

**Clara Ann Selina Clarke**  
**Born 23.04.1858 Somerton Suffolk**

Clara's father was **Septimus Clarke** christened 16<sup>th</sup> January 1814 in Suffolk he died 13.04 1877 in Somerton. His father was Robert Clarke born Hawkedon c 1772 and his mother Sarah Plum - married 5<sup>th</sup> August 1794. Clara's mother **Susan Brett** was christened on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1816 at Somerton her father was Samuel Brett agricultural labourer born 1776 , died 30.04.1850 and her mother was Elizabeth

**Susan** had two brothers **John** b 1829 and **Samuel** b 1836 in 1841 they were living together with their grandfather Samuel, and Susan with her husband Septimus Clarke  
**Susan** Clara's mother died on 1.06.1902 at Hartest aged 87

**Clara** had eight sisters & brothers **Elizabeth b 1845, May (Mary?) b 1845, Benjamin b 1848, David b 1850, Abraham b 1853, Sarah Jane b 1855 and Susan b 1856**



*Parish Church Somerton*

**1841 Census - Lower Street, Somerton**

**Sarah Clarke 65 widow (presume mother)**

**Simon Clarke 32**

**Samuel Clarke 35**

**Joseph Clarke 30**

**John Clarke 75 (presume uncle)**

**Martha Clarke 60**

**Septimus Clarke 25 Ag lab**

**Susan Clarke 25 wife**

**Samuel Brett 65**

**John Brett 12 g'son**

**Samuel Brett 5 g'son**

## 1851 Census – Lower Street, Somerton

Septimus Clarke 37 Ag lab  
Susan Clarke 35  
Elizabeth Clarke 8  
Mary Clarke 6  
Benjamin Clarke 3  
David Clarke 1

## 1861 Census – Lower Road, Somerton

Septimus Clarke 47 Coal Carter  
Susan Clarke 46 Baker  
Abraham Clarke 8  
Sarah Jane 6  
Clara AS 2

In 1861 Elizabeth Clarke was working as a dairymaid in Rede  
Mary Clarke was working as a Nursemaid in St Gregory

## 1871 Census

Clara lived with brother Abraham aged 19 years a miller in Lower Street Somerton Suffolk. She was aged 13 years and working as a general servant in the next village of Hartest for a grocer and his wife. Benjamin was working as a butcher in Hartest and living with his wife aged 23

Susan 17 was working as an under housemaid at the Rectory in Melford

Elizabeth aged 28 was working as a domestic servant in Westgate Terrace Melford

No trace of David or Mary (May)

There were a large number of Clarkes living in Rede – presume Joseph Clarke was Septimus's brother

## 1861 Census

Joseph Clarke 51	Ag Lab	Living at The Drift
Eliza Clarke 42		
George 24	Carrier	
Aaron 21	Ag Lab	
Charles 15	Ag Lab	He joined the Goldsmith boys in London
Druscilla 11		
Ursula 5		

Elizabeth Clarke Widow 60yrs was living at Kiln farm with her son James 36

Robert Clarke 33	Ag Lab	Living on the Green
Martha 32		
Joshua 5		
Emily 1		

Frederick Clarke 47	Ag Lab	Living on the Green
Emily daugh 17		
Hannah 12		
Mark 10		
James 8		



### 1871 Census

**Eliza Clarke** widow 60 was living in Rede Green Suffolk with her unmarried daughter **Drusilla** 22 and granddaughter **Beatrice** aged 2. She was the mother of **Charles Clarke** 25 who was lodging with Charles & George Goldsmith in 10 Hudson's Terrace in Westminster she may have been the sister in law to **Septimus** and aunt to **Clara** and her brothers and sisters.

**Robert Clarke** b 1829 age 42 and his wife **Martha** now had five children **Governah, Emily, Charles, Edward and James**

### 1881 Census

**Clara** 22 was working as a **domestic servant** for a wealthy GP and his wife.  
**John Lawrence Growse** in Market Hill, Bildeston Suffolk. There was another GP in the practice and a medical assistant. There was a cook Ann Walker also living in.



*Bildeston*

On 14.11.1881 a boy **Lawrence John Clarke** was born in **Somerton**. When Clara moved to London and married **Charles Leonard Goldsmith** he was listed as being part of their family. His birth was registered by Clara – Servant - no father listed

**By 1881 Abraham** aged 28 had moved to Bradford Yorkshire and married Mary Jane and had two children. Also present in the house was **Mary Clarke** aged 35 years from Somerton an unemployed housemaid. (his older sister )

Septimus died in 1877 and was buried in Somerton Churchyard



Inscription 'He was a loving husband, an affectionate father and a sincere friend.  
He died on April 13th 1877 in the 64th year of his age.'

### 1881

**Susan Clarke** 65 widow and mother of Clara was working as a servant in a household in St Gregory Sudbury

**Elizabeth** had married **William Slater** a Blacksmith & Shopkeeper and was living in Glemsford with their four children. On the day of the Census they had sister **Susan** aged 25 general Servant staying with them.



**1881 Census**

**Eliza Clarke** 70 yrs now living at Drift Cottage next to the Smithy in Rede still with Drusilla and Beatrice but also her granddaughter **Ellen S** born Westminster London in 1872 which does point to the fact that she was the mother of **Charles** and his wife **Anne** - their son **Charles W** had died in June 1878.

