



Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO Box 94 * Clayton, California * 94517

(925) 672-0240

www.claytonhistory.org

END OF SUMMER EDITION 2026

Issue #192

Dear Members and Friends,

SUMMER FLEW BY...every year time goes faster and faster. We must be having fun!

So much has happened since our last issue. The 34th Annual Clayton Gardens Tour was held. The Clayton Historical Society and museum volunteers sincerely thank the gracious garden hosts, volunteer docents and the tourgoers who make this important Museum fundraiser possible. Our community looks forward to this venue each year. See page 7.

We also wish to thank the **Clayton Business & Community Association (CBCA)** for its generous donation to help keep the museum operating. Although the museum is run entirely by volunteers ongoing funding is needed for maintenance, insurance, utilities and other essential expenses.

The annual third grade class field trips and private tours continued, as well as the Youth Enrichment Program. This summer's blacksmith demonstration was especially popular. Junior Docent Anya Majumdar received an Award of Excellence for her outstanding assistance with the Youth Enrichment Program. See photos on pages 4-6.

We joined Clayton's Fourth of July Parade along with Uncle Sam. See photo on page 3.

The Annual Clayton Historical Society Meeting and Election will be held on November 12. Additional information about the program will be sent in mid-October. Please see the Calendar on page 2.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers. The Museum simply could not stay open without you. Your time, dedication and continued support are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, *Linda Cruz*

Linda Cruz, Editor

lindajeancruz@gmail.com

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."

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CLAYTON BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Clayton's history is worth preserving. The CBCA is proud to support the Clayton Historical Society & Museum with a new annual endowment to keep the museum up-and-running for generations to come. This continues our mission of benefiting the Clayton community as we've done since 1984.

Clayton museum volunteers often proudly hear from young adults that remember their enjoyable 3rd grade field trips to the Clayton museum.



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.
Oktoberfest	Oct 2-3	10:00 a.m.
Clayton Library Book Sale—Saturday	Oct 17	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	Oct 18	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Clayton Valley Garden Club Plant Sale at the Library	Oct 17	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Annual CHS & Museum Membership Meeting & Election	Nov 12	6:30 p.m.
Endeavor Hall		

HONORING JR. DOCENT ANYA MAJUMDAR

Submitted by Patti Pratt

The Clayton Historical Museum honored our Jr. Docent, Anya Majumdar, with an **"Award of Excellence"** for her volunteer work at the museum.

Anya works at the museum every Wednesday and has been instrumental



in helping to develop our Youth Enrichment Program. Her thoughtfulness, creativity, intelligence and hard work have helped to make the youth events successful and enjoyable for our local community. We presented her with "Anya's Dress" which is a pioneer dress that will remain at the museum for future Jr. Docents to wear at events.



Although Anya is moving on to high school this year, she is excited about the youth projects that we have planned and has promised to continue volunteering with us.

Patti Pratt, her museum mentor says "Anya has inspired me with her enthusiasm. Because of her, my vision for the Youth Program has grown beyond my original plans."



Thank you to Anya and to her family for bring us such a gift!



Clayton Historical Society (CHS) at the 4th of July Parade

What a perfect line-up—even if coincidental. Uncle Sam, a Clayton native, was positioned directly in front of the CHS. Although he was a lone entrant, it appeared he was part of our group. The crowd cheered as he passed out candies making the Historical Society look even more festive as he marched along side of us. We used to pass out candy too. Perhaps it is time to revive that tradition!

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM—BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION AT THE CLAYTON MUSEUM

Submitted by Patti Pratt, Director Community Youth Enrichment



On Weds 5/27 over 40 local youth came to the Clayton Historical Museum in order to learn about the difference between Blacksmiths and Farriers! Patti Pratt and Anya Mujumdar planned the event so that kids could see

some things that are the same from the past instead of always being different!



Everyone had a great time with our Museum docents Brian Connery and Kerry Hill sharing their Horse History Knowledge! We had horses on site that were a big hit! Students were able to practice some of their own skills with clay projects working to make their own horseshoes and tools. There were games, laughs and of course, the required arrests ending in being locked in the jail! Thank you to Micki McCabe and Terri Reilly for riding into town on horseback! We have also acquired a slew of local ladies that enjoy coming and facilitating the projects with the kids! We couldn't do it without you! With all of this enthusiasm, we know that there will be many more youth events to come!



ANNUAL THIRD GRADE FIELD TRIPS



PRIVATE TOURS



Private tours are welcome at the Clayton Museum. To schedule a private tour, call the museum at 925-672-0240.

This summer a pre-school visited the museum.

THE LARSON FAMILY VISITS

In August, we had a visit from members of the Larson family - **grandchildren of Joseph and Ingrid Frank**, a Clayton Pioneer Family. On the far left is Karen Larsen Sutherlin. One of the other women is Donna Larson from Cupertino and the other is her twin sister visiting from Florida. The younger couple in the middle is the daughter of one of the twins and her husband. They were off to have lunch with Charmetta and Janet after leaving the museum.



