

UPDATED OCTOBER 30, 2009

THE CLAYTON FAMILY

The Branch from England to America

The Clayton line is a very interesting one. One branch goes all the way back to Charlemagne and may give some *Royalty* to our lineage. Things get a little vague when you go back much beyond 1400, so I really have no firm idea if we are connected or not. Recent genealogists have discounted a direct link to this particular Clayton line. That line was in Yorkshire and Lancashire in the north of England. Our line goes back to about 1500 in the southern part of England, and then *disappears*. They are surly related, but I have no clues as to how they are.

William Clayton, the immigrant to America had several children, and two of his daughters married into separate lines of our lineage. His daughter Honor Clayton who married James Brown tied in with the **Piggott** family on my mother's side and another daughter, Mary, married John Beals and they are related on my mother-in-law's side through the **Beals** family. People say it is a small world. Well, back in the 1600s it was a small world indeed.

I have seen a number of genealogies that go way back. They are primarily in the works of James Bellarts and Elaine Rowland. The first section of this history will give a brief glimpse at these early folks, which may be our lineage. Recent work of Louis Jones, show there is no firm connection with these two lines. I will give the early history of the Lancashire Claytons, and then will give what I know about our direct line. The first official section will start in the late 1400s.

THE CLAYTONS OF LANCASHIRE

These Claytons are most certainly related to our Claytons, but I do not know how. I am giving this lineage as it is the earliest known Clayton family.

ROBERT de CLAYTON was born in Caudebec, Normandy in about 1030. Robert was the son of Hugh and Grandson of Leofwine of Normandy. He came to England with William the Conqueror and fought at the Battle of Hastings. For his services, he was awarded the Manor of Clayton in Lancashire. He was then known as Robert de Clayton. He had three sons: John, William and Robert.

WILLIAM de CLAYTON was born about 1060 in Normandy. William took over as Lord of Clayton after his older brother was slain when he was in the war against Malcolm, King of Scotland.

WILLIAM de CLAYTON married Mary Hyde and they had one son before he was slain in battle on Candlemass day in 1141.

ROBERT de CLAYTON was born about 1090, the first of the line to be born in England. He married Margaret Cabaldeston and ruled as Lord of the Manor.

WILLIAM de CLAYTON was born about 1120. He was the only son of Robert and inherited the Clayton Manor. He married Elizabeth Farrington. William died in 1152 and is

buried at Leyland, Lancashire. He had three sons: Richard who became a priest and died in France, Thomas who died without children and Robert.

ROBERT de CLAYTON inherited the Manor and married Elizabeth Parker in 1169. He had four sons, but three, William, Robert and Thomas were killed in Normandy while fighting for King John of England in 1200. The remaining son, John the third eldest, took over the manor.

JOHN de CLAYTON was born about 1180 and was the surviving son of Robert. He married Cicily Peel and had two sons. John died in 1210. The eldest son William must have died as the youngest, Thomas took the Manor.

THOMAS de CLAYTON was born in about 1210. He was Lord of Clayton and married Ruth Latham. They had three sons, John, Robert and William.

JOHN de CLAYTON was the eldest son, born about 1240, and acquired the Manor. He married another Ruth Latham, a first cousin. They had two sons, Thomas and Ralph. John died in 1280.

RALPH de CLAYTON was born about 1260, the second son, but inherited the Manor. I do not know who his wife was, but they had three sons: John, Giles and Nicholas.

JOHN de CLAYTON was the eldest son and became Lord of Clayton Manor. He was born about 1290. In 1307, he married Mary de Langtown. He accompanied John of Gaunt against the French in 1356, and accompanied King Edward on his expeditions. He had three sons: John, Richard and Robert.

JOHN de CLAYTON was born about 1330 and was the eldest son. He had four sons: John, William, Ralph and Robert.

JOHN de CLAYTON was the eldest being born about 1360. He was the eldest son and took over the Manor. He married Dame Mary Fereby. They had three sons: Thomas, Robert and William. John died in 1404 and is buried at Leyland in Lancashire.

