

DE WITT CLINTON

AND HIS HEIRS:
A COMPLETE GENEALOGICAL RECORD
OF HIS WIVES AND CHILDREN

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THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY
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DeWitt Clinton by Childs & Inman (Library of Congress)

He had seven sons and three daughters. sons
Franklin born Dec 10th 1796 & died April 1850
Charles Alexander, born Oct 19th 1798 and
a counsellor at Law married in 1827 to
Catherine youngest daughter of John Howe seeds
Walter Franklin born July 9th 1800 and
killed by a fall from his bed May 2^o 1810.
James Henry a midship man in the U.S. Navy
born June 6th 1802 and died of the yellow fever
at sea June - 1824. He with a distinguished
Civil Engineer born March 10th 1804 and died of
Consumption at Mantanzas in the Island of Cuba
December 13th 1834. George William born April
13th 1807 a counsellor at Law residing at
Buffalo in this State and married some years
since to Catherine eldest daughter of the Hon.
John B. Spencer Mary Ogood born February 8th
1809 and wife of David S. Jones first judge
of Queens County. Julia Anna Ogood born August
2^o 1811 and died February 13th 1813. - Franklin
born May - 1813 and at present a passed
midship man U.S. Navy ^{and a Lieut. Feb. 19. 1842} and Julia born
August 20th 1815 and died November 21th 1839.

DeWitt Clinton, a United States Senator, Mayor of New York City, and Governor of New York State, rests in The Green-Wood Cemetery. Best known as the “Father of the Erie Canal,” Clinton also led a full — and complex — family life as the father of ten children.

His remains were moved to Green-Wood in 1844, 16 years after his death. A bronze statue by Henry Kirke Brown was erected at his grave in 1853, honoring his legacy as one of New York’s most influential statesmen. Yet for generations, the burial places of his two wives and children remained unknown.

Until now.

My research began in the archives of Green-Wood with the accidental discovery of Clinton’s second wife, Catherine Jones. She is entombed in the same vault as DeWitt Clinton, a fact not widely known either within the Cemetery’s own records or beyond. I discuss the details of this discrepancy elsewhere; for the purposes of this study, it is enough to say that her resting place prompted a closer examination of Clinton’s family.¹

Several biographies of Clinton were consulted, along with collections of his papers held by historical societies and colleges throughout New York State and beyond. Most of these sources focus mainly on his political career. A visit to the New York Public Library, which holds a small collection of his letters, did not yield information directly relevant to this research, though it did provide a glimpse into his correspondence through a letter dated 1798.

Newspapers and genealogical publications offered partial answers. One clue led to the West Coast, where one of his daughters found her demise. Another breakthrough came with the accidental discovery of a letter written by his son in 1841, which clarified the order of births among Clinton’s children.

The result is a discovery of the resting places of Clinton's two wives and five of his children at The Green-Wood Cemetery, with others located in cemeteries across New York, in Portland, Oregon, possibly in Cuba, and, in one case, lost at sea.

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Early biographers of DeWitt Clinton gave little attention to his family, focusing instead on his public achievements. His wives were scarcely mentioned, and his children were left largely unidentified. David Hosack, who was the family doctor, referred only to "a large family of children, consisting of seven sons and three daughters,"² without naming any. Later, James Renwick wrote that at the time of the first Mrs. Clinton's death, Clinton had "a family of four sons and three daughters,"³ though this account was inaccurate.

Author Cuyler Staats offered slightly more detail in 1828, writing that DeWitt Clinton, "left his [second] wife, and Charles, De Witt, George Washington, Franklin, Mary, and Julia Catharine Clinton, children of his first wife, surviving him."⁴ Yet even this account was not entirely accurate as Staats confused the middle name of Clinton's son George William with that of Clinton's uncle, recording his name as Washington rather than William.

An unlikely source for information about DeWitt Clinton's children appeared in 1911, in a work devoted not to Clinton himself, but to the history of a place. Edward Ruttenber, whose book on the history of New Windsor was published posthumously, attempted to list Clinton's ten children. However, the list was out of order and included details only about those who survived childhood. Ruttenber's list recorded Franklin, Charles Alexander, Walter, Julia, James Henry, DeWitt, George William, Mary, Franklin, and Julia.⁵

In 1933, Dorothe Bobbé published a monograph that sought to present "a view of the entire career of DeWitt Clinton, in

all its aspects, public and private.”⁶ In doing so, she identified nine of Clinton’s children, providing vital dates in some cases and placing the younger Clintons within the narrative of their father’s life. Unlike her predecessors, Bobbé also devoted more attention to Clinton’s wives and their role in his life and career. Her work, however, is not without its flaws. The chronology of the children’s birth is occasionally incorrect, largely explained by that some of Clinton’s children were named after deceased siblings — then a common practice.

