January session 1819.—

The State of Delaware

To John M. Clayton Dr.

For transcribing and preparing for the press the journal of the Senate at the session in January 1817	Dlls 75.—

Allowd. for 75. Dol

Account
of
John M. Clayton

1818

State of Delaware to Mr. Clayton

Dr.

To superintending and examining the proof sheets of the Journal (while under the hands of the printer) for last session 1820 - - — — — — — $. 90.00

To making an index thereto and superintending the printing of the same -- 45

$ 135.—

Deduct. 20

115

J. M. Johnston
act. 1821

The committee of accounts report that the following allowances be made:—

	days	miles	allowance
To John Cummins, Esquire, Speaker	36	12	$ 129 50
Joshua Gordon Pinckle	37	—	111 —
William T. Probson	37	50	123 50
Isaiah Burton	37	50	123 50
Thomas Candy	37	6	112 50
Isaac Cannon	37	50	123 50
Levi Clark	37	33	119 25
Alexander Crawford	37	24	117 —
John Crow	37	45	122 25
John Dickerson	37	60	126 —
Andrew Gray	37	44	122 —
Benjamin Harrington	37	20	116 —
Tilghman Layton	37	38	120 50
Samuel Mifflin	37	3	111 75
Joseph G. Oliver	37	20	116 —
George Phillips	37	50	123 50
John Robinson	37	28	118 —
Benjamin H. Springer	37	50	123 50
Major Townsend	37	12	114 —
Henry Whitely	37	41	121 25
John Wilson	37	38	120 50

John M. Clayton, clerk, for 37 days attendance and services in transcribing, engrossing &c. at the present session . . . 373 34

Vincent Vandever, sergeant-at-arms, for his services, & for wood, stationery &c. . . 178 34½

Augustus M. Schee for printing done . . . 19 —

Samuel F. Shinn for printing done . . . 6 —

Swanny Saxton (negro) for services . . . 20 —

Alexander L. Hayes, late clerk, for transcribing journal of January session 1820 and making an index . . . 180 —

Report Committee of Accounts

1821.

The committee of accounts, report the following allowances. to wit

Caleb Rodney (Speaker)	37 Days.	42 m.		$140.00
Edward Dingle Jr.	37 Days.	Miles	50.	$123.50.
Joseph Maull.	30. Days.		32	98.00
George Cummins	37 Days		10	113.50
Thomas Clayton.	28 Days			84.00
Jacob Stout	22 Days		6	67.50
Jacob Vandegrift	37		28	118.00
Victor Du Pont.	37		55	124:75
Wm. H. Black.	37		36	120.00

To Presly Allen (Clerk) 35 Days at 3 Dolls P Day & Extra Knives P account. ~~current~~ $ 142.2.

John W. Manny, Door keeper for attendance, and Articles furnished 80.63

Augustus M. Shea. for printing by order of the Senate. 14.00

To John M. Clayton, late Clerk of the Senate for Transcribing examining proof sheets & superintending the printing the Journals of the Senate for the Jan.y Session 1820 & for making an Index thereto 115.00

Resolved That, the Speaker of the Senate be directed to draw orders on the Treasurer of this State for the above & foregoing allowances

Report of Com.
of acct. 1821

An act for the appointment of an auditor of accounts.

Sect. 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, That John M. Clayton be and he is hereby appointed Auditor of Accounts for the term of three years from the passing of this act and from thence to the end of the next session of the General Assembly.

Sect. 2. And be it enacted That if the said Auditor of accounts shall die or be otherwise incapacitated for discharging the duties of the said office in the recess of the General Assembly, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor for the time being to appoint some other fit person to that office, who shall continue in office until the end of the next session of the General Assembly after such appointment and no longer unless reappointed by the general Assembly

Sect. 3. ~~And be it enacted, That when and as often as a State tax shall be laid for collection, the Auditor of Accounts shall receive in addition to the salary already fixed by law, the sum of one hundred dollars for his services.~~

This section passed the house — but was struck out in the Senate. —

An act for the appointment of an auditor of accounts.

House of Represents
Jany 22. 1821 - read and auditor elected.
— 23 — 2d time
— 24 — read a third time, by paragraphs and passed. -

M. Clayton
Clerk. -

For concurrence.

In Senate 24 Jan. 1821 read
27 read 2d time -
29 read 3d time by paragraphs, amended and passed the Senate.

P. Allee Clk

For con.

Jany 30 - amendments read & concurred in -

M. Clayton
Clerk. -

State of Delaware Dr. to John M. Clayton
Clerk of the House of Representatives.—

To 37 days attendance at the present session — — — — — —	$. 111.00
To transcribing engrossing, expense stationery in purchasing of the resolution to purchase stile register for the House & as per bill of particulars — — —	237.34
Carrying messages & extra services —	25.00
	373.34

J M Clayton

ae

1822

Cedar Creek near Milford, May 30th 1823

Dear Sir,

Enclosed I have forwarded to you the Account of Mendenhall & Walters for printing the Journal of the House of Representatives for January 1823, you will after ~~yt~~ inspecting the same deliver it to the State Treasurer who will negociate the business with those Printers - I have also enclosed an Order in their favour.

With much Respect, I am Dr Sir
your Obd. Hble Servt

Joseph Haslet

John M. Clayton Esqr

Milford Del May 20th 1821

John M. Clayton Esqr.
Auditor of Accounts
Dover

The State of Delaware Dr to John M. Clayton auditor of accounts —

To postage on letters from sundry Justices & other officers relative to the Finances of the State ~~and Comm~~ as per receipt of Postmaster — $6.30.—

John M. Clayton - A. A. —

Dover, Jan. 11 - 1823. —

Dr. John M. Clayton auditor of accounts of the State of Delaware **To Patrick Connolley, P. M.**

To postage on public letters and papers, from the 1st January 1821 To the 1st January 1822 — six **Dolls.** ~~cts.~~ and thirty cents — $6.30.—

Received the above bill in full Patrick Connolley

Mr Clayton's acc/
for postage. —

=

House of Repts.
15. Jany 1823. Read and referred
to committee of claims —

Allow: $6.30

To Joshua Burton Esquire,

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Delaware,

I hereby resign the office of Auditor of accounts of the said State. Jan. 6. 1824.

John M. Clayton.

John M. Clayton's
resignation as
auditor of accounts
1824, Jan.

so long as he shall reside there, or in or near Dover, and attend to my grave yard, he shall have fifty dollars per annum paid to him for doing so out of the three thousand dollars left for keeping up the graveyard &c. He shall, as a condition of this grant, keep the graves, graveyard & trees & grass in proper order as is directed in my will. The remainder of the interest on the sum of three thousand dollars, left to maintain the graveyard &c, shall be appropriated for that purpose, as my executors shall direct & agreeably to my will. I republish my will dated 21st October 1854 & also declare this, with that, to be my last will. September 24, 1856

Signed, sealed & delivered as my last will before James C. Bird - Jas P. Weld - Charles Kimmey. } John M. Clayton (SEAL)

I have compared the above foregoing with the last will & codicil of John M. Clayton and certify it to be a true copy thereof. Dover February 1st A.D. 1857. Isaac Davis - B

Copy of the Will
of John M. Clayton.

Last Will of John M. Clayton.
Copied by J. belonging to M A Loving

This is the last will & testament of John M. Clayton of Delaware, executed this twenty first day of October eighteen hundred & fifty four.

First I leave to my friends and relatives as well as to all others who may think my opinion of any value, this testimonial, that the religion taught in the New Testament, is the best that has been offered for our adoption, both for this world and for that which is to come, and that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah and will remain forever the Redeemer and Savior of fallen man.

Let my humble testimony stand in favor of the Christian religion. I am deeply, thoroughly convinced of its truth.

Second. I bequeath (7) seven thousand dollars invested in some good six per cent loan of the best value I may own at my death (the certificate for which shall stand in my name as owner of the said amount of loan) for the following uses; first! $4 four thousand dollars thereof to be expended in erecting

a suitable monument over my grave - and the interest on the remaining (3) three thousand dollars to be perpetually applied to keeping up the portion of the grave yard in the Presbyterian burying ground where my wife and children are buried, and where I wish my own remains to be interred. Let the iron fence around it be kept up and renewed as often as it becomes di-lapidated or insufficient, and let no others be buried there after my death except my nearest relatives and their families. Let the grave stones & monuments be kept cleaned & in repair, and willows be preserved & replanted, when & as often as they decay in that spot. Let the place be kept free from weeds and in fresh mowed grass. Let all expenses made to execute this part of my will, be paid, out of the annual interest on the sum of (3) three thousand dollars aforesaid. Let any surplus remaining, be from time to time invested for the same uses. The principal sum shall stand forever for the uses here expressed - to keep the said portion of said burial ground enclosed in a suitable manner & with an iron railing, & to keep up the monuments

and decorate the spot where my wife lies buried.

Thirdly. The expenses of my funeral, burial &c shall be paid out of my estate remaining, & not out of the sum aforesaid. I bequeath one thousand dollars for that purpose - or so much thereof as may be necessary, & (as I wish to be buried alongside of ~~my~~ the remains of my dear wife) should I happen to die out of this state I will that my body be buried in that place and that all the expenses of transporting it thither, may be paid out of the rest of my estate if the sum of one thousand dollars aforesaid should be insufficient.

