

The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mortarboard

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Clayton's Second School

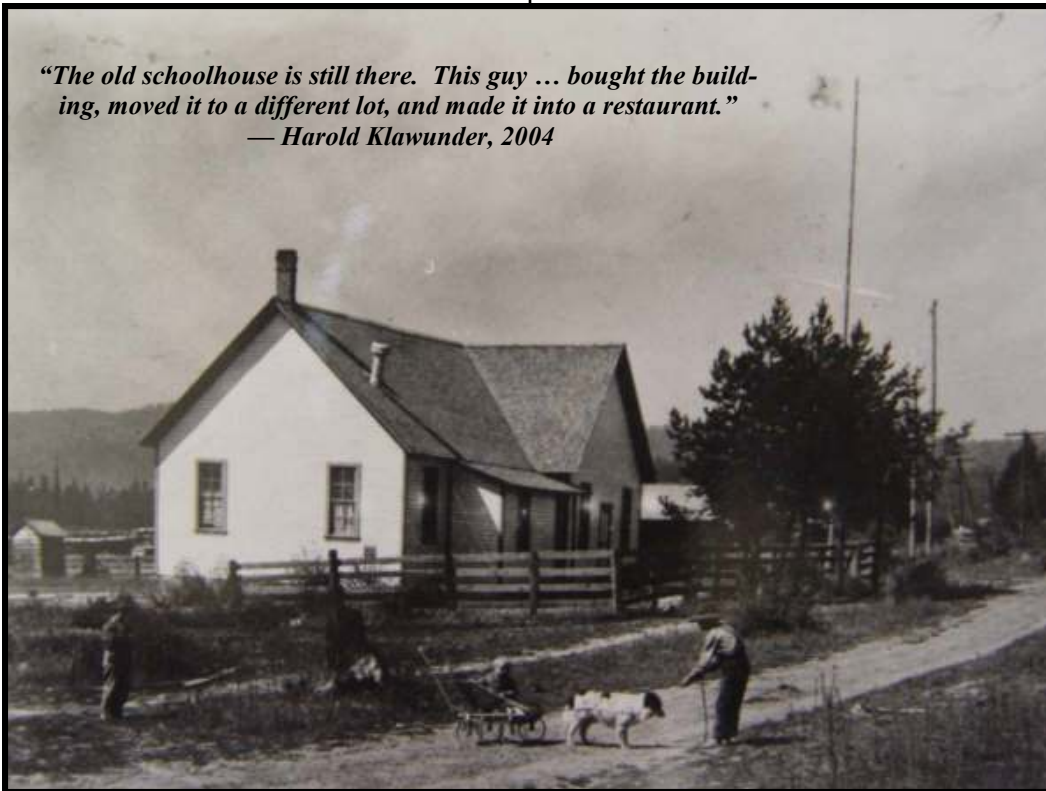
A puzzle for some time has been the original location and final fate of Clayton's second schoolhouse — the schoolhouse used prior to the construction and opening in 1915 of Clayton's historic and still working third schoolhouse. Society webmaster Bob Clouse may have found several clues in the old photos presented here that suggest

these are indeed of Clayton's second schoolhouse.

There had been speculation that Clayton's second school was originally located on the corner of Lincoln Street and Clayton Avenue. Robert pointed out that the rise in the road seen in the photo below is similar to the rise of Clayton Avenue as it approaches and connects to Railroad Avenue.

