

Francis Robinson Clarke  
*and*

***Born:*** 21 May 1876, Owensboro KY  
***Died:*** 11 Oct 1961, Oxford MD  
***Buried:*** Oxford Cemetery, Oxford MD

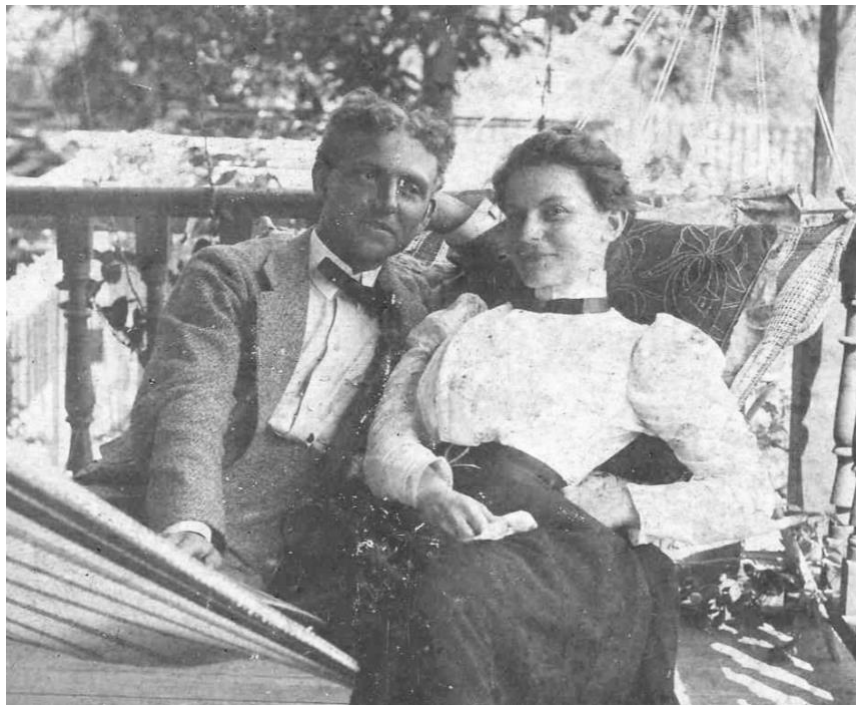
Esther Marie Remshart

***Born:*** 21 Oct 1878, Savannah GA  
***Died:*** 21 May 1953, Savannah GA  
***Buried:*** Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah GA

***Married:*** 11 Dec 1901, St. John's Church, Savannah GA

***Children:*** Alice Remshart, Marie Bransford, Frances Robinson (=Isabelle Redding)

Frank Clarke was born in Kentucky of a family which had, only a few decades before, moved from Virginia and become wealthy in the tobacco business. He arrived in Savannah in the 1890's, charmed at least the members of the Remshart family, and married Marie.



Frank and Marie at White Bluff, the Remshart summer home south of Savannah, in 1898

They moved to Jacksonville FL, where Frank owned a lumber business, and where they had 3 daughters. Frank was soon spending less and less time at home with his family, until Marie- suspicious of what was happening- hired a private investigator to look into the situation. The detective discovered that not only was Frank having an affair with his secretary, Mary Mallett, but he was also a dodgy businessman, of whom few had a good word to say (though some said that his wife and mother in law were hard to endure.)

In 1912, Marie divorced Frank and- to escape the shame of a divorce- moved to the home of her great aunt, Isabelle Remshart Redding in Waycross GA. The youngest daughter, Frances, was renamed (whether officially is not known) Isabelle Redding Clarke, by which she was always later known. The family returned to Savannah after the death of Aunt Iessie in 1929.

Only a few days after the divorce, Frank married his secretary, Mary Mallett, in Arkansas. They moved to Montclair NJ, where Frank again owned a lumber business. They had one son, Frank Jr, who attended Exeter and Princeton, married Katherine Hutchinson, and moved to Oxford MD. Frank Jr. and Katherine had no children. Later, Frank and Mary joined their son in Oxford, where Frank died in 1961. After the divorce, Frank had no contact with his first family, who knew nothing of his later life.



Marie, Frances (=Isabelle) and Alice in 1910. Note the striking resemblance of Marie to her mother, and Alice to her aunt in [this photo](#).



Right to left: Marie, sister  
Alice, and friend Jenny  
Bryan



Marie in her 50's

[Clarke wedding announcement](#)

[Remshart Photo Album](#)