Writing in 1859, DeWitt Clinton’s son, Charles A. Clinton noted that “only my brother George and myself and one daughter survive.” His work focused on the origins of the Clinton family name in America, which may explain why he offered little detail about his father’s children. However, a recently discovered private letter written by Charles A. Clinton, preserved in the archives of the University of Miami, helps fill an important gap by providing additional information about the names of his siblings.⁷

Consisting of four pages, this letter dated January 7, 1841 begins, “My Dear Sir, I recollect reading your history of Long Island with great pleasure and consider it not only an interesting but a valuable work,” though the name of the recipient has not been recorded. He then continues with short biography of his father, provides information on both marriages, and lists details on all his siblings. Charles A. Clinton closes the letter by offering his input on the origins of the word Maspeth, recommending another historian’s work, and noting, “This letter is not for publication, but if the facts contained in it are in your opinion of use to you, you will do as you please with them.”⁸

Perhaps because it was written as private correspondence, the letter’s contents were never widely known, and the full list of DeWitt Clinton’s children remained uncertain until now. As for Clinton’s wives, a fuller account of their lives deserves more biographical study. This work, genealogical in

nature, focuses instead on identifying their key dates and final resting places.

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DeWitt⁹ Clinton was born on March 2, 1769, in Little Britain, Orange County, New York,¹⁰ to James Clinton and Mary De Witt.¹¹ He died on February 11, 1828, in Albany, New York. Clinton married twice during his lifetime: first to Maria Franklin on February 10, 1796,¹² and later to Catherine Jones on April 21, 1819.¹³

All ten of DeWitt Clinton's children were born to Maria. Their names were Franklin, Charles Alexander, Walter Franklin, James Henry, DeWitt Jr., George William, Mary Osgood, Julianna Osgood, Franklin, and Julia Catherine.

Clinton's first wife, Maria Franklin, was born on November 8, 1775,¹⁴ to Walter Franklin and Maria Bowne. Her father was "an eminent and wealthy merchant of this city, and a member of the Society of Friends."¹⁵ Walter built a mansion on Cherry Street in New York that later became the First Presidential Mansion, where George Washington and his family resided during his presidency.¹⁶ After Walter's passing, Maria Bowne married Samuel Osgood, who later served as the first Postmaster General appointed by Washington.

Writing about his mother, Charles A. Clinton described Maria as "a lady of great beauty and highly accomplished,"¹⁷ though he did not elaborate. Renwick offered a slightly fuller portrait, describing her as "a lady of retiring and domestic habits; ill-suited, perhaps, to advance the political interests of her husband, but better qualified, for that very reason, to be his solace in the constant anxieties and occasional reverses to which he was exposed in his political career."¹⁸

As a towering figure in New York State politics, DeWitt Clinton's public career often overshadowed his private life.

This may explain why biographers focused so heavily on his accomplishments and wrote fairly little regarding his family. Yet Maria's role in his life and career was significant. After the death of their son, Walter, in 1810, Clinton was deeply affected, but "even his wife, by tradition and custom the weaker vessel, laid her own grief aside to comfort him," as Dorothe Bobbé noted.¹⁹

Maria Franklin Clinton died on July 30, 1818, at Mount Vernon. That night, DeWitt Clinton recorded the loss in his diary. As Bobbé recounts, Clinton wrote, "This night, a few minutes before 10, witnessed the final departure of my dear wife. She retired to another and a better world with characteristic fortitude, leaving an *immedicabile vulnus* in my heart which will be felt with the continuance of life...42 years, 8 months and 22 days."²⁰

Mrs. Clinton was originally buried in the graveyard of the Brick Presbyterian Church on Beekman Street by sexton John G. Younge.²¹ In 1856, the Church exhumed many congregants buried in its grounds since its founding and relocated them to Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn.²² However, Maria Clinton's remains, along with some family members, eventually found their resting place in The Green-Wood Cemetery.²³

On June 11, 1856, Samuel Osgood, grandson and namesake of Samuel Osgood, Maria Clinton's stepfather,²⁴ became the owner of Lot 6634 in Section 49 of The Green-Wood Cemetery. The following day, June 12, 1856, Osgood authorized the reinterment of ten family members whose remains had been a "Removal from New York City."²⁵ These included Samuel Osgood and Mary Osgood (his grandparents), Ellen M. Osgood (his sister), Ellen Osgood (his mother), and Catharine A. B. Osgood (his wife). Also among those reinterred were Maria F. Clinton, the first wife of DeWitt Clinton, and four of their children: Walter F. Clinton, Franklin Clinton, and two unnamed children, their details will be discussed in due course.