THOMAS de CLAYTON was born about 1390, the eldest son. He married Dorothy Thelwell, daughter of Henry de Dutton and granddaughter of Randle de Dutton, both of which were Lord of Thelwell in Cheshire. As part of the marriage, the Lord of Clayton Manor acquired the title to the Manor of Thelwell as well. They had two sons John and William.

JOHN de CLAYTON was the eldest son and was born in 1419. In 1440, John married Mary Mainwaring, daughter of William Mainwaring and Amica de Leycester. John and Mary had two sons, Thomas and William, and three daughters before she died in 1445. John remarried shortly thereafter to Jane Clifton by whom he had two more sons, Robert and Richard.

THOMAS de CLAYTON was the eldest son of John and Mary. He was born about 1440. He was disinherited for disobeying his parents. Title to the manor fell to his younger brother, Richard.

ROBERT de CLAYTON, born about 1470 was the third son of the above Thomas. After his uncles Richard and William died without children, Robert assumed the title to his

grandfather's Manor. He married Jane Farrington and they had four sons, Thomas, John, Edward, Richard and three daughters. Robert died in 1510 and is buried in Leyland.

Now comes a *split* in the line. Robert de Clayton had four sons, Thomas, John, Edward and Richard and also three daughters.

Title to the Clayton Manor in Lancashire went to the eldest son, Thomas de Clayton. The second oldest son, John Clayton, left and went to Yorkshire and founded Clayton Hall there.

JOHN CLAYTON

John Clayton was the first that seems to have dropped the `de' from his name was born in 1499. He was born at Clayton Manor in Lancashire. He was married in Lancashire and had his two sons born there. Sometime after 1540, John took his family to Yorkshire and founded Clayton Hall in High Hayland Parish. Yorkshire is just to the east of Lancashire in the north of England. John died probably around 1560, but I have no dates. The two sons of John Clayton were THOMAS and RICHARD.

THOMAS CLAYTON was born about 1540 at the family home, Clayton Manor in Lancashire. As a young boy, he went to Yorkshire with his family and lived in their new home, Clayton Hall. In Yorkshire he met and married Angius Thornhill about 1560. Angius or probably Agnes, was born in Fixby, Yorkshire and was the daughter of John Thornhill and Janet Saville. They had three sons, and probably others that I have no records.

John Clayton, the eldest son, married a Barnaby girl. John had one son, Thomas Clayton who married Alice Burdette.

William Clayton the second son did not live at Clayton Hall, but resided in Wakefield in Yorkshire. Around 1590, he married Joan Bentley, daughter of Henry Bentley of Yorkshire.

Thomas Clayton was born about 1570 in Yorkshire. In about 1590, he married Margaret CHOLMONDELY a daughter of John Jasper Cholmondely of East Riding, Yorkshire. The Cholmondely family goes all the way back to the first Earl of Chester, Hugh de Kyvelioc.

THOMAS CLAYTON

He was born about 1498-1500. Now it was at this point that some researchers felt this Thomas Clayton moved to Rudgwick, Sussex and that our line descended from him. Recent research by Louis Jones traces the Sussex line back another hundred years in the Sussex area. Based on this, it appears the two Clayton lines are separate, though they may well have been the same much earlier than the 1400s.

At any rate, I will begin our *official* Clayton line with what I know of the ancestors of the William Clayton of Chichester who came to America as our ancestor.

THE CLAYTONS OF SUSSEX, ENGLAND

This information is taken from the research in England by Louis Jones.

The earliest mention of any Claytons in Sussex was a will written July 4, 1557 by Thomas Clayton of Rudgwick Parish in the southern part of Chichester in West Sussex. This will mentions a son John and a daughter Alice. The earliest baptism record found was one for Elizabeth Clayton on October 15, 1564.