**Ezekiel Clarke** 75 yrs was a Farm Bailiff born in Rede he was living in Harringer and was possibly the brother of **Eliza** and the uncle of **Charles**

**William Goldsmith** and family (**Charles Leonard's parents & Clara's in laws**) were living in Rede Green with William jnr & Mary Ann

**Samuel Goldsmith (Charles' uncle )** and family a groom at the Rectory in Rede were living next door to Eliza Clarke at Drift Cottage

**1881 Census Henry Clarke** born Hawkedon was married to **Caroline** born in Rede 1838 with their five children 2 of whom William & Frederick were born in Somerton They may have been relatives

**Sarah Perry (nee Clarke)** aged 76 and sister **Mary Clarke** aged 74 both born Somerton (1805 & 1807). Could have been aunts of Clara's. Both living with Henry and his family in Hawkedon



*Hawkedon Parish Church*



*St Mary's Lambeth Stained Glass Window*

**1883 (June)** Clara married Charles Leonard Goldsmith a widower from Rede Green Suffolk. He had been living at 10 Hudson's Terrace Westminster London . His wife Elizabeth had died aged 40 in the autumn of 1881 leaving him with two children to bring up. William aged 9 yrs and Mary aged 2 years. In between these two children they had unfortunately lost two baby girls Harriet and Elizabeth Ann. **Lawrence** would have been around a year old at the time of the marriage and William and Mary Ann 11 and 4. It appears Lawrence took the Goldsmith name. The couple married out of Hunt Street, parish of St Mary's Lambeth. **Charles'** brother **George** Goldsmith was living at 9b Hunt St with his wife and family at the time. They obviously used his address as being resident in the Parish as quickly moved to 17 Millbank Westminster

**Charles** had married his first wife Elizabeth Quick on 27 May 1871 in the same church. That time from Park Street Lambeth. But on the **1881 Census** they were all living at Hudson's Terrace



*Parish of St Mary's Lambeth*

**1881 John Lawrence** Growse and his family moved up in the world and had moved to Bildeston House and had a cook, a parlour maid and housemaid living in.

**Between 1883 and 1891 Clara and Charles** had four children **Charles Leonard, Gertrude Mary, Tom Edwin and Bertha Violet**

#### **1891 Census**

**Abraham** aged 38 was now a fish dealer and **Mary Clarke** his sister 46 was still present in the household. He had a young daughter **Susan**. They had a visitor **Sarah J Hawkins** aged 36 from Somerton Suffolk. This was obviously younger sister Sarah Jane She was living at Dover Castle in the Ostler's House with her husband from Ely who was a stableman at 8/- a week.

**James Clarke** b 1853 born Rede (possibly a relative) was a fisherman in Great Yarmouth

**Susan Clarke** (Clara's mother) aged 75 Widow was a housekeeper at Warren's Farm Hartest.

**Susan Clarke** (sister) aged 34 was lodging in Glemsford with her sister **Elizabeth Slater** who was a Grocer & Beer Seller her husband a Blacksmith and their three children **James** their son was a butcher

**Benjamin** was now a Butcher/Farmer living on The Green Hartest with his wife Hannah and their three children. The shop is still in existence today, named B Clarke



*The Green Hartest*

**Caroline Clarke** (widow) aged 53 was still living in Hawkedon with her three children **William & Frederick & Walter**

**Clara and Charles Goldsmith** were living at 23 Millbank a tenement building next to the Houses of Parliament with **William** 19, **Mary** 12, **Lawrence** 9, **Charles** 6, **Gertrude** 4, and **Tom** 3. The family were occupying four rooms

**Charles** was a horse keeper/groom at the Cement Factory on the wharf which owned the buildings, William his son a labourer and the other children scholars. It was a dirty grimy place and completely different to the Suffolk countryside



*Lambeth Bridge with a view of St Mary's Parish Church Lambeth*

### **1901 Census**

**Susan Clarke** (mother) aged 86 was living in Shimpling Lane Hartest near to her son **Benjamin** who was still a Butcher/Farmer on The Green with his son as Assistant

No trace of **Elizabeth** whose husband **William Salter** was running the Off Licence on Fair Green Glemsford alone with his daughter Susan who was described as the housekeeper.

No trace either of **Susan** who would have been 44

Also no trace of **Sarah Jane**. A **Sarah Jane Hawkins** died in Lambeth in 1896 possibly whilst giving birth to baby Arthur

Her husband Arthur Hawkins (Gentleman's Groom) was now living in Yorkshire & had a new wife Mary Ann aged 36 from Yorks and was living with son Arthur aged 6, born in Lambeth

**Charles, Clara, Mary, Gertrude & Bertha** were still living at 23 Millbank Street they were occupying four rooms, but the boys were all lodging around the corner in 12 Wood Street with a Mr & Mrs Poulter & family, there were 10 people in the household. Clara and Mary were dressmakers.



*Looking towards Millbank Street from the prison*

### **1902 June**

**Susan Clarke** Clara's mother died aged 87 yrs in Hartest Suffolk

We presume that around the beginning of the first world war the family moved to Ponsonby Place in Westminster, a much better area.

Mary Ann married Edgar Woodward, Gertrude Mary married Harry Bird, Bertha Violet married Harry Robinson, all daughters were pregnant when they married.

Bertha, Harry and their family emigrated to Australia in 1949

**Clara Ann Selina died on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1938 aged 79 years  
at 69 Ponsonby Place in Westminster**  
Her Grand Daughter Clara Violet (Bertha's) registered the death



**Her husband Charles Leonard had died at the same address on 21<sup>st</sup> December  
1930 aged 84 years**

**Two of her children Charles and Tom were living in the same street  
running shops at no 30 and 42**

**Lawrence his wife and ten children lived in Ponsonby Terrace**

The Goldsmith family appeared to have lived in Westminster for over 100 years and  
some may still be there today