



Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO Box 94 * Clayton, California * 94517
(925) 672-0240

www.claytonhistory.org

HOLIDAY EDITION 2024 Issue #185

Dear Members and Friends,

Clayton Historical Society wishes you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year. We have so much to be thankful for. Be safe, stay healthy and have a wonderful 2025.

The Clayton Historical Society was founded in 1974 to "research, collect, record, preserve, display, borrow, share, and interpret local history information and memorabilia, and to promote understanding of Clayton origins and development."



This has been a busy year. Volunteers have provided many school field trips and special tours. The 50th Anniversary of the Clayton Historical Society and Museum was celebrated at the Annual Meeting on November 7th. Dick Ellis gave an hour long presentation covering the 50 years. The Annual Clayton Gardens Tours was a success. Although we did not have homes for a Christmas Home Tour this year, a new fundraising event, "Clayton Halloween Home Tour," was held on October 19th thanks to the vision and efforts of Brittany Fitch. It was great fun and a success. Suggestions are welcome for 2025 for all the fundraisers; Gardens Tour, Halloween Tour, Christmas Tour, or other ideas. Please call the museum and leave a message at 925-672-0240 with your ideas and/or suggestions.

We wish to thank all our volunteers, supporters, and members for helping to keep the Clayton Museum open to the public.

See page 2 about the next museum exhibit opening in January.

Continued on page 2

In this Issue:

Editor's Message
Garden Brick & Paver QR Code
New Exhibit in January
CHS YouTube Channel Link
Calendar of Events
Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony
CHS Celebrating 50 Years

Page

1-2
2
2
2
2
3
4-5

In this Issue:

First Halloween Home Tour Photos
Thank You CHS & Museum Volunteers
Memorial Fund-Memorials & Honorees
Museum Gift Shop
Cars2ndChance Fundraiser
Membership Form
Editor and Board of Directors

Page

6
7
8-9
10
11
12
13

Continued from page 1...

If you have not purchased a brick for the museum garden brick and paver project, and wish to, see the QR Code below.

Lastly, we are always looking for stories to share. Please contact Linda Cruz or the Clayton Museum.

Sincerely,
Linda Cruz, Editor
lindajeancruz@gmail.com

CHS Exhibit opening in January 2025

Be on the lookout for the next museum exhibit opening in January. This exhibit will be about Charles Rhine's general store, its place in the community, and the type of products it would have sold more than 150 years ago. Today it is the site of Skipolini's.

YouTube Channel

We are pleased to announce the [Clayton Historical Society YouTube Channel](#). Volunteers at the Clayton Museum are looking to promote Clayton's rich history in new ways. From the safety of your home, please check out our video channel to see videos on Clayton history, recordings from meetings past and present, and new content published monthly.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New Exhibit—

Charles Rhine's General Store Jan TBD

Camellia Tea

Feb 16

1:00 -4:00p.m.

Annual Meeting 2024 Awards Ceremony

Ted Meriam presents Special Recognition Awards & Joel Clayton Award

LINDA CRUZ was a recipient of a Special Recognition Award as an outstanding member of the Clayton Historical Society, dedicating over 15 years toward the organization. Linda has been on the Board for 11 years, became newsletter editor in 2013, and since 2009 has worked on the Clayton Gardens Tours, Christmas Tours, initiated the Museum Garden project with help from the Clayton Valley Garden Club and has encouraged many volunteers through the years.

NANCY DUNN was a recipient of a Special Recognition Award. Nancy was recognized for her position as Director since 2018, as Treasurer the past 3 years and for serving on the Gardens Tour and Christmas Tour Committees. She has provided invaluable leadership and insight for the Clayton Historical Society.

The Joel Clayton Award

JOANN CASPAR was the recipient of the Joel Clayton Award which is the highest honor bestowed by the Clayton Historical Society (CHS). JoAnn has served as President of CHS 5 times and has been the Gardens Tour Chair for more than 20 years. Each year she works to get a Christmas Tour going and she has been instrumental in recruiting many active members. Her ability to inspire and mobilize others is truly commendable.



