

CLOPTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1030
Stamford, TX 79553
325-773-2714
January 2020

Dear Clopton Cousins:

You have read the itinerary in the recent newsletters for the 2020 Clopton Reunion in Long Melford, England; and we have already heard from many of you that you are excited about attending. Now it is time to make your commitment official by mailing in the enclosed registration form, making your airline reservations, and deciding what type accommodations you would like. **Since there is a limit to the number who can be accommodated, it is imperative that you send in your registration as soon as possible to be assured of being on the list - preferably by February 29.**

Reunion week in Long Melford – The reunion committee in Long Melford has set a limit of **85 people** for this week.

Post-Reunion Tour to the county of Hampshire in the south of England – The reunion committee has reserved sufficient hotel rooms and bus seats for this week to accommodate up to **40 people**.

Procedure for Registration

Mail the enclosed **Registration Form** to Pat Clopton-Wheeler along with the \$100 deposit per person for each week - preferably by February 29 - since the number who can attend is limited.

If the registration list is full by the time your registration is received, Pat will put you on a waiting list and will keep you notified of your status.

If you have not already made your **airline** reservations and your **hotel or B&B** reservations, please do so as soon as possible as a number of rooms have already been booked in Long Melford for the reunion week. Please read this entire letter carefully before making airline reservations so that you will be certain your flight dates coordinate with the schedule for pick up and return to the airports. There is an **Airline and Hotel Form** attached. Your registration will not be complete until you send this form to Pat. This is to prevent someone from paying the deposit and then not following through; thus, taking a space that someone else could have used.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

If you have to cancel, \$50 per person per week of your \$100 deposit and all of your final payment will be refunded **if** there is someone on the waiting list who takes your place. Any necessary refunds will be made after the reunion.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Some people may choose to purchase travel insurance from one of the many companies who sell it.

EXCHANGE RATE:

The exchange rate is currently somewhere near \$1.31 to £1.

AIRLINES:

The committee will provide pick up from Heathrow Airport for those who arrive on Monday morning, June 29. You should choose a flight that puts you at Heathrow as early as possible Monday morning. If you arrive in the UK earlier than Monday, you may return to **Baggage Claim** at Heathrow Airport no later than 10:00 AM to ride the coach to Long Melford. You must fill in the appropriate box on the Airline and Hotel Form if you will be returning to Heathrow to ride on the coach to Long Melford. If you must fly to Gatwick Airport, there is a shuttle that will take you to Heathrow.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022:

During each Clopton reunion there is a Saturday morning business meeting at which time the CFA elects new officers and decides on a location for the next reunion. If you would like to volunteer to plan a reunion in your section of the country, please contact Pat Clopton-Wheeler (325-773-2714 or pacw2@sbcglobal.net) to discuss this with her. You would also need to prepare a presentation for the business meeting to acquaint the membership with what your location has to offer for a reunion; or if you will not be attending the reunion in England this year, you may contact Pat about having someone else make the presentation for you. The membership will vote to choose a location.

GIFT BAGS:

To thank our English committee for over two years of work they have done to plan the Clopton reunion, we are asking each family who comes to the reunion to bring items that can go into an individual gift bag for each of the 9 members of this hard-working committee. You may choose to bring something representative of your state or region or just nice gift items. **If we were going through a travel agency for these arrangements, the cost would be much, much higher**, so this is just one of the many reasons we want to show our appreciation to this committee by giving them some very nice gifts. **Please have these items easily accessible in your luggage so that you can leave them at the registration table in The Bull Hotel to make it possible for us to have the gift bags ready for the Monday night reception.** If you can provide 9 large sturdy gift bags and /or would like to be the person to place gifts in the bags at The Bull Hotel, please get in touch with Pat Wheeler.

MEMBERSHIP:

To attend the reunion, your Clopton Family Association membership must be current. Cost is \$15 per year for each household. If your membership is not current, please add \$15 on the appropriate line of the registration form. If you are registering for people from more than one household, you will need to add \$15 for each household represented. The address label on your envelope indicates your membership expiration date.

QUESTIONS:

If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, you may contact Judy Timmons or Pat Clopton-Wheeler. The planning committee in Long Melford has asked that anyone who has questions should contact someone in the CFA. Please do not contact anyone in Long Melford to answer your questions.

We look forward to receiving registrations from many of you and to renewing friendships in Long Melford with Clopton cousins and English friends.

A FINAL REMINDER:

Make certain everyone in your group has a passport that has not expired. If you are planning onward **travel** after departing the **UK**, note that many other countries require at least six months' remaining **validity** on your **passport** to enter.

The balance of your payment will be due by April 15, 2020.