New York City vital records provide the following details on those interred: Samuel Osgood died on August 14, 1813, at the age of 65,²⁶ and Mary Osgood died on October 8, 1814, at the age of 60.²⁷ Ellen Mary Osgood died on August 2, 1822, at just three months and seventeen days old,²⁸ while Ellen Osgood died on May 7 of the same year at the age of 35.²⁹ All were originally buried in the graveyard of the Brick Presbyterian Church. Catharine A. B. Osgood, who died on November 8, 1848, at the age of 33, was buried at Trinity Church.³⁰

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Maria's death left a large and still very young family behind. Of the ten children she had borne, seven were still living, and most were minors, the youngest not yet three years old. DeWitt Clinton and his surviving children were deeply affected by her loss, relates Dorothie Bobbé, so much so that "he was questioning himself as to whether he should take a second wife."³¹ Nearly a year after Maria's death, Clinton married Catharine Jones at the Presbyterian Church of Albany, New York.³²

Catherine Jones was born on January 11, 1783 to Thomas Jones and Margaret Livingston.³³ Miss Kitty Jones, as she was known before her marriage to DeWitt Clinton, came from a prominent New York family though writers offered only brief comments about her. Hosack described her late father as "an eminent physician of this city," — and noted she was the "niece of the late Dr. John Jones, of Philadelphia, well known by his writings, as well as his professional services, as the surgeon general during the revolutionary war, and one of the favourite physicians of General Washington."³⁴ Renwick referred to her as Catharine (note the different spelling) Jones and offered little beyond her family background, adding that "Of this estimable lady, who still survives, feelings of delicacy will prevent us from saying more" about her life.³⁵

Later historians offered a somewhat fuller description. Dorothe Bobbé portrayed Jones as very different from Clinton's first wife, Maria. While Maria was remembered for her domestic character, Catherine was described as beautiful, loyal, and well suited to accompany Clinton in public life. Bobbé notes that while Catherine could not replace the maternal bond with Clinton's sons, she shared a particularly affectionate relationship with his daughters, especially the youngest. She often relieved her husband of many ceremonial social duties, which she seemed to enjoy.³⁶

Catherine Jones Clinton died on July 2, 1855 at the age of seventy-three, in Poughkeepsie at the home of her stepdaughter, Mrs. David S. Jones (no relations).³⁷ Her funeral was held at the Washington Square Reformed Dutch Church, where the services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Mancius Smedes Hutton. Neither the church, nor its records, have survived.

When she passed, newspapers across the country, from New York to Louisiana, and even Hamilton, Ontario, reported on the death of Mrs. Clinton. Yet despite the attention given to her demise, none of these notices recorded where she was buried.

In the city's vital records, Catharine J. Clinton's name was recorded incorrectly. Perhaps intending to note her connection with her well-known husband, the clerk somehow omitted the word "Mrs." and simply recorded the name as "DeWitt Clinton."³⁸ The date and place of death, as well as her age, match the newspaper reports. Though the record lists her place of burial as "GWood," Green-Wood's interment records do not indicate a burial for Catharine J. Clinton, or for Mrs. DeWitt Clinton, around the time of her funeral at the Washington Square Church.

One of the executors of Catharine's estate was her nephew, Philip Livingston Jones. In December 1855, he visited The Green-Wood Cemetery to arrange her burial. On April 7,

1856, the Cemetery standing committee reviewed “a request...made by the family of Governor Clinton to have the remains of his widow placed in the vault under the monument erected to Gov’r Clinton” — and resolved that the executor be authorized to place the remains of both Mrs. Clinton and her daughter in the vault beneath the monument.³⁹ The daughter in question was Julia Catherine Clinton.

On May 22, 1856, the bodies of Catharine and Julia Clinton were removed from New York City and brought to The Greenwood Cemetery by the undertaker, Charles L. Carpenter, where they were placed in the underground vault with DeWitt Clinton.⁴⁰ The Cemetery’s burial ledgers recorded little additional information beyond the locations of their deaths: New York for Catharine and New Jersey for Julia. As records below indicate, however, this information was not entirely accurate.

On November 25, 1839, the *Long-Island Star* published a death notice that read, “In New York, Julia, youngest daughter of the late Gov. De Witt Clinton, aged 24 years.”⁴¹ Julia Clinton had died on November 20, 1839 from inflammation of stomach and bowels, and was buried at the graveyard of St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery.⁴² Her body was entombed in the family vault of her sister Mary’s husband, David S. Jones.⁴³ She was born in New York, and her age at the time of death places her year of birth around 1815.⁴⁴

One question, however, remains. If Julia Catherine Clinton was buried at St. Mark’s prior to her entombment at Greenwood, where were the remains of Catherine Jones Clinton during the year before her burial? While some details remain uncertain, the final resting places of DeWitt Clinton’s wives and youngest daughter have now been identified. The lives of the Clinton children themselves, however, reveal a more complicated family history.