She ensures that others deserving recognition such as the Camellia Tea Honorees, Joel Clayton Award recipients, and other Special Recognition Award recipients receive respective honors.

JoAnn always goes above and beyond to ensure the success and integrity of the Clayton Historical Society. She embodies the very spirit of community service and historical preservation that the CHS stands for. Her years of service, leadership, and dedication have profoundly impacted the Clayton Historical Society.

Celebrating 50 years of the Clayton Historical Society (CHS) 2024 Annual Meeting at Hoyer Hall



Dick Ellis gave a presentation covering 50 years of the Clayton Historical Society, 45 years of the Museum Opening, and 30 years of our Twinning of Buxworth, England, the birthplace of Joel Clayton. It is also the 60th Anniversary of the City of Clayton.

The Clayton Historical Society was founded on April 30, 1974. It all began in 1959 when the City of Concord wanted to annex the town of Clayton. A group of residents formed the Upper Clayton Valley Committee (UCVC) in 1960-61. Leaders, including Eldora Hoyer, Nan Wallace, and Connie Rehr, got the word out to the community that the township of Clayton should be a new city. It took several years getting through red tape. The Incorporation election was held in 1963 when the citizens voted to incorporate and the Town of Clayton became the City of Clayton. The first City Council meeting was held in 1964.

Dick Ellis, a Graphic Arts teacher at Clayton Valley High School (CVHS) and Bob Dougherty, a CVHS History teacher and an Upper Clayton Valley Committee (UCVC) member, got together with their students. Bob's students researched, interviewed, and provided information while Dick's students printed a book on Clayton History: "Clayton Small But Proud." They raised \$1200 on book sales for the UCVC to continue working on Clayton's history.

When Joel Clayton arrived to the community in the 1850's, it was referred to as "Deadfall." In 1857, Joel Clayton founded the township of Clayton. In 1867 his home was built on Clayton Ranch where the bridge crosses Diablo Creek at the end of the library parking lot. In 1909, the Kellers purchased the Ranch from the Clayton Estate. In the 1970's the City of Clayton became the owners. The City sold the 1200 acre Keller Ranch to the Presley Company and called it Oakhurst. The City kept several acres including the Keller Ranch House,



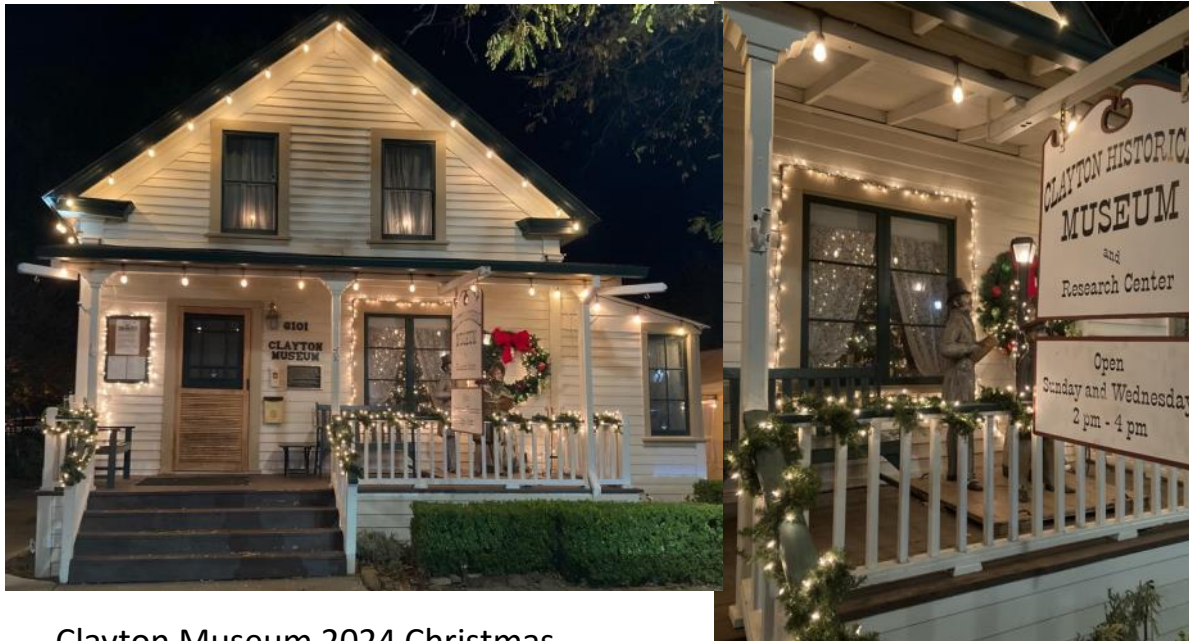
Keller Barn, the DiMartini Winery (the current City Hall), and the Joel Clayton house. The City did not want the Clayton house and gave it to UCVV to become a registered historical society with a Board of Directors, a constitution, bylaws, membership, and a plan to raise the money to have the house moved off the ranch.