Fourthly. I give and bequeath to my Godson Clayton McMichael, the son of Morton McMichael Esquire of Philadelphia, & to John M. Clayton Rodney son of Thomas M. Rodney, the sum of one thousand dollars each, as a token of my affection & regard for each of them.

Fifthly - I give & bequeath all my miscellaneous

Library comprehending all my books, except Law Books, to my nephew James C. Douglas, together with my silver plate & book cases, wearing apparel, furniture, papers, watch & chain and a diamond breast=pin. My law books I give to Joseph P. Comegys Esquire.

Sixth. I give & devise to my dear niece, Margaret A. Comegys, the wife of Joseph P. Comegys, all my farm in Cecil County, Maryland, now occupied by James A. Lewis, as tenant, containing three hundred & ten acres, more or less, & all my right, title & interest therein, to her, her heirs & assigns forever.

Seventh. I give and devise to my grand nephew, Clayton Douglas, the son of my nephew James C. Douglas, the interest which shall accrue after my death, on the debt then remaining due on the bond & mortgage executed by said James C. Douglas to me, for twenty thousand dollars, being part of the purchase money of the farm of Buena Vista. I will that the said interest being annually due, may be applied from time to time, to the education of said Clayton Douglas, at the discretion of his father, and in such way as may be most

advantageous to said Clayton Douglas, as in payment of his tuition, board, clothing, travelling expenses &c and all other expenses incident to his education. When he shall ~~arrive~~ arrive at the age of sixteen, I wish a handsome gold watch & chain worth two hundred dollars, purchased with said interest and presented to him on his birthday with a suitable inscription on it. On his arrival at full age, the principal sum due on said mortgage and bond, shall be & become his property, & shall be transferred to him. If he should die before arriving at full age, the said bond & mortgage & the sum due thereon at his death, shall be & become the property of any & all other children of my said nephew, equally. If any child of my said nephew shall be adjudged by a court of equity, to be disobedient to his or her father & disrespectful to him, such child shall forfeit all his or her share of my estate. (Note. The principal of said mortgage on 1. Dec. 1855. is about $17.562

Eighth. Should the old colored people whom I have supported - that is, Sampson & Sarah his wife or either of them, be living at my decease, I direct my nephew to continue to support them, and deduct the cost of their support out of the interest of said bond & mortgage, last above mentioned.

Ninth. I give & bequeath to George P. Fisher of Kent, a piece of silver plate to be selected by him, worth two hundred dollars as a memorial of my friendship for him. Let my executors pay him the money.

Tenth. I give & bequeath five hundred dollars for a monument to be erected over my friend Robert M. Bird, provided his family will consent to the removal of his remains from Pennsylvania to New-Castle, Delaware, where he was born, & shall cause them to be there interred. I wish Moorlon Me Michael to write the inscription for his monument, and his other friends to aid in making the sum sufficient to pay for a suitable monument for such a man as Bird was.

Eleventh & Twelfth. I give a mourning ring to each of the following persons - My nephew James C. Douglas, Joseph P. Comegys Esquire & his wife Margaret A. Comegys my niece, my

nephew William Henry Peterson & to my friends Wil-
-liam D. Lewis Esquire of Philadelphia, & to Morton
McMichael Esquire of Philadelphia, each ring to
be worth not less than one hundred dollars, also
another ring of the same value to my friend
Thomas M. Rodney.

Thirteenth. I give & bequeath all the rest
& residue of my estate to be equally divided
between my nephew William Henry Peterson of
Canada, my grand niece Margaret C. Douglas
daughter of James C. Douglas, and the three
children of my niece Margaret A. Conaway, to
wit- Walter Douglas Conaway, Harriet C. Cona-
-way & Cornelia Conaway, their heirs & assigns for
-ever.

As I gave in my lifetime about six thous
-and dollars to my nephew James C. Douglas in
Kentucky & other bonds, & five thousand dollars to
Joseph P. Conaway Esquire, in Kentucky bonds, I
bequeath to them no further share of my
estate, except as is herein before bequeathed to
them. I appoint James C. Douglas and

Joseph P. Comegys to be my executors. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand & seal and I publish, pronounce & declare this to be my last will and testament, the day and year above written.

John M. Clayton (55)

Signed, sealed & delivered & published as his last will & testament, by John M. Clayton, in the presence of each of us, who have also signed in his presence & in presence of each other.

S. C. Johnston - Charles R. Ayres, Nannette Wolf

3 witnesses.

Dover Sept 24. 1856

Codicil to the foregoing Will. I will and devise to my nephew James C. Douglass and to my niece Margaret A. Comegys, their heirs and assigns forever, equally to be divided between them a square or lot of ground in the City of Washington No 875. on the City Map. with all the houses and improvements thereon, and any & all other real estate I may own at my death. And if I do not provide otherwise in my lifetime for my servant Lewis Weston, I will that real estate of the value of two thousand dollars, $2,000 be purchased for him and his heirs in fee simple, in or near Dover, where he shall reside as a condition of the grant, and that

so long as he shall reside there, or in or near Dover, and attend to my grave yard, he shall have fifty dollars per annum paid to him for doing so out of the three thousand dollars left for keeping up the graveyard &c. He shall, as a condition of this grant, keep the graves, graveyard & trees & grass in proper order as is directed in my will. The remainder of the interest on the sum of three thousand dollars, left to maintain the graveyard &c, shall be appropriated for that purpose, as my executors shall direct & agreeably to my will. I republish my will dated 21st October 1854 & also declare this, with that, to be my last will. September 24. 1856

Signed sealed & delivered as my last will before } John M. Clayton (Seal)

James C. Bird - Jas P. Weld - Charles Kimmey.

I have compared the above foregoing with the last will & codicil of John M. Clayton and certify it to be a true copy thereof. Dover February 1st A.D. 1857. Isaac Davis - B

Copy of the Will
of John M. Clayton.

Last Will of John M. Clayton.
Copied by I. belonging to M. A. Lowry

To FRANCIS M. WALKER, Esq.,
REGISTER OF WILLS
for the County of New Castle in the State of Delaware.

In the Matter of the Administration of the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of John M. Clayton Deceased

Petition

The Petition of John B. Johns respectfully showeth that John M. Clayton was a resident of State of Delaware and departed this life intestate at in the County of and State of on the About the ~~day of~~ Year 1850 ~~A. D. 19~~, at M.

That the said John M. Clayton deceased left surviving certain ~~the following named widow or husband~~, heirs and next of kin, ~~to wit:~~ of whom

	RELATIONSHIP	RESIDENCE
Margaret D. Buck is the sole survivor.		
and no other next of kin.		

The said intestate was possessed of ~~Goods, Chattels,~~ Rights and Credits to the value of $ ~~and of real estate (less incumbrance) to the value of $ as near as can be ascertained, situated as follows:~~ consisting of a mortgage against James C. Douglass,

Therefore the said John B. Johns respectfully applies for Letters of Administration upon the Goods Chattels, Rights and Credits, of which said John M. Clayton died possessed.

Dated Oct. 7th A. D. 1914

John B. Johns,

State of Delaware,
New Castle County } ss.

John B. Johns

named in the above application, being duly sworn according to law say that the matters and things set forth in the foregoing Petition are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn and subscribed before me at Wilmington, Oct. 7th A. D. 1914

Francis M. Walker
Register of Wills.

John B. Johns,

2485

ESTATE OF

John M. Clayton.
(Deceased)

PETITION

FOR

Letters of Administration

Filed Oct 7th A. D. 1914.

FRANCIS M. WALKER,

Register of Wills.

John B. Johns
Administrator.

William S. Heilles
Attorney.

Address

2485

To Francis M. Walker, Esq.,

Register of Wills for New Castle County.

I, Margaret D. Buck, the next of kin of the late John M. Clayton, do hereby **request** that you grant Letters of Administration, d. b. n. upon his estate unto John B. Johnson, hereby waiving any right which I may have to receive a grant of such Letters.

Margaret D Buck

2485

so long as he shall reside there, or in or near Dover, and attend to my grave yard, he shall have fifty dollars per annum paid to him for doing so out of the three thousand dollars left for keeping up the graveyard &c. He shall, as a condition of this grant, keep the graves, graveyard & trees & grass in proper order as is directed in my will. The remainder of the interest on the sum of three thousand dollars, left to maintain the graveyard &c, shall be appropriated for that purpose, as my executors shall direct & agreeably to my will. I republish my will dated 21st October 1854 & also declare this, with that, to be my last will. September 24, 1856

Signed, sealed & delivered as my last will before James C. Bird - Jas P. Weld - Charles Kimmey. } John M. Clayton (SEAL)

I have compared the above foregoing with the last will & codicil of John M. Clayton and certify it to be a true copy thereof. Dover February 1st A.D. 1857. Isaac Davis - B

Copy of the Will
of John M. Clayton.

Last Will of John M. Clayton.
Copied by J. belonging to M A Loving

This is the last will & testament of John M. Clayton of Delaware, executed this twenty first day of October eighteen hundred & fifty four.

First I leave to my friends and relatives as well as to all others who may think my opinion of any value, this testimonial, that the religion taught in the New Testament, is the best that has been offered for our adoption, both for this world and for that which is to come, and that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah and will remain forever the Redeemer and Savior of fallen man.

Let my humble testimony stand in favor of the Christian religion. I am deeply, thoroughly convinced of its truth.