There were other references to Claytons, Claitons and Cleitons in Sussex in the 1500s and 1600s. But they are difficult to tie together.

I will begin our lineage with the Thomas Clayton who wrote his will in 1557 in Chichester, Sussex, England.

THOMAS CLAYTON

This Thomas Clayton would probably have been born in the late 1490s or early 1500s. His will was filed in Rudgwick Parish, Sussex on July 4, 1557. His wife was named Margaret. A son John and daughter Alice were mentioned. The children were not mentioned as minors. We are, at this stage, taking the approach that we descend through the son John Clayton.

JOHN CLAYTON

John was born about 1525, probably in Rudgwick, Sussex. His marriage to Jane Guyington was recorded in the Rudgwick Parish Register, January 27, 1554/5.

Nothing else exists on John. We are only guessing that he is our link and that he was the father of the next Thomas Clayton. From this Thomas on, we are pretty firm on the line.

THOMAS CLAYTON

Thomas had his baptism recorded in Rudgwick on March 18, 1561/2. He married Elizabeth Booker on October 22, 1587.

He wrote his will on September 10, 1630 and it was proved at Chichester, the county seat, on April 28, 1631. He died sometime in the later part of this time span. He was buried in the churchyard at Rudgwick, Sussex.

What information I have on his children comes mostly from his will found in the County Records Office in Chichester in volume 18, page 76B.

MARY CLAYTON was married to Richard Martin.

WALTER CLAYTON is listed as the eldest son.

WILLIAM CLAYTON is the second eldest son. This is our line and his life is covered in the following section.

THOMAS CLAYTON

RICHARD CLAYTON

MATHEW CLAYTON

ELIZABETH CLAYTON mentioned in the will as the youngest child.

WILLIAM CLAYTON

William was born about 1588 in Rudgwick, England. He moved at some stage to neighboring Boxgrove Parish, Sussex. I do not know when he moved on in which Parish he was married.

His wife was named Elizabeth. This we get from her burial record on October 16, 1638, *Elizabeth, wife of William Clayton the Elder*. The burial is recorded in the Boxgrove Parish Register.

William's burial record in Boxgrove is shown as April 18, 1644.

They had at least one child, William junior.

WILLIAM CLAYTON JR.

William Clayton, Junior was born about 1610. Again I do not know whether it was in Rudgwick or Boxgrove.

He married Joan Smith in the Parish of Boxgrove in Sussex. According to Parish records, they were married on October 30, 1631.

Joan was buried on April 27, 1644 as *wife of William Clayton*. She was buried in Boxgrove Parish.

William and Joan Clayton had five children, all born and baptized in Boxgrove Parish.

WILLIAM CLAYTON baptized December 9, 1632. This William was the immigrant to America and is our line. His life is covered in the next section.

JOAN CLAYTON was baptized August 23, 1635.

ELIZABETH CLAYTON baptized February 11, 1637.

RICHARD CLAYTON baptized September 13, 1637.

THOMAS CLAYTON baptized February 26, 1642.

Joan Smith Clayton died and was buried April 27, 1644 in Boxgrove Parish. William remarried a few months later to Elizabeth Simmons on January 6, 1644/5. He was a lumber dealer and they resided at that time in the Parish of Pancras '*without the east gate of Chichester, Sussex.*'

William and Elizabeth Clayton had one more child, a daughter.

MARY CLAYTON born sometime in the mid to late 1640s.

Sometime after his remarriage, he moved (or simply transferred churches) to St. Pancras Parrish, Sussex. William Clayton wrote his will February 1, 1658/9 and died sometime later. The will was not probated, but it was recorded in the Consistory Court Will Register in Chichester in volume 21B, page 59. The will lists the children, indicates Mary was by his second marriage and lists two of young William's children as *grandchildren William and Prudence Clayton*.