In 1972-73 Nan Wallace and Eldora Hoyer were leaders in raising money from the local citizens. In 1973, Bob Hoyer, still on the City Council, was able to encourage the City to provide two lots on Main Street for the Joel Clayton House (current museum). The future society raised \$10,000 and received \$25,000 contribution from the City of 1976 Bi-Centennial dollars. This enabled the Joel Clayton House, Pape House, and the jail, all donated to the UCVV by the City. The buildings were not moved until 1976. Although the City still owns the two lots on Main Street, the museum buildings and garden belong to the Society. The Society is responsible for all expenses to maintain the buildings.

The first Society Board was elected in 1974 for 1975 and consisted of President, Nan Wallace; Connie Rehr, Martin Easton, Carmen Frank as Board members; and Directors Bob Walker, Rich Taylor, and Dick Ellis. Dick Ellis is the only person still living.

We thank Dick Ellis for sharing the history.

The Winter 2025 newsletter will cover the 1976 move, restoration, and growth of the Clayton Historical Society and Museum.



Clayton Museum 2024 Christmas

A TASTE OF THE FIRST CHS HALLOWEEN HOME TOUR



THANKING 2024 CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

We would like to honor and thank all the 2024 volunteers listed below for their hard work, making it possible for the continuing operation of the museum. Many volunteers go above and beyond their duties to make events special. If you would like to help, please call the museum and leave a message at 925-672-0240.

Peggy Arundell, Docent, Camellia Tea, Halloween & Garden Tours

Joan Bergum, Halloween & Garden Tours

Dorothy Bradt, Garden Tours

JoAnn Caspar, Director, Vice President, Halloween, Christmas & Garden Tours, Docent, CBCA Liaison

Tammy Cerruti, Halloween Home Tour

Brian Connery, Museum Docent

Clayton Valley Garden Club members, Garden Maintenance

Linda Cruz, Director, Newsletter, Halloween & Garden Tours

Nancy Dunn, Director, Treasurer, Memorials, Phone, Garden Tours

Dick Ellis, Historian

Debbie Eistetter, Director, VP Membership & Pioneer Articles

Diablo Lawnscape (grounds clean-up)

