant child of Robert and Vera Pittman.²⁴



Figure 71 *Humphrey Cemetery, Clarks, NC*

28. Eubanks Cemetery located south of US 70 bypass on the west side of SR 1225 are a few gravesites attributed to the Eubanks family. The site has not been examined but is known by the author to exist.²⁵

29. John Roy Wetherington Home. Located on the Wetherington Road, the home of John Roy and Elizabeth Riggs Wetherington was built in 1948.²⁶



Figure 72
John Roy Wetherington Home

29. Louis G. Taylor gravesite is located in the Craven County Industrial Park south of the US 70 bypass. The solitary grave 1838-1919 of Louis G. Taylor is marked 'faithful soldier in civil war'.²⁷



Figure 73
Louis G. Taylor Gravestone