

“Capturing Henry Clay: Through A Year of the Days of His Life”
Completed Over the Year 2013

by
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Henry Clay’s achievements are memorialized across this country, as well as Latin America. And though he has been physically gone for over 161 years, he very much exists in Lexington, Washington, D.C., and a myriad of other notable locales where he made history. Clay residue will be among the last vestiges of our civilization. He was a “Rock Star” of his time, and his story continues to flourish due to the potency of his charismatic persona. He was a “major player” rendering “Ashland” as a mecca for those impressed by power. Speaker of the House, Secretary of State, one of the five most outstanding U.S. Senators, and formulator of three great compromises that held off the Civil War for forty years – all part of his amazing resume. But he was also a husband, father, grandfather, and a key citizen of the Lexington community. He practiced law, farmed, and assembled an “international conclave” of prized livestock at his beloved “Ashland.” The days of his life were filled with varied experiences, extraordinary achievements, worshipful adoration, and the stimulation of travel. There were great highs, but also great disappointments and tragedies. Seven of his children died in his lifetime, and he was often not physically well. He felt the pain of failure five times in his quest to be President, but as Lincoln so admired, was driven by an “implacable will.”

This project strives to show the many facets of Henry Clay, through a year of illustrative events and ordinary days covering the better part of his life. It is my hope that for those who read and use this calendar, it indeed captures Henry Clay in a manner that both provokes new depths of understanding, and reinforces what first drew you to “Ashland.”

January

1. In 1818, speaks to the American Colonization Societyí òIt was proper again and again to repeat, that it was far from the intention of the society to affect, in any manner, the tenure by which a certain species of property is held. He himself was a slaveholder; and he considered that kind of property as inviolable as any other in the countryöí wouldñ even say òthat he would emancipate his slaves, if the means were provided of sending them from the countryöí goes on to say: òAnd can there be anything, to a reflecting freeman, (and some among the class of persons to whom he alluded were doubtless capable of reflection) more humiliating, more dark and cheerless, than to see himself, and trace in imagination his posterity, through all succeeding time, degraded and debased, aliens to society of which they are members, and cut off from all its higher blessings?ö Obviously, Henry Clay could never have imagined Barack Obama!
2. In 1850, writes Lucretia complaining about receiving no letters from Kentucky (Lucretia did not write)í goes on to tell herí òI attended yesterday (New Year's Day) the President's Levee. There was a vast throng. I shook hands with hundreds and found myself an object of as much attention as the President himself.ö
3. In 1809, the Kentucky Legislature òResolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that from and after the day of next, the members of the general assembly will clothe themselves in productions of American manufacture, and will abstain from the use of cloth or linens of European fabric until the belligerent nations respect the rights of neutrals by repealing their orders and decrees as relates to the United States.ö This resolution, backed by Clay, led to his first duel.
 - (also on the 3rd. 1852) In an 1852 letter to James Brown Clay òí my health continues feeble, my strength, my flesh, my appetite, and my sleeping are all diminishingí you think I am despondent, but if you could witness my coughing for twenty four hours, and how much I have been reduced since we parted, you would not think so ó Besides despondency implies apprehension of death; I entertain none. I am ready to go whenever it is the will of God that I should be summoned hence. And I do most sincerely desire that my present Critical Condition should be brought to a speedy issue one way or the other. All my worldly affairs are fully arranged for any event, and I could never, at any former period have died with so little inconvenience to my successors as I can at present.öí òGive my love to Susan. Kiss all of the children for me and particularly Lucy and little Henry.ö
4. In 1809, Humphrey Marshall in response to Clay's resolution the previous day òEntering the House Chamber clad in the best imported British broadcloth, he called Clay a demagogue for making an issue of foreign manufactures.ö Clay questioned Marshall's patriotism. Marshall called Clay a liar. And all the ingredients were mixed to lead to Henry Clay's first duel.

5. In 1807 the National Intelligencer (newspaper) reported on investigations related to the charges that had been brought against Aaron Burr in Kentucky (related to a conspiracy of dismembering the union, detaching the western territory, and adding Mexico and Florida to form an American empire under the rule of Burr) Clay represented Burr. Clay was upset with the procedures being followed. "what a mockery of justice and respect for the law to harass an individual with criminal accusations and haul him into a courtroom only to back away at the last minute and to do it not once but twice was the height of whimsy and caprice." Due to political considerations he later declines to further represent Burr.
6. In 1844 he was invited by the Clay Club of Charleston, South Carolina, to visit and speak. He did so in April, after stressing that he was very reluctant to socialize due to the status of his health. "Even so, he made a speech of thrilling eloquence and great ability, occupying, near two hours."
7. Writes to James Irwin, in 1824: "My election to the Presidency I think is certain, if I can be made one of the three highest, from among whom the House of Representatives will undoubtedly, from present appearances have to make the selection. Mine would in that event be certain, whilst I think it equally certain that General Andrew Jackson could not be elected. If he should even be one of the highest Clay came in fourth, Jackson got the most votes. Through Henry's support of John Quincy Adams, he denies Jackson the Presidency. A week later Adams names Clay Secretary of State. Charges by Jackson that this was a "Corrupt Bargain" haunted Clay's political ambitions the rest of his life."
8. Writes to Thomas Hart Clay, in 1850: "I am greatly concerned about your poor mother. I am afraid that she has too much suffering and trouble for one person to bear. John promised me to do all in his power to promote her comfort and happiness. I wish you and Mary (Mentelle) would do all in your power to lighten her burdens as much as possible. I do not think that I will leave her again another winter." But he did so one final winter, in 1851.
9. In 1825 meets with John Quincy Adams --- "beginning at 6 o'clock in the evening the two spent about three hours in Adams's study, and most of what was said there would remain forever behind that room's door." Adams noted in his diary that they talked about the past and the future. Clay left in support of Adams's principles.
10. In 1848 (sic 1849) writes to James Brown Clay. relates that he has stayed with Mr. William St. John Elliot (Natchez) and shall soon leave for New Orleans. "I have been treated with the greatest possible kindness" had mentioned to Mr. Elliot, Liberty, Mr. Pendell's negro boy, and he requests me to inquire into his character, through you, and to ascertain at what price he may be bought. If his character is such as I have heard it and R. Pindell will sell him at a reasonable price, Mr. Elliot will purchase him. "38 days later Clay will make public his views on emancipation, trying, yet again to get Kentucky to abandon slavery.

11. In 1850, writes to Lucretia: "I have been quite concerned and unhappy about the troubles and vexations which I fear you have had to encounter at home, on account of the small pox, the difficulty of hiring hands, the bad weather. I have often regretted that I was not at home to share them with you, or to lighten them as far as I could."
12. In 1851 (sic 1852), gives Lucretia an account of his health: "My cough I think is somewhat diminished, but it is occasionally most tormenting. Although I take an opiate every night, I lay for hours and hours without any sleep. I sit up four or five hours everyday, and for the rest I am on the couch. My nursing is good and all that I want I hope, my wife, that you will take good care of my will. Its loss or destruction would produce great confusion, after I am gone, and would affect you and John most injuriously."
13. An 1845 letter to Ebenezer Pettigrew: "I must admit that the result of the Presidential Election took me by surprise. I did not expect it. I shall never forget my visit to Raleigh (N.C.). (He was there on his 67th birthday). I have other reasons gratefully to remember North Carolina the most beautiful ornamental article in my house, a magnificent picture of the Washington family, by Henry Inman, admired by all who visit me, was recently presented to Mrs. Clay by our good friend Mr. James C. Johnston, to whom, when you see him I request you to offer the affectionate regards of"
14. In 1828, Ariel Kendrick of New Hampshire solicits a contribution to the Baptist Church in Claremont and refers to Adams as "our illustrious President," but wishes however, that the President would give the Billiard Table to him in whose service it is employed (I mean Satan) and replace it with some "elegant Bibles" scattered throughout the house.
15. In 1852, William Rives writes from Paris, France: sends his "ardent wishes for the early restoration of your health, which I have heard, with deep concern, had been a good deal deranged by consequences of the untiring exertions of both mind and body you had devoted to the adjustment of the unhappy controversy which has, of late, so seriously threatened the peace and future destinies of our country."
16. In 1837, much to the chagrin of Henry Clay, the Senate ordered the Censure of Andrew Jackson "Expunged by order of the Senate, this 16th day of January 1837." "In the aftermath of this event Clay all but ceased participating in Senate debates." At least for a while.
 - In an 1848 letter to son, James: "I am sorry that you indulge in bad spirits. You are wrong to do so, and have much to cheer and animate you. More by far than most persons."
17. In an 1847 letter to James Brown Clay, a concerned grandfather expresses feelings for his favorite (?) granddaughter: "I received your letter of the 1st. and was much distressed by the account you give me of dear little Lucy's health. She