Brittany Fitch, Lead on 1st Halloween Home Tour

Bobbie George, Museum Docent

Steven Gray, Museum Docent

Kate Happy, Museum Docent

Lucy Hart, Museum Docent

Jan Hester, Museum Docent, School Tours

Gracie Huffine, Museum Docent

Paul Jordan, Director, Maintenance

Avneet Kahlon, School Tours

Steve Lane, Director, Garden, Maintenance

Charmetta Mann, Camellia Tea

Ted Meriam, Director, Webmaster

Sandra Nepacena, School Tour Co-Coordinator

Nancy Niemeyer, Museum Exhibits

Adela Oldford, Museum Docent, School Fieldtrips, Special Events

Becky Overstreet, Museum Docent, Garden & Halloween Tours

Julie Pierce, Secretary, Gardens Tour

Linda Pinder, Director, Museum Docent & Docent Coordinator

Alice Ponti, Museum Docent

Patti Pratt, Museum Docent

Dan Richardson, School Tours

Nancy Senior, Museum Docent, Halloween Tour

Shannon Seven, Director, Garden & Halloween Tours

Marcia Thome, Gardens tour

Many thanks to all who made generous donations and to the homeowners who offered their homes for the Gardens Tour and the Halloween Home Tours. Every bit helps keep the museum operating.

2024 Gardens Tour

Ron & Cheryl Schwab

Larry & Linka Glassner

Chip & Jacqueline McGuire

Rick & Julie DeNapoli

Eddie & Linnea Juarez

2024 First Halloween Home Tour

Ryan & Brittany Fitch

Travis & Jill Banks

Chris & Amy Callaghan

Justin & Christine Sinclair

Joe & Debi Ortega

Thank you for your support of the Clayton Historical Society. We depend on membership dues and community donations to pay for our operating expenses. A gift of any amount to our Memorial Fund is a lasting way to honor someone who has done something special for you, or the Museum, during the past year, or someone who has passed away. Please also consider making a donation for a birthday, wedding, or for the holidays. Donations can also be made in honor of one of the third grade students from Mt. Diablo Elementary, or one of the scouts or students from local private schools who come to the Museum Field Trips to learn about the history of our great town and area. We operate totally on the generosity of our members and the community of Clayton and the surrounding area. Thanks to your continued support – we are able to make improvements to our Museum and programs because of you! To make a donation, send a check made out to Clayton Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517 or come by the Museum on Wednesdays or Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or go to www.claytonhistory.org and select gift shop.



Memorial Funds

A gift of any amount to our Memorial Fund is a lasting way to honor someone special. Their names will be placed in the “**Book of Memory**” that is permanently displayed at the museum.

I would like to make this contribution of \$_____ ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of (check one)

Name of Person(s) to be honored or memorialized:



Please send acknowledgments to:

DONOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

HONOREE or FAMILY OF HONOREE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Memorial donations should be sent to Clayton Historical Society – Attention Memorials, PO Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517



IN HONOR OF

**JoAnn Caspar
Linda Pinder**

DONORS

**Priscilla Schmazel
Priscilla Schmazel**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

We love our volunteers!!

The Clayton Historical Society is reaching out to members and friends and offering a variety of opportunities to participate in the operation of the Museum.

Would you like to know more about Clayton's history and share it with others?

We provide training for the following:

Greeters and docents

Assisting with our school children's museum field trips

Assisting with museum events

Helping create and mount exhibits

You decide what interests you the most and how much time you are able to spend.

We can be reached on our website, www.claytonhistory.org or call the museum at (925) 672-0240.

Or drop by for a visit during open hours 2-4pm on Wednesdays and Sundays

**Clayton Historical Society Christmas
Ornament available at the museum
gift shop.**



MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

At the Clayton museum gift shop there are several items for sale that might be of interest. There are coffee mugs, historic-style soaps, license plate frames, train whistles, tee shirts, aprons, books, cards, paintings of Clayton sites, Christmas ornaments, and beautiful woven Clayton throws.

Available online at giftshop. www.ClaytonHistory.org

Although the museum has reopened, purchased items can be delivered to your doorstep, (within a 10 mile radius of the museum), or picked up at the museum by appointment. Call 925-672-0240 for arrangements.



