



6101 Main Street

Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO BOX 94 • CLAYTON, CALIFORNIA • 94517

(925) 672-0240

Website: www.claytonhistory.org

Spring 2011 Issue #139

Announcing...the 2011 Clayton Gardens Tour!

We are pleased to present our 19th Annual Clayton Gardens Tour, featuring six gardens and an added bonus display of a dozen or more quilts. The tour will take place this year on May 6th and 7th and offers something for everyone: from a small, intimate garden in one of Clayton's many townhouse communities; to a large park-like oasis on nearly one acre; to a drought-tolerant, desert-style landscape; with a lush, tropical island paradise and two other surprise gardens! Please see page 7 for more information and a ticket order form.



Spring Education Event: The Story of Joel Clayton

The public is invited to attend a presentation featuring Dick Ellis, past President of the Clayton Historical Society, depicting Buxworth, England: the birthplace of Clayton's founder Joel Clayton. This talk and slideshow will travel from Buxworth to Boston to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then to Wisconsin, where Mr. Clayton as a wagon master finally traveled west to the Diablo Valley, where he founded the town of Clayton in 1857.

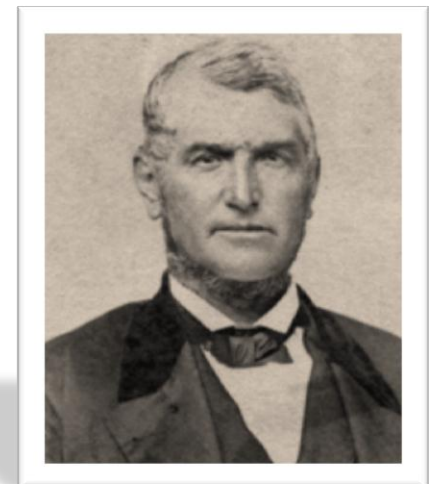
Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Diamond Terrace Senior Center

6401 Center Street, Clayton

Refreshments Served | Free Admission

The last time this program was presented was in 1997, so bring a friend for this education night!



President's Message

by Ted Meriam



Dear Members & Friends:

It's that time again when Clayton explodes with the beautiful coming of Spring, which also marks the arrival of our annual Clayton Gardens Tour. Acting as the Clayton Historical Society's major fundraiser, the Gardens Tour will delight attendees during Mother's Day weekend and raise the much-needed funds to operate and improve the Clayton Museum. If you are able to attend, please also visit the ever-expanding Museum Garden and see our vision for its future. I would like to thank the many memorial donors whose financial gifts will support future phases of the Museum Garden in honor of Willmetta Frank Mann, who recently passed.

Next month also brings our Spring Education Event, featuring the Story of Joel Clayton on May 12th at 7pm at Diamond Terrace. The free event will offer a presentation by Dick Ellis, past President of the Clayton Historical Society, depicting Buxworth, England. As the Society's charter is to preserve and promote the local Clayton history, please come and learn about our town's founding.

April celebrates National Volunteer Week and since the Society and Museum are operated solely by volunteers, I would like to thank several of you for your ongoing support! The team of people on page 4 illustrates the numerous folks it takes to execute our mission. It takes both time and money to keep our doors open, so a **big thank you** to all of our volunteers and donors!

My best,
Ted Meriam, President

(925) 690-8600 | www.tedmeriam.com



Society Yearly Donation Categories for 2011:

- Student - \$10
- Senior - \$10
- Senior Couple - \$15
- Individual - \$20
- Couple - \$30
- Sustaining - \$50
- Business - \$100
- Volunteer - 25 hours/year in the previous calendar year for one year.

Major Gift Categories for 2011:

- Life-Individual - \$500
- 1857 League-Individual - \$1,857



Please check the membership category and print all of the following information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to the Clayton Historical Society

P.O. Box 94
Clayton, CA 94517



Communications from your Curators

From Mary Spryer, Curator-

In January the “**Frankly Speaking**” exhibit was mounted. **Charmetta Mann** provided the bulk of the exhibit items with a few thrown in from other **Frank** relatives and items from the museum’s permanent collection, (most donated by **Frank** family members). A pack of **Cub Scouts** were the first to see the new exhibit. The scouts always have a great time learning about Clayton’s history. In February, **Adela Oldford** took a walking group on a tour of both the downtown and museum. Later in February, **Dick Ellis & Ted Meriam** helped clean out the back work room. We are preparing for a reconfiguration of the back rooms to better accommodate both our volunteers and our visitors. Because we need to keep the space available for visitors, meetings and tours, we’ll be moving things around in “phases” and doing any actual moving on closed museum days.

You should have been here the Saturday before the Camellia Tea when **Sally Turner, Barbara Fogerson, Dick Ellis, JoAnn Caspar, John Rubiales, Barbara Allen** and I were setting up the tablecloths, silver platters and camellias. The day of the tea **Peggy Arundell** brought more Camellias to adorn the museum and **Ming Hansen** brought his family’s beautiful candelabras for us to use on our serving table. **Charmetta Mann, Marj Dietzl, Sally Turner, Barbara Fogerson, Dick Ellis, JoAnn Caspar, John Rubiales, Barbara Allen, Lil Fichtenkort** and **Renee Wing** kept the table filled with cookies and members of the **Frank Family** served as our honorary Tea pourers. The Tea was well-attended this year as you probably saw on the front page of the **Transcript**, where the **Frank Family** gathered for a family picture.

