

Rev James B. Clark



Rev Clark with his wife Susannah and Grandson

It was a humid June day in Tennessee as 22 year old Clark stood his ground in the battle of Hoover Gap while serving as a Private in H Company, 78th Division. By 1863 the Union was using the newly acquired seven shot repeating rifles which gave them an advantage, but surely fear was the worst of all enemies to such a young

man. Simply surviving was his goal during their campaign against the Confederate Army, and fortune did smile upon Clark as they won the three-day battle. A month later he was discharged for disability, perhaps from wounds inflicted at Hoover Gap. Clark was fortunate as battlefield medicine could not be performed in sterile conditions and bacterial infections made it less likely to survive. Additionally his early exit from the Civil War kept him safe from the rampant airborne diseases such as: small pox, measles and tuberculosis.

Seeing his life flash before his eyes surely gave Clark added purpose as fate gave him an additional 44 years. He eventually travelled cross country from Mercer County Pennsylvania to Bainbridge Island...not a common thing to do in the late 1800's, but Clark was not a commoner by any stretch of the imagination. After crossing the plains he eventually became the Pastor of the Eagle Harbor Church in 1891. Four years later he was elected twice as the County Clerk. In his later years he held a departmental position at Washington City. Truly a life that was meant to be as he served the county, his country and his congregation.

Rev. J. **B. Clark** twice elected county clerk of Kitaap, and who subsequently held a position at Washington City in one of the departments, is visiting in Seattle. For the past year Mr. **Clark** has resided at Mabton this state. His eye sight began to fail him some years ago which forced him out of active business life and he moved to the country. He is in Seattle with the intention of having his eyes operated upon.

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The Seattle Republican (June 29, 1906)

James B. Clark, who died last night in this city, was at one time county clerk of Kitsap County and pastor of the Eagle Harbor Church. The body is at Butterworths. No funeral arrangements have been made.

The Seattle Times (March 5, 1907)

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