Bay Point and Clayton Railroad Company

TIME TABLE No. 8

To Take Effect Monday, February 17, 1936

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EMPLOYEES ONLY

SOUTH BOUND		STATIONS	NORTH BOUND	
No. 2 Miles (Approx.)	Distance		Distance	No. 1 Miles (Approx.)
0-00	0.00	Leave FORT CHICAGO Arrive	0.00	0-00
0-12	1.47	CLYDE	0.83	0-12
0-24	2.94	*BOLLMAN'S SIDING	0.84	
0-36	4.41	*MATHESON	1.41	
0-48	5.87	COWELL JUNCTION	.73	0-48
0-60	7.34	Arrive COWELL	0.00	0-60

1-Connect with Train No. 8 of The Sacramento Northern Railway at Clyde.
2-The Regular Depot Connection with Santa Fe or S. F. Co. at Fort Chicago.
*Flag Station.
Minimum Timetable South Bound Train, 500 Tons.
Maximum Speed of All Trains Will Be Twenty Miles per Hour.
North Bound Trains Have Right Over South Bound Trains.
All Trains Must Stop Before Crossing Sacramento Northern Railway at Clyde.

J. A. KASCH,
Agent

R. B. MITCHELL,
Traffic Manager

W. H. GEORGE,
General Manager



CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

By JoAnn Caspar

The Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary have a program called "Cars Second Chance." If anyone is interested or if you know of anyone who has a car, boat or motorcycle they no longer want and would like to write off on their taxes, please call the Clayton Museum at 672-0240. You will get a nice write off and the Clayton Historical Society will get half the sale money.

Now On YouTube: San Ramon Valley Branch Line Model Railroad Group



20-minute TSG Multimedia-produced video documentary of the sectional Model Railroad Layout display at the Concord Historical Society Museum, and of the SP San Ramon Valley Branch Line's history.

Visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWJcUI7UMrs&t=4s>



Scan QR Code to Watch!



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CONCORD, CA

**Donate A Vehicle And
Make A Difference
In Someone's Life**



**Donate Your Vehicle,
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from within 100 miles of
a major city.

Visit us and donate online today at:
Cars2ndChance.org
Call for more info: **(925) 326-5868**



Ask about our **Charity Partner
Program**, almost anywhere
in the USA!

Rotary 

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of
**Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise
and Lamorinda Sunrise**



Clayton Historical Society Membership Form

Your monetary donations support the society's activities and provide finances required to maintain our museum. The society's donors are invited to the annual meeting, receive the Clayton Chronicles via email.

The society is a 501 (c)(3) organization and your donations are fully tax-deductible

Annual Membership Categories:

☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Couple \$50

Friends of the Museum Donation:

☐ Twin Peaks + \$25 ☐ Mt. Zion + \$50 ☐ Eagle Peak + \$100

☐ Mt. Olympia + \$250 ☐ North Peak + \$500 ☐ Mt. Diablo + \$1,000

Please PRINT all of the following information:

Name(s):

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip

Phone:

Email 1st Person:

Email 2nd Person:

Make checks payable to: Clayton Historical Society, Attn: Annual Giving
P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517

Or Donate On-Line at: www.claytonhistory.org

FOR ANY QUESTIONS: Call the museum at 925-672-0240 and leave your name, phone number, and questions or email museum@ClaytonHistory.org and someone will contact you.



A note from CHS Clayton Chronicles editor:
THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SUBMIT ARTICLES!

If you have suggestions or input for future
"Clayton Chronicles" please contact Linda Cruz at
(925) 672-0503 or
lindajeancruz@gmail.com

Your ideas are welcome.

**Also, we would appreciate your stories and/or photos
from Clayton's past or other personal history.**

Please do share with us!

WINTER Newsletter articles DUE NO LATER THAN January 20, 2025



**Clayton Historical Society
PO BOX 94, Clayton, CA 94517**

Clayton Historical Society Board Members

President:

Vacant

1st Vice President:

JoAnn Caspar

2nd Vice President:

Debbie Eistetter

Secretary:

Ted Meriam

Treasurer:

Nancy Dunn

Directors:

Linda Cruz ~ Paul Jordan

Steve Lane ~ Linda Pinder

Clayton Chronicles Editor: Linda Cruz lindajeancruz@gmail.com (925) 672-0503