Second. I bequeath (7) seven thousand dollars invested in some good six per cent loan of the best value I may own at my death (the certificate for which shall stand in my name as owner of the said amount of loan) for the following uses; first! $4 four thousand dollars thereof to be expended in erecting

a suitable monument over my grave - and the interest on the remaining (3) three thousand dollars to be perpetually applied to keeping up the portion of the grave yard in the Presbyterian burying ground where my wife and children are buried, and where I wish my own remains to be interred. Let the iron fence around it be kept up and renewed as often as it becomes di-lapidated or insufficient, and let no others be buried there after my death except my nearest relatives and their families. Let the grave stones & monuments be kept cleaned & in repair, and willows be preserved & replanted, when & as often as they decay in that spot. Let the place be kept free from weeds and in fresh mowed grass. Let all expenses made to execute this part of my will, be paid, out of the annual interest on the sum of (3) three thousand dollars aforesaid. Let any surplus remaining, be from time to time invested for the same uses. The principal sum shall stand forever for the uses here expressed - to keep the said portion of said burial ground enclosed in a suitable manner & with an iron railing, & to keep up the monuments

and decorate the spot where my wife lies buried.

Thirdly. The expenses of my funeral, burial &c shall be paid out of my estate remaining, & not out of the sum aforesaid. I bequeath one thousand dollars for that purpose - or so much thereof as may be necessary, & (as I wish to be buried alongside of ~~my~~ the remains of my dear wife) should I happen to die out of this state I will that my body be buried in that place and that all the expenses of transporting it thither, may be paid out of the rest of my estate if the sum of one thousand dollars aforesaid should be insufficient.

Fourthly. I give and bequeath to my Godson Clayton McMichael, the son of Morton McMichael Esquire of Philadelphia, & to John M. Clayton Rodney son of Thomas M. Rodney, the sum of one thousand dollars each, as a token of my affection & regard for each of them.

Fifthly - I give & bequeath all my miscellaneous

Library comprehending all my books, except Law Books, to my nephew James C. Douglas, together with my silver plate & book cases, wearing apparel, furniture, papers, watch & chain and a diamond breast=pin. My law books I give to Joseph P. Comegys Esquire.

Sixth. I give & devise to my dear niece, Margaret A. Comegys, the wife of Joseph P. Comegys, all my farm in Cecil County, Maryland, now occupied by James A. Lewis, as tenant, containing three hundred & ten acres, more or less, & all my right, title & interest therein, to her, her heirs & assigns forever.

Seventh. I give and devise to my grand nephew, Clayton Douglas, the son of my nephew James C. Douglas, the interest which shall accrue after my death, on the debt then remaining due on the bond & mortgage executed by said James C. Douglas to me, for twenty thousand dollars, being part of the purchase money of the farm of Buena Vista. I will that the said interest being annually due, may be applied from time to time, to the education of said Clayton Douglas, at the discretion of his father, and in such way as may be most

advantageous to said Clayton Douglas, as in payment of his tuition, board, clothing, travelling expenses &c and all other expenses incident to his education. When he shall ~~arrive~~ arrive at the age of sixteen, I wish a handsome gold watch & chain worth two hundred dollars, purchased with said interest and presented to him on his birthday with a suitable inscription on it. On his arrival at full age, the principal sum due on said mortgage and bond, shall be & become his property, & shall be transferred to him. If he should die before arriving at full age, the said bond & mortgage & the sum due thereon at his death, shall be & become the property of any & all other children of my said nephew, equally. If any child of my said nephew shall be adjudged by a court of equity, to be disobedient to his or her father & disrespectful to him, such child shall forfeit all his or her share of my estate. (Note. The principal of said mortgage on 1. Dec. 1855. is about $17.562

Eighth. Should the old colored people whom I have supported - that is, Sampson & Sarah his wife or either of them, be living at my decease, I direct my nephew to continue to support them, and deduct the cost of their support out of the interest of said bond & mortgage, last above mentioned.

Ninth. I give & bequeath to George P. Fisher of Kent, a piece of silver plate to be selected by him, worth two hundred dollars as a memorial of my friendship for him. Let my executors pay him the money.

Tenth. I give & bequeath five hundred dollars for a monument to be erected over my friend Robert M. Bird, provided his family will consent to the removal of his remains from Pennsylvania to New-Castle, Delaware, where he was born, & shall cause them to be there interred. I wish Moorlon Me Michael to write the inscription for his monument, and his other friends to aid in making the sum sufficient to pay for a suitable monument for such a man as Bird was.

Eleventh & Twelfth. I give a mourning ring to each of the following persons - My nephew James C. Douglas, Joseph P. Comegys Esquire & his wife Margaret A. Comegys my niece, my

nephew William Henry Peterson & to my friends Wil-
-liam D. Lewis Esquire of Philadelphia, & to Morton
McMichael Esquire of Philadelphia, each ring to
be worth not less than one hundred dollars, also
another ring of the same value to my friend
Thomas M. Rodney.

Thirteenth. I give & bequeath all the rest
& residue of my estate to be equally divided
between my nephew William Henry Peterson of
Canada, my grand niece Margaret C. Douglas
daughter of James C. Douglas, and the three
children of my niece Margaret A. Conaway, to
wit- Walter Douglas Conaway, Harriet C. Cona-
-way & Cornelia Conaway, their heirs & assigns for
-ever.

As I gave in my lifetime about six thous
-and dollars to my nephew James C. Douglas in
Kentucky & other bonds, & five thousand dollars to
Joseph P. Conaway Esquire, in Kentucky bonds, I
bequeath to them no further share of my
estate, except as is herein before bequeathed to
them. I appoint James C. Douglas and

Joseph P. Comegys to be my executors. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand & seal and I publish, pronounce & declare this to be my last will and testament, the day and year above written.

John M. Clayton (55)

Signed, sealed & delivered & published as his last will & testament, by John M. Clayton, in the presence of each of us, who have also signed in his presence & in presence of each other.

S. C. Johnston - Charles R. Ayres, Nannette Wolf

3 witnesses.

Dover Sept 24. 1856

Codicil to the foregoing Will. I will and devise to my nephew James C. Douglass and to my niece Margaret A. Comegys, their heirs and assigns forever, equally to be divided between them a square or lot of ground in the City of Washington No 875. on the City Map. with all the houses and improvements thereon, and any & all other real estate I may own at my death. And if I do not provide otherwise in my lifetime for my servant Lewis Weston, I will that real estate of the value of two thousand dollars, $2,000 be purchased for him and his heirs in fee simple, in or near Dover, where he shall reside as a condition of the grant, and that

so long as he shall reside there, or in or near Dover, and attend to my grave yard, he shall have fifty dollars per annum paid to him for doing so out of the three thousand dollars left for keeping up the graveyard &c. He shall, as a condition of this grant, keep the graves, graveyard & trees & grass in proper order as is directed in my will. The remainder of the interest on the sum of three thousand dollars, left to maintain the graveyard &c, shall be appropriated for that purpose, as my executors shall direct & agreeably to my will. I republish my will dated 21st October 1854 & also declare this, with that, to be my last will. September 24. 1856

Signed sealed & delivered as my last will before } John M. Clayton (Seal)

James C. Bird - Jas P. Weld - Charles Kimmey.

I have compared the above foregoing with the last will & codicil of John M. Clayton and certify it to be a true copy thereof. Dover February 1st A.D. 1857. Isaac Davis - B

Copy of the Will
of John M. Clayton.

Last Will of John M. Clayton.
Copied by I. belonging to M. A. Lowry

To FRANCIS M. WALKER, Esq.,
REGISTER OF WILLS
for the County of New Castle in the State of Delaware.

In the Matter of the Administration of the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of John M. Clayton Deceased

Petition

The Petition of John B. Johns respectfully showeth that John M. Clayton was a resident of State of Delaware and departed this life intestate at in the County of and State of on the About the ~~day of~~ Year 1850 ~~A. D. 19~~, at M.

That the said John M. Clayton deceased left surviving certain ~~the following named widow or husband~~, heirs and next of kin, ~~to wit:~~ of whom

	RELATIONSHIP	RESIDENCE
Margaret D. Buck is the sole survivor.		
and no other next of kin.		

The said intestate was possessed of ~~Goods, Chattels,~~ Rights and Credits to the value of $ ~~and of real estate (less incumbrance) to the value of $ as near as can be ascertained, situated as follows:~~ consisting of a mortgage against James C. Douglass,

Therefore the said John B. Johns respectfully applies for Letters of Administration upon the Goods Chattels, Rights and Credits, of which said John M. Clayton died possessed.

Dated Oct. 7th A. D. 1914

John B. Johns,

State of Delaware,
New Castle County } ss.

John B. Johns

named in the above application, being duly sworn according to law say that the matters and things set forth in the foregoing Petition are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn and subscribed before me at Wilmington, Oct. 7th A. D. 1914

Francis M. Walker
Register of Wills.

John B. Johns,

2485

ESTATE OF

John M. Clayton.
(Deceased)

PETITION

FOR

Letters of Administration

Filed Oct 7th A. D. 1914.

FRANCIS M. WALKER,

Register of Wills.

John B. Johns
Administrator.

William S. Heilles
Attorney.

Address

2485

To Francis M. Walker, Esq.,

Register of Wills for New Castle County.

I, Margaret D. Buck, the next of kin of the late John M. Clayton, do hereby **request** that you grant Letters of Administration, d. b. n. upon his estate unto John B. Johnson, hereby waiving any right which I may have to receive a grant of such Letters.

Margaret D Buck

2485

James P. Muir
July, 1951

Melvin Hopkins
Dover, Delaware

PAPERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE.