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The first child of DeWitt Clinton and Maria Franklin was named after Maria's father. "Franklin born Dec'r 10th 1796 & died April 1800," his brother Charles recalled in 1841.⁴⁵ Ruttenber simply notes, "1. Franklin, who died young."⁴⁶ The brief life of the firstborn, and the later reuse of his name for another son, created considerable confusion for Clinton's biographers. Little else is known about him. No baptismal records for Franklin ever existed, which may explain why, when his remains were reinterred in 1856, he was recorded simply as "child of Maria F. Clinton" in the Osgood family vault at Green-Wood.

A second son was born in 1798 and named Charles Alexander. In later writings, Charles himself records his birth date as September 10, 1798.⁴⁷ He was baptized on December 7, 1799, at the Presbyterian Church at Newtown, in what is now the neighborhood of Elmhurst in Queens.⁴⁸ As Dorothe Bobbé notes, in his late teens, Charles was "initiated into the duties of private secretary to his father," a role he would continue to hold for the remainder of DeWitt Clinton's life.⁴⁹

Charles Alexander Clinton graduated from Union College in 1818. On May 30, 1824, he was admitted as a counselor at law during a term of the Supreme Court.⁵⁰ In 1827, Charles married Catharine Hone, daughter of John Hone, Esq.⁵¹ They had six children, four of whom died in infancy. Catherine H. Clinton died on October 6, 1841,⁵² and Charles died on November 21, 1861.⁵³ Both were buried, along with their children, in Vault 156 of the New York Marble Cemetery.⁵⁴

The Clintons' next son, Walter Franklin, was named after his recently deceased brother. In a letter written in 1841, his brother Charles recorded Walter's birth date as July 9, 1800.⁵⁵ Later historians mistakenly assigned him an earlier birth year, with Dorothe Bobbé identifying him as the first child and dating his birth to 1797.⁵⁶ Walter was baptized on July 28, 1801,⁵⁷ at the Presbyterian Church in Newtown, the same church where his brother Charles had been baptized years

earlier. Walter was described as “the apple of his father’s eye through radiant childhood and into radiant memory,” a phrase that reflects the deep loss the family experienced when his life ended on May 2, 1810.⁵⁸

Ruttenber simply notes, “3. Walter, died young,” offering no further details.⁵⁹ A contemporary notice in *The Evening Post* reported on his death, “Yesterday morning suddenly, Walter Franklin Clinton, in the 10th year of his age, son of DeWitt Clinton, Esq.”⁶⁰ His brother later recalled that Walter had been “killed by a fall from his bed.”⁶¹ Despite a lack of records surrounding his original resting place, his remains were ultimately reinterred in 1856 in Lot 6634 at Green-Wood, alongside his mother and siblings.

The Clintons had three more sons: James Henry, born in 1802; DeWitt Jr., born in 1804; and George William, born in 1807.

James Henry Clinton was born on June 6, 1802.⁶² In 1815, his father arranged for his admission to West Point, a step that eventually led him into service with the United States Navy.⁶³ On July 10, 1824, DeWitt Clinton received news that James had fallen ill with yellow fever while at sea and had died on the journey home. Newspapers reported that the young Lieutenant Clinton died aboard the U.S. brig *Spark* on July 5, 1824. His final resting place has not been confirmed.⁶⁴ James Henry Clinton never married and had no children.

DeWitt Clinton Jr. was born on March 10, 1804, a date recorded by his brother Charles.⁶⁵ DeWitt Jr. was trained as an engineer and assisted his father in surveying portions of the Erie Canal. As early as 1822, DeWitt Clinton referred to him proudly in his diaries and correspondence as “the Engineer.”⁶⁶ His name appears occasionally in newspapers with the rank of Colonel, reflecting his involvement in surveying several canal projects. While serving with the United States Engineering Corps, DeWitt Jr. died in Matanzas, Cuba, on December 13, 1833 from consumption.⁶⁷

He presumably was buried where he had died, as his name does not appear in any New York city or cemetery registries. DeWitt Clinton Jr. never married and had no children.

George William Clinton, born April 13, 1807,⁶⁸ was admitted to Hamilton College in 1821. He studied medicine and had interests in botany and natural history. George graduated in 1825, but after his father's death he turned to study of law. He was influenced by Judge Ambrose Spencer, the Chief Justice of New York State Supreme Court, studied in his office, and was admitted to the bar in 1831.⁶⁹ On May 15, 1832, he married Laura Catherine Spencer, daughter of John C. Spencer,⁷⁰ at St. John's Church in Canandaigua, New York.⁷¹

The couple had several children, the first of whom was named after his grandfather. George became the first Democratic mayor of Buffalo in 1842.⁷² He died on September 7, 1885 in Albany, NY,⁷³ and was buried in the family lot at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York. His wife was buried there as well following her death in 1891.