- is one of the few links that bind me to life, and I should be quite inconsolable if we were to lose her. Tell Doctor (Benjamin) Dudley that I hope he will exert all his skill to restore her.ö Lucy would die at age eighteen, of diphtheria, in 1863. At least this was one loss he was spared in his lifetime.
18. In 1848, addresses the American Colonization Society: mentions that he was one of those who helped form the ACSí öIt has been some years since I had the honor of sitting in your society and in all probability this is the last time I will be permitted to do soöí talks of ACS belief that white and black races could not live togetherí öI know, indeed, that there are men, many of them in high respectability, who hold that all this is prejudice: that it should be expelled from our minds, and that we ought to recognize in men, though of different color from ourselves, members of our common race, entitled in all respects to equal privileges with ourselves.ö He admits this may be true in their view, öí but we went on the broad and incontestable fact that the two races could not, on equal terms, live in the same community harmoniously together.ö
 19. In 1852, his vice-Presidential candidate in 1844, Theodore Frelinghuysen expresses his ögreat interest and anxiety of your continued feeble health.ö Frelinghuysen, a religious man, encourages Clay öto look away to Him whose blessed Gospel, that reveals the riches of God's grace in Jesus Christ, is a wonderful remedyí Prays that Clay will lean all your hopes on the Almighty Savior's armí for life and death, for time and eternity.ö
 20. In 1819, Clay makes an enemy for life in a speech castigating Andrew Jackson's actions in Florida. öThe ladies of Washington appeared in droves to hear his voice --- extra chairs placed on the floor to accommodate them.ö He spoke for three hours. Even a man who detested Clay said this was öthe most eloquent speech he ever heard.ö While Clay took the day with his excellent oratory, this speech öhas most often been described as a serious miscalculation.ö
 21. Writes to Lucretia, in 1850, that he has heard from James that öpoor little Lucy had fallen down the steps and broke her left arm in two places. It had been set, and she was doing as well as could be expectedöí also, öI regret extremely that you should have been so much disturbed and concerned by the illness of the negroes. I trust that, after this session, if God spare us, that we may be able to do something to lighten your burthens (burdens?) and to enable you to live an easier lifeí ö
 22. Enters an agreement in 1805, with John Fisher, to build two buildings ó Ashland, and öone on the lot purchased by the said Clay of John Jordan.ö öCovenants that the brick shall be of a good qualityí The house in town shall be fronted with stock brick, and three of the sides of that in the country (Ashland) with Sand Brick.ö One year later two other Lexington builders öexamined Clay's house built by John Fisher adjoining John Jordan, and it contains 99,364 bricks.ö You can use this information to impress your companions at the Henry Clay Pub.

23. In 1825, writes to James Brown: "Mrs. Clay did not accompany me here as I wished. Her long absence from society, and the too rigorous economy to which she thinks herself bound to subject herself opposed (sic) in her view, obstacles to her accompanying me which I could not overcome. I am beginning to reap some of the fruits of her frugality; and of my professional success, by gradually emerging from the weight of debt which bore us down. I have paid off my Astor bond, and no longer am afflicted by fears of the condition in which I should leave my family, if I were cut off suddenly. Two years more of such prosperity would find me liberated from debt."
24. In 1850, speaks on the floor of the senate, advocating the purchase of Mount Vernon, and Washington's Farewell Address. He provides an example of the significance of physical artifacts as a memorial to Washington: "Sir, in my own humble parlor at Ashland, I have at this moment a broken goblet which was used by General Washington, during almost the whole of the revolutionary war there is nothing in that parlor so much revered, or which is an object of greater admiration to the stranger who comes to see me." Jefferson Davis, who had come to Ashland (a friend of Henry Clay Jr.) while a student at Transylvania, took a strong stand against the purchase of these as memorials.
25. In 1804, Henry Clay, and several other gentlemen offer a \$200 reward, "To any person who will give information to either of the Subscribers, by which they will be enabled to discover the mother of a female child, left at the door of James Morrison, in Lexington on the morning of the 9th," "The above reward is offered with a view of rescuing the reputation of several innocent females from the unjust suspicion of being the mother of the child. It is the primary duty of every honest citizen to do justice, and relieve the innocent from aspersions calculated to wound the reputation, which, to a female of delicacy and sensibility is dearer than life."
26. In 1829, gives advice to Henry Clay, Jr.: "You think that in being assigned to third place in mathematics, injustice was done you; but that is a very respectable standing, and one that may fully satisfy a reasonable ambition. I should be sorry that you should cherish any feeling of dissatisfaction upon the notion that you had experienced injustice. There is no mistake which a man commits with more ease than that of judging of the degree of his own merit."
27. Solomon P. Sharp, 1813, writes Clay and sends information on a case he had inquired about. Sharp, from Virginia, had come to Kentucky, practiced law in Russellville, served in the legislature and Congress, and on November 7, 1825 would be involved in a major event in Kentucky history. He was assassinated at his home in Frankfort by Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, whose action purportedly was in defense of his wife's honor.
28. Appears in the Supreme Court of Louisiana, 1843, and thanks them, "for the privilege of addressing it and apologizes for his want of knowledge of the peculiar civil code of laws in Louisiana, but knows, however, that this case is governed by

- the general principles with which all lawyers must be familiar.ö Representing Mrs. James Brown in a \$9,000 dispute, he utilizes all his persuasive charmsí
 öExtols the laws of Louisiana which so well and wisely protect the property rights of women and regrets that other states have not such laws, for women are the pillars-aye the Corinthian pillars-that adorn and support society, and the institutions that support women throw a shield around children.ö Not surprisingly, in July, 1843, the Louisiana Supreme Court overturned a Lower Court decision and ordered the heirs of Humphrey to pay \$9,000 to the estate of James Brown.
29. In 1850, ösubmits a series of resolutions, which, -Taken together, in combinationí propose an amicable arrangement of all questions in controversy between the free and slave states, growing out of the subject of slaveryöí öHolds up a fragment of that coffin in which now repose in silence, in sleep, and speechless, all the earthly remains of the venerated Father of his country (George Washington)í öDescribes the relic as a warning voice, coming from the grave to the Congress now in session to beware, to pause, to reflect before they lend themselves to any purposes which shall destroy that Union which was cemented by his exertions and example.ö
30. In 1851, requests that George Vanderhoff repeat his readings of Richard Sheridan's dramatic writings or such parts of Shakespeare as you may select.
31. Writes to Thomas Stevenson from New Orleans (1849) öReports that the cholera outbreak had prevented his meeting with Zachary Taylor, but had met him long enough, öto exchange friendly salutationsö in Baton Rougeí also tells of suffering, öa terrible accidental fall which altho fortunately I broke no bones, has for the present confined me to my lodgings (Dr. William Mercer's home), disabled me from walking, and almost from writing.ö And matter of factly statesí öI suppose that I shall be elected to the Senate by the General Assembly of Kentucky, in which case I shall hardly feel myself at liberty to decline, conferred as the office will be without any solicitation from me, without my being a candidate, and with the knowledge of my strong disinclination to return to that body.ö He would do so öout of a sense of dutyö and the öpossibility of my being able to do some good.ö The ösome goodö was the Compromise of 1850 which held off the Civil War for another decade, and may well have enabled the North to build up resources that ensured victory.

February

1. Henry Clay, Jr. writes, in 1829: öMay I be permitted to say that it seems to me that you have not taken my assertion, that I was not treated quite right at the late examination in the proper lightöí explains his position ensuring his father of the validity of his complaintsí öfor I am too well convinced of the truth of your remark, that there is not a mistake which a man commits with more ease than that of judging erroneously of the degree of his own merit, and Hence no one should be more carefully guarded against.ö There are a lot of letters like this between father and son.

