



Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO Box 94 * Clayton, California * 94517

(925) 672-0240

www.claytonhistory.org

SPRING EDITION 2026 Issue #191

Dear Members and Friends,

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."

HAPPY SPRING! As usual, there is a lot going on this time of year in our little City of Clayton. We have already experienced a short early summer and a late cool winter in this year. Every year the climate cycles are different. The Art & Wine Festival was a bit chilly, but it did not stop people from enjoying this wonderful event sponsored by the Clayton Business & Community Association (CBCA). The variety of vendors were great. Thank you to all the volunteers for another successful event.

The Clayton Historical Society & Museum extends its heartfelt thanks to the Clayton Business & Community Association for their continued generosity and annual support. Their commitment helps us continue to preserve and share Clayton's history with our community.

We invite you to join us on **Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17 for the Annual Clayton Gardens Tour**, which is the Clayton Historical Society & Museum's main fundraiser. See pages 3&4 for more information. The Clayton Historical Society & Museum relies entirely on volunteers to operate and grow, and we are grateful to everyone who gives their time and talents to support our programs.

Patti Pratt has planned a Blacksmith Demonstration on May 27th. See page 5 for more information.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE
SEE PAGE 9 FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & SUPPORT**

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Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers. The Museum simply could not stay open without you, and your dedication is appreciated.

Sincerely,

COME AND JOIN US!

Linda Cruz

Linda Cruz, Editor

lindajeancruz@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DOCENT—JIM WOOD

Jim is a recently retired resident of Pittsburg, but since 2006 he has been drawn to Clayton on account of his wife's long-time employment at Kinder-Care, right next to the Clayton Museum. After more than a decade of visits to Clayton's Oktoberfest, nature trails, library, restaurants, art gallery, and even its dentist office, Jim decided he'd like to give a little bit back to a wonderful community. He loves the size and scale of the Clayton Museum because it allows for meaningful docent/public interactions that wouldn't be possible in a huge museum. He looks forward to meeting more Clayton residents while helping to preserve a grand civic asset.



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 channel to see videos on Clayton history, recordings from meetings past and present, and new content published monthly.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Joel Clayton & the Gold Rush Exhibit, Open Sun & Wed	NOW	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Clayton Valley Garden Club Plant Sale, Endeavor Hall	May 9	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Clayton Gardens Tour	May 16 & 17	10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Clayton Library Book Sale, 3 days	May 15-17	10:00 a.m.
Clayton Historical Society Board Meeting	May 19	3:30 p.m.
Blacksmith Demonstration at the Clayton Museum	May 27	2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

CLAYTON GARDENS TOURS—COMING SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 16 & 17, 2026

Be sure to mark you calendars for the Annual Clayton Gardens Tour. There is something for everyone, whether you are looking for ideas for landscaping, pools, outdoor kitchens, hillsides, gardening for food, as as a hobby, drought resistant plants, an ADU unit or to enjoy the



beautiful gardens. The Gardens Tour is the Clayton Historical Society & Museum's biggest fundraiser. Help keep the museum running by joining us for this very popular event. The Clayton Gardens Tour began in 1992, thanks to the vision of Eldora and Bob Hoyer. Eldora stepped back after 2 years and JoAnn Caspar took the lead for the next three decades. The Gardens Tour has been more than a fundraiser for the Clayton Historical Society & Museum as the Community welcomes this tour annually for over 30 years. In the early 2000's, the tour welcomed over 700 attendees and raised more than \$17,000 in a single year. Funds raised by the Gardens Tour are vital for supporting our museum and programs.

We welcome Avneet Kahlon as the new Clayton Gardens Tour Chair, with learning guidance from JoAnn Caspar. Current committee members, besides Avneet and JoAnn are Peggy Arundell, Dorothy Bradt, Joan



Begum, Tammy Cerruti, Linda Cruz, Lucy Hart, Nancy Haley, Marsha Helstrom, Becky Overstreet, Shannon Seven, Linda Pinder and Paul Jordan. Thank you to the Homeowners, Coordinators and Docents.

See Ticket Flyer on page 4.