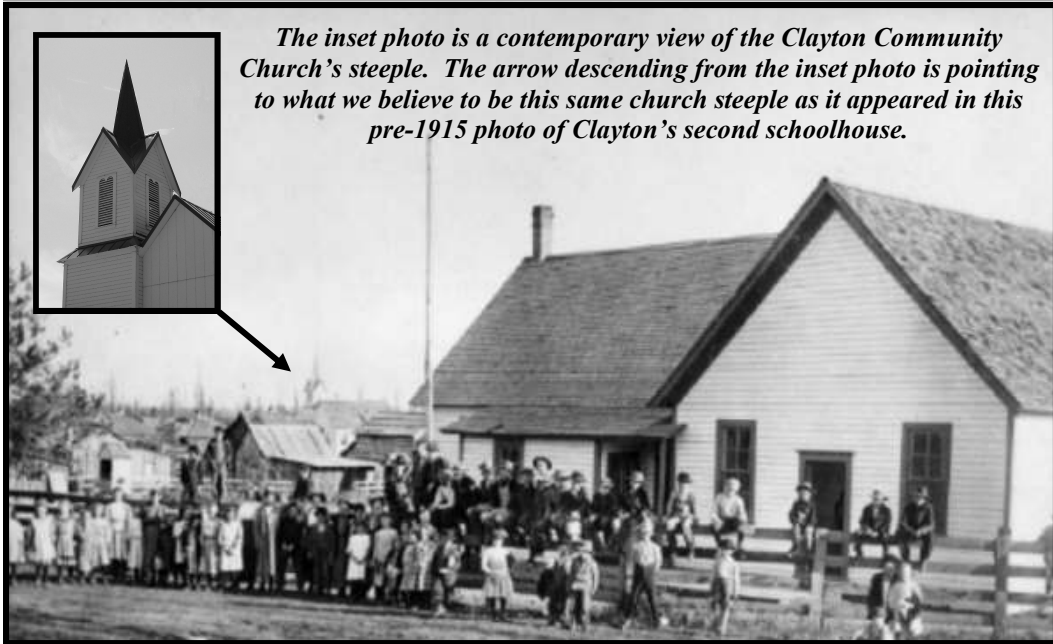
"The old schoolhouse is still there. This guy ... bought the building, moved it to a different lot, and made it into a restaurant."

— Harold Klawunder, 2004



Free — Take One

Photo from C/DPHS collection.

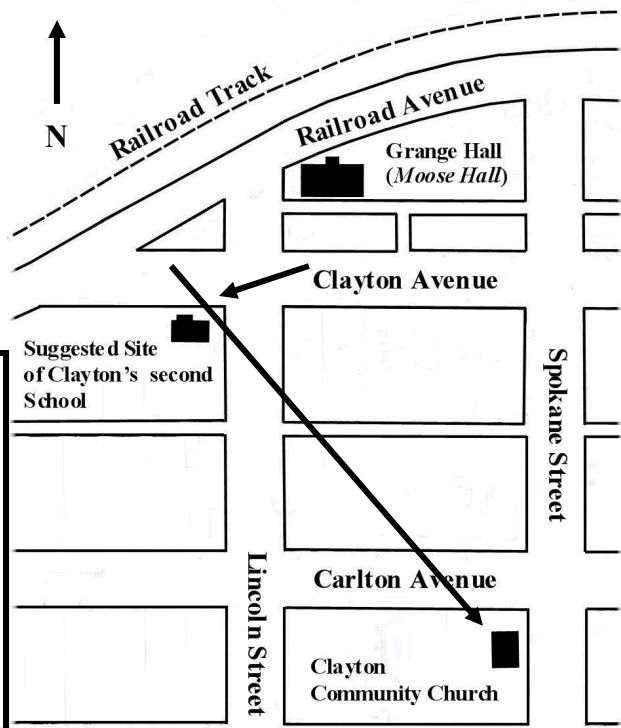


The inset photo is a contemporary view of the Clayton Community Church's steeple. The arrow descending from the inset photo is pointing to what we believe to be this same church steeple as it appeared in this pre-1915 photo of Clayton's second schoolhouse.

Photo from C/DPHS collection.

Though hardly conclusive in itself, Bob then detected something in the second photograph of the same building as shown above. Seen faintly on the horizon is the spire of a church — a church that's still very much a part of Clayton's skyline.

As for the second schoolhouse's fate, in an interview with the C/DPHS lifelong area resident Harold Klawunder recalled, "I started school in Clayton. Grade one was in the old schoolhouse — the wooden one. The next year we moved



Map by Wally Lee Parker.

Regarding The Map
 The arrowed lines on the lot map at right suggest the photographer's line of sight for the two exterior photos of the old school. The short arrow indicates the direction in which the photo on page 205 was taken, the long arrow indicates the line of sight for the school photo at the top of this page — with the location of the steeple of the Community Church as it appears in the photo indicated.