WILLIAM CLAYTON

This is the William Clayton that was the progenitor of the American line of Claytons. He is referred to in most places as *William of Chichester*. In most genealogies he is shown as being born in 1625. My feeling is that since his father was not married until 1631, that William was probably born in 1632. The only good record is that he was baptized on December 9, 1632 and that record is in the Parish of Boxgrove. He was born nearby at his parent's home in Rumbaldswick, Sussex.

On November 7, 1653, he married Prudence Lanckford in St. Pancras Parish, Chichester, Sussex, England. This event is recorded in the Parish Register as, "*William son of William Clayton of this parish and Prudence Lanckford of Peter the Less (Parish), daughter of William Lanckford of Grouhton, Hampshire...*"

Prudence was born in Surry in the early 1630s. She was a daughter of William Lanckford originally from Broughton Parish, Hampshire. There were a number of early genealogies that all stated Prudence's last name was Mickles. Louis Jones, on one of his many trips to England, determined she was a Lanckford. However, she may have been married first to a man named Mickles who died shortly thereafter. Don't know, but it isn't really very important to our line who her first husband was.

William was a carpenter by trade and had joined the recently established Quaker religion. He was selected with others to act a Commissioner for William Penn to go to America, to West Jersey near Pennsylvania to clear any Indian titles to land that Penn had acquired near what is today Burlington, New Jersey just north of the colony of John Fenwick in Salem County, New Jersey.

William Clayton sailed for America on the ship *Kent* which left London in March of 1677 and arrived in New York in August of that year. His family was not listed on the register of the *Kent*, so they probably joined him later once he had established both the area and a home.

During the next four years some fourteen hundred new arrivals came to Burlington and most of these were Quakers. The Clayton family probably arrived in the period around 1689 to 1680.

In 1681, William Clayton moved his family to Chester County, just across the Delaware River in Pennsylvania onto 500 acres of land he had patented.

On September 13, 1681 he presided over the first court held in Chester County. He was one of the first two judges for the City of Philadelphia. He was a member of William Penn's council in 1683 and 1684. He was acting Governor of Pennsylvania from 1684 to 1685.

William Clayton died in 1689. His Will Bond was number 119 and is filed in the office for wills in Philadelphia. There was no actual will, and the bond was written by his widow Prudence. She gives power of executor to her son William, the eldest.

I do not know when Prudence Clayton died, but it was after 1690 and in Chester County.

The following is what I know about the eight children of William and Prudence Clayton. All were born in Sussex, England. The five that survived and came to America were all members of the Quaker faith.

WILLIAM CLAYTON the eldest child was born on May 11, 1655. On April 5, 1683 in Chester County, he married Elizabeth Bezer daughter of John and Susannah Bezer. He died in Chester County on April 22, 1727. Their children were William, Elizabeth, Rachel, Edward, Richard, Abel, Thomas and Ambrose.

PRUDENCE CLAYTON was born October 20, 1657. She married Henry Reynolds in Sussex England. Henry was a son of William and Margaret Reynolds. She came to America with her family and died in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1728.

JOSEPH CLAYTON was born February 12, 1659.

ELIZABETH CLAYTON was born in 1660 and died in infancy.

HONOR CLAYTON was born January 18, 1662 in Sussex. She came to America and married James Brown on June 9, 1679 in East Nolling Township of Chester County, Pennsylvania. She remained in Chester County and died there sometime around 1715. The Browns were members of the Nottingham Monthly Meeting. It was this marriage between Honor Clayton and James Brown that descended to my family's **PIGGOTT** line. For more information on this family see the **BROWN FAMILY HISTORY**.

MARY CLAYTON was one twin born June 20, 1665 in Chichester, Sussex. She married John Beals in Chester County in 1682. Their lives are told in the **BEALS FAMILY HISTORY** portion of the **CANADAY FAMILY HISTORY**, another history I have written for my wife's side of the family.

ELIZABETH CLAYTON was the other twin and she died in infancy.

HANNAH CLAYTON was born January 2, 1667/8 in Sussex. No records remain so she also may have died in infancy.