2. Writes to an old friend, Francis Brooke, 1828, inviting him to "come at once to my house, where we have plenty of room for such accommodations as we shall take pleasure in affording you. It would add to Mrs. Clay's gratification and my own, if you would bring Mrs. Brooke with you." Clay met Francis Brooke when he stayed at the home, in Richmond, Virginia, of his older brother Robert. They formed a lifelong friendship.

3. It was reported in 1818 that the James Monroe administration was not equal to that of James and Dolley Madison's parties and social events. "In matters both convivial and political, Monroe's presidency did not measure up to Clay's standards."

4. In 1845, writes to good friend Mary S. Bayard: "Among my occupations here, during the winter, I have been reading and studying some interesting theological works, and I hope and believe that I have benefitted by them and by my reflections on them. You ask me if I am happy? Ah! My dear friend, who on earth is happy? Very few, I apprehend, if any."

5. On this day, and February 6th, 1850, Clay speaks over four hours in support of his resolutions (Compromise of 1850) "By midmorning, the Capitol was brimming with spectators so numerous they were blocking access to the Senate Chamber" Clay was sick and was helped into the Senate "As always he spoke without notes. Kate Chase, the beautiful daughter of Salmon Chase, remarked later that, "Clay was so tall he had to unwind himself to get up" for the rest of the afternoon his performance was so focused that he did not even go to his snuff box."

6. 1850, completes his speech on the Compromise of 1850. He makes clear his position and warns what a Civil War would be like: "I am directly opposed to any purpose of secession, of separation. I am for staying within the Union" and fighting for my rights "if necessary, with the sword" Here I am within it (Union), and here I mean to stand and die" thinks that the Constitution was made, not merely for the generation which then existed, but for posterity" We have mutual faults, nothing in the form of human beings can be perfect; let us, then, be kind to each other, forbearing, conceding; let us live in happiness and peace. The only alternative is war" from the wars of Greece down, including those of the Commonwealth of England, and the revolution of France" None of them raged with such violence, or was ever conducted with such bloodshed and enormities as will that war which shall follow dissolution of the Union" An "exterminating" war would follow" "Not a war of two or three years, but of interminable duration" Implores Northerners and Southerners" to pause" solemnly to pause" at the edge of the precipice, before the fearful and disastrous leap is taken into the yawning abyss below" "Prays that if the direful and sad event of the dissolution of the Union shall happen, I may not survive to behold the sad and heart-rending spectacle."

7. Reports to Lucretia on his speech over the past two days (1850): "I have been yesterday and the day before making a speech of near four hours and three quarters, in the Senate, on my propositions to compromise the slavery questions. It has exhausted me very much, but I hope to recover my strength in a day or two. Whether

my specific propositions will be adopted or not is uncertain, but all agree that my movement and speeches have done good.ö

8. In 1850, writes to James W. Simonton to thank him for arranging a meeting with Thomas Ritchie. They had not spoken in years. An influential editor, Ritchie had requested to meet with Clay. öHe had already expressed his approval of the Compromise in the Washington Union, and had suggested to Senator Harry S. Foote, of Mississippi, the idea of proposing a special committee of thirteen to consider the problems involving slavery and the territories.ö At a March dinner, Ritchie turned to Clay (jokingly) and said: öLook here, Mr. Clay, if you will really save the Union we will all forgive you for having had Mr. Adams elected in 1825 by bargain, intrigue, and management.ö To which Clay replied: öShut your mouth, Tom Ritchie; you know perfectly well that there never was a word of truth in that charge.ö Ritchie replied, öVery well, very well. I say to you nowí that if you succeed in rescuing the Republic from ruin, and I should survive you, Tom Ritchie will plant a sprig of laurel upon your grave.ö In this meeting, Clay did make a frank confessioní öWere I to live that part of my public life over again, I should not deem it judicious to accept at his hands (Adams) the Secretaryship of State. By doing so I injured both him and myselfí and often have I painfully felt that I had seriously impaired my own capacity for public usefulness.ö

9. In 1852, Daniel Ullman adds another to the ömany warm testimonials and enduring memorials to your great services to your country and mankind.ö Presents Clay with a gold medalí öthinks that no medal ever struck in this country surpasses it in beauty, and that is the best likeness of your features ever yet attempted by any artöí öNotes that all the national medals hitherto struck in this country, have been commemorative of the triumphs of American armsí let the first American victor of peace also be thus commemorated.ö

10. A newspaper report, 1848, that a case in which Clay is engaged in counsel, öwill be taken up on Monday next. Everybody is preparing to be there, with the regret that only four or five hundred persons can possibly crowd into the room. Why if we had a Roman Amphitheater for a court room, that would hold 20,000 people, I think it could be filled just about these days, to hear a speech from the lips of Henry Clay.ö

11. In 1851ö a bill to help states care for the indigent insane was under discussion. öThe proposal was to grant a portion of the public lands to fund asylums. Clay praised the benevolent purpose but was concerned, he said, about placing so much of the public domain in the hands of one person.ö His remarks were so off-base öit was obvious that he was confused.ö The Heidlers (Essential American) state that öClay had slipped a mental cog over the simplest of proposals.ö

12. In a letter, days before his death (1847), Henry Clay, Jr. writes to his fatherí öI have not received a letter from you for many weeks. The last was written before you left Kentucky. I have heard indirectly since that you are in New Orleans and in good healthöí assures his father öí upon my honor that my own habits have not for years been so good as during this campaign and I have not for a single moment been

incapacitated for my duties except by sickness and the dislocation of my arm is critical of some superiors. I am no disorganizer and every corps must have a head. I desire therefore that you will burn and not repeat what I write. Had I my choice however I would rather be a private than a Lt. Colonel under the present arrangement. I long for a battle that it may have an end. The battle, and his end, came for Henry Clay Jr. just eleven days later.

13. In 1840, Julia Prather Clay (H.C.Jr.'s wife) suffered a massive hemorrhage during the night, two weeks after the birth of son, Thomas Julian. This was a devastating blow that Henry Clay, Jr. never overcame. Yet, despite this tragedy and his overwhelming grief, Clay Sr. decided to go to Richmond, Virginia, after all in the hope that the journey and new scenes would help him forget my sorrows. Rather than cancel a previously planned reception to grieve with Lucretia, Henry Jr., and family, Clay resorts to travel to cope with tragedy. He would do the same when Henry Clay, Jr. was killed in the Mexican War.

14. Responding, in 1850, to Senator Henry Foote: I know no South, no North, no East, no West to which I owe any allegiance. I owe allegiance to two sovereignties, and only two; one is to the sovereignty of this Union, and the other to the sovereignty of the State of Kentucky. Offended by some of Foote's insinuations expresses hope that the gentleman will not transcend the limits of legitimate parliamentary debate in using any language toward me, because I fear I could not even trust myself if he were to do it. Senators should demonstrate a reciprocity of parliamentary dignity and propriety.

15. Demonstrates his command of sarcasm, 1811, in comments about Virginia's William Giles. He said, Giles had discussed both sides of the question, with great ability and eloquence, and certainly demonstrated to the satisfaction of all who heard him, both that it was constitutional and unconstitutional, highly proper and improper to prolong the charter or the bank. Enemies would later recall such incidents as foreshadowing a dismissive arrogance of those less quick and less clever in floor debates.

16. Washington Irving, in 1811, describes Clay: Henry Clay is one of the finest orators in the Senate, though I believe the youngest man in it, and is one of the finest fellows I have seen here.

17. Sends, in 1849, a letter to Richard Pendell on the subject of Emancipation. concludes Kentucky enjoys high respect and honorable consideration throughout the union and throughout the civilized world; but in my humble opinion, no title which she has to the esteem and admiration of mankind, no deeds of her former glory, would equal in greatness and grandeur, that of being the Pioneer State in removing from her soil every trace of human slavery, and in establishing the descendants of Africa, within her jurisdiction, in the native land of their forefathers. In any event, I shall have the satisfaction of having performed a duty to the state, to the subject, and to myself, by placing my sentiments permanently upon record.

-(also on the 17th) In 1845, from John Tilford has received the sum of \$5,000 which I was directed to apply to the payment of a note of yours due to the Northern Bank of Kentucky for that amount which I have accordingly done, and now enclose it not informed from whom money comes, other than they are your friends and of their desire to render your remaining years from pecuniary cares. .