XVII.

THE COLONIAL AND STATE JUDICIARY OF DELAWARE.

BY

HON. IGNATIUS C. GRUBB,

ASSOCIATE JUDGE, MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE, ETC.

Read before the Historical Society of Delaware, December 21 and 22, 1896.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE,
WILMINGTON.
1897.

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Melvin Hopkins
Dover, Delaware

CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1792.

	Appointed.
George Read	September 30, 1793.
Kensey Johns, Sr.	January 3, 1799.
Samuel M. Harrington	October 16, 1830.

CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1792.

	Appointed.
Richard Bassett	September 6, 1793.
James Booth, Sr.	January 28, 1799.
Thomas Clayton	February 8, 1828.

CHIEF JUSTICES OF DELAWARE UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1831.

	Appointed.
Thomas Clayton	January 18, 1832.
John M. Clayton	January 16, 1837.
Richard H. Bayard	September 19, 1839.
James Booth, Jr.	March 12, 1841.
Samuel M. Harrington	April 3, 1855.
Edward W. Gilpin	May 6, 1857.
Joseph P. Comegys	May 18, 1876.
Alfred P. Robinson	January 26, 1893.
Charles B. Lore	March 21, 1893.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF DELAWARE UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1831.

	Appointed.
James R. Black	January 18, 1832.
Samuel M. Harrington	January 18, 1832.
Peter Robinson	January 18, 1832.
Caleb S. Layton	June 3, 1836.
John J. Milligan	September 19, 1839.
David Hazzard	December 10, 1844.

Chief Justice Clayton's endowments were of the solid and not the showy sort. He was thoroughly versed in the principles of the law, and grasped the vital points of a case with surprising quickness and vigor. His words were few, but masterly in force and point.

He ranks pre-eminent among those who have filled the office of chief justice, and has left to survive him a judicial reputation which has hardly been equalled, and never surpassed, by any incumbent of the Delaware bench.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON was the son of James Clayton, and nephew of Dr. Joshua Clayton who was Delaware's Chief Executive under the Constitutions of 1776 and 1792.

He was born in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1796, graduated from Yale with the highest honors, a law student under his cousin, Chief Justice Thomas Clayton, and at the Litchfield, Connecticut, Law School; admitted to the Delaware bar in 1819, and Secretary of State from 1826 to 1828.

In the Jackson-Adams contest of 1828 he led the Adams party in Delaware to victory and was rewarded by election to the United States Senate, and entered that body at the early age of thirty-two. Even among such renowned colleagues as Webster, Clay, Benton, and Calhoun he immediately took a leading part, and soon rose to commanding prominence as a national leader.

He was re-elected to the Senate in 1835, and further elected thereto in 1845, and again in 1853.

After General Taylor's election as President, in 1848, Mr. Clayton became United States Secretary of State, and during

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his term negotiated the celebrated Clayton-Bulwer treaty with Great Britain.

During his national career he was pre-eminent among those who participated in all the great public measures of that period.

In 1837, desiring to retire from political life, he resigned from the Senate, and Chief Justice Thomas Clayton succeeded him. Thereupon he was induced to accept the vacant Chief Justiceship of the State, which position he held during three years only.

Within the limits of a mere sketch no adequate idea of Mr. Clayton can be given.

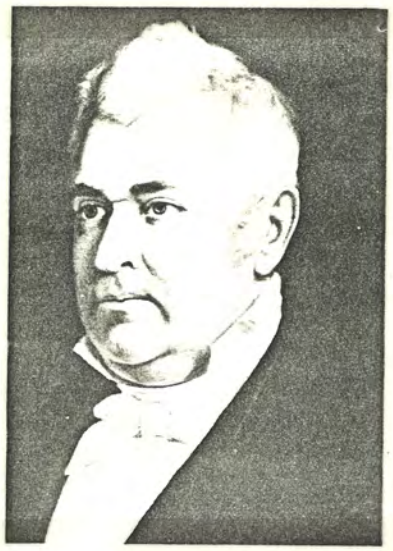
No man in Delaware, excepting, possibly, James A. Bayard, Sr., had ever before possessed such a combination of great intellectual powers, and had such a remarkable career as John M. Clayton.

Nature and education together had produced a very extraordinary person, a versatile and masterful mind combined with an irresistible personality.

As advocate, orator, and political leader he was equalled by none in Delaware, and by few elsewhere. He had the power of logic with the skill of the rhetorician. And such was his legal ability and reputation that in a very few years after he entered the Senate he was made Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the highest honor, at that day, of the body.

His course upon the bench, though short, was sufficient to exhibit him as a thoroughly-equipped lawyer and jurist. From his judgments there was never a writ of error.

He retired from the bench, and subsequently re-entered the Senate, of which he died a member in November, 1856.



JOHN MIDDLETON CLAYTON (1790 - 1856)

John M. Clayton is associated with several houses on The Green. However, it was at the FISHER/COMEGYS/TERRY House that he died and in the yard behind that house there is a yew tree that was a gift to him from the British Ambassador, Sir Henry Bulwer. As Secretary of State for the United States Clayton negotiated a treaty with Great Britain concerning the construction of a canal (NOT the Panama Canal) in Central America. It was called the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

In Statuary Hall in the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D. C., there are statues of Caesar Rodney and John M. Clayton. (See SOUTH STATE STREET - Christ Church.) At the presentation ceremony in 1934 Congressman Robert G. Houston made the address in honor of John M. Clayton and gave the following description of his appearance. "Physically he was described as a remarkably handsome man, 6 feet 1½ inches tall, well proportioned, impressive in appearance, a splendid head, a benign countenance which bespoke the greatness of his soul, as his portraits reveal."

CLAYTON BIOGRAPHY

John Middleton Clayton was born on November 24, 1796 in Dagsboro, Delaware, the son of James Clayton and Sarah Middleton. John was the second of seven children.

Young John began school in Berlin, Maryland, but ran away and walked to Milford, Delaware where his parents had since moved. While in Milford, they resided in the Parson Thorne Mansion. He was next sent to a boarding school in Lewes, Delaware, but later returned to Milford in order to complete his education. At the age of fifteen, he entered Yale College graduating, in 1815, with the highest honors in his class. He returned to Delaware and entered the law office of his cousin, Thomas Clayton, for two years and then spent a year at the law school in Litchfield, Connecticut. Upon leaving there, Clayton was admitted to the bar at Georgetown during the October term of the Court of Common Pleas in 1819.

John Clayton rapidly became a successful and well known lawyer throughout the State. He had been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives during the 1816 through 1819 sessions, and of the Senate in 1820. Clayton was then appointed Auditor of Accounts by the Legislature for two years.

When his father died in 1820, Clayton assumed the responsibility of providing for his mother, two sisters and a brother. By 1822 he had acquired enough to provide for his family, and marry Sally Ann Fisher. She was the daughter of Dr. James Fisher, who was a distinguished physician in Camden, Delaware.

After the wedding, John and Sally Ann resided in her house in Camden, and a few months later moved into Henry M. Ridgely's house on the Green in Dover. "In this Dover residence were born unto them two sons; (James Fisher on July 11, 1823, and Charles McClymont on February 3, 1825) and there occurred that fatal calamity, the shadow of which never passed from his life, nor was its presence ever entirely unfelt. His love for his wife was the greatest passion that ever influenced him."[1] Only a few days after the birth of their second son, Sally Ann died.

This great loss truely effected the remainder of John Clayton's life. Even after twenty years, he wrote to his good friend Joseph Comegys, "I am still very unwell and most accountably depressed in spirits and melancholy. I have lately dreamed again of seeing my wife...time will not do its office. Righteous years are but a day...I am unfit to go to Kent or anywhere else. I often feel when I think of my wife that I wish I could lay down and die."[2]

Work became his only solace, and he totally devoted the remainder of his life to it. "In the interval between the Presidential election of 1824 and that of 1828, Clayton filled the office of Secretary of State, first under Samuel Paynter, who was Governor in 1824, and afterwards under Charles Polk, elected in 1827."[3] It was during Samuel Paynter's term as Governor that John Clayton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Delaware.

At the beginning of Andrew Jackson's Presidential term (1830), Clayton was elected a U.S. Senator for six years. During this period, he was involved in many important decisions, from corruption in the Post Office department to proper disposition of public lands to the Compromise of 1833 which saved the Union of the States. It was also during this time that John Clayton and Henry Clay became fast friends.

In 1834, John Clayton intended to terminate his Senatorial career, but was persuaded to continue for two more years. In the fall of 1836, he resigned the remainder of his term intending to return to his law practice, but was appointed as Delaware's Chief Justice of the Superior Court. Even though Clayton had retired from the bench, he occasionally took part in important legal cases, such as the Delaware vs. New Jersey controversy over Pea Patch Island.

In August 1839, Clayton resigned as Chief Justice, " and entered with great spirit into the political canvass in support of the candidates of his party - Harrison and Tyler." [4]

John Clayton was named as a candidate for Vice President under Henry Clay during the 1844 Convention, but he declined the nomination much to the regret of many of his friends. The "Delaware State Journal" notes on February 12, 1844, that "no man stands higher in our affections and esteem than our own distinguished fellow citizen, John M. Clayton."

The following year Clayton was again elected to the United States Senate by a unanimous vote of all the Whig members. During this time, he worked on such important questions as the French Spoliation Bill, the Oregon Question, and the Mexican War.