Clayton Historical Society's 33rd Annual Clayton Gardens Tour

Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17, 2026

10am to 4pm – Rain or Shine

Please, no children under age 12

5 Great Gardens for \$40*

***Prepaid tickets are \$40 🌸 Day of tour price is \$45**

Payment with check or credit card preferred to minimize handling of cash

Self-guided tour begins at the Clayton Historical Society Museum

6101 Main Street, Clayton 🌸 All transactions will be outside in the garden.



For more information, call the Clayton Museum
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.

Ticket(s) will NOT be mailed to you – They will be held at
the Museum for pickup on the day you choose to tour.

Please enclose your email for verification of your order.

***For advance purchase of \$40 tickets, purchase online at www.claytonhistory.org
Online ticket sales will close at 5pm Friday, May 15.**

OR return this form and payment before May 15 to:

Clayton Historical Society, Gardens Tour 2023, P.O. Box 94, Clayton CA 94517

_____ Gardens Tour Ticket(s) \$40 each = \$ _____ enclosed

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

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____

PHONE: _____ (Please Print) _____ E-mail: _____

BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION AT CLAYTON MUSEUM

Submitted by Pattil Pratt, Director, Community Youth Enrichment

The Museum will be hosting a Blacksmith demonstration for youth (or anyone who would like to learn about blacksmithing) on May 27 from 2:00-3:30. Our museum docent, Brian Connery, will demonstrate his Blacksmithing skills and discuss the importance of the trade to the pioneers. Kids can also search the museum for items that were made by a blacksmith. We will have a craft where kids can try their hand at making their favorite blacksmith too product!



*Clayton Historical Society & Museum
Presents...*

BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION

Wednesday, May 27
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Clayton Historical Museum



Come and learn about the important role blacksmithing played in the pioneer days in Clayton! Live demonstrations by a local blacksmith and interactive crafts for students.

RSVPs required by May 23rd
Please email: prattipatt@gmail.com

250 YEARS AGO IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Submitted by Linda Cruz

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it is worth remembering that, at the same time, the lands of Contra Costa County and the San Francisco Bay Area were being explored and settled by the historic Anza Expedition. This remarkable journey, led by Juan Bautista de Anza, is a well-documented and fascinating chapter of California's early history.

Today, that story comes to life through the 250th Commemoration Exhibit, now on display at the San Ramon Valley Museum. Recently relocated from the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, the exhibit offers visitors an opportunity to explore the expedition's legacy and its lasting impact on our region.

The expedition left Mexico with 240 settlers, soldiers and others including 30 families, and over 100 children. The group included a mix of Indigenous, African and European heritage. The expedition was geologically driven and military focused.

The expedition traveled trails used by Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts people from several tribes who lived in the East Bay for over 13,000 years.

From Monterey, Anza led a smaller group to explore sites for missions, the presidio for San Francisco, Contra Costa, and Alameda. Eventually he returned to Monterey as the marshlands of the delta were impassable.

In late June of 1776, days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Anza expedition arrived on the site that would become San Francisco.

The Anza Expedition A 250th Commemoration Exhibit At Museum of the San Ramon Valley 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville

Photo by David Rickman Courtesy of National Park Service



From February 1 to May 31, 2026

Open Tues-Fri 1-4, Sat 10-1, Sun 12-3

Almost 250 years ago, as the Declaration of Independence was signed on the East Coast, the Anza expedition arrived at its destination on the West Coast. Both of these events would dramatically shape the cultural and political landscapes of the United States.

Collaborating with the National Park Service, this exhibit recognizes the extraordinary achievements of the Anza expedition which travelled over indigenous trails and brought the first Spanish families to settle in California. Anza located the San Francisco Presidio, established Mission Dolores and led an exploration of the East Bay.