18. In 1845, Ursin Bouligny, Jr., from New Orleans, announces his intention to visit Ashland this summer and assures him if he can get a good lot of mules I think it is likely that I can trade with you for it is interested in purchasing them because I can, I think without any difficulty, place 50 to 70 mules amongst my Planters at fair prices informs Clay that none will do but first rate mules the height is not as much consequence as some suppose what Planters want are mules 15 hands thick, well set, and not long legged.

19. Lottie Dupuy, insisting that she was free filed a petition in 1829, in U.S. Circuit Court for D.C. The deed shocked and angered Clay. Lottie's stance called into question his sincerity about gradual emancipation. He was convinced that Lottie had become the pawn of his political enemies. Her suit did damage to Clay's reputation as a benevolent master.

20. In 1852, Clay writes to correct a story circulating that he had prepared LaFayette's speech in 1824. Not so, he said. All he did was, as they breakfasted together December 10, 1824, was read to him remarks I was going to make on that day and remark to him it would afford him a fine opportunity to pay us a handsome compliment which he might do by saying he found himself surrounded by the same patriotic, etc. He noted that LaFayette seemed pleased with this and incorporated it within his comments. Clay supposes this trivial incident is what gave rise to the misinformation.

21. In not one of his finest hours, Clay makes a speech in the Senate about the Fugitive Slave Law (1851): Expresses a high degree of satisfaction regarding the execution of the law only in Boston has there been a problem. He attributes the problem was that Blacks were encouraged by others Is there any other man in the Senate who believes that it is originated among these Negroes? He blames the abolitionists to stimulate these Negroes to acts of violence, recommending them to arm themselves, and to slay, murder, and kill anybody in pursuit of them Does not everybody know that it was not the work of those miserable wretches, who are without the knowledge and without a perfect consciousness of what was their duty. They are urged on and stimulated by speeches, some of which are made on the floor of the House of Representatives.

22. Writes to John Tilford, 1845, regarding a \$5,000 payment on his bank note asks him to convey to them (his friends who gave the money) my deep and grateful sense of this distinguished testimony of their friendship I trust that they will do my heart the justice to believe that, in a reversal of our respective conditions, it would irresistibly prompt me to hasten to their relief.

23. In 1847, Henry Clay, Jr. was killed in the Mexican War, at the Battle of Buena Vista. This was a devastating blow to his father, who shortly thereafter joined the Episcopal Church and was baptized at Ashland.

-(also on 23rd in 1851) Responds to a request made by Richard Parker regarding what he considered to be his favorite speeches: "If I were to make a hap-hazard suggestion, I would say that from my speeches in January, 1812, on the war, on South American Independence, on Greece, on the removal of the deposits, during General Andrew Jackson's administration, in answer to Mr. William Rives in 1841, on John Tyler's veto of the Bank, and my speech of September last on the Compromise" .

24. On this date, in 1838, a duel took place in Maryland between Representative William Graves of Kentucky, and Representative Jonathan Cilley of Maine. It was fought with rifles. "Washington reacted in horror to this senseless slaughter." Graves killed Cilley, "on the third fire." Many accused Clay because he helped Graves write the formal challenge. "The weary Senator did so, he later admitted, in an attempt to soften its language in order to produce an amicable settlement of the dispute." For weeks Congress debated outlawing dueling in the District of Columbia. "The Senate passed its version on April 9, with Clay voting in the affirmative, but the House let it die." This was a period of great stress for Henry Clay. "His health was not good in early 1838, and he admitted, "I am worked to death almost."

25. In 1814, sailed on the John Adams from New York "to commence a horrendous journey over persistently mountainous seas lashed by frozen rain" in cramped and malodorous quarters. "The ship's Captain became deranged, adding to the nightmare of the seven week passage" they arrived at Gottenburg on the West Coast of Sweden. So we see that Clay's service as a Peace Negotiator for the Treaty of Ghent involved hardship and danger.

26. In an 1848 speech at Independence Hall: "Expresses gratitude to Philadelphia and her citizens for their kindness, attention, and regard." Notes that in his long and chequered career his life had not been free from vicissitudes; but under every circumstance, and however situated, he had always met with kindness in Philadelphia. "said he did not intend to make a formal speech and even if he had planned to, would not, due to the recent death of John Q. Adams. A little over four years from this date Clay's body would lie in state at Independence Hall.

27. Writes to Henry Clay, Jr. 1845: "with his \$5,000 gift from friends he has reduced his debt to John Jacob Astor to \$10,000. "I mean to write in a week or two and propose a further indulgence of two years for this latter sum, and to state positively that it is the last indulgence that will be asked. (Over the course of his life, Astor would loan Clay large sums of money)" Reports that John's case is hopeless. "He exhibited strong and unequivocal demonstration of derangement, and I understand manifested it more decisively than his unfortunate brother" "We shall make the best arrangement we can for the comfort of them, and among others I have sent a servant to the Hospital to attend to them" "I find it extremely hard to bear this last sad affliction. It has put in requisition the utmost fortitude I can

commandöí Encourages and invites Henry Clay, Jr. to öcome live with usöí perhaps they can get involved in some business together.

28. Clay arrives, in 1844, in Mobile, Alabama to spend a week at the home of his very good friend, Octavia LeVert, and her husband, Dr. Henry LaVert. While there, they gave him a wonderful ball. Other than the cold he was suffering, this may have been the high point of perhaps the most stimulating year of his life. He has just spent time at his favorite New Orleans, now being celebrated by good friends in Mobile, at the peak of a career that makes him a clear favorite to be, finally, elected President. He writes to Lucretia: öIt is impossible that I could be treated with more kindness than I am by them. They have made a deep and grateful impression on my feelingsí .They gave me a splendid ball.ö

29. In 1852, writes to good friend, Dr. William Mercer: Advises him to get away from his residencesö öquit the scenes of Canal Street and Laurel Hill (his plantation)ö because öevery affliction which you have recently experiencedö (his daughter had recently died)í Addsí . öI wish that I could say something about the state of my health, but I cannotí My distressing cough continues, perhaps a little abated and unless I can get rid of it, I think it must prove fatal.ö These two great friends, who have celebrated so many good times together, are now sharing difficult times.

March

1. Clay referred to this day, in 1833, as perhaps the most important Congressional Day that had ever occurredö Congress had passed the Compromise Tariff of 1833. Hereafter, Clay was often referred to as the öGreat Pacificator.ö
2. Clay expresses the belief that he may be the Whig Choice for President in 1840, on this day in 1838...but warns that the climate could change. And change it did. Had he received this nomination most believe he would have been elected President.
3. An 1817 letter explains the circumstances of the conflict between the Senate and House relative to James Monroe's Inauguration. Senate wanted to hold it in House Chambers, but put their öfine red chairsö in place of House furniture. Clay offered the House, as is. Monroe's inauguration was held outside.
4. Henry Clay did not attend James Monroe's inauguration (1817).
5. Henry and Lucretia very worried about John, 1845, about to be placed in the Lexington Lunatic Asylum. He will be the second son confined there.
6. In 1809, an ad appeared in a Lexington newspaper announcing that Clay has lost a horse, and if found should be returned to Ashland. This is the first indication we have that the Clays are living at Ashland. They may have moved there in 1808.

7. Lucy Jacob Clay, one of Clay's favorite granddaughters, dies of diphtheria, at Ashland, in 1863. Three of James and Susan's children died between 1862-63. Clay left a gold and diamond ring to Lucy when he died. He admired her attitude in dealing with her disability.
8. Conveys to Lucretia in 1851... "I have finally concluded to return by Cuba and New Orleans. The great difficulty I have felt in coming to this conclusion has been my long absence from you and my desire to be with you." His cough/health is bad: "I hope that I may be benefitted by the softer climate of Cuba."
9. In 1822, a "Masonic notice" invited all Masons among members of Congress and visitors in Washington to a meeting in the Senate Chamber that evening. So, even though Clay declares later in life that he was never a "Bright-Mason," he was certainly involved at this stage of his life. In 1831, he said "I would not renounce Masonry to be made President of the United States." (March 13th)
10. Rare letter from Lucretia to Henry, 1814, (he is out of the country for negotiation of Treaty of Ghent): "I hear that there is sickness in Lexington (she is still in Washington) - More sickly than it has ever been - Children are well - Henry always talking of you, comes up and kisses me for his papa - "I long very much to be at home with my family, for I am very dreary here as I do not pay visits; indeed I found I could not go out without you in the evening, but I do all in my power to keep me from being melancholy."
11. In 1823, Hugh Mercer will pay Clay \$100 to represent him in Federal Court. He has paid him \$600 previously for his legal assistance. Mercer lived in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mercer County, Kentucky, was named after his father.
12. In 1848 is leaving New York, and pleads of Christopher Hughes: "That while in Baltimore - my greatest want is rest and peace. Do keep the crowd off me; and if you cannot I shall hasten away from you." At this stage of his life, travel, and crowds, took a toll on him.
13. In 1829, traded a lot that he owned, across from the White House (in Lafayette Square), for two Andalusian Jackasses.

