

Bishop Davis W. Clark, D.D.

Davis Wasgatt Clark was born February 25, 1812, in Mount Desert Island, Maine. He died on May 23, 1871, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

According to Clark's historical papers, he stated as a young person, "I found my heart strangely warmed while the converts spoke of the love God revealed in their souls."

Clark became a student at Wesleyan University in 1834, which was the first institution of collegiate grade established by the Methodist of the Eastern and Middle States. His faith in God, in Christ, in the truths of the religious system into which he had been brought, and in the genuineness of his own Christian experience, seemed never for a moment to waver. Bishop Clark was described as a devoted and faithful leader of the Gospel, who served as a teacher, a pastor, an editor and eventually as a bishop within the Methodist Episcopal Church. Because of Bishop Clark's distinguished service, he was appointed the first president of the Methodist Freedman's Aid Society and traveled south where he was mediator to reunite the northern and southern branches of the church that had split over the issue of slavery as well as to assist freed slaves to establish themselves after the civil war ended. During the 1867 Annual Methodist conference, two churches were organized: Clark Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and Loyd Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Clark University (now Clark Atlanta University) was named in honor of Bishop Clark.

Reference: Life-Story of Rev. Davis Wasgatt Clark, D.D., Daniel Curry, Scholar Select