Photo from C/DPHS collection.



This photo is believed to have been taken inside the Clayton school in 1908. Note the stove and chimney at the rear of the classroom. These interior features, plus the windows on each side of the chimney, appear to coincide with the exterior features noted on the east wall of the school as seen in the photos on pages 205 and 206.

Photo by Wally Lee Parker.

into the new brick school. The old school is still there. This guy — I can't remember his name — bought the building, moved it to a different lot and made it into a restaurant. It seems like he called it Papa Joe's or something. Later on it became the Ramble Inn. Nowadays it's called the Brickyard Tavern."



Letters, Email, and Chatter

Please Note:
All comments, corrections, and criticisms printed can and will be edited by the society for clarity, brevity, and — if necessary — content.

On April 14th society president Bill Sebright received the following email from Bill Myrhang of Spokane via the society's website.

"My dad, Oddmar Myrhang, and his family immigrated from Trysil, Norway, in 1902. At first they lived with relatives in Holmes City, Minnesota — the Soberg family. The time line is fuzzy, but it appears they stayed in the Holmes City area for a year or more before moving to Cook in the northern part of that state to be near some of my grandmother's (Ostby) family — the Mobergs.

"My father never talked about any of his relatives, or about living in Homes City. All he passed on to us kids were stories about the difficult times in Cook.

"He and his older brother stayed in the Cook area until joining the Army in WWI. After the war, and a short stay in Chicago, they moved to Coeur d' Alene — about 1920 I would guess. Like most Scandinavians they worked in the various lumber mills.

"I don't recall either of them ever mentioning the Trysil people in the Clayton/Deer Park area. I don't think they knew about them.

"My sister and I took our spouses to the 2007 Trysil reunion at Homes City. While there we met several cousins from the local area and another from Trysil. Since then we've been exchanging emails with our Norwegian cousins.

"That's where we learned about the Clayton/Deer Park Trysil connection.

"It still amazes me that such a small village in Norway could send so many people to America. We live on the north side of Spokane and plan to visit Clayton after the snow leaves."

Bill Sebright responded ...

"Thank you for your letter. We've all been wondered how so many people could have come from one small place.

"Your story is an interesting one. I'm forwarding your letter to Wally Parker, our publications director, to our webmaster Bob Clouse, and to society associates Paul Erickson and Ken Westby.

Paul and Ken's ancestors are from Trysil. Paul attended last summer's reunion in Norway. Ken and Paul will be able to get you in touch with a number of other Trysil people.

"The Zion Lutheran Church building in Deer Park was moved from the Clayton area before 1950. Before that both the church and Clayton's Zion Hill Cemetery went by the name Trysil.

"Let me know if there are any other ways we can help you."

On May 5th Paul Erickson sent this to Bill Myrhang.

"I grew up in Deer Park, but at age fifty-six I'm only beginning to learn of my Trysil roots. Sounds like you know as much or more than me, but here are a few resources you may not be aware of.

"There are a few pages of Trysil information on the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society website. Scroll way down on the left side index to find those.

"Tulla Froyen — froyen@lakedalelink — lives in the Holmes City, Minnesota, area. She was the "USA planner" for the reunion in Trysil, Norway in 2008. That event was attended by sixty-one Americans and Canadians.

"Tulla is a wealth of information. She helps publishes "Trysil Historielag USA Canada", a quarterly newsletter about Trysil descendents in North America that you may want to get. The newsletter's mailing address is Trysil Historielag USA Canada, 922 Fillmore Street, Alexandria, MN 56308. It's fifteen dollars for a one year subscription."

Froyen responded to an inquiry from the Mortarboard with this —

"We publish our newsletter four times a year and we did put the last issue on the internet. You are welcome to visit the site and download if you wish. You can access our website at http://web.me.com/wildweave/2008_Trysil_memories/."