In 1848 was presented with a bell cast from a portion of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Clay promised to carry it to Ashland and "preserve it amongst the most highly prized and cherished objects of my residence."
14. Narrowly avoids what would have been his third duel in 1841. Clay had said of Alabama's William R. King's remarks: "False, untrue, cowardly" King was detained "for fear he would do something rash. Both men posted bonds with D.C. justices of the peace as surety that they would not assault each other." Clay apologizes for misunderstanding King's remarks. They shook hands. Duel avoided.

15. In 1850, Edward Coles, of Philadelphia, sends Clay a copy of a manuscript written by Dolly Madison containing the "advice to his country of the great and good James Madison." Maybe Clay could use it "during the present diseased state of the public mind" brought about by the "ultra politicians of the day."
16. In 1849, William Lloyd Garrison (famous abolitionist) sends Clay a scathing letter: "Regards John C. Calhoun as a more honest, trust-worthy and harmless man than yourself, even on this question of slavery! you are more to be feared, and can do incomparably greater mischief, by your double-dealing and hypocrisy." He castigates Clay for owning "more than 60 slaves," and asks "Are you not condemned out of your own mouth?" Garrison was a well-known abolitionist and editor of *The Liberator*. Clay felt equal dislike of abolitionists.
17. In an 1848 Speech to the Hibernian Society of Baltimore: "During my life I have had the honor, abroad and at home, to have been elected an honorary member of various societies and associations, and on no occasion have I regarded the voluntary extension of such an honor to me with more gratification than I now feel. I shall cherish the recollection of your cordial reception as among the most pleasing incidents of my life."
18. Lucretia Hart was born, in 1781.
19. In 1824, informs Nicholas Biddle that the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the institution (Bank of the United States) on several pending points. "I congratulate you on these auspicious results."
20. Licensed to practice law in Kentucky, 1798. "Henry Clay Esquire, produced in Court a License and on his motion is permitted to practice as an Attorney At Law, in this Court. And thereupon took the oaths by Law prescribed."
21. In an 1826 letter to John Bradford, talked about the future Morrison Hall to be built at Transylvania University: "I think such a building may be erected, and that among the purposes of the university to which it may be applied, that for medical school may be deemed a fit one." He goes on to state: "If the Morrison Hall be determined on now, preparations might be made this summer and fall and the house completed next year." Clay was very involved with Transylvania: first as a Professor, then for several years as Trustee.
22. Cary Fry writes to Clay in 1847: "he was in charge of the 2nd Kentucky Regiment when Henry Clay Jr. and William McKee were killed---encloses "a lock of his hair, which was taken from his head as soon as he was brought into the camp."
23. Amos Kendall requests a loan of \$2,000 from Clay. This letter in 1825: "Remini states he is putting Clay on notice that if he doesn't help him he would desert to the Jacksonians." And that he did, becoming a serious enemy of Henry Clay.

24. Suffers an apparent heart attack in 1842, but back in action a week later to deliver his Farewell Address to the Senate.
25. Daniel Webster reports to Clay, in 1827, on the status of things in Philadelphia relative to Clay and Adams: "The general state of feeling, there, seems entirely satisfactory." Over their careers, Clay and Webster often worked together, and often were at odds with each other.
26. In an 1825 letter to Elisha Whittlesey describes his feelings about the Secretary of State position: "I find my new office not a bed of roses, but one that requires me to work 12 or 14 hours per day."
27. In 1827, reports to Brother-in-Law, James Brown: Thinks Adams will be re-elected; Lucretia's health is not so good; if he lives a few more years he will be entirely out of debt; his health not good but better than the preceding winter. "The duties of my office (Secretary of State) continue to be very laborious."
28. Manages to win Senate Censure of President Andrew Jackson in 1834, for exceeding his authority in removing federal money from the Bank of the U.S. and depositing it in "Pet Banks." "The Censure enraged Jackson." Clay thought Jackson should have his head examined.
29. In 1826, receives a complaint from Baron de Mareuil (French Legation). "Complains to Clay of a disturbance in the street under his window, during the preceding night, the breaking of a pane of glass, and the theft of two outside lanterns." This demonstrates the variety of issues he had to deal with as Secretary of State.
30. In 1847, while dining at Ashland, Clay gets the word that Henry Clay Jr. was killed in the Battle of Buena Vista on February 23.
31. In 1842, bids farewell to the Senate. He will return in 1849 to help formulate the Compromise of 1850. This Compromise will help delay the Civil War ten years, enabling the Union States to build resources necessary to win the war.

April

1. 1850, pays tribute to John C. Calhoun, who had died March 31,: "I was his senior in years" in nothing else." They had started out as "War Hawks" and often worked together on issues. But by the mid-1830s they became bitter opponents.
2. In 1845 relates to Henry Clay Jr: "I am happy to inform you that my good friends have contributed \$24,750 towards my relief, which has been applied to the payment of my debt" "I learn indirectly that a further sum is coming to my

- assistance, but if no more comes, the remnant of my debt will occasion me no solicitude.ö
3. Clay was often sick, as mentioned in this 1822 letter, : ö I have been detained here by indisposition, which for the three last days has absolutely confined me to my room.ö
 4. In 1851 is concluding a three week trip to Cuba (the last big trip of his life).
 5. Reports on his recent trip, in an 1848 letter, to Anna Mercer: öThey almost killed me with kindness in the cities. My hand has been so shook, and crushed, that I have often been unable to write. The work of destruction, commenced by the men, was almost completed by the Ladies. Tell your Aunt that I protest that their caresses were not sought by me, althoøI must plead guilty as to their not having been declined.ö
 6. In an 1844, öspeech of thrilling eloquence and great ability, occupying near two hours,ö Clay expresses thanks to öthe various committees, to the throngs of citizens, and especially to the assemblage of fair ladies of Charleston, South Carolina.ö His return home would allow him to visit Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.
 7. On this day in 1821í öFor the sum of \$500, öin hand paid,ö (Patterson) Bain conveys to Clay öone negro man slave named Bristow, about 37 years of age,ö warranting him sound and warranting the title öagainst all persons whatsoever.ö
 8. Fights his second duel in 1826, against John Randolph. Randolph failed to take his last shot at Henry Clayö a shot that could have changed history. Had Clay been killed in this duel, his last two compromises may have never happened, bringing about the Civil War much sooner.
 9. In 1832, Henry Jr. reports on the state of Ashland: öí the house is very damp and quite out of repairí A man will be here in a few days, expert in stuccoing. You spoke of having the house covered with a coating of stucco. If you still feel so inclined, you can now have it done with more than ordinary facility. It will certainly very much improve its appearance, and might otherwise benefit it in rendering it less damp.ö
 10. Writes to Nicholas Biddle, in 1833: öI returned not very well; but the quiet and good nursing at Ashland have already benefitted me. In the midst of Arabian horses, English cattle and Maltese Asses, I think I shall recover much sooner than I should have done in the corrupt atmosphere of the capital.ö
 11. Marries Lucretia in 1799. They will have 11 children by 1821. Seven of the children die in his lifetime. All six of their girls are gone by 1835. Henry and Lucretia were married 53 years.