FROM ACROSS THE POND



Residents of Buxworth, England - Clayton's Sister City and the birthplace of Joel Clayton - send their best wishes as they gather beneath the American flag to help us celebrate the Fourth of July and our nation's 250th birthday.

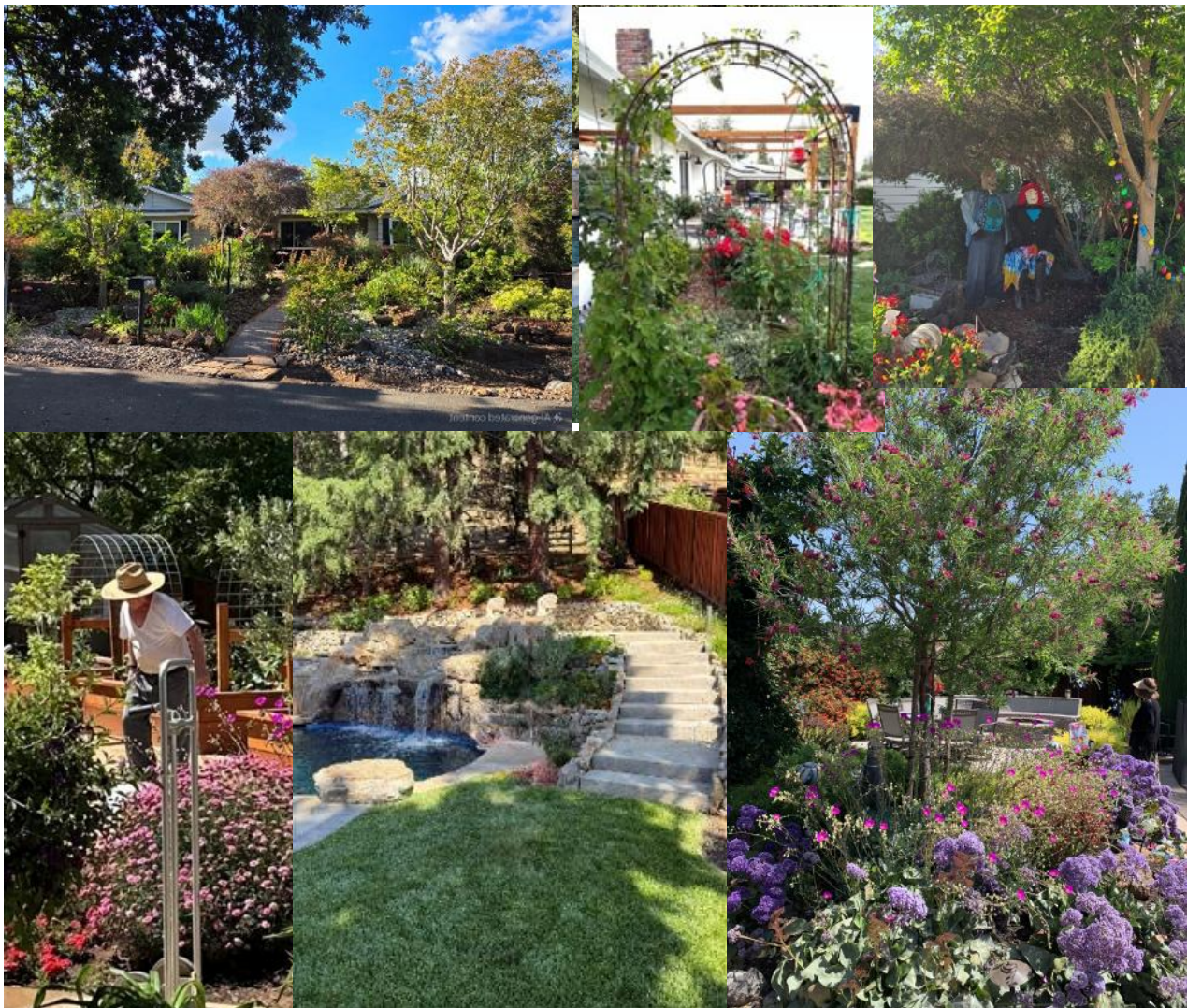
GARDENS TOUR—2026

We wish to thank the 2026 Gardens Tour Hosts, Coordinators and Docents. This year's gardens were full of edibles, pools, water features, and blooming beauties.

Chris & Amy Callaghan
Tim & Nancy Llacuna
Maria & Mike Orfanos
Jennifer Watts
Kelly & Diane Whitney

If you are interested in hosting your garden, being a Coordinator or a docent on future Gardens Tours, call the Clayton Historical Society and leave a message at 925-672-0240. Someone will return your call. The 2027 Gardens Tour will mark the 35th year.

Enjoy a few photos from the 2026 Gardens Tour.



IN MEMORY OF MARY SHEILA DRISCOLL

submitted by Debbie Eistetter

Her home was filled with vases of fresh flowers, stacks of books to be read, items from grateful friends, souvenirs of her travels, photographs and pieces of family furniture and china. One end of her dining room table served as her office to conduct correspondence and business related to her very busy life.