Paul Erickson went on to say —

"Others that might be able to help include Gloria Lundblad. She lives in the Holmes City, Minnesota, area. I met her at the 2008 Trysil reunion. I met her while in Norway, and found her to be a great resource. Tulla's cousin Hilding Sponberg — the Norwegian planner for the 2008 event — still lives in Trysil. He speaks perfect English. And Kari

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Odden, the Trysil librarian who helped me locate some of my Norwegian relatives may be of help to you. Kari is not fluent in English but can probably handle any emails sent to him."

Since the Society doesn't print what may be personal email addresses without prior consent of the address owner, to obtain contact information for the above we recommend any interested parties write directly to Tulla Froyen — who has given us permission to use her email address.

Paul concluded his message to Bill Myrhang with —

"All of the Norwegian people in the Trysil area appear to have published books — multi-volumes like an encyclopedia set — that go back to the 1800s and earlier showing all the descendents born to certain families or to certain farms. They have a keen interest in genealogy and in meeting and helping the American's who have a Trysil history. If you reach out to them, or go to Norway yourself, I'm certain you will be richly rewarded with what they can tell you.

"I've forwarded your email to Ken Westby — also raised in Deer Park. He knows a lot more about our Trysil roots."

Ken Westby responded the next day by sending this to Bill Myrhang.

"I was born in Spokane in 1941, and grew up in Deer Park, leaving for college at Seattle in 1959, and then moved to Vancouver, Washington, in 1963 where I've remained to this day. My father was born on Spotted Road, near Clayton, in 1902, and lived almost his entire 97 year's in the area. He is buried at the Trysil "Zion Hill Cemetery" just a quarter mile from his birthplace. Dad personally knew many of the local Trysil immigrants while he was growing up, and his notes and records have been a most valuable resource in my own research. Even so, I can think of hundreds of questions I would ask him if he were still alive. It's probably the same way with you.

"I would certainly agree with the references that Paul identified for you. Tulla Froyen would be an excellent resource for information about the Soberg family as well as the other Trysil families that immigrated to the Holmes City area. She is in fact related to some Sobergs — directly or indirectly. Most likely you have already met her and begun correspondence with her, and possibly Maurice Soberg and/or Jim Soberg, who live not

far from Tulla.

"In my genealogy database there are two Sobergs; Torinus Johansen Soberg (Tenaasen) who was born in Norway on April 12th, 1855, and Bertina A. Olsdatter Soberg, listed as born at Trysil on February 21st, 1860. Bertina died in Douglas County, Minnesota in 1912. She married Ole Embretsen Støen — grandfather of the Evangeline Steen Anderson who you almost certainly saw at the Trysil reunion in 2007 — on July 3rd, 1883. Evangeline was close to 100 years of age, nearly deaf, and still played the piano beautifully.

"My 2nd cousin, Betty Westby Hocking of Lolo, Montana, also attended the reunion when you did. She went home overjoyed with all the new contacts and new information for her genealogy research and "family" that she was finally able to meet.

"There's plenty of information on the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society website about the Trysil emigrants that settled in the Deer Park area in the late 1800's — and the church they founded there. As you already know, many emigrants settled around Holmes City. And quite a number ended up in the McInnis Creek area of Ontario and some in British Columbia. Their offspring have scattered all over the US and Canada, although you will indeed find clusters of Trysil descendants remaining in the areas initially settled.

"Norway has a "digital archive" that you can access on the Internet. I have used it to identify passengers who boarded ocean vessels in the late 1800's and early 1900's, including many of my ancestors. You have to be tenacious about searching thru the myriad of information on those passenger lists. The lists are organized by name of ship, date of departure and port of departure — and Norway has several. I found that several of my Trysil ancestors disembarked from Oslo — then called Kristiania. Also, take note that this website has an English option for displaying certain tabular information, which is helpful if you're like me and don't speak or read much Norwegian. The website is found at <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e>, or possibly just <http://digitalarkivet.obino/>.

"Washington State is building a digital archive web site that's partially activated for certain counties — including Spokane. It's a great

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spot to search a person's name for land records and marriage information in particular. A lot of the birth and death records still aren't available, but sometimes you can extract birth info from marriage certificates that have been scanned. That website is found at <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx>.