12. Henry Clay was born, Hanover County, Virginia, in 1777.
13. 1848, Cassius Clay sends a powerful letter to Cousin Henry: "Three times we have run you and three times your name has brought us defeat" "A long time ago, being too old to perform the comparative light duties of Senator, you gave the public a farewell address and retired from public life" Concludes with, "Yes, Henry Clay can never be President of these states."
14. In an 1848 letter to Dr. William Mercer of New Orleans, Clay tells his old friend that in deciding whether to try for the Presidency in that year: "I should have been very glad if you had been near me so that I could have the benefit of your advice and judgment, which would have had more weight with me than that of most of my friends."
15. In an 1849 letter to Rodney Dennis: "You do me too much honor in comparing me and the renowned men of Antiquity"

"I am in one respect better off than Moses. He died in sight of, without reaching, the promised land. I occupy as good a farm as any that he would have found, if he had reached it, and it has been acquired not by hereditary descent, but by my own labor."

"After more than my share of public honors, I am contented, and now seek for better, if not higher offices and honors, in a better world."
16. In 1829 states that: "Travelling is conducive to my health." Clay loved to travel. When things got gloomy, travel was his therapy. He visited New Orleans 7 times in his life.
17. 1844, in Raleigh, North Carolina, Clay sits under a large white Oak Tree and writes the infamous "Raleigh Letter" which outlined his opposition to the annexation of Texas, and may well have cost him the Presidential election. One of his flaws politically was that he often said too much.
18. In 1849 expresses a desire to sell 200 acres of land he owned in Logan County, Ohio.
19. Related to Henry Clay Jr.: "I never studied half enough. I always relied too much upon the resources of my genius." Clay adhered to the philosophy of do as I say, not as I did, in teaching his children.
20. Arrives at Ashland, in 1851, the final time of his life.
21. In 1852 sends letter to Thomas Hart Clay: "My desire is to go home towards the last of May or early in June if I can command strength to take me there, and if I

- cannot, which I fear will be the case, you can remain with me until there is a crisis in my disease.ö
22. Susan Clay, in 1822, marries Martin Duralde. They will live in New Orleans.
 23. In 1823, an account written to Clay of the death of his good friend James Morrison: öOur friend expired this morning about one o'clock, without a struggle, retaining his senses to the last moment and exhibiting one of the most remarkable instances that ever was witnessed of the sleep of death.ö
 24. James Madison writes to Clay expressing his dislike of the Protective Tariff (1824).
 25. 1828í David Tremble writes to Clay: öIt is quite obvious that the öAmerican Systemö has in its turn obtained the ascendancy over all other subjects of conversation and legislationí this ought to give you new strength and fresh vigor to combat with your adversaries. It ought to induce you to husband your health; for in that I think the greatest obstacle to your advancement will be found. I have some confidence in your discretion as a statesman; but very little in your discretion at a dinner table. A confirmed Dypepsy will destroy any mans chance of coming to the presidency. How is your health at present?ö
 26. Thomas Hart Benton, 1822, gives Clay assurance that his chances are good in Pennsylvania. He also relays that öMr. Russell gave me a letter stating your decisive conduct at Ghent.ö
 27. In 1833, spoke of slavery as a chronic disease öö in such maladies a speedy recovery is not expectedí all we can do is look to some distant time when slavery will cease to exist in the United Statesöí öBut, I think it will not happen in our time.ö
 28. In 1813, contracted with John Fisher to build the wings of Ashland, as designed by Benjamin Latrobe.
 29. 1847, in a letter to Adam Beatty: öI regretted very much to part with my Saxony sheep, but the dogs left me no other alternative. My near residence to the city exposed me very much to their predations.ö
 30. In a letter to George Blunt, of New York, in 1844: Thanks him for the offer of a female ösetterö which he accepts, commenting: öI have no great attachment for dogs because they kill my sheep, but some of my family like them better, and I sometimes overcome my repugnance to them, and get attracted by their fidelity.ö Get the dog to him öand I will carry her with pleasure to Ashland.ö

May

1. Nominated by the Whig Party, 1844 in Baltimore, for President. This would be his third election for President.
2. 1822, William Creighton advises Clay not to return to the Senate (to stay out of this mess) "your attendance at the session of the Supreme Court at Washington will give you all the opportunities and advantages without the embarrassing inconvenience that would result from being in Congress."
3. In an 1839 letter to Mary Bayard: "I find the occupations which Ashland affords are much more agreeable than those of the Senate chamber, although not always free from hazard, for four days ago I received a very severe kick from a horse that has lamed me a little."
4. Clay's best friend, John J. Crittenden, advises him not to run for President in 1848 (Crittenden will later disappoint Clay by supporting Zachary Taylor) "I must confess that I still retain the same impressions. It has all along seemed to me there was not that certainty of success, which alone could warrant your friends in again presenting your name as a candidate."
5. Thomas Clay arrives in Washington, 1852, to care for his father. He "found his father so debilitated that he could not talk five minutes without great exhaustion."
6. In 1819, tells Horace Holley that folks in New Orleans are very interested in Transylvania. He also advises Holley to extend preferred treatment to an influential gentleman. (The Politics of Education: As Early as 1819).
7. To good friend, Mary Bayard, 1846 "I have some reluctance to leave home, after such a long absence from it. If I could get to you and other friends at the Eastward though the air, or by a simple act of volition, I should surprise you, on some early summer day, in little Willie (Wilmington, Delaware)" "Not a day passes that some stranger does not come here; Nor am I sure in any one of the twenty four hours that I shall be free of company. I am occasionally tempted to find some obscure and accessible hole, in which I could put myself, and enjoy quiet and solitude during the remnant of my days."
8. In 1921, a group of Venezuelans visited Ashland, and later placed a wreath in the back of Clay's tomb. (In appreciation of his efforts on behalf of Latin American Independence).
9. In 1824, apologizes to James Taylor for not getting to court in Frankfort to represent him "but believes court will continue the case and the next term in October will admit his attendance. (This illustrates how busy he was)" "says he was overwhelmed with business, engagements, and not the best of health."

10. Sends a letter of thanks to John Thornly, of Philadelphia, in 1844, thanking him for "the two pair of Indian rubber overshoes, one intended for my wife, and the other for myself."
11. In 1828, Dr. Philip Syng Physick and Nathaniel Chapman, of Philadelphia, provide a report on Clay's recent physical examination: "It is our conviction from the most deliberate examination of your case, that your present ill health, wholly independent of any organic derangement, is the gradual effect of sedentary habits, and intense and too long continued application to the arduous duties of your official station." One of their recommendations was "that a lengthened journey be pursued leisurely through some healthy region of the country."
12. In 1821, was invited to a public dinner at Higbee Tavern to demonstrate appreciation of his work, and express a sentiment of regret that he has retired from Congress and a hope that he will return later. (And, of course, he does).
13. Mormon leader, Joseph Smith, critical of Clay in 1844, asks Clay, "Why as a U.S. Senator Clay had not used all honorable means to restore the rights and property taken from Mormons when they were exiled from Missouri," "I cannot help exclaiming, O Frail Man! What have you done that will exalt you? Can anything be drawn from your life, character, or conduct, that is worthy of being held up to the gaze of this nation as a model of virtue, charity, and wisdom?"
14. In 1847, informs John Bailhache, "if he has not yet sold Clay's land in Missouri, opposite to Alton (Illinois) he will take \$1,600 for it."
15. In 1820, the House of Representatives passed a Resolution of Thanks to Henry Clay, Speaker, for the "Dignity, ability, and impartiality with which he has discharged the duties of that station."
16. In a speech at Fowler's Garden, 1829, begins with: "I fear, friends and fellow-citizens, that if I could find language to express the feelings which now animate me, I could not be heard throughout this vast assembly. My voice, once strong and powerful, has had its vigor impaired by delicate health and advancing age."
17. 1828, Lucretia expresses a desire for gloves from Paris. Brother-in-law, James Brown made many purchases in Paris for the Clays.
18. 1819 is invited to a public dinner in New Orleans "given on account of the favorable opinion which they are pleased to entertain of my public services." Clay visited New Orleans seven times.
19. 1849, Octavia LeVert asks Clay "to have pity for my sorrow, and give me your prayers for my heart is crushed. Both my precious ones died of scarlet fever, within the short space of five days."