Sincerely,

Judy Timmons (803-782-6880 judyhtimmons@yahoo.com)
CFA Vice-President

Pat Clopton-Wheeler (325-773-2714 or pacw2@sbcglobal.net)
CFA Secretary/Treasurer

Itinerary for CFA Reunion in Long Melford, Suffolk – 2020

Monday, June 29 - Sunday July 5, 2020 (Limit of 85 people)

Reunion cost—\$537 per adult, lodging is additional

\$454 for under 16 as of June 29, 2020

Rates for hotels and B&Bs include breakfast.

Information for each day indicates which meals are included in the reunion cost.

The included meals are in bold text. Other meals are at your own expense.

Most airline flights from the US to the UK leave the US in the early evening and arrive in the UK in the early morning. You should make a reservation that puts you at Heathrow Airport on Monday morning, as early as possible, if you wish to ride the bus that will take you from the airport to Long Melford. Otherwise, you should make your own travel arrangements to Long Melford. If you arrive prior to June 29, you may return to Heathrow to ride the bus to Long Melford, but you should indicate this plan on the Airline and Hotel form.

All meals in bold text are included.

Monday, June 29 – Arrival Date

CFA Members will be met at **Baggage Claim** at Heathrow Airport in the UK by a member of the Long Melford Committee; and, after all CFA members' flights have arrived, directed to a bus for transport to Long Melford. Exchange US currency for British currency at the airport, if needed. Upon arrival in Long Melford, you will be taken to The Bull Hotel for registration. Then you will be directed or taken to your specific place of accommodation while in Long Melford.

6:30 PM: Buffet Dinner at The Bull Hotel

Dress is: *Smart casual.*

Tuesday, June 30 – Cambridge

Breakfast each day is included in the price of hotels and B&B's. Depart Bull Hotel on chartered bus for Cambridge, where Cambridge University (alma mater of many of our ancestors) is located. Visit Fitzwilliam Museum or other Cambridge tourist attractions of your choice; such as, Kings College Chapel, go punting along the Cam River where you can see the backs of the colleges and the back of King's College Chapel, or go shopping. Lunch at renowned Brown's Restaurant or one of the many local cafes (on our own). Visit the Cambridge American Cemetery (honoring American heroes who died in the UK during WWII). Return to Long Melford by bus for dinner at local pubs/eateries (on our own).

Wednesday, July 1 – Long Melford, Holy Trinity Church, Heritage Museum, Barbecue at Scutcher's

Guided tour of Long Melford's cathedral-like Holy Trinity Church, featuring the Clopton Chantry Chapel, Sir William Clopton's tomb, and one of the best displays of Medieval stained-glass artwork in England. **Light lunch** while enjoying a lunchtime concert at Holy Trinity. Visit the Heritage Museum across from The Bull. Afternoon free to visit the Heritage Museum and/or explore Long Melford's pubs, antique stores, other shops, and tea rooms. Enjoy a real "**English Barbecue**" for dinner at **Scutchers Restaurant**.

Thursday, July 2 – Groton, St. Bartholomew's Church, Castlings Hall, and Lavenham

Assemble at the Bull Hotel for departure by chartered bus for St. Bartholomew's Church in Groton. Take a short ride to **Castlings Hall for a full cold buffet lunch** and Part 1 of the Clopton Rose Ceremony with the Mayor of Hadleigh. Explore Lavenham, one of the best examples of a Medieval Wool town and location of the exterior of the childhood movie home of Harry Potter. Dine at local pubs/eateries in Long Melford (on our own).

Friday, July 3 – Clare Priory and Chipley Priory

At The Bull Hotel Jonnie Wilson will present information about Joan of Acre, a Clopton ancestor who is buried at Clare Priory. Chartered bus to Clare Priory (established by Clopton ancestor Richard de Clare in 1248). Coffee upon arrival, followed by a tour and lecture. Wander the lovely gardens of Clare Priory. Enjoy **lunch with the Brothers of the religious order**. Visit Clare Castle Country Park Museum, Parish church, Clare Museum, etc. Depart by chartered bus for Chipley Priory where ancient Cloptons figured prominently. Dine at Long Melford pubs/eateries (on our own).

Saturday, July 4 – Long Melford, Kentwell Hall, and Evening Reception at Melford Hall

Attend morning CFA business meeting at the Bull Hotel to vote for officers, hear a financial report, and elect officers. Lunch (on our own). Afternoon visit to the Tudor-era Kentwell Hall, residence for two centuries of the Cloptons and now home of the Phillips family. Attend farewell evening gathering at the magnificent Melford Hall, hosted by Sir Richard and Lady Hyde-Parker.