"If you can get your hands on any of the first five volumes of the "Trysilboka" that Paul mentions at the end of his email, you'll find a wealth of genealogical information. These books are organized by community and farmstead name. For each farmstead the ownership follows a line of descent. These books list farmstead owners and their descendants down through the years. Often a person's surname will be the name of their family's farm. Often you'll see where the farm was passed down from father to eldest son — or optionally to the husband of the eldest daughter if there are no sons — or to the next-eldest and so forth. The downside of the Trysilboka is that they are all written in Norwegian,

so you'd need a translator to help you understand some of the information. But the genealogical information is easier to interpret from context. When I run across a Norwegian word I don't understand, I'll sometimes go to a Norwegian-English dictionary website at <http://www.tritrans.net/>. I believe Tulla Froyen has at least 5 volumes of these books.

Good luck with your research. I think you'll find it very easy to get hooked on this sort of thing. And don't hesitate to ask for help, or ideas on where to look. Be patient. Sometimes you'll find slim pickings, and other times you'll hit a treasure trove. Just keep at it.

"You mentioned keeping up e-mail correspondence with cousins in the Holmes City area. When you have some e-mail buddies in your family tree, you'll be amazed at what two or three of you can dig up and piece together when working as a team and staying in touch."

Photos provided by Glendine Leonard — Stevens County Historical Society

Prestini Project Update

— by —

**Glendine Leonard — Stevens County Historical Society
Chairperson — Prestini Project**

The Prestini Project's current plans call for a simultaneous showing of Leno Prestini artwork and artifacts at Clayton, Loon Lake, and Colville — these showings to run from the 14th through the 22nd of August, 2010.

Moving toward this date, the Project is intensifying its effort to uncover Leno's history. Artifacts keep coming to our attention — along with offers allowing us to place these



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items on display for the run of the show. The proffered objects include pieces of terra cotta from the Spokane Courthouse, sketches from Montana, and paintings from various private collections.

Among the items so far uncovered by the Project are the ceramics pictured on page 210 — a small figure, possibly an elder sailor, and a stagecoach. These were made by Leno and given to Ellie Stoller when she was still a child. The objects were passed along to Ellie's daughter, Spokane's Susan Borges.

The Prestini Project requests that anyone having Prestini artifacts or a story relevant to Leno's history contact the Project. The project would like to photograph and catalog the objects for the archives even if the items are not loaned for exhibition during the 2010 showing. The Project would also like to record recollections of Leno anyone might have for presentation as both written and visual materials related to the showings, and as additions to the Project's collective archives.

Among the items listed by Leno's brother Battista, and now assumed to be lost, are sculptures

cataloged as "Neptune on Throne", "Mahatma Gandhi", "Elf with Lamp", "Red Skelton", "Camel Lamp", and several graphic tiles. Hopefully the fate of these lost works can be determined, and high definition photos can be added to the Project's archives if any of the items still exist.

I can be contacted through the Stevens County Historical Society's email address at schs@ultraplix.com, or by calling the Colville Museum at (509) 684-5968, or by mail directed to the attention of Glendine Leonard at the Stevens County Historical Society, 700 N. Wynne St., Colville, WA, 99114.

If you would prefer to contact the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society directly, the Prestini Project's representative with that group is the group's president, Bill Sebright. Bill's email address is president@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com. The group's mailing address is Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society, Box 293, Clayton, WA, 99110. Bill can be reached by phone at (509) 276-2693.

Society Minutes — July, 2009

On Saturday, July 11th, at 09:05 AM, the historical society's president, Bill Sebright, call the general meeting to order. In attendance were Mark Wagner, Alan Berg, Bob Clouse, Mary Clouse, Sharon Clark, Marilyn Reilly, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Pete Coffin, Bob Gibson, Lillie Gibson, Art Stelting, Don Ball, Betty Burdette, Sue Newell, Kay Parkin, George Olsen, Monica Olsen, Terry Olsen, Tom Olsen, Jeff Lilly, and Grace Hubal.

Society treasurer, Mark Wagner gave his report which was accepted and added to the official records.