After the Tea, **Linda Pinder** helped me bring the Camellia Tea Bins and sign back to storage and helped bring the Gardens Tour bins to the museum. In March, I gave a tour to a great group of young adults from the **Mt. Diablo Unified School District’s Bridge Program**. Many enjoyed seeing the museum for the first time. In early April, a “**Red Hat Society**” group visited the museum. Just for fun, they enjoyed filling out a scavenger hunt created by one of our student docents, **Samantha T.**

Don’t forget to stop by the museum during the Art and Wine Festival. We’ll have special extended hours both days from 1 pm until 4 pm.

I’m looking forward to attending the Gardens Tour with my daughter on Mother’s Day weekend. Except for a few hours while I’m on the tour, I’ll be at the museum handing out tickets, so be sure to say “Hi”.

From Renee Wing, Assistant Curator-

Our weather is finally settling down and warmer days are just around the corner. The museum and its surrounding gardens have survived another winter. Inside the museum we have had business as usual. Several new acquisitions have been gratefully accepted. Among them are:

- Two wood planks originally saved from the Keller House by the City at the request of **Bob Hoyer**. The planks, which are covered with the original house builder’s pencil drawings of building plans, were donated by **Laura Hoffmeister**, 2011.
- A Laboratory Manual for General Science”, published in 1915, and originally owned by **Clarence Frank**. Donated by **Walter Hoffman**, Clayton, 2011.
- A collection of beautiful and unique teacups and saucers originally owned by **Martin Easton** and **Phyllis Frank Easton**. Donated by **Susan Easton Ellison**, 2011.

Thank you, all of you, who keep the Clayton artifacts coming into the museum.

On June 1st, our wonderful current exhibit, “**Frankly Speaking**”, will be exchanged for our annual summer-time classic car exhibit: **Picnics, Pools, & Places**. If any of you out there have car-related picnic/trip/travel items you would like to loan for the exhibit, please contact Renee at renewing@sbcglobal.net, or (925) 524-0073. Thank you and have a great spring!

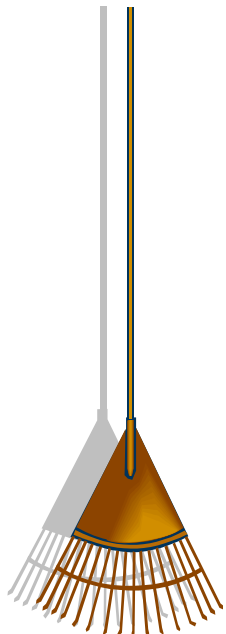
Memorial Donations

As a lasting way to honor someone special, your gift to the Clayton Historical Society supports the preservation and promotion of Clayton's rich history. We thank the following donors for their recent memorial gift:

- In honor of Michael Frank for attaining the rank of "Eagle Scout" from Alex & Ruth Janke
- For Barbara Hardy from Charles & Elaine Evans
- For Helen Duncan from Barbara Sickenberger
- For Keith Bates from Eldora & Bob Hoyer
- For Edith Mazzei from Eldora & Bob Hoyer
- For Walter Christenson from Sally Turner and Keith & Cindy Haydon

In support of the Museum Garden honoring Willmetta Frank Mann:

- Barbara Allen
- Barbara D. Sickenberger
- Barbara Fogerson
- Beth Barnes
- Charmetta Mann
- Elaine & Chuck Evans
- Gloria Mattson
- Janet Easton
- Karen Larson Sutherlin
- Keith & Cindy Haydon
- JoAnn Caspar
- Lloyd & Alfreida Duncan
- Louise & Harvey Wall
- Marvin & Sandra McKean
- Mary Wacker
- Richard Ellis
- Ruth Stowell
- Sally Turner
- The Mangini Family
- Tom & Sharon Duncan
- W.C. & Mary Delamater
- Wilmetta & Bill Silva



A "Thank You" To Don Arundell by Mary Spryer

Here's a column I've been able to put off writing for quite some time now. You see, for several years, Don Arundell has let me know that if someone else were to volunteer to do the raking and sweeping of the museum grounds, he'd be happy to give the job away. Don has been maintaining the museum grounds for more years than he'd like to remember. Well, this year, he did it. He finally "retired" from his twice-weekly job, only after making sure we looked GREAT for the Camellia Tea. Don has donated more than his labor all these years. After reading his inventory of the contents of the shed, I realized how much more he has contributed to the museum, with over half of the items donated by him and Peggy.

I want to thank you, Don, for your dedication to the museum and society. I will miss seeing you and your jeep parked outside the museum every Sunday and Wednesday morning. I'll miss your willingness to give so many hours to help our museum look its best and I'll miss your dependability, always being there, and if not, always a phone call to let me know in advance. Don't be a stranger, Don—and if you ever run out of things to do on Sundays and/or Wednesdays, you know who to call!