TBD: Finger Buffet at Melford Hall

Dress is: *Smart casual*

Sunday, July 5. Rose Ceremony at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford

Dress is: *Church attire*

Attend 10:30 morning service at Holy Trinity Church where the Clopton Rose Ceremony will take place during the service. Enjoy lunch at local pubs/eateries (on our own). Say a fond farewell to close family, distant cousins, and friends in Long Melford.

If you are returning to the US, depart after lunch from the Bull Hotel by chartered bus to London's Heathrow Airport. **Since flights to the US leave very early in the morning, the coach will not arrive at the airport in time for you to fly to the US on Sunday. Therefore, you should make a reservation (prior to leaving the US) at an airport hotel for Sunday night and fly home early Monday morning or continue your travel plans.** Some hotels have shuttles that will pick you up and return you to the airport.

If joining the second week tour to Winchester, depart after lunch by chartered bus to The Holiday Inn in Winchester, our home for the week, where we will have **breakfast and dinner included each day**.

Clopton Post-Reunion Tour – Hampshire
Based at The Holiday Inn, Winchester
Sunday, July 5 - Saturday, July 11, 2020 (Limit of 40 people)
 Cost--\$1370 per person, double occupancy
 \$1856 per person, single occupancy

Price includes lodging at Holiday Inn in Winchester, coach and ferry travel, admissions, and a full English breakfast and dinner in the hotel each day. We will stop for lunch daily (on our own).

Monday, July 6 Lord Montagu's stately home at Beaulieu.



Originally built in the 13th century, the house was extended in the 16th and 19th centuries and is today a fine example of a Gothic country house with the inside in a Victorian style. It is still home to the current Lord and Lady Montagu. Also on the grounds is the world-renowned **National Motor Museum** which houses around 250 vehicles manufactured since the late 19th century. Nearby at **Buckler's Hard** learn how warships were built for Lord Nelson's Navy and see models of the ships which took part in the Battle of Trafalgar.

Tuesday, July 7 Portsmouth



When Britannia ruled the waves, it did so from Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, still the base of the Royal Navy. The grand and historic warship, the HMS Victory, changed the course of world history when Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson pursued Napoleon's fleets and conquered them at Cape Trafalgar. The museum building holds the much older Mary Rose, a 16th century warship which was King Henry VIII's favorite. Near the **Spinnaker Tower**, which has become an icon of the city, the successful makeover of Portsmouth added an outdoor shopping center.



Wednesday, July 8 – Winchester Cathedral & Hospital of St. Cross



Today we stay in Winchester to visit **Winchester Cathedral** where many of England's kings and queens are buried and which was Hogwarts in Harry Potter! It is one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Europe with over 1,000 years of history. Among the many famous who are buried there is Jane Austen. Next we travel to the **Hospital of St. Cross**, founded between 1132 and 1136, creating what is said to be England's oldest charitable institution.

Thursday, July 9 – Watercress Line, Jane Austen & Gilbert White



We start the day on the **Watercress Line** to experience the Golden Age of Steam Travel; then, on to the humble home of the author of *Pride and Prejudice*, **Jane Austen**. It was in this country cottage that Jane's genius flourished and where she wrote all her novels. Austen's house will be followed by a visit to the home of **Gilbert White**: a priest, naturalist and ornithologist; his home is a treasure. The rooms have been restored, following descriptions in White's own correspondence and include items of contemporary furniture, family portraits, and bed hangings embroidered for him by his aunts.

Friday, July 10 – Osborne House via ferry ride to The Isle of Wight



Osborne House is a stunning Italianate palazzo that was Queen Victoria's beloved getaway for 50 years, until her death in 1901. Today Osborne House has been lovingly restored. Visitors will have an intimate glimpse into the nursery and private rooms of the Queen and her beloved Prince Albert, who lived there with their nine children.

Saturday, July 12 – Departure

You will be taken by coach to the Heathrow airport for return to the US or to continue your privately arranged travel plans. **Since flights to the US leave very early in the morning, the coach will not arrive at the airport in time for you to fly to the US on Saturday. Therefore, you can make a reservation at an airport hotel for Saturday night (please make your hotel reservation prior to leaving the US) and fly home early Sunday morning.**

A message from the Long Melford Planning Committee: "We very much hope that you enjoy the Reunion and Tour and look forward to the next Long Melford Reunion of the CFA in 2026."

Week 2 web sites. Go to cloptonfamily.net to find this list that will provide additional information. You will find it easier to click on the link rather than having to copy the web addresses given here.