During the Spring of 1842, Clayton had moved from Dover to New Castle where he occupied the Read House. He lived there until 1845, "when he removed to his new home on the State road below Hare's Corner, where he ever afterwards continued to reside. He had purchased the farm a year before, and built upon it a new and commodious house, with outbuildings of ample size. The Mexican War soon after occuring, and the brilliant success of Taylor having filled him with admiration, he called his home Buena Vista, in honor of one of his hero's great victories beyond the Rio Grande. The land of Buena Vista was extremely reduced; but having bought, built upon, and removed to it, with a determination to become an agriculturist, he gave his thoughts and energies to that employment. When he took it in hand it was literally worn out from exhaustive tillage and neglect of the means of resuscitation, but he at once set to work to renew its wasted vigor, and soon created for himself the distinction of having accomlished more in any way of restoring the vitality of exhausted land, than any one before him. In fact the place soon came to be one of the very finest in the State." [5]

The "Delaware State Journal," March 21, 1845 notes that the "Honorable John M. Clayton arrived in this city (Wilmington) from Washington on Wednesday. He departed immediately for his residence in New Castle." The above mentioned Wednesday was March the 19th, which is exactly one week before John Clayton purchases the Buena Vista property from Abraham Shannon, the deed dated March 26, 1845.

It is also interesting to note that in a letter from John Clayton to Timothy Childs, dated November 23, 1846, he writes, "In my retirement on a farm during the recess of Congress, letters directed to me by mail do not arrive with much expedition...." [6]

In 1849, he was asked by President Zachary Taylor to serve as U.S. Secretary of State. Clayton served in this capacity for one year. Only a month before President Taylor died in 1850, Clayton sought to retire from public life once more. He writes to Zachary Taylor, "During the last sixteeen months, I have been able to devote not a single day to my own private affairs, the dearrangement of which resulting from this neglect, now absolutely requires my attention. This is the reason for my resignation; and I state it, because I do not wish to leave room for any possible inferrence that I am dissatisfied with the measures of your administration." [7] The newspapers were full of the reports of John Clayton's resignation, and glowing reports of his past career.

He retired to Buena Vista, only to once again be re-elected to the Senate in 1851, where he defended the Clayton- Bulwer Treaty which he had helped negotiate while Secretary of State.

Frustration with his public life probably grew after the devastating loss of both sons. In 1849, Charles Clayton, his youngest son, died overseas, and in 1851, his son James died after a brief illness. John Clayton had always been close to his nephew, James Clayton Douglass, who was a Purser in the United States Navy. James had married Ellen Sinclair in 1849, and in 1853, Clayton offered the Buena Vista farm to James and his family. Clayton noted that, "I feel some apprehension that he (James) may decline farming...I shall offer him every inducement to stay him for the rest of his life." [8] On February 12, 1853, James Douglass signs the deed purchasing Buena Vista. A month later, Ellen writes to her sister from Buena Vista, "Of course you have heard, Mr. Douglass bought this place of his Uncle, and has resigned his commission in the Navy." [9]

The New Castle church records show that in "May, 1853, Constance Margaret, born March 20, 1852, daughter of James and Ellen Douglass, was baptised at Buena Vista, the seat of the Honorable John M. Clayton who was the sponsor." [10] There is a similar entry for April 26, 1854 for Clayton Douglass, son of James and Ellen. Then barely seven months later, tragedy struck this family. Ellen Douglass dies, leaving James with two small children. He writes to his mother-in-law of his great sorrow and notes, "We had come here to make a home for ourselves and our children, and that we might live together..." [11]

During the years 1854 and 1855, John Clayton sends as much correspondence written from Buena Vista as he does from Washington, D.C. He even writes from Buena Vista to James Douglass in order to keep him informed on the current planting during Douglass' absence. James Douglass may have been visiting his children who frequently stayed with his mother-in-law in Philadelphia. Douglass' Aunt, Miss Johnson, became a governess to Margaret and Clayton Douglass during this time.

John Clayton kept up this lively correspondence with numerous people, his topics usually concerning Buena Vista farming or current politics. He even manages to write of himself "...I am a modest man; though I know you always tell me that my modesty has not got about much. I am an industrious man - at least I am not a lazy one ('though by your smiling you seem to say so') - for I go to bed at 12 and rise at eight, and any man who gets up before that hour will (according to an old friend of mine in whose opinions I have great confidence) take the advantage." [12]

Unfortunately, John Clayton's health was rapidly failing. He writes to Charles I. duPont in 1854 concerning "The attack of a painful nature in the breast...I am out of health and very solitary of course. You will always find me alone..." [13] Then on November 9, 1856, while at the home of his nephew Joseph P. Comegys in Dover, John M. Clayton died. His loss was greatly mourned by the State of Delaware, who is "bereft of her brightest orator, her most eminent citizen, her truest counsellor, her unwavering friend." [14] " -His motto being, that a public man should be as Caesar's wife, not only pure, but above suspicion." [15]

After his Uncle's death, James Douglass continued to farm Buena Vista and raise his children. He writes, in 1863, to Admiral Samuel DuPont concerning "...illness of both my children with hooping cough...compelled, through difficulties in my situation in housekeeping, in the obtaining of servents during the winter months for a place so distant in the country, I am about to close my house and remain in Wilmington, or Philadelphia for that period with my children at school." [16]

Then, at the age of eighteen (in 1872), James' son Clayton dies from typhoid fever. Douglass and his daughter "Maggie" (Constance Margaret) are devastated by his death. Margaret remains by her father's side and in all probability assists him with running Buena Vista until his death three years later in January, 1875.

At the age of twenty three, Margaret inherited Buena Vista from her father who died intestate. It was nine years later that she married Francis Nixon Buck on January 16, 1884. The "New York Tribune" carries the following account, "I have received a description from a lady in Delaware of the recent wedding at Mr. Clayton's old home near Newcastle as follows: 'The wedding of Miss Constance Margaret Douglass, who lives at Buena Vista, the homestead of John M. Clayton, which she inherited from her father...We drove through a long avenue of trees to the large old fashioned house, and on entering found the beauty of the scene quite dazzling...The hall was brilliantly lighted...the old family silver arranged at the extreme end on a large table from which refreshments were served. Hundreds of wax candles lighted the spacious rooms and were reflected in the polished floors, and flowers were everywhere...Four little girls representing the Seasons acted as bridesmaids...as to the supper, it was magnificent - a real baronial profusion with true elegance combined.'" [17]

Margaret and Francis Buck had four children; Ellen Sinclair, Francis Douglass, Walter, and Clayton Douglass. In 1897, Margaret Buck had a deed written between her husband and herself, and Harriet Clayton Comegys (great niece of John M. Clayton). It noted that "...Francis N. Buck is indebted to Margaret D. Buck his wife in divers large sums of money. And whereas it is desired to secure the premises herein after described to herself and her children." [18] Harriet Comegys is named Trustee of Buena Vista to administer the property for Margaret and her children.

In 1914, Harriet Comegys (acting for Margaret and Francis) sold Buena Vista to T. Coleman duPont for $35,000. T. Coleman duPont and his wife Alice had a daughter named Alice Hounsfield, who was born December 15, 1891. She married Paul Wilson on October 29, 1912, but he died four years later on October 13, 1916. Then on May 5, 1921, Alice married Clayton Douglass Buck. It is interesting that Margaret Douglass Buck's will, dated November 7, 1924, noted that she and her husband were residing in the town of New Castle, and Clayton Douglass Buck was living at Buena Vista. [19]

T. Coleman duPont willed Buena Vista to his daughter, Alice Hounsfield in 1930. [20] Thirty five years later the estate was sold to the State of Delaware for the sum of one dollar by Governor Clayton Douglass Buck.

FOOTNOTES

1) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 22.
2) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 40, Folder 4, October 17, 1842.
3) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 40.
4) ibid, 137.
5) ibid, 139-140.
6) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Volume 1.
7) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 40, Folder 14.
8) Archives, Ridgely Collection, Folder 39, From John Clayton to Charles I. duPont, February 7, 1853.
9) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 41, Folder 26.
10) ibid, Folder 5.
11) ibid, Folder 21.
12) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Volume 1, February 12, 1844.
13) Eleutherian Mills Library, Acc. 500, Box 4, Charles I. duPont & Co. Correspondence.
14) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Unknown newspaper notice of John M. Clayton's funeral.
15) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 274-275.
16) Eleutherian Mills Library, Group 9, Series B, Box 67, #W9-15853.
17) Private letters of D.C. Buck, File 40, Folder 17, "New York Tribune" article.
18) Archives, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Reel NC-126, Vol. L-17, 552.
19) ibid, Vol. N-5,110.

The Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs
Bureau of Museums & Historic Sites
Hall of Records
P.O. Box 1401
Dover, Delaware 19901

16 FEB 1982

PAPERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE
LXV

Addresses Delivered by

Chief Justice James Pennewill
Judge Victor B. Woolley and
Judge Henry C. Conrad

At The Presentation of Oil Portraits of

John M. Clayton and Willard Saulsbury

TO

Sussex County, State of Delaware
June 29th, 1916

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE
WILMINGTON
1916

NJ 4 FEB 92

Buena Vista's history gets a new chapter

By CELIA COHEN
Staff reporter

Buena Vista is the jewel in the array of historical properties owned by the state.

The conference center, on the west side of U.S. 13 about a mile south of the U.S. 40 split, shows off the best of Delaware's history and culture.