The Clintons' seventh child and first daughter, Mary Osgood Clinton, was born on February 8, 1809.⁷⁴ In 1833, she married Judge David Samuel Jones, who had been widowed twice and already had twelve children.⁷⁵ Notably, Jones's first wife, Margaret, was the sister of Catherine Jones, the second wife of DeWitt Clinton.⁷⁶ David S. Jones was the son of Judge Samuel Jones, the prominent lawyer in whose office DeWitt Clinton had studied law in 1786.⁷⁷

Mary Osgood Clinton and Judge Jones had six children of their own. Their eldest son, DeWitt Clinton Jones, was born on June 30, 1834.⁷⁸ His baptism on December 15, 1834 took place at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery and was witnessed by Samuel Jones (paternal uncle), Charles A. Clinton (maternal uncle), and Catharine Jones Clinton (maternal step-grandmother).⁷⁹ Judge David S. Jones died on May 10, 1848, at the age of seventy-one and was buried in the graveyard of the same church.⁸⁰

DeWitt C. Jones followed in his father's footsteps studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1859 and, in 1864, formed a partnership with John P. Crosby and P. W. Ostrander. In 1871, however, he severed his ties with the firm and moved west with his family, settling in Portland, Oregon.⁸¹ Although he would eventually return east, his time in Oregon proved significant for another reason: his mother, Mary Clinton Jones died on August 10, 1872, and her funeral services were held at St. David's Chapel in East Portland. From there, her body was taken to Lone Fir Cemetery, where she was buried.⁸²

After the birth of Mary Osgood, the Clintons had their eighth child, another daughter whose life was tragically brief. Her brother recorded her full name as Juliana Osgood Clinton and gave her birth date as August 2, 1811.⁸³ Other historians have presented conflicting information. Bobbé wrote that the Clintons' seventh child, a daughter named Juliana, was born at Richmond Hill in August 1811,⁸⁴ while Ruttenber, who listed her as fourth child, simply noted "Julia died young."⁸⁵

Dorothie Bobbé wrote that Clinton "was at his best, and at his happiest, always as a father and as a husband (that seems to have been the order that his happinesses took)."⁸⁶ Yet the circumstances surrounding Juliana's short life reveal how difficult this period was for the Clinton family.

The year 1812 brought a series of personal and political upheavals. On April 20, DeWitt Clinton's uncle, George Clinton, died in Washington. The following month, on May 28, Clinton received the presidential nomination to run against James Madison. Soon after came the declaration of war between the United States and Great Britain on June 20. Clinton lost the election that November, and on December 22 he suffered another personal loss with the death of his father, James Clinton, at the age of seventy-six.⁸⁷

Records indicate that Juliana O. Clinton died on February 14, 1813, at the age of one year and six months, and was buried

in the Presbyterian Churchyard on Beekman.⁸⁸ Like her brother Franklin before her, Juliana was never baptized, which likely contributed to later uncertainty about her identity. When her remains were reinterred at Green-Wood in 1856, she was recorded simply as the “child of Maria F. Clinton.”

The year 1813 brought a pattern the Clinton family had already experienced before: the loss of one child followed by the birth of another bearing the same name. Three months after Juliana’s death, the Clintons welcomed another son, Franklin, again named for Maria’s father.⁸⁹ Dorothe Bobbé does not discuss the order of Franklin’s birth, while Ruttenber simply lists him as “9. Franklin,” noting only that he died unmarried.⁹⁰

A clearer record of the younger children appears in the church books. Arthur Joseph Stansbury, who officiated the second marriage of DeWitt Clinton, also baptized his youngest children at Presbyterian Church in Albany. On November 4, 1819, an entry records that Franklin and Julia Catherine Clinton were baptized and provides their birth dates as May 10, 1813 for Franklin, and August 20, 1815 for Julia.⁹¹

Franklin Clinton, perhaps inspired by his late brother James, joined the Navy a month before his 15th birthday. On June 14, 1834, he was commissioned as a midshipman, and on December 11, 1839, he attained the rank of lieutenant.⁹² On February 19, 1842, Lieutenant Franklin Clinton, described in newspapers as “the youngest son of the late Governor De Witt Clinton,”⁹³ died at the age of twenty-eight. He was buried at St. Mark’s Churchyard,⁹⁴ until 1856, when his remains were moved to Green-Wood.

With this, the names of all the children born to DeWitt Clinton and his first wife, Maria Franklin, can be identified. Although considerable effort has been made to reconstruct the lives of each member of the family, the historical record

remains incomplete in several cases. Nevertheless, the surviving documents allow us to establish the basic outlines of the Clinton family. What follows is a summary of the known dates relating to DeWitt Clinton's wives and children.

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DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828) married first Maria Franklin (1775-1818), and married second Catherine Jones (1783-1855), all interred in The Green-Wood Cemetery.

