

# THE HISTORY of the CLARK HOUSE



The John Clark house located in Argyle sits on a large corner lot at Clarke Road and Avalon Street. This property, recently designated as heritage by the City of London, occupied 100 acres of farmland at this location and carries the namesake of Clarke Road and Clarke Road Secondary School.



(photos courtesy of Sam Cox)

# THE CLARK FARM

The original Clark Farm comprised of 100 acres that were purchased and cleared by Irish Pioneer, John Clark in 1834. The boundaries of the farm extended from Clarke Road and Second Street in the east-west direction and Dundas Street to Herbert Avenue in the north-south direction.



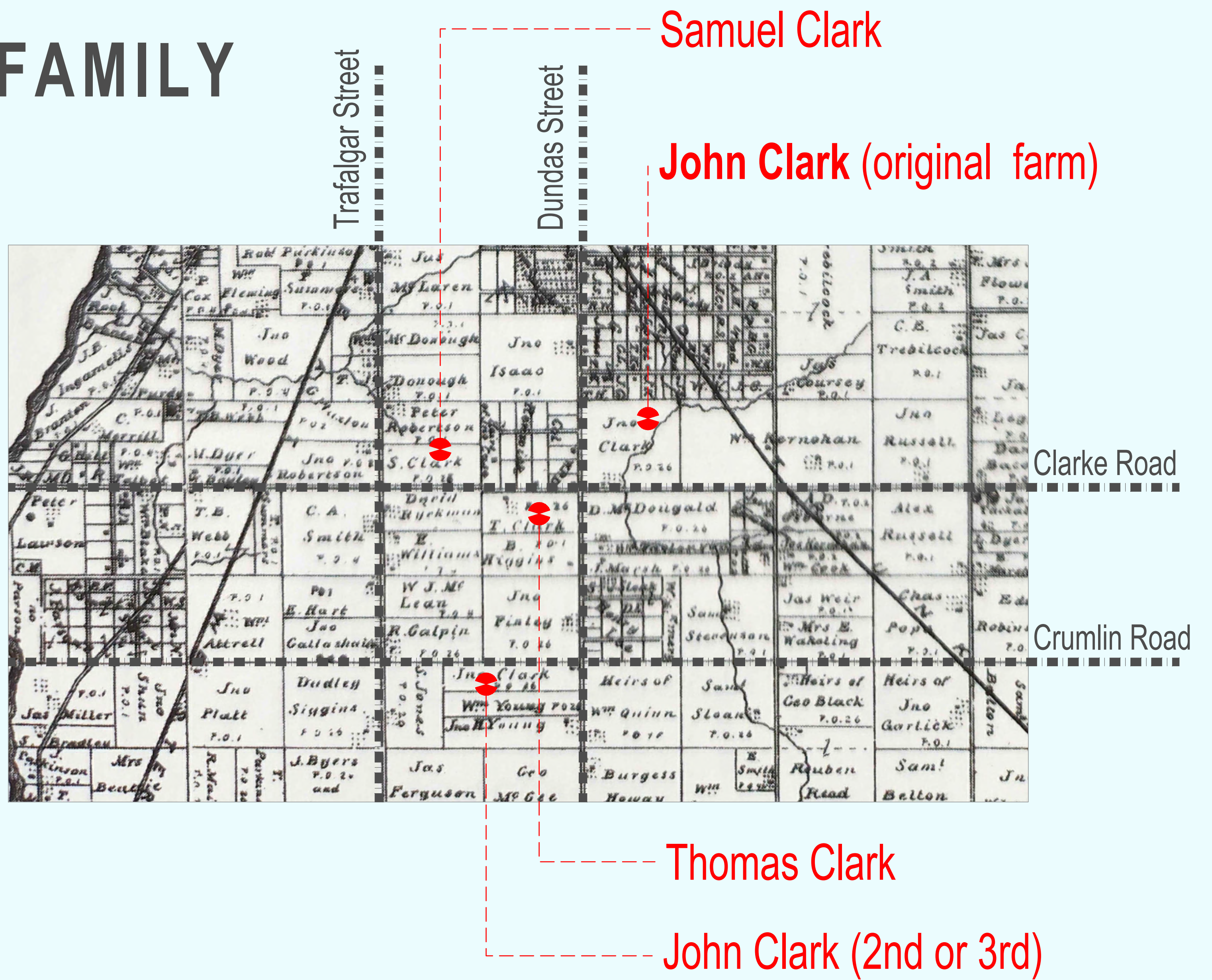
1945 Aerial View (Western Archives)

*Of the 100 acres, 55 were cultivated, 40 were in crops, 13 in pasture, two acres were devoted to orchards and gardens, and 43 acres were wood or wild. The cash value of the farm was estimated to be \$4,000, and the value of machinery and implements was \$60. The previous year four acres of the farm had been sown in fall wheat yielding 126 bushels, and eight in spring wheat yielding 145 bushels. Ten acres of peas had produced 250 bushels, four acres of oats - 100 bushels, two acres of potatoes - 300 bushels, one and a half acres of turnips - 850 bushels, and the farm had also grown 300 bushels of carrots, 1900 bushels of hops, and eight tons of hay. Also produced were 120 pounds of wool, 100 lb. of maple sugar, 31 yards of fulled cloth and 50 yards of flannel. The Clark farm reported two steers or heifers under three years of age, eight milch cows, four horses over three years valued at \$320, one colt or filly under three years, 26 sheep, nine pigs, with the value of all livestock being \$586. 200 pounds of butter had been produced, and the value of the produce of the Clark orchards and gardens was \$50.*

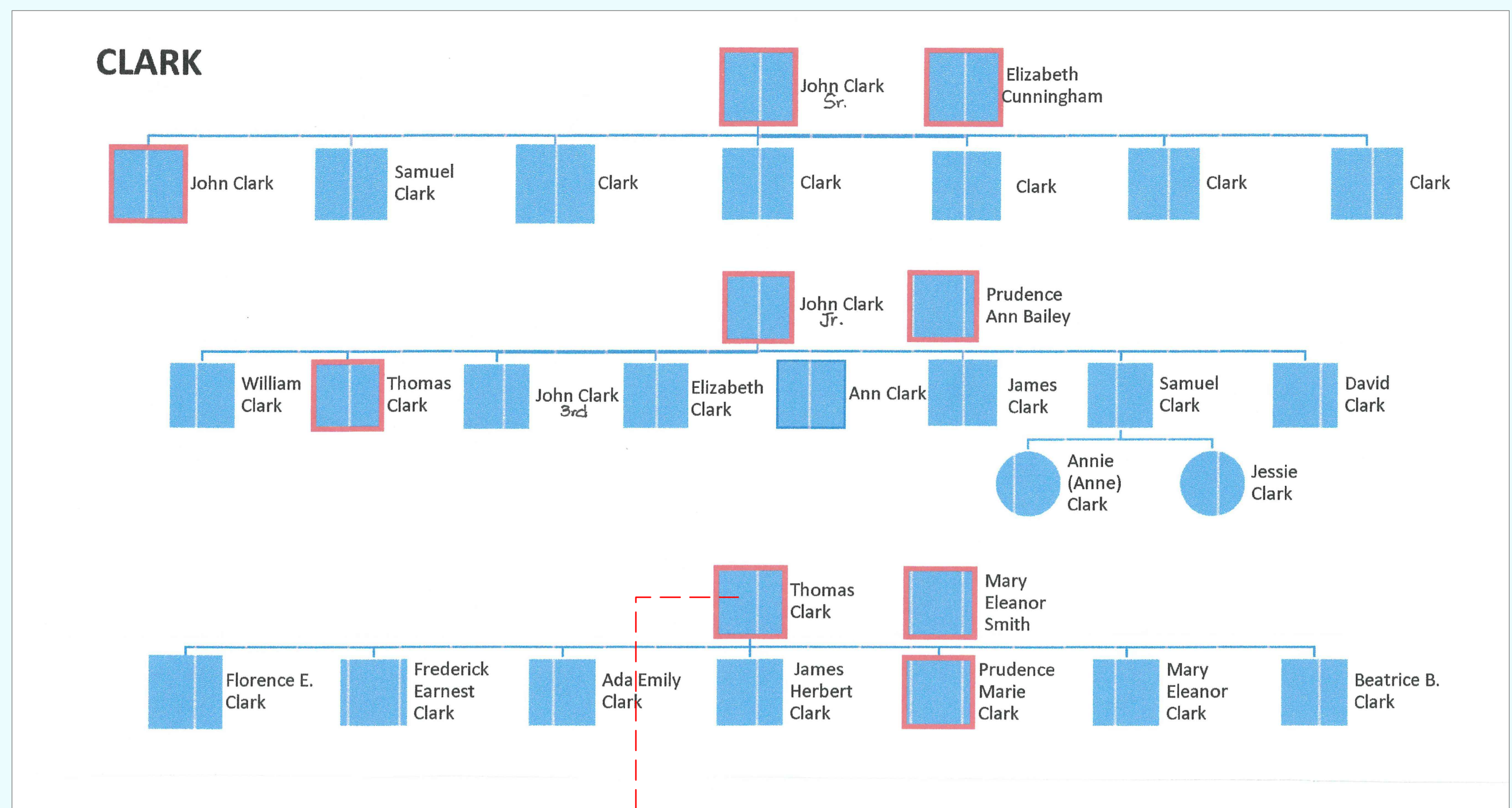
(City of London, 1861 Agricultural Census)

# THE CLARK FAMILY

The Clark family brought up a lineage of successful farmers that farmed lands along both Clarke Road and Dundas Street.



The family also lays claim to a significant City of London citizen, Thomas Clark who who went on to become a long time city warden and member of Middlesex County Council.



(images courtesy of Janet and David Harris)

# CLARK HOUSE MAKING NEW MEMORIES !

Today the Clark House hosts a variety of community activities including a bi-annual walnut harvest from its 150 year old black walnut trees, an annual Christmas light display by the Clarke Road Secondary School students and a place for regular plant sales by the Argyle Community Association.



The Clark House, even for a time, was a back-drop to a large 2-storey projection show of family portraits from Argyle residents!

(photos courtesy of Sam Cox)