***Please Visit us at MuseumSRV.org**



MuseumSRV



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

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

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

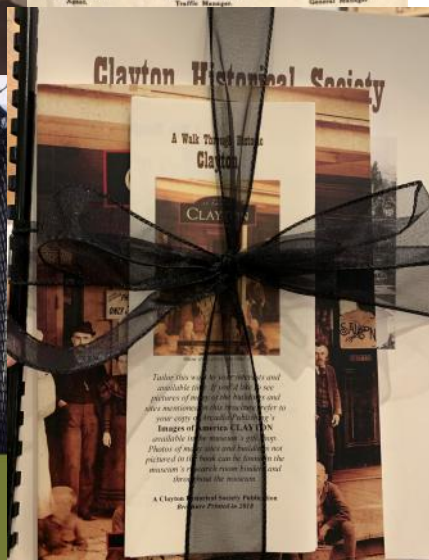
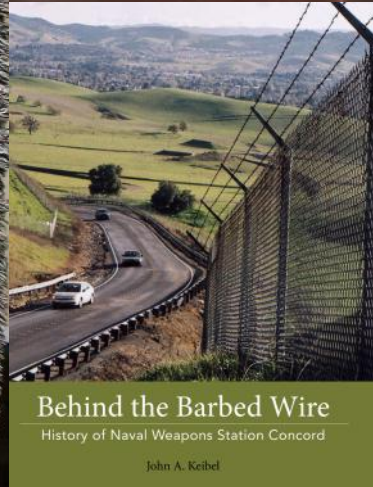
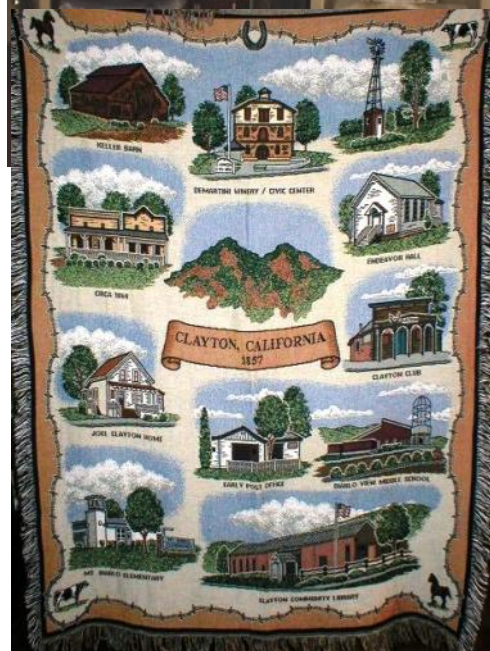
To Take Effect Monday, February 17, 1936

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EMPLOYEES ONLY

SOUTH BOUND		STATIONS	NORTH BOUND	
No. 2 Hourly	Distance		Distance	No. 1 Hourly
6:08 P.M.	0.00	Leave FORT CHICAGO Arrive	8:00	3:20 P.M.
6:13 P.M.	1.47	JCLYDE	7:53	5:13 P.M.
6:18 P.M.	2.94	"BOLLMAN'S SIDING"	7:44	
6:23 P.M.	4.41	"MATHEWSON"	7:35	
6:28 P.M.	5.88	COWELL JUNCTION	7:26	5:02 P.M.
6:33 P.M.	7.35	Arrive COWELL	7:17	4:53 P.M.

Connect with Train No. 8 of the Sacramento Northern Railway at Clayton.
The Regular Depot Connection with Santa Fe or S. P. Co. at Fort Chicago.
*Flag Station.
Maximum Tonnage South Bound Train, 300 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 Clayton.

J. A. KASCH, Agent. R. B. MITCHELL, Traffic Manager. W. H. GEORGE, General Manager.



TIME TO RENEW!

Thank you for your past and present support and loyalty and we look forward to seeing you at the museum in 2026.



Clayton Historical Society Support Levels

Your monetary donation helps to fund the society's activities and provides the finances required to maintain our museum. As a supporter, you will receive our quarterly newsletter, the Clayton Chronicles via email.

The society is a 501 (c) (3) organization, and your donation is fully tax-deductible.

Support Levels:

Twin Peaks + \$25 Mt. Zion + \$50 Eagle Peak + \$100 Mt. Olympia + \$250

North Peak + \$500 Mt. Diablo + \$1,000 Other: _____

Donations can be made ONLINE at: www.claytonhistory.org OR at the museum during open hours, Wednesday and Sunday from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

BY CHECK: payable to Clayton Historical Society and mail to: P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517

If donating by check, please fill out the following information:

Name(s): _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

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!

SUMMER Newsletter articles DUE JULY 10, 2026



Clayton Historical Society
PO BOX 94, Clayton, CA 94517

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