Children with the first wife:

1. Franklin Clinton (1796-1800), in Green-Wood
2. Charles Alexander Clinton (1798-1861), in NY Marble
3. Walter Franklin Clinton (1800-1810), in Green-Wood
4. James Henry Clinton (1802-1824), possibly buried at sea
5. DeWitt Clinton Jr. (1804-1833), possibly buried in Cuba
6. George William Clinton (1807-1885), buried in Buffalo, NY
7. Mary Osgood Clinton (1809-1872), buried in Portland, OR
8. Juliana Osgood Clinton (1811-1813), in Green-Wood
9. Franklin Clinton (1813-1842), in Green-Wood
10. Julia Catherine Clinton (1815-1839), in Green-Wood

SOURCES:

Citations do not follow academic standards.

All books used in this work are cited in endnotes; all are available in digital form on Archive.org website.

Newspapers.com is the sole source of marriage notices, obituaries, and other relevant records mentioned in text.

GWC: The Green-Wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232, *Burial and Vital Records 1840-1937*, digital copies on <https://www.green-wood.com/burial-and-vital-records/>; also records of purchase of properties, heirs, meeting minutes, and other archival materials.

NYCMA: The New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chamber Street, New York, NY 10007, *New York City historical vital records collection REC-0051; Sub-Group 3: Death records 1795, 1802-1804, 1812-1949, bulk: 1866-1949; Series 3.3: New York County (Borough of Manhattan) death records, 1795, 1802-1804, 1808, 1812-1949*, for detailed information on scope of records, see <https://www.nyc.gov/site/records/>; for digital copies of records, see www.Ancestry.com.

UMLSC: University of Miami Library, Special Collections, Historical Documents Collection No. ASM0566, Series I: Art, Literature, Music, and Science, Box No. 1, Folder No. 22. *Charles A. Clinton letter, January 7, 1841*, for digital copy link below <https://digitalcollections.library.miami.edu/digital/collection/asm0566/id/384/rec/41>; see page 3 for image of the letter that provided all the names.

ENDNOTES:

¹ A work pertaining to cemetery record keeping is forthcoming.

² Hosack, David. *Memoir of De Witt Clinton: with an Appendix, containing Numerous Documents, illustrative of the Principal Events of His Life*. New York: J. Seymour, 1829, 32.

³ Renwick, James. *Life of DeWitt Clinton*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1842, page 47. There were, in fact, five sons and two daughters still living in 1818. Incidentally, Renwick's information seems to come from Clinton's son, Charles Alexander, who published a sketch about his family in 1859, and whose error was simply repeated by Renwick. The error was likely a typographical, because in course of writing this work, I have come to learn that C.A. Clinton is the most authoritative source of information pertaining to his siblings (see page 6).

⁴ Staats, Cuyler. *Tribute to the Memory of De Witt Clinton, Late Governor of the State of New-York*. Albany: Webster and Wood, 1828, 33.

⁵ Rutenber, Edward M., *History of the Town of New Windsor, Orange County, NY*. Newburgh, NY: The Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands, 1911, 140-141.

⁶ Bobbé, Dorotheie, *De Witt Clinton*. New York: Minton, Balch & Company, 1933, vii.

⁷ I discovered this letter at 6 am on March 14, 2026, rendering almost all the current work, in essence useless. The contents of this letter are now used as supporting evidence throughout the text.

⁸ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 1 and 4.

⁹ His first name, being his mother's maiden name, is properly spelled with a space as De Witt. As a first name, Clinton himself always capitalized the W and spelled without space as DeWitt. Original spelling is kept when quoting his name.

¹⁰ Campbell, William W. *The Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton*. New York: Baker and Scribner, 1849, page xxv; Also, Hosack, 28; Renwick, 25; Staats, 11. The early biographers agree about Clinton's place of birth, and their judgment ought to be deferred to as most of them personally knew him. And yet, his own son, Charles, wrote on the same subject in 1859, "He was the third son of General JAMES CLINTON, and was born either at Little Britain, at the fort on the Minisink, then under the command of his uncle, Colonel DEWITT, or at New Windsor, in a house now shown as his birth place. This diversity of opinion is mentioned in EAGER'S History of Orange County, and I have no means of determining this controverted matter." (Clinton, 13).

¹¹ DeWitt Clinton's parents, James Clinton (1736–1812) and Mary De Witt (1737–1795), are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

¹² Bobbé, 63. Also, UMLSC, *Clinton letter of 1841*, 2.

¹³ Bobbé, 227; Staats, 29. Also, see note 32.

¹⁴ The date of her birth was calculated from information provided by DeWitt Clinton at the time of her death; see page 8.

¹⁵ Hosack, 32.

¹⁶ Maria Bowne Franklin Osgood (1754–1814), whose name is sometimes spelled as Mary, was instrumental in decorating the mansion where President George Washington stayed between 1789 and 1790. To learn more, the reader is advised to visit <https://www.bownehouse.org/> or the Bowne House Historical Society at 37-01 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York.

¹⁷ Clinton, Charles A. *Biographical Sketch of the Clinton Family*. New York: Callahan & Slater, 1859, 14.