And we also acknowledge these wonderful volunteers who helped maintain the Museum these past months:

- ☑ **JoAnn Caspar** arranged for the museum house cleaning and window washing before the Camellia Tea
- ☑ **Linda Pinder** stayed around so window washers could do their job both inside and out
- ☑ **Don Arundell** continued to sweep and rake around the museum twice a week (before each open day)
- ☑ **Pete Barra & Linda Pinder** who checked the electric outlets & Linda (again) who helped replace lights
- ☑ **John Rubiales** for researching screen doors for the museum
- ☑ **Martin Easton** took museum recycling home (the museum does not have garbage/recycle service)

Calendar

- April 15 CHS Executive Board Meeting
4:30 pm, Oak Street
- April 15-17 Clayton Community Library Book Sale
www.claytonlibrary.org/ourlib.htm
- April 16 Clayton Cleans Up
Meet at City Hall Courtyard 9 am - noon
- April 24 Easter, Museum CLOSED
- April 30 & May 1 CBCA's Art & Wine Festival
Museum open from 1 pm until 4 pm
- May 2 Old Timers
11:30 am, Museum
- May 6 & 7 Gardens Tour
Fri. & Sat. Pick up tickets and map at the Museum
- May 7- Oct. 29 Clayton Farmers' Market
On Diablo St.-Saturdays 8 am-noon
- May 12 The Story of Joel Clayton
7:00 pm, Diamond Terrace
- May 19 CHS Board Meeting
3:30 pm, Museum
- June 1- Sept. 5 Car Show Exhibit Opens
Museum open on WEDNESDAYS
2 pm-4 pm AND 6 pm – 8 pm
- June 6 Old Timers
11:30 am, Museum
- June 9 CHS Executive Board Meeting
3:30 pm, Oak Street
- July 4 Museum open after parade
- July 14 CHS Executive Board Meeting
3:30 pm, Oak Street
- July 21 CHS Board Meeting
3:30 pm, Museum
- July 23 Volunteer Appreciation BBQ
Oak Street

Special Exhibit—Through May 2011

Frankly Speaking



L to R: Fred Frank Sr. holding Henry,
Joe, Fred Jr., & Ben

Stories, pictures, maps & artifacts featuring one of Clayton's Pioneering Families: The Frank Family, who, through marriage, are related to the following Clayton Valley

Pioneering Families:

BERENDSEN, BIGELOW, BLOCHING, BOLLMAN, BROWN, CONDIE, DANA, DENKINGER, DUNCAN, EASTON, GADDIS, GEHRINGER, HERRIMAN, HOLLIDAY, LARSON, MITCHELL, MORGAN, McGUIRE, McKEAN, MYRICK, O'CONNELL, OLOFSON, OLSEN, RASMUSSEN, RUSSELMANN, SARGENT, SCHWENDEL, STOCKFLETH, TAMAYO, TRETTE, WEAVER, WESTON, WILKIE and WRIGHT

Special Exhibit

6th Annual Clayton's Classic Cars Exhibit:

Picnics, Pools, & Places



June 1 through Labor Day

Pictures and memorabilia from old Clayton, Clayton's Pioneering Families and Current residents of Clayton. All summer the Museum will have extended hours every WEDNESDAY evening from 6 pm until 8 pm

Clayton Historical Society's 19th Annual Clayton Gardens Tour

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2011
10am to 4pm – Rain or Shine

Please, no children under age 12

Quantity ticket discount – buy 4 tickets, get a 5th ticket FREE!

Advance Purchase: \$25 | Day of Purchase: \$30



**Self-guided tour of 6 gardens begins at the
Clayton Historical Society Museum
6101 Main Street, Clayton**

For additional information please call the Clayton Museum at
925-672-0240 Or e-mail museum@claytonhistory.org

Proceeds benefit The Clayton Historical Society – www.claytonhistory.org

The Clayton Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) organization and your Gardens Tour Ticket donation is tax deductible

Ticket(s) will **NOT** be mailed back to you – They will be held at the Museum

Pick up your ticket(s) at the Museum on the day you choose to tour.



Please return with payment to:

Clayton Historical Society, GARDENS TOUR 2011, P.O. Box 94, Clayton CA 94517

_____ Ticket(s) - Advance purchase at \$25 each = \$ _____ Total (Tickets at door will be \$30)

_____ Quantity Discount Tickets Advance purchase = \$ _____ (Buy 4 tickets - 5th ticket FREE)

I am unable to attend, but enclosed is my donation to the Clayton Historical Society for \$ _____

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____
(Please Print)

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

Clayton Historical Society, Organized in 1974
Clayton Historical Society Museum
Open to the Public Since 1979



6101 Main Street, Clayton

Clayton Chronicles

P. O. Box 94

Clayton, CA 94517



Old Timers

Brown bag it at the Old Timers
Lunch, (coffee and tea are provided).
We meet the first Monday of each
month in the museum and talk about
"Old Times" in Clayton.
Bring a friend.
Doors open at 11:30 am