Sedley Blanchard Clarke was born at Fort Carlton (near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan) 27 January 1879, (HBC Archives, A.34/8), the son of Chief Factor Laurence Clarke and his second wife, the sister of Thomas and John McKay of Prince Albert. He was named after his older step-sister's husband, Sedley Blanchard of Winnipeg (see enclosed biographical note from the McPhillip's Saskatchewan Directory for 1888).

Clarke entered the Hudson's Bay Company on 9 November 1897 as an apprentice Clerk in the Cumberland District (HBC Archives Fur Trade Engagement Register, 1892-1903, unclassified). From 6 September 1902 to 1905, when he returned to Prince Albert, Clarke served as Clerk at Isle a la Crosse. From 1905 to 1908 he was clerk at Pelican Narrows and from 1908 to 1911 at Cumberland House (all in present-day Saskatchewan). (HBC Archives, Fur Trade Engagement Register, 1903-unclassified). In 1911 and 1912 he was at Lac du Brochet (in northern Manitoba) and 1913 at Ile a la Crosse once more. (HBC Archives, Fur Trade Character Reports, Clerk and Post Master, unclassified).

In 1915 Clarke enlisted as a Private in the 53rd Battalion, returning to the Saskatchewan District to resume his employment in 1919. He was awarded a silver medal by the Company in May 1920 and a silver bar May 1921. The exact date of his retirement is not noted, but appears to have been in 1921. (HBC Archives, Fur Trade Retired Servants, unclassified).

Reference to a date of death has not been traced.