¹⁸ Renwick, 47.

¹⁹ Bobbé, 143.

²⁰ Bobbé, 225. One of the reasons her work is superior to early biographers of Clinton is because Bobbé used his personal diaries.

²¹ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1816-1820*, 40; under remarks column, on the right side “Wife to the Governor of the State” is noted; also, cause of death listed as *dropsy*, an archaic term for edema.

²² Knapp, Shepherd, *A History of the Brick Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*. New York: The Brick Presbyterian Church, 1909, 143. The Evergreens Cemetery staff confirmed via email: Majority of the congregants were moved on March and April of 1865, but the earliest burials in “Brick Church Grounds” took place on March 23 and 25th of 1856, followed by April 9, 1856.

²³ Find A Grave, database and images (<http://findagrave.com> accessed February 17, 2026), memorial page for Maria Franklin Clinton (1775-1818), Find A Grave Memorial no. 205313215, citing Saint Peters Episcopal Churchyard, Westchester Square, Bronx County, New York; Created by Stories Among The Stones, incorrectly state that Maria F. Clinton was removed to Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church in the Bronx. It is likely the memorial was created because DeWitt Clinton’s brother, George Clinton (1771-1809) was buried there.

²⁴ Osgood, Ira, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of John, Christopher and William Osgood who came from England and Settled in New England early in the Seventeenth Century*. Salem, Mass: the Salem Press, 1894, 85 and 169. This work provides excellent source of relationships; Samuel Osgood was son of Walter Franklin Osgood, who was the only son of Samuel Osgood, the Postmaster General. Walter F. Osgood, died in Sing Sing prison on October 17, 1838, and his resting place is yet to be located.

²⁵ GWC, *Volume 6, April 26, 1855-August 25, 1856*, Interment numbers 48367 to 48376 by undertaker Thomas Maslin. Green-Wood’s records from this period rarely indicate vital information about persons who were removed from other burial grounds. This is remedied by vital records at NYCMA, and combined with family history of Ira Osgood.

²⁶ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1798-1814*, 146.

²⁷ *Ibid*, 147. Mary Osgood is same as Maria Bowne.

²⁸ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1820-1824*, 186.

²⁹ *Ibid*.

³⁰ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1847-1849*, 280.

³¹ Bobbé, 226.

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- ³² Marriages by Arthur J. Stansbury in *The Register of Marriages, Baptisms, and Deaths in The Presbyterian-Church, Albany from November 1785*, Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970 ([Ancestry.com](#)); **Married**, *The Evening Post* (NY), April 23, 1819, 2.
- ³³ Baptismal Record of Catherine Jones, *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Linlithgo (Livingston Manor) at present Johnstown, N.Y. taken from a copy in the possession of Samuel Burhans Jr., Esq. of New York City, and afterward compared with the original*, 265. ([Ancestry.com](#))
- ³⁴ Hosack, 32.
- ³⁵ Renwick, 265.
- ³⁶ Bobbé, 227.
- ³⁷ **DIED, CLINTON**, *New-York Tribune*, July 4, 1855, 7.
- ³⁸ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, A-K, 1855*, 68; “Disease of heart” was reported as cause of death.
- ³⁹ GWC, *The Minutes of the Standing Committee for April 7, 1856*, 42.
- ⁴⁰ GWC, *Volume 6: April 26, 1855 - August, 25, 1856*, Interment 47991 of Catharine Clinton and Interment 47992 for Julia Clinton.
- ⁴¹ **DIED**, *The Long-Island Star* (New York), November 25, 1839, 2.
- ⁴² NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1839-1841*, 57.
- ⁴³ Barber, Gertrude A., *Records of St. Mark’s Church in the Bowery, New York City*, 1939, 89.
- ⁴⁴ Bobbe says Clinton’s “tenth child, Julia Catherine, was born in 1817,” which is inaccurate (Bobbe, 224). See page 14.
- ⁴⁵ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁴⁶ Rutenber, 140.
- ⁴⁷ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁴⁸ White, Arthur, “Records of the Presbyterian Church, Newton (now Elmhurst), Queens County, Long Island,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Vol. LV, No. 4 (Oct 1924), 394.
- ⁴⁹ Bobbé, 211.
- ⁵⁰ Munsell, Joel, *The Annals of Albany*, Vol. VIII, Albany, NY: J. Munsell, 105.
- ⁵¹ **MARRIED**, *The Long-Island Star* (New York), May 10, 1827, 3.
- ⁵² NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1841-1843*, 44: recorded as C.A. Clinton, possibly to mean “Mrs. Charles A. Clinton,” where her honorific was omitted. Cause of death was reported as *phthisis pulmonalis*, an archaic term for tuberculosis. Rutenber gives her date of death as October 5, 1841 (140).
- ⁵³ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, A-K, 1861*, 116. Died of *erysipelas* at Clarendon Hotel, New York.
- ⁵⁴ New York Marble Cemetery of 41 ½ 2nd Ave., not to be mixed with New York **City** Marble Cemetery located on 52-74 East 2nd St., both in New York, NY.
- ⁵⁵ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁵⁶ Bobbé, 71.
- ⁵⁷ White, Arthur, 395.
- ⁵⁸ Bobbé, 72 and 142.