An object was passed among Society members to see if anyone might have any idea as to what it may have been used for. Apparently made of hand formed clay that was then fired to a medium tan color, the artifact was found by Pat Hare at the site of Clayton's former brickyard in 1979 (see next page for photos). Pat donated the artifact to the Society. The apparent working surface of the object is about six inches in diameter. So far no one has been able to identify the object, although Randy Long said he has uncovered many similar objects with missing

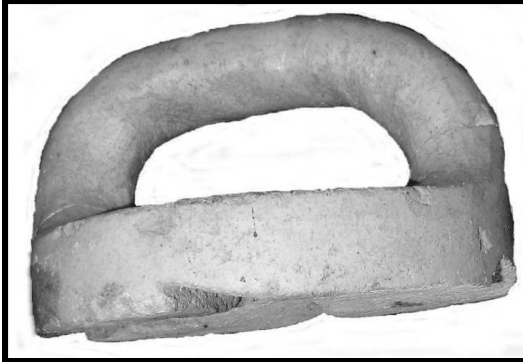
handles while working with his backhoe in the brickyard area. A big "thank you" goes to Pat Hare.

Jeff Lilly presented Wally Parker with a copy of a book on the history of the Happy Home Church, located at the corner of Wallbridge and Owens Roads. The Church is over 100 years old. Pastor Dennis Christianson has been working on the book for over 25 years. Our thanks to Jeff and the Happy Home Church. This is likely to prove to be a valuable research tool.

Wally Parker, Publications Director, reported that he will cut down the page count of the upcoming *Mortarboards* for the next several months at least — first to reduce publication expenses, and then to free up more time for research into upcoming articles and associated projects. The September *Mortarboard* will hopefully have an article about the arrival of the Prestini family in America. Susan Simpson, Sharon Clark, and Pete Coffin are largely responsible for supplying the research material being used to create this pending article.

Webmaster Bob Clouse reported that the number of website visitors topped 1,000 for the first time this last June. Bob's hoping we go over 1,200

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Photos by Bill Sebright

in July. Bob also reported that he is fairly certain that the original location of the second Clayton schoolhouse was near the corner of Lincoln Street and Clayton Avenue. This is also the location of Tobeck's old store. Art Stelling agreed — saying his mother talked of the school being in this area. Bob passed around pictures of the school, one of which had the Community Church in the background. The lead article in this issue of the *Mortarboard* illustrates Bob's conclusions.

Bob is also attempting to document the location of the first Clayton schoolhouse. Some evidence is being sifted through, but the research is still at a very preliminary stage.

Society member Sharon Clark presented the organization with a large map showing the locations of all of Spokane County's old school districts. The map will be on display at the Society's Settlers Picnic booth.

The Olsen brothers, descendants of the Olsen family so prominent in Deer Park history, were visiting from the coast. Terry Olsen gave a short history of the Olsen family in the Deer Park area. Grandfather Olaf Olsen was from Trysil, Norway. John Lewis Olsen, the Olsen brothers' father, grew up in what is now the Don and Marilyn Lindh home at the corner of Crawford and Washington in Deer Park. Many of the business and buildings in early Deer Park bore either the Olsen or Olson name — variants for the different branches of the same

family. Much more of the Olsen family history can be found on the Olsen Page in the Deer Park section on our website.

Society membership dues were discussed once again. It was left to Duane Costa, who was absent from this meeting due to medical considerations, to bring forth a motion regarding such at next month's meeting. A fund raising committee and fund raising ideas were also discussed.

Marilyn Reilly presented a book — *Pend Oreille County History: Personal Histories* — that members can borrow when needed. She bought the book at the Friends of the Deer Park Library book sale.

The meeting was official adjourned at 10:01 AM, although most of the members lingered for at least the next hour — some having an early lunch and others catching up on this project or that.

The next Society meeting is scheduled for August 8th. As always, the usual venue for the Society's meetings is the Clayton Drive In, just off Highway 395 at the east entrance to Clayton. The meetings are open, and everyone is welcome

Volunteer proofreaders for this month's issue — Pat Parker and Bill Sebright

Society Contacts

Bill Sebright, society president — (president@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com)

Bob Clouse, webmaster — (webmaster@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com)

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