20. Martin Van Buren visits Ashland for a week in 1842. Clay contended they did not discuss politics.
21. In 1851, Clay bitterly attacked Zachary Taylor in the Senate. Daniel Webster was critical of Henry because of this--"I think Mr. Clay is in danger of eclipsing his glory."
22. In 1821, receives a receipt for the sum of \$80 being in full for books sold to him; and in 1844 the son of John J. Audubon, V.G., sends Clay numbers 95 to 100 of the birds of America and asks for payment of \$27 and adds that the Audubon family was very supportive of Clay for President.
23. Brother-in-law, James Brown, conveys to Clay in 1826: "If you can keep your temper and the affairs of the country go on smoothly, Mr. Adams will be sure of being re-elected. Everything which can be done will be done to provoke him and you as you are both suspected of a little infirmity of temper."
24. John Randolph dies in 1833. Clay fought his second duel with Randolph in 1826.
25. In 1837 Daniel Webster, his wife and daughter, leave Lexington on this date, after spending 2 weeks at Ashland.
26. Letter sent to John Lutz, 1851, thanking him for the ultimate gift, cemetery plots: Clay had been thinking of purchasing plots. "My age, and other circumstances, admonished me that the day could not be very distant when I should have occasion for it. Your friendly offer is, therefore, very opportune, and I accept it with thankful and grateful feelings. By your generous gift, you have provided a beautiful spot for the repose of my mortal remains."
27. In 1823, Gabriel Johnson asks Clay to send him copies of some of his best speeches (Seminoles war, Missouri Question, Domestic Manufactures). He intends to become a member of the Indiana Legislature and hopes to educate himself relative to Clay's character as a statesman and orator, and to be of help to him in the future.
28. 1828 writes to Nicholas Biddle: "If I were to die tomorrow, my resources are abundant to meet all my engagements, and to leave my family comfortable."
29. Brother-in-law, James Brown, writes in 1827: "Sorry to find that you speak of your health as requiring a journey to Kentucky. I am afraid that the labor of your office and the unpleasant state of party feeling, much of the acrimony which seems to be directed at you, have an unfavorable influence on your health."
30. In 1827 tells James Brown, "Our comforts are equally increased by our removal to Decatur's House. We want more lights, and I have to request that Mrs. Brown will procure for us two more glass chandeliers, exactly like the former one"

she was good enough to send us, and also six more wall brackets, and four bronze candle sticks.ö

31. Nicholas Biddle informs Clay of an article that had appeared in the Philadelphia Gazette about his mortgages, 1828.

June

1. In 1816, John Rowan, of Federal Hill at Bardstown, writes a letter to Clay trying to explain criticisms of him being unqualified to be a Trustee of Transylvania. He had said Clay "was a gentleman of splendid talents" but who he thought not a fit person, on account of his want of education, to superintend the interests and affairs of an institution of learning.ö
2. Leaves Gottenburg, in 1814, and "traveled slowly by coach so that he might enjoy the countryside along the way.ö He went via Denmark, Germany, and Holland; he reached Ghent on June 28. He complained of the weather/climate everywhere he went: "No summer, no sun, eternal clouds, and damp weather.ö
3. Wade Hampton, of Columbia, South Carolina, presents Clay with "Margaret Wood. He said she was a very promising filly" but she was utterly ruined by the trip.ö Evidently not. Along with Magnolia and Yorkshire, also given as gifts in 1845, their bloodlines turned out 11 Kentucky Derby winners.
4. "H. Hays and company of Louisville, in 1845, presented Clay with a plow.ö The gift was "indicative of his success as a planter and his interest in the latest agricultural equipment.ö It was placed on display for several months at a hardware store in Lexington.
5. The body of Henry Clay, Jr., arrived at New Orleans in 1847. J.D.G. Quirk, an undertaker at 93 Camp Street, presented two coffins as a gift to the Second Kentucky Volunteers" one for Clay, and one for Colonel Wm. R. McKee who is buried beside him in the Frankfort Cemetery.
6. 100 "Ladies of Philadelphia,ö in 1844, sent Clay a quilt stating: "We have endeavored, in making this quilt, to have it so soft and light that you should not know it rested on you save by the comfort it gave, and a wish that through many a long cold night, when testing the advantage of it, it may bring to your kind remembrance your well wishes, these ladies of Philadelphia.ö
7. In a letter to John M. Clayton, in 1849, Clay expresses appreciation of Zachary Taylor's appointment of James to Portugal: "We are both very thankful, and deeply penetrated with sentiments of gratitude, for this high proof of the goodness and the confidence of the President" ö

8. In a letter to James Brown in 1833 states: "Living in the midst of death I feel the uncertainty of life." A cholera outbreak in Lexington had taken 500 lives— more than anywhere other than New Orleans. Daniel Webster had planned to visit Ashland, but was advised to turn back when he reached Cincinnati.
9. In 1842, Lexington held a grand barbecue in Clay's honor. This was his opportunity to launch his 1844 campaign for President. 20,000 people gathered at Maxwell Springs. After a wonderful meal, "he turned in a characteristically masterful performance," speaking more than two hours.
10. In 1828, submits to the public supplementary statements to comments he made about Jackson's charges in 1827. Much of Clay's time, energy, and effort was expended responding to the "Corrupt Bargain" charge that persisted throughout his Career.
11. Proudly writes to Langdon Cheves (BUS), in 1821, about their success in the Courts: "We (he was BUS Chief Counsel) have just closed a most fatiguing term of the Federal Court of five weeks duration, in the course of which many causes of the Bank were tried, and many questions raised in them. I have the satisfaction to tell you that we did not lose a single contested point."
12. In 1848, Thomas Stevenson (Editor of the Cincinnati Atlas) calls on Clay to end his career by helping Kentucky in the coming 1849 Constitutional Convention, implementing emancipation: "I could wish also, that the sage of Ashland should distinctly, (now that no electioneering motive can be ascribed) denounce the scheme of debauching this great republic into a propagandist of slavery, by extending the curse of it into free territory."
13. Preparing to make the move to Washington for his term as Secretary of State, Clay posts an Advertisement of Auction in 1825: "Subscriber will sell, at his residence near Lexington on Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th. Among the listings:
 - a. A great variety of House and Kitchen Furniture (including pendules, clocks, busts, piano forte)
 - b. Also a large quantity of Stock (Horses, mules, English cattle, 120 sheep, 4 tons of hemp, several stacks of Timothy hay)

In 1830 "I would not renounce or denounce Masonry to be made President of the United States."
14. In 1848 writes his friend Thomas Stevenson (who was recently retired from the Cincinnati Atlas) "Are you right in the thinking of returning from Cincinnati to Frankfort? In that great and growing city what may you not do; in the latter, what can you?"

- Also relates his feelings about not receiving the 1848 Whig nomination for President: "I have not lost one hour's sleep, nor one meal of victuals. Accustomed as I have been to disappointments, and to afflictions, they disturb now, less than ever, my composure. I hope that I derive some support from a resignation to the will of the great Disposer of all events."
15. Is honored in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in 1827, by a public dinner that afternoon. He made a speech on "Our American System."
 16. In an 1817 letter to Thomas Tinsley, who had been instrumental in 1792 in obtaining for Clay a clerkship in the office of Peter Tinsley, Clerk of the High Court of Chancery of Virginia: "I thank you for your kind inquiries respecting myself and my family. We have had nine children, lost two, and the remaining seven were alive when I lately heard from my family at Washington, where I hope to join them in the course of a few weeks."
 17. In 1839 purchased from John Garret "the following negro slaves to wit, Annis and her four children, Milton, Henry, Jane and a young boy at the breast" - Purchase price was \$1,000.
 18. In an 1837 letter to Christopher Hughes waxes philosophical, and reveals his approach to difficult times: "I had heard, with much regret, of your depression of spirits of which it treats; and I rejoice to learn from you that they are now dissipated, and that Richard is himself again. I thought you had more philosophy than to allow yourself to be affected by such a cause. Why should you? Few men have seen as much of the world as you have, or enjoyed more of it, or put more good things in and out of his mouth, or laughed more, or cracked more jokes. That, before you have passed fifty-five, you should have surrendered yourself to ennui is too bad. For shame! No more ennui, no relapses. They are unworthy of you."

í "I am here in the midst of tranquility and abundance I have around me everything to render me comfortable and independent. One deplorable event alone continues to prey upon me. If my beloved daughter (Anne Brown Clay Erwin) had been spared me, I should have been more happy than most men at sixty, which I have just reached."