The Holiday Inn Winchester

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/winchester/soawc/hoteldetail>

Beaulieu Palace & Motor Museum, Butler's Hard

<https://www.beaulieu.co.uk>

<https://www.bucklershard.co.uk/>

Portsmouth—Mary Rose, Victory Romsey

Tower & Spinnaker Tower

<https://maryrose.org/>

<https://www.hms-victory.com>

<https://www.spinnakertower.co.uk>

Winchester—Cathedral, Hospital of Saint Cross

www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

<http://hospitalofstcross.co.uk/>

<https://www.highclerecastle.co.uk>

Jane Austen House, Gilbert White and a trip on the Watercress Line

<https://www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk>

gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

<https://www.watercressline.co.uk>

Isle of Wight—Osborne House

www.englisukh-heritage.org.uk/Osborne-House/Isle-Of-Wight

**REGISTRATION FORM
CLOPTON FAMILY REUNION JUNE 29-JULY 5, 2020**

Please submit your registration as soon as possible (by February 29) since there is a limit to the number who can be accommodated.

Please print clearly.

Long Melford Reunion June 29-July 5, 2020--\$537 for adults--Limit of 85—Lodging is additional.
Names of reunion participants. Please include ages of children as of June 29, 2020.

1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

Reunion cost--adults \$537 x _____ people = _____
Under 16 on June 29 \$454 x _____ children = _____ _____ ages of children
Family membership for each household represented \$15 x _____ household(s) = + _____
Reunion Total = _____
Less per person deposit of \$100 x _____ people = - _____
Balance due by April 15, 2020 = _____

Look at the address label on the envelope to see the date your membership expires.

Post Reunion Tour July 5-July 11, 2020--Limit of 40—Cost includes travel, admissions, lodging, full English breakfast, dinner. Lunch and drinks are at your own expense.

\$1370 Double occupancy \$1856 Single occupancy

Names of reunion participants. Indicate if someone wishes to be in a room alone.
Put a check mark after the name of anyone over 60.

1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

Adults (double occupancy) \$1370 x _____ people = _____
Adults (single occupancy) \$1856 x _____ people = _____
Under 12 in parents' room \$1006 x _____ children = _____
Less deposit of \$100 x _____ people = - _____
Balance due by April 15, 2020 = _____

Provide a name and phone no. of someone in the US who can be notified in the event of an emergency:
Name _____
Phone _____

Name of person to whom mailings should be addressed _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Phone _____ e-mail _____

Check payable to Clopton Family Association

Mail to
Pat Clopton Wheeler, Treasurer
PO Box 1030
Stamford, TX 79553
325-773-2714
pacw2@sbcglobal.net

Reunion deposit	_____
Post Reunion Tour deposit +	_____
Total due with this form =	_____
Please mail your registration as soon as possible.	

*Please photocopy this form as your receipt and reminder of the balance due date.
There is a copy of this form on the web page if you would like to print an extra copy.*

AIRLINE AND HOTEL FORM

If you already have hotel and airline reservations, please return this form with your registration form. Some hotel rooms have already been booked in the hotels listed; so to be certain of securing a room, you should make lodging reservation as soon as possible. **Remember that your registration will not be complete until you return this form. This is to prevent anyone from paying the deposit and then not following through, thus taking a space that someone else could fill.**

AIRLINE FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please give information about your international flight, the one leaving an airport in the US and landing at an airport in the UK.

Date of flight _____ Name of Airline _____ International Flight # _____

US Departure City for the international leg _____ Departure time _____

Arrival Airport in England _____ Arrival Time in England _____

Names of passengers on above flight:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

Please give information below about your return flight to the US or to continue your travel. The purpose of this information is to allow the English committee to make plans to return you to Heathrow.

Date of return flight _____ Name of Airline _____ International Flight # _____

Departure Airport _____ Departure Time _____

Names of passengers on above flight:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

If you are not departing from Long Melford on the coach that will be returning people to the airports, please indicate your departure date and your mode of travel.

Departure date _____ Mode of travel _____

Names of people departing by this mode of travel : _____

Hotel or B&B Reservation Information for Long Melford

Please put a check beside the names listed above that have a reservation at this location:

Name of hotel or B&B _____ Check-in Date _____

Departure Date _____

If anyone in your group has a reservation at another hotel or B&B, please provide that information below and circle that person's name above.

Name of hotel or B&B _____ Check-in Date _____

Departure Date _____

Mail to

Pat Clopton Wheeler, Treasurer
PO Box 1030
Stamford, TX 79553
325-773-2714 pacw@sbcglobal.net

Name of person who completed form:

Phone _____

e-mail _____

If you are arriving earlier than June 29 and plan to return to Heathrow on June 29 to ride the bus to Long Melford, indicate the number of people listed on this form who will be with you, counting yourself _____.

Please make a copy of this form for yourself prior to mailing.