It is a functioning property. Its stately rooms and spacious grounds host 10,000 visitors a year for conferences, retreats and elegant state dinners where the governor presides in black tie.

"It's a high profile site. It's kind of the showpiece," said James A. Stewart, the administrator for Delaware State Museums, the office within the Department of State responsible for historic buildings.

Preserving Buena Vista has been nothing short of a public trust for Delaware's secretaries of state. Its integrity was a key issue in whether Southern Ventures Associates Inc., an FBI front, should be allowed to build an office complex on a 40-acre farm immediately south of the center.

Buena Vista, situated a few miles southwest of New Castle, is one of 27 historical properties managed by the state from Fenwick Island to Claymont. It is easily identified by a long line of trees leading to the house.

The name is Spanish for "good view."

The property came into the state's possession in 1965, when the house and 52 acres were purchased for $1 from C. Douglass Buck, who wished to see his homestead preserved. Buck was a distinguished Delawarean who served as governor from 1929 to 1937 and as a U.S. senator from 1943 to 1949.

The history of the house is included in "Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware," written in 1962 by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt V.D. Hubbard.

The residence was built in 1846 and 1847 for John Middleton Clayton, Buck's great-uncle and the U.S. secretary of state under Zachary Taylor. It was named Buena Vista for the Battle of Buena Vista, fought by Taylor in the Mexican War.

"Quite apart from that connection," the authors said, "the name is appropriate. Standing on a rise a few miles southwest of New Castle, the house overlooks a broad expanse of farmland stretching away towards the Delaware River. It has truly a Good View to look upon."

The state currently controls about 190 acres surrounding the house. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The News Journal/CHUCK McGOWEN

Buena Vista: a historic property now used as a conference center by the state.

Zachary Taylor,

President of the United States of America.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, integrity and abilities of [illegible] I have nominated, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint him [illegible] of the United States, and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties of that Office according to law and to have and to hold the said Office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, unto him, the said [illegible] during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the [illegible] day of [illegible], in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and [illegible] and of the Independence of the United States of America the [illegible]

By the President. Z. Taylor.

James Buchanan

Secretary of State.

Mar. 26, 1942

JOHN M. CLAYTON

1796 1856

This brilliant lawyer and noted statesman was born at Dagsboro, Delaware, July 24, 1796. After graduation from Yale he attended the Litchfield Law School and then began practicing his profession in Dover, Delaware. Entering politics he soon achieved renown for his ability. Among the public positions he held were: State Auditor 1820-1824; Secretary of State of Delaware 1826-1828; member of General Assembly 1823; United States Senator 1829-1836, 1845-1849, 1853-1856; Chief Justice of Delaware 1837-1839; Secretary of State under President Taylor 1849-1850. He is best known for his part in negotiating the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty and he should also be remembered for his great reforms in our postal system. While a member of the United States Senate he became ill and died November 6, 1856 at his home in Dover, Delaware

JOHN M. CLAYTON

1796 - 1856

John Middleton Clayton, declared by some historians to be the greatest statesman produced by Delaware, was born at Dagsborough, Sussex County, ~~November~~ July 24, 1796. He, like his uncle, Governor Joshua Clayton, was a descendant of the Joshua Clayton who came to this country with Wm. Penn, in 1682 and settled in Delaware. His parents were James Clayton and Sarah (Middleton) Clayton. After a preparatory course in a school at Lewes, he entered Yale University from where he graduated with high honors, in 1815, studied law under his cousin, Chief Justice Thomas Clayton and was admitted to the Delaware bar in 1819. From 1826 to 1828 he was Secretary of State under Governors Paynter and Polk.

In the Jackson-Adams contest of 1828 he led the Adams party in Delaware to victory, and was rewarded by election to the United States Senate. He was later re-elected to the Senate three more times, in 1835, 1845 and 1853. Upon General Taylor's election as President, in 1848, he chose Senator Clayton as his Secretary of State. Desiring to retire from political life, he resigned from the Senate, in 1837, but his friends induced him to accept the office of Chief Justice of Delaware, in which position he served three years.

John M. Clayton was one of those fortunate men gifted with the ability to do many things remarkably well. He early earned a great reputation as a brilliant lawyer. When but thirty three years of age, he took his place in the national Senate among the intellectual and oratorical giants of that day (Clay, Webster, Douglass, Calhoun, Cass, etc.) and by his force and ability soon commanded their respect and appreciation. His appointment as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee

(a position which he held throughout his senatorial service) was ample proof of that. The whole nation owes him gratitude for the heroic, single handed fight he waged & won (despite the bitter opposition of President Jackson, his party and the press) when in 1831, he forced a senatorial investigation of the administration of the Post Office Department and put an end to the evils and misuse of power in that department, which had existed since its beginning. His demands & proposals to correct the situation and prevent its recurrence were approved by Congress and to this day the Post Office Department is administered accordingly. Time and again he stood upon the floor of the Senate and warned that body and the Jackson administration of the hard times that threatened to sweep the Nation unless the prevailing currency policy was changed. They heeded not his warning and the awful financial panic of 1837 resulted.

The most important event in President Taylor's administration was the Treaty with England, known as the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty. John M. Clayton as Taylor's Secretary of State drew up and negotiated this treaty with Lord Bulwer, Englands famous diplomatic expert, as her representative. Clayton gained all he desired for the United States and made practically no concessions. This treaty averted the war into which the two nations seemed about to plunge and pledged Britain to cease her seizure of Central American territory, in which she had been engaged on one pretext or another for nearly fifty years.

His last term in the national Senate was made necessary by the bitter, unjust misrepresenting attacks on the treaty and on him as its maker, by his parties political opponents, for campaign purposes. He came from retirement against his inclination and from the floor of the Senate made a series of brilliant speeches which proved the utter falsity of the charges against him. In the winter of 1856, he delivered his last defense of his actions and motives and then returning to the sick bed which he had left, remained there until he passed away in the same year.

Praise and eulogy in bountiful measure, was given him after his death, and many of his former opponents joined the chorus-but unfortunately, to this day many uninformed people believe the falsehoods which received such wide circulation while he was alive.

Delaware — Biography — Clayton, John M.

The Library Bookshelf

John M. Clayton
1796-1856

By John M. Dawson
Director of Libraries

When the new Continuing Education Building was erected on the North Campus, it was given the name of John M. Clayton. Most Delawareans are aware that there is a Clayton, Delaware, and that Clayton was a Delaware statesman. But many questions about his life have arisen since the building was dedicated in 1972. This brief biography is an attempt to answer some of those questions.

* * * *

JOHN Middleton Clayton, a descendant of the Quaker, Joshua Clayton, who came to America with William Penn, was born in Dagsboro in Sussex County on July 24, 1796, but as an infant was removed to Milford where his father, James, was a farmer, a miller, and a tanner. After attending academies in Berlin (Maryland), Lewes and Milford, he attended Yale University, graduating with highest honors in 1815. Following this he read law with his cousin, Thomas, before going to the Litchfield (Connecticut) Law School for two years. He was admitted to the bar in Georgetown in 1819 and began to practice law in Dover.

Interested in politics, he became a member of the Legislature, Auditor of Accounts and, in 1826, Secretary of State, serving under governors Paynter and Polk until 1828. As a Whig, he was active in the Adams-Jackson campaign of 1828 and for his efforts was elected as the youngest member of the United States Senate. He was a member of the Delaware constitutional convention of 1831 (a function he was to repeat in 1852). In 1831 he began an investigation of the Post Office Department which resulted in the reform and reorganization of that department. (Shades of 1973 — Biden, the youngest Senator; duPont, investigating the Post Office! Plus ca change . . .). An able orator and politician, he was an influential member of the Senate to which he was reelected in 1834. From this seat he resigned in 1836 for his family's sake and accepted the post of Chief Justice of Delaware which he held for three years. Then he became a scientific farmer of some renown in New Castle County until his reelection to the Senate in 1845, where he opposed entry into the Mexican War. He was a warm friend of Henry Clay until, deciding that Clay could not win, he supported Zachary Taylor for President. His reward was the post of Secretary of State in Taylor's cabinet, where his most noted accomplishment was the famous Clayton-Bulwer Treaty which provided for British withdrawal from large areas of Central America and for the neutralization of a proposed canal in that area. On Taylor's death Clayton resigned and turned again to farming, but returned to the Senate in 1852 to defend his treaty. His career ended with his death in Dover in November of 1856.

Clayton appears to have been a man of great charm, described as "more than six feet tall and well-built, with good features dominated by large friendly grey eyes shaded by dark, bushy brows . . . In conversation he was brilliant; in manner, polished. He was unusually kind-hearted and unselfish, but was known at times to use questionable methods to gain political ends; and was somewhat wanting in tact and patience, as well as in firmness and stability of character." He was noted as an unusually accomplished lawyer, and "no writ of error was ever taken from any of the court's decisions during his time" as Chief Justice of Delaware.

When New Ark College was chartered in 1833, John Clayton was one of its original trustees and in 1837, the year in which he was elected Chief Justice, he served as President of the Board. In 1836 Yale University conferred on its alumnus the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and in 1934 his statue, along with that of Caesar Rodney, was installed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol in Washington.

John M. Clayton

There is a yew tree in the backyard of Mrs. Max Terry's house, on The Green, Dover, DE. This tree was a gift to John M. Clayton from Sir Henry Bulwer. Clayton + Bulwer negotiated + signed The Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

JOHN M. CLAYTON

John Middleton Clayton was the first son of James and Sarah Middleton Clayton and was born in Dagsborough on July 24, 1796.