í "We now have the care of seven grandchildren left by my two daughters. Our house therefore has all the animation which it exhibited twenty years ago."
 19. In 1848, relates to Mary Bayard: "I am relieved of a vast deal of anxiety and painful suspense, during the canvass, if I had been nominated, and from an immense responsibility, if I had been elected. In all the vicissitudes of life, it has pleased God to throw in many compensations. Among these, one great one is that I shall have more leisure to dedicate myself to Him, to my religious duties, and to the proper preparation for another and better world."

20. In 1848, Governor William Owsley calls on Clay to take Crittenden's vacated seat in the U.S. Senate: "A patriot is never discharged but by death. I therefore respectfully urge you to reconsider the opinions you held when I heretofore conversed with you on the subject, and to consent to return to the Senate of the United States." Clay served from 1849-1852, enabling him to develop the Compromise of 1850.

21. In 1845, we learn from a letter from Clay: "I am daily occupied in sitting for my portraits to Mr. Healy—a most unpleasant occupation, although he seems to be an artiste of real talent." Lucretia especially liked this portrait. It, today, is in the National Portrait Gallery.

22. On this day, in 1847, Henry Clay was baptized in the parlor at Ashland. He has joined the Episcopal Church. On the wall, "the huge portrait of Washington and his family forming the background for Clay and his family as they (also Mary Mentelle and her children) entered the community of Christ."

Also on this date, in 1991, the Lexington Leader reports on a book that charged that Clay may have had Zachary Taylor poisoned (arsenic on the cherries he ate). Taylor's body was exhumed, examined, and Clay was exonerated.

23. In 1830, Henry Clay, Jr. expresses the pressure of having the name Henry Clay, Jr. He relates to his father about a speech he has just made at West Point—"To me, my father, it has been the source of much gratification. I almost feared to attempt the delivery of it; expectation was raised very high; I know not for what reason unless it was the name that I bear."

24. Getting ready for the move to Washington in 1825 (to his position as Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams). \$5000 worth of items are sold at Ashland—among those items sold—chairs, lamps, and a pendule to Horace Holley (President of Transylvania College).

25. Henry and Lucretia's first child, Henrietta, born in 1800. She died on May 5, 1801.

Also on this date in 1846, writing to his very good friend, Octavia Levert, he states: "I do not seek professional employment, but now and then some is forced on me." He was referring to a case involving the grandson of Isaac Shelby, LaFayette Shelby. He had murdered a man in the streets of Lexington. "Clay's dramatic courtroom presence befuddled the jury to indecisions—much to the dismay of many Lexington Citizens. The last phase of this trial drew so much attention that it was moved to Morrison Hall, Transylvania College, to accommodate the crowds.

26. In 1827, addresses a group in Maysville (Limestone) making a short speech—"I regret, however, that jaded as I now am by my journey and some of its agreeable incidents, and being moreover anxious to reach home, I cannot at this time accept

of the invitation to dinner which has been so handsomely and kindly tendered meí ö But promises to do so ðon my return to my official duties.ö

27. In 1845, writes to one of New York's wealthiest businessmen, Cortlandt Palmer that he öí should be glad to deliver a walking cane, produced on this farm (Ashland), according to your request, to any person who would call and receive it for you. I am not sufficiently acquainted with any safe mode by which I could send it.ö
28. In 1827, received advice from brother-in-law, James Brown: öI hope you will be able to preserve your health and with it your temper in all trying situations in which you will be placed. Your life is of great importance to your family, to say nothing about your country, and therefore you ought to feel it to be your duty to preserve your cheerfulness and equanimity whatever may be the course of affairsí .The real statesman must acquire the habit of letting fools and crooked politicians pass without stepping out of his way to correct or expose them.ö
29. Henry Clay died, at 11:17 a.m., in 1852.
30. In 1827, Clay attends theater to see öBlind Boy.ö He is toasted by an actor in the Lexington Theater. The manager stated during the three week series they had but öone good house and that was when Henry Clay attended the theater.ö The toast: öLong life and happiness to those in affluence, who do not forget the distresses of the poor, and who endeavor to alleviate those distresses by encouraging Domestic Industry.ö

July

1. Clay's body (1852) taken to lie in the Capital Rotunda. He was the first to lie in state thereö Lincoln was the second. Also on this date he begins his last journey home.
2. 1852ö Clay's body rested in Independence Hall. öNo one seemed to have noticed the coincidence of the date, especially the year. Clay came to this room exactly seventy-six years, almost to the day, after the Declaration of Independence had been signed there in the year 1776.
3. Clay responds to a bill for \$14.25 for newspapers in 1823ö among them: Cincinnati Gazette, Indianapolis Gazette, National Intelligencer and the Argus of Western America.
4. In 1857, Susan takes the Cincinnati Gazette on a tour of Ashland. One item described in the article was Inman's Washington Family Portrait.

5. Eliza Clay was born in 1813. She would die, at age 12, in 1825, in Lebanon, Ohio, and be buried there for 69 years before her remains were brought home to Lexington.
6. Indicates in a letter to Robert Scott, in 1825: "I have a number of boxes and trunks at Ashland to be sent to the city of Washington. They contain china, glass, books, furniture, etc and require very careful handling. There is also some wine and whiskey in barrels. Don't forget to procure from Mr. R. Todd the large barrel containing (120 gallons) and having it filled with the old whiskey at the farm and sent to General James Shely for me."
7. In an 1833 letter to James Brown: "The abolition of slavery, on which the British Government appears to be resolved in the West Indies, will exert a moral influence on that institution in the United States; but I do not apprehend any immediate effects from it. All have looked forward to some distant period when it would cease in the United States; but I think it will not happen in our time."
8. In 1828, has just completed a week's stay at White Sulphur Springs which Clay said was "productive to sensible benefits to my health."
9. In 1852, Clay's body arrives at Ashland for the final time. It had left the Capital Rotunda on July 1 and will spend the final night in the dining room (now Butler's Pantry). "Just five years earlier, Lucretia had been sitting down to dinner with her family in this same room when she had received devastating news about one of her sons. Now, surrounded by fine china and crystal gleaming in the candlelight, she gazed at her husband's coffin. The family did not remove the faceplate; they did not need to. Clay was not really in that metal container, but he was there in that room. And for the rest of the night, so was Lucretia."
10. Between 30,000 and 100,000 attended Clay's funeral in 1852.

In 1843, sends John Wood Dodge quite a compliment: "Your portrait of me, for accuracy of likeness and beauty of execution, is unexcelled by any ever taken of me and is greatly superior to most of the previous ones."

11. Very much at odds with President Tyler's vetoes, Clay states in an 1842 letter to Willie Mangum "I should these vetoes continue, I really think that the House ought seriously to consider what virtue there is in that dormant power of impeachment in the Constitution."
12. In 1827, makes a speech at Noble's Inn, to a crowd estimated to range from 700-2000; explains why he chose Adams over Jackson: "During the dispensation of the hospitalities of the Hermitage, in the midst of a mixed company, composed of individuals from various states, he permits himself to make certain statements respecting my friends and me, which, if true, would forever dishonor and degrade us."

13. In 1839, is enjoying a vacation at Niagara Falls---øI have undertaken the journey which I am now pursuing mostly for the purpose of seeing the Lakes, this place, and Canada, neither of which had I ever visited. As I am not making a political tour, I have thought it best to avoid all appearances which might tend to excite a belief that politics and not natural curiosities were the object of my excursioní .ö

14. In 1827, over 1,000 attended a dinner in Versailles, where Clay spoke for 45 minutes (he had a cold, as he so often did, and was hoarse). Thirteen toasts were offered to him.

In 1815, writes Lucretia that he is about to sail for New York from Liverpoolô øHopes to have the pleasure of seeing you before this letter reaches youöí Sends her his power of attorney (to be on the safe side).

15. In 1818, öí .Having been informed that Clay had failed to make a return on his taxable property for the year 1817, the Fayette County Court ordered that he be charged \$39.78 and that the sheriff collect and account for the same.ö

16. In a dinner meeting, 1827, it was estimated that 4,000 to 8,000 attended on the green below Paris: øMr. Clayø's health was drank (sic) followed by long continued cheersí we will never forget the emotions we felt, nor the electric effect with which it transported the crowdô he was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause.ö

17. In 1845, Ursin Bouligny, Jr., from New Orleans: ø Urges Clay to send the mules at once or as soon as possible, since they are wanted now and if here I