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- ⁵⁹ Ruttenber, 140.
- ⁶⁰ Death Notice for Walter Franklin Clinton, *The Evening Post* (New York, NY), May 3, 1810, 3.
- ⁶¹ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁶² *Ibid*, 3.
- ⁶³ Callahan, Edward W., *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps, from 1775 to 1900*. New York: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1901, 119. Appointed midshipman on April 24, 1815. Promoted to rank of lieutenant at later point.
- ⁶⁴ Melancholy Intelligence, *The Evening Post* (New York), July 9, 1824, 2; *Officers and Enlisted Men who Died in the Active Service of the U.S. Navy 1776-1885, Officers A-Z, Enlisted A-Noblez*, 4 (Ancestry.com). Between newspapers, military records, and city death registry, James H. Clinton's burial place is not recorded anywhere; it is possible, he was buried at sea.
- ⁶⁵ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁶⁶ Bobbé, 251.
- ⁶⁷ Death Notice for Colonel Clinton, *The Evening Post* (New York), January 3, 1834, 2. Also, Letters of Administration of DeWitt Clinton filed January 9, 1834 in New York County, New York (Ancestry.com). Also, UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3, who provides cause of death.
- ⁶⁸ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁶⁹ Biographical File of George William Clinton, courtesy of Hamilton College Archives, Burke Library, 3967 Campus Road, Clinton, NY 13323.
- ⁷⁰ The father of John Canfield Spencer (1788-1855), Judge Ambrose Spencer (1765-1848), under whom George William Clinton studied law, was married three times. First to Laura Canfield (1768-1807), followed by Mary Clinton Norton (1773-1808), and Catherine Clinton Norton (1778-1837), the latter two having been widowed from their previous marriages, both were sisters of DeWitt Clinton.
- ⁷¹ Marriages in 1832 in *Register of the Parish of St. John's Church, Canandaigua*, Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Church Records, 1800-1970 (Ancestry.com); Married, *The Times-Union* (Rochester, New York), May 17, 1832, 3.
- ⁷² George W. Clinton was First Democrat Chosen for mayor of Buffalo, *The Buffalo Times* (Buffalo, New York), April 20, 1919, 18. This article also reports his exact date of birth, as April 21, 1807.
- ⁷³ Died, Clinton, *Buffalo Post* (Buffalo, New York), September 9, 1885, 3.
- ⁷⁴ Bobbé, 136; UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3, is the only source of her full name.
- ⁷⁵ Jones, John H., *The Jones Family of Long Island, Descendants of Major Thomas Jones (1665-1726) and Allied Families*. New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1907, 133-134.
- ⁷⁶ Jones, 134. The father of Margaret and Catherine, Dr. Thomas Jones, "was of an entirely distinct family from the one" of Judge David Samuel Jones.
- ⁷⁷ Campbell, xxvi; Hosack, 31; Renwick, 37; Staats, 12.

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- ⁷⁸ Jones, 134. Also, Mowbray, Jay Henry, *Representative Men of New York, A Record of Their Achievements*, Volume II. New York: The New York Press, 1898, 88.
- ⁷⁹ Barber, 42.
- ⁸⁰ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1847-1849*, 179.
- ⁸¹ Mowbray, 89.
- ⁸² **DIED**, *The Oregonian* (Portland, OR), August 12, 1872, 2. The resting place was confirmed with great help from J.C. Scott of the Oregon Historical Society and B. Fairbanks of Saint David of Wales Episcopal Church.
- ⁸³ UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁸⁴ Bobbé, 178-179.
- ⁸⁵ Ruttenber, 140.
- ⁸⁶ Bobbé, 72.
- ⁸⁷ Bobbé, 185, 187, 188, 190.
- ⁸⁸ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 1798-1814*, 38. Charles A. gives her date of death as February 13, 1813.
- ⁸⁹ Bobbé, 195. Named after his grandfather because his brother, Walter Franklin, had died in 1810.
- ⁹⁰ Ruttenber, 140.
- ⁹¹ Baptisms by A.J. Stansbury in *The Register of Marriages, Baptisms, and Deaths in The Presbyterian-Church, Albany from November 1785*, Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970 ([Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)). And, UMLSC: *Clinton letter, 1841*, 3.
- ⁹² Callahan, 119.
- ⁹³ **DIED**, *New York Daily Herald* (New York), February 21, 1842, 3.
- ⁹⁴ NYCMA, *Death Register: Manhattan, 18141-1843*, 50.