His father is said to have been a very intelligent man and his mother had a remarkable fluency of speech and grace of manner. John inherited a combination of both parents fine qualities.

His uncle was Dr. Joshua Clayton U.S. Senator and Governor of Delaware And his grandfather, a Quaker came over with William Penn.

Clayton graduated from Yale with the highest honors in his class. He studied Law at Litchfield Law School in Conn. and with his cousin Thomas Clayton in Delaware.

He passed the bar in 1819 and set up practice in Dover in the building on the south east corner of The Green (Sykes House). Scharf said "He was an interesting and powerful speaker - possessed a sensitive nature and an alert and active mind - The most extraordinary lawyer in every way the state has produced".

Hon. Robert G. Houston, congressman says "Few equaled him and none exceeded him in his knowledge of the law." He entered politics at the age of 20 as clerk of the House. Then he became clerk of the Senate and then Secretary of State. In 1828 he was elected by the Legislature to the United States Senate. He did not seek the office in fact he accepted reluctantly. At the age of 33 he was the youngest member of the Senate.

In 1822 he married Sally Ann Fisher, daughter of Dr. James Fisher of Camden. That same year they moved to the dwelling and office of Henry M. Ridgely on the Dover Green. Ridgely had temporarily retired to the country. It was here that his two sons were born and that his wife died in 1825 when his youngest son was only a few days old.

He cherished her memory with a romanitc devotion and never entirely recovered.from her death and never remarried. His grief was compounded in his later life by the deaths of both sons. The youngest died in 1849 at age 24. The elder in 1851.

Clayton was reelected to the Senate in 1835, resigned in 1836 to become Chief Justice of Delaware in 1837. In 1836 Yale conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, for several years He served on the Board of Trustees of Delaware College now the University of Delaware. He resigned the office of Chief Justice in 1840 to work in the Whig Campaign for the election of Harrison and Tyler.

Due to his influence an extra session of the Legislature in 1836 caused it to be passed the Act to incorporate the Delaware Railroad Co. for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Philadelphia-Wilmington to the southern part of the State with a branch to Lewes.

In 1842 Clayton moved from Dover to New Castle taking the fine old mansion known as the Road House on Water Street. He lived there practicing law until 1845. Then moving to his new home below Hares Corner. The brilliant success of General Taylor in the Mexican War filled him with admiration so he called his new home Buena Vista in his honor.

In 1845 he was elected a third time to the U.S. Senate serving until 1849 when he was appointed by President Taylor as Secretary of State. He served in this capacity until shortly after Taylors death in 1850.

His outstanding achievement in this office was the negotiation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. This was a Treaty between the United States and Great Britain by Clayton and Sir Henry Bulwer in consequence of the situation created by the project of an interoceanic canal in Central America.

In 1853 he returned to the U.S. Senate for the fourth time. He was unable to complete the term however as his health was failing he moved to D ver to the home of his niece, the wife of Chief Justice Joseph P. Comegys. In this house located on the southwest corner of The Green and presently occupied by May Torry, he died on November 9, 1856. He was buried in the Presbyterian Church Yard in Dover.

Certainly, no man in Delaware ever had such a career as John M. Clayton and unquesti nably he achieved it for himself. Nature and education combined had produced a very extraordinary person - one of unbounded influence as an orator over an audience, and of surpassing attractiveness socially. Then he had a tender, sympathetic heart, full of natural affection, and ready always to respond to appeals made to its charity. His death was a great public loss.

In 1864 an act of Congress established National Statuary Hall inviting all states to present two statues to the U.S. Government. The Delaware Statue Commission headed by former State Senaotr Wilbur E.Jacobs chose Caesar Rodney and John M. Clayton to hold this National Honor. On February 16, 1931 the com ission appeared before a joint session of the General Assembly with their recommendations which were approved.

On July 16, 1931 Mr. Bryant Baker a New York Sculptor was authorized to do the statues. They were made of Italian marbel with bases of Vermont marble. The statues were presented at a ceremony held in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, June 26, 1934 at 3 P.M. with the Honorable Clayton Douglass Buck Governor of Delaware presiding.

References:

1. "Memoir of John M. Clayton" paper of the Historical Society of Del. by Joseph P. Comegys.
2. "History of Delaware" Volume I by J. Thomas Scharf
3. "Statues of Caesar Rodney and John M. Clayton presented in the Rotunda United Staes Capitol". prepared by the Joint Committee on Painting
4. Encyclopaedia Britannica Volume 5.

CLAYTON BIOGRAPHY

John Middleton Clayton was born on November 24, 1796 in Dagsboro, Delaware, the son of James Clayton and Sarah Middleton. John was the second of seven children.

Young John began school in Berlin, Maryland, but ran away and walked to Milford, Delaware where his parents had since moved. While in Milford, they resided in the Parson Thorne Mansion. He was next sent to a boarding school in Lewes, Delaware, but later returned to Milford in order to complete his education. At the age of fifteen, he entered Yale College graduating, in 1815, with the highest honors in his class. He returned to Delaware and entered the law office of his cousin, Thomas Clayton, for two years and then spent a year at the law school in Litchfield, Connecticut. Upon leaving there, Clayton was admitted to the bar at Georgetown during the October term of the Court of Common Pleas in 1819.

John Clayton rapidly became a successful and well known lawyer throughout the State. He had been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives during the 1816 through 1819 sessions, and of the Senate in 1820. Clayton was then appointed Auditor of Accounts by the Legislature for two years.

When his father died in 1820, Clayton assumed the responsibility of providing for his mother, two sisters and a brother. By 1822 he had acquired enough to provide for his family, and marry Sally Ann Fisher. She was the daughter of Dr. James Fisher, who was a distinguished physician in Camden, Delaware.

After the wedding, John and Sally Ann resided in her house in Camden, and a few months later moved into Henry M. Ridgely's house on the Green in Dover. "In this Dover residence were born unto them two sons; (James Fisher on July 11, 1823, and Charles McClymont on February 3, 1825) and there occurred that fatal calamity, the shadow of which never passed from his life, nor was its presence ever entirely unfelt. His love for his wife was the greatest passion that ever influenced him."[1] Only a few days after the birth of their second son, Sally Ann died.

This great loss truely effected the remainder of John Clayton's life. Even after twenty years, he wrote to his good friend Joseph Comegys, "I am still very unwell and most accountably depressed in spirits and melancholy. I have lately dreamed again of seeing my wife...time will not do its office. Righteous years are but a day...I am unfit to go to Kent or anywhere else. I often feel when I think of my wife that I wish I could lay down and die."[2]

Work became his only solace, and he totally devoted the remainder of his life to it. "In the interval between the Presidential election of 1824 and that of 1828, Clayton filled the office of Secretary of State, first under Samuel Paynter, who was Governor in 1824, and afterwards under Charles Polk, elected in 1827."[3] It was during Samuel Paynter's term as Governor that John Clayton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Delaware.

At the beginning of Andrew Jackson's Presidential term (1830), Clayton was elected a U.S. Senator for six years. During this period, he was involved in many important decisions, from corruption in the Post Office department to proper disposition of public lands to the Compromise of 1833 which saved the Union of the States. It was also during this time that John Clayton and Henry Clay became fast friends.

In 1834, John Clayton intended to terminate his Senatorial career, but was persuaded to continue for two more years. In the fall of 1836, he resigned the remainder of his term intending to return to his law practice, but was appointed as Delaware's Chief Justice of the Superior Court. Even though Clayton had retired from the bench, he occasionally took part in important legal cases, such as the Delaware vs. New Jersey controversy over Pea Patch Island.

In August 1839, Clayton resigned as Chief Justice, " and entered with great spirit into the political canvass in support of the candidates of his party - Harrison and Tyler." [4]

John Clayton was named as a candidate for Vice President under Henry Clay during the 1844 Convention, but he declined the nomination much to the regret of many of his friends. The "Delaware State Journal" notes on February 12, 1844, that "no man stands higher in our affections and esteem than our own distinguished fellow citizen, John M. Clayton."

The following year Clayton was again elected to the United States Senate by a unanimous vote of all the Whig members. During this time, he worked on such important questions as the French Spoliation Bill, the Oregon Question, and the Mexican War.

During the Spring of 1842, Clayton had moved from Dover to New Castle where he occupied the Read House. He lived there until 1845, "when he removed to his new home on the State road below Hare's Corner, where he ever afterwards continued to reside. He had purchased the farm a year before, and built upon it a new and commodious house, with outbuildings of ample size. The Mexican War soon after occuring, and the brilliant success of Taylor having filled him with admiration, he called his home Buena Vista, in honor of one of his hero's great victories beyond the Rio Grande. The land of Buena Vista was extremely reduced; but having bought, built upon, and removed to it, with a determination to become an agriculturist, he gave his thoughts and energies to that employment. When he took it in hand it was literally worn out from exhaustive tillage and neglect of the means of resuscitation, but he at once set to work to renew its wasted vigor, and soon created for himself the distinction of having accomlished more in any way of restoring the vitality of exhausted land, than any one before him. [5] In fact the place soon came to be one of the very finest in the State."

The "Delaware State Journal," March 21, 1845 notes that the "Honorable John M. Clayton arrived in this city (Wilmington) from Washington on Wednesday. He departed immediately for his residence in New Castle." The above mentioned Wednesday was March the 19th, which is exactly one week before John Clayton purchases the Buena Vista property from Abraham Shannon, the deed dated March 26, 1845.