Sheila was raised in Altadena with 2 older sisters, and as a young woman she earned her nursing degree at an LA hospital where she created life-long friendships with her fellow students. She wore many hats throughout her extensive nursing career and gained a wide breadth of medical knowledge working in hospital settings and within communities.

Sheila and her beloved husband, Dewey, bought a home in Clayton in the 1990's to be closer to her Northern California family. For a period of years they divided their time between Clayton and Arroyo Grande on the central coast to indulge their shared love of the ocean. They loved to travel by land and by sea around the US and Europe, and included a trip to Ireland to connect with Sheila's extended family. She continued to travel after Dewey's passing and enjoyed car trips with girlfriends to view the latest museum installations in San Francisco and explore sights along the northern Pacific Coast. A visit to the Holy Land with her church group was a challenge as she had to use her cane to negotiate some very rough terrain but very worthwhile nonetheless, she said.



Sheila Driscoll

Having grown up in a very close and loving family, Sheila's faith and service to others were always paramount in her life. Her volunteer activities were varied and numerous, and she approached each one with a generous, optimistic spirit. She was very active within St. Bonaventure, and was a member, and often on the board, of many local clubs such as the Clayton Historical Society, Clayton Valley Garden Club, CBCA, Women's Club and others. For the Clayton Valley Village she enjoyed hosting monthly birthday parties at her home. She was an avid reader and a member of a couple of book clubs which led her to join a literacy project teaching English to people from many different countries. Her students came to her house, and one of their favorite pastimes was sharing idioms. For example we say, "It's raining cats and dogs." Her students would share a phrase in their language and much laughter would follow.

Friend, colleague and mentor. Intelligent, kind, generous and optimistic. She passed in March. We miss her but we feel we are better people for having known her.



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 respective memorial gifts. We operate totally on the generosity of our members and the community of Clayton and surrounding area. Thanks to your continued support—we are able to make improvements to our Museum and programs!

																					
	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>										<u>DONOR(S)</u>										
	Sheila Driscoll										JoAnn Caspar Linda Cruz Tony & Debbie Eistetter Linda Pinder										
	<u>IN HONOR OF</u>										<u>DONOR(S)</u>										
																					

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

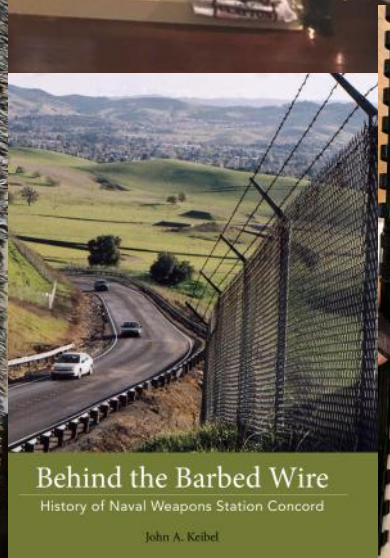
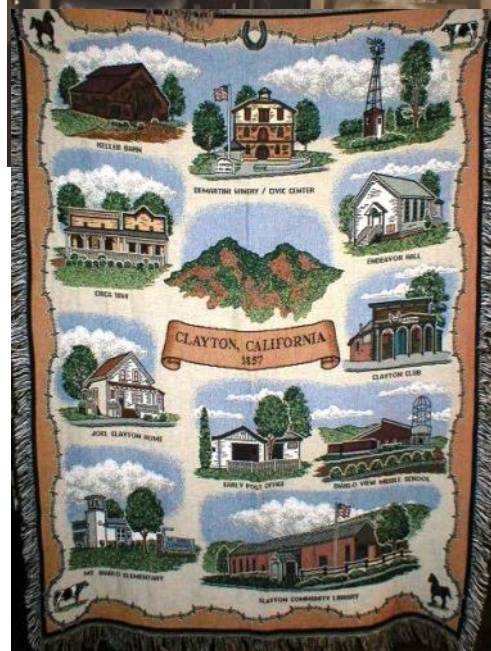
SOUTH BOUND		STATIONS	NORTH BOUND	
No. 2 Miles Per Hour	Distance		Distance	No. 1 Miles Per Hour
6:00 P.M.	0.00	Leave (PORT CHICAGO) Arrive	9:00	5:20 P.M.
6:15	1.47	CLYDE	7:45	5:15
6:30	2.94	*BOLLMAN'S SIDING	7:30	
6:45	4.41	*MATHESON	7:15	
7:00	5.87	COWELL JUNCTION	7:00	
7:15	7.34	Arrive COWELL	6:45	
7:30	8.81		6:30	

1-Connect with Train No. 8 of The Sacramento Northern Railway at Clyde.
2-The Regular Depot Connection with Santa Fe or S. P. Co. at Port Chicago.
*Flag Station.
Minimum Tonnage South Bound Train, 500 Tons.
Minimum 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



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!

FALL Newsletter must be sent out by OCTOBER 12, 2026
30 days prior to the Annual Meeting

Please send articles to me as soon as you can.



Clayton Historical Society
PO BOX 94, Clayton, CA 94517

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Vacant

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