

Mary Emmaline Briggs Clark

She lost her mother at an early age and went on to raise four children of her own.

Mary Emmaline Briggs was born 21 July 1847 in Barre, New York. She was the second child and only daughter of Charles G. Briggs and Mary Griswold Snow Briggs. When Mary was only 8 years old, her mother died. Her father then sent Mary and her two younger brothers to live with their paternal uncle and his wife, Elijah Briggs and Sarah Bolles Briggs. It is unknown how long the siblings lived with their aunt and uncle.

Mary met and married Civil War veteran Nathaniel Joel Clark on December 20, 1871, in Lima, New York. They had four children: Almena, Francis, Fanny, and Jessie.

Some time after 1872, they moved to Ovid, Michigan where she spent the remainder of her life. She died on November 16, 1909 and is interred in Maple Grove Cemetery, resting beside her husband and daughter Almena, who died as a young child.

One can only speculate how and when they arrived in Michigan. Most likely, they boarded a boat in Batavia, traveling the Erie Canal to Lake Erie. Once on Lake Erie it was a relatively short distance to the Port of Detroit. It is thought that her younger brother, Gilbert, followed her some time later into the wilds of Michigan where land was cheaper and the prospects of success were easier to obtain.



Mary and Nathaniel stand with others before their farm house in Ovid, Michigan.