It is also interesting to note that in a letter from John Clayton to Timothy Childs, dated November 23, 1846, he writes, "In my retirement on a farm during the recess of Congress, letters directed to me by mail do not arrive with much expedition...." [6]

In 1849, he was asked by President Zachary Taylor to serve as U.S. Secretary of State. Clayton served in this capacity for one year. Only a month before President Taylor died in 1850, Clayton sought to retire from public life once more. He writes to Zachary Taylor, "During the last sixteeen months, I have been able to devote not a single day to my own private affairs, the dearrangement of which resulting from this neglect, now absolutely requires my attention. This is the reason for my resignation; and I state it, because I do not wish to leave room for any possible inferrence that I am dissatisfied with the measures of your administration." [7] The newspapers were full of the reports of John Clayton's resignation, and glowing reports of his past career.

He retired to Buena Vista, only to once again be re-elected to the Senate in 1851, where he defended the Clayton- Bulwer Treaty which he had helped negotiate while Secretary of State.

Frustration with his public life probably grew after the devastating loss of both sons. In 1849, Charles Clayton, his youngest son, died overseas, and in 1851, his son James died after a brief illness. John Clayton had always been close to his nephew, James Clayton Douglass, who was a Purser in the United States Navy. James had married Ellen Sinclair in 1849, and in 1853, Clayton offered the Buena Vista farm to James and his family. Clayton noted that, "I feel some apprehension that he (James) may decline farming...I shall offer him every inducement to stay him for the rest of his life."[8] On February 12, 1853, James Douglass signs the deed purchasing Buena Vista. A month later, Ellen writes to her sister from Buena Vista, "Of course you have heard, Mr. Douglass bought this place of his Uncle, and has resigned his commission in the Navy."[9]

The New Castle church records show that in "May, 1853, Constance Margaret, born March 20, 1852, daughter of James and Ellen Douglass, was baptised at Buena Vista, the seat of the Honorable John M. Clayton who was the sponsor." [10] There is a similar entry for April 26, 1854 for Clayton Douglass, son of James and Ellen. Then barely seven months later, tragedy struck this family. Ellen Douglass dies, leaving James with two small children. He writes to his mother-in-law of his great sorrow and notes, "We had come here to make a home for ourselves and our children, and that we might live together..."[11]

During the years 1854 and 1855, John Clayton sends as much correspondence written from Buena Vista as he does from Washington, D.C. He even writes from Buena Vista to James Douglass in order to keep him informed on the current planting during Douglass' absence. James Douglass may have been visiting his children who frequently stayed with his mother-in-law in Philadelphia. Douglass' Aunt, Miss Johnson, became a governess to Margaret and Clayton Douglass during this time.

John Clayton kept up this lively correspondence with numerous people, his topics usually concerning Buena Vista farming or current politics. He even manages to write of himself "...I am a modest man; though I know you always tell me that my modesty has not got about much. I am an industrious man - at least I am not a lazy one ('though by your smiling you seem to say so') - for I go to bed at 12 and rise at eight, and any man who gets up before that hour will (according to an old friend of mine in whose opinions I have great confidence) take the advantage." [12]

Unfortunately, John Clayton's health was rapidly failing. He writes to Charles I. duPont in 1854 concerning "The attack of a painful nature in the breast...I am out of health and very solitary of course. You will always find me alone..." [13] Then on November 9, 1856, while at the home of his nephew Joseph P. Comegys in Dover, John M. Clayton died. His loss was greatly mourned by the State of Delaware, who is "bereft of her brightest orator, her most eminent citizen, her truest counsellor, her unwavering friend." [14] " -His motto being, that a public man should be as Caesar's wife, not only pure, but above suspicion." [15]

After his Uncle's death, James Douglass continued to farm Buena Vista and raise his children. He writes, in 1863, to Admiral Samuel DuPont concerning "...illness of both my children with hooping cough...compelled, through difficulties in my situation in housekeeping, in the obtaining of servents during the winter months for a place so distant in the country, I am about to close my house and remain in Wilmington, or Philadelphia for that period with my children at school." [16]

Then, at the age of eighteen (in 1872), James' son Clayton dies from typhoid fever. Douglass and his daughter "Maggie" (Constance Margaret) are devastated by his death. Margaret remains by her father's side and in all probability assists him with running Buena Vista until his death three years later in January, 1875.

At the age of twenty three, Margaret inherited Buena Vista from her father who died intestate. It was nine years later that she married Francis Nixon Buck on January 16, 1884. The "New York Tribune" carries the following account, "I have received a description from a lady in Delaware of the recent wedding at Mr. Clayton's old home near Newcastle as follows: 'The wedding of Miss Constance Margaret Douglass, who lives at Buena Vista, the homestead of John M. Clayton, which she inherited from her father...We drove through a long avenue of trees to the large old fashioned house, and on entering found the beauty of the scene quite dazzling...The hall was brilliantly lighted...the old family silver arranged at the extreme end on a large table from which refreshments were served. Hundreds of wax candles lighted the spacious rooms and were reflected in the polished floors, and flowers were everywhere...Four little girls representing the Seasons acted as bridesmaids...as to the supper, it was magnificent - a real baronial profusion with true elegance combined.'" [17]

Margaret and Francis Buck had four children; Ellen Sinclair, Francis Douglass, Walter, and Clayton Douglass. In 1897, Margaret Buck had a deed written between her husband and herself, and Harriet Clayton Comegys (great niece of John M. Clayton). It noted that "...Francis N. Buck is indebted to Margaret D. Buck his wife in divers large sums of money. And whereas it is desired to secure the premises herein after described to herself and her children." [18] Harriet Comegys is named Trustee of Buena Vista to administer the property for Margaret and her children.

In 1914, Harriet Comegys (acting for Margaret and Francis) sold Buena Vista to T. Coleman duPont for $35,000. T. Coleman duPont and his wife Alice had a daughter named Alice Hounsfield, who was born December 15, 1891. She married Paul Wilson on October 29, 1912, but he died four years later on October 13, 1916. Then on May 5, 1921, Alice married Clayton Douglass Buck. It is interesting that Margaret Douglass Buck's will, dated November 7, 1924, noted that she and her husband were residing in the town of New Castle, and Clayton Douglass Buck was living at Buena Vista. [19]

T. Coleman duPont willed Buena Vista to his daughter, Alice Hounsfield in 1930. [20] Thirty five years later the estate was sold to the State of Delaware for the sum of one dollar by Governor Clayton Douglass Buck.

FOOTNOTES

1) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 22.
2) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 40, Folder 4, October 17, 1842.
3) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 40.
4) ibid, 137.
5) ibid, 139-140.
6) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Volume 1.
7) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 40, Folder 14.
8) Archives, Ridgely Collection, Folder 39, From John Clayton to Charles I. duPont, February 7, 1853.
9) Private letters of C.D. Buck, File 41, Folder 26.
10) ibid, Folder 5.
11) ibid, Folder 21.
12) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Volume 1, February 12, 1844.
13) Eleutherian Mills Library, Acc. 500, Box 4, Charles I. duPont & Co. Correspondence.
14) Library of Congress, Clayton Papers, Unknown newspaper notice of John M. Clayton's funeral.
15) Historical and Biographical Papers, "Memoir of John M. Clayton" by Joseph P. Comegys, (Historical Society of Delaware, 1882), 274-275.
16) Eleutherian Mills Library, Group 9, Series B, Box 67, #W9-15853.
17) Private letters of D.C. Buck, File 40, Folder 17, "New York Tribune" article.
18) Archives, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Reel NC-126, Vol. L-17, 552.
19) ibid, Vol. N-5,110.

The Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs
Bureau of Museums & Historic Sites
Hall of Records
P.O. Box 1401
Dover, Delaware 19901

F. H. Sweet,
Battle Cr., Mich.,
Nov. 12, 1953 85.

Jno. M. Clayton
Sept. 1830

Dover - Delaware. Oct. 6. 1830

Dear Sir,

I write briefly to inform you that our election has terminated in the election of a Clay Representative to Congress and a majority of two thirds of each branch of the Legislature for Clay. John J. Milligan Esquire is our successful candidate for Congress. Every effort which Jacksonism could make was used to effect the election of his opponent Mr. H. M. Ridgely (the former Senator from this State), but we have given the enemy a Waterloo defeat. In the event of the next Presidential election devolving on the House of Representatives, Mr. Clay is by this election made sure of the vote of Delaware.

Very respectfully
Your Ob.t Sv.t
Wm. M. Clayton.

Pur. Paul C. Richards
Brookline, Mass. c. Mar. 1967

Hon: Henry Clay
Lexington
Kentucky.-

Care of
Charles Kinney Esq.

#53M

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Dover - Delaware - June 21st 1835.-

My dear Sir,

The bearer of this is my friend Charles Kinney Esquire a native of this county, who filled with the adventurous spirit of the day is seeking fortune in the more fertile west. Mr. Kinney is a member of the bar, a man of fine talents & education and of unblemished character. With ability to attain a high grade in the ranks of his profession he has resolved to abandon it and seek for other employment. He is a man of our own political faith, and wherever he may settle will prove a valuable auxiliary in the struggle of principle against power. He has qualifications for any post or place which he may ask to fill. Advise and assist him if you can, and take my word for it that you will one day rejoice that you did so.-

Your sincerely Your Friend
John Clayton.-

Hon: Henry Clay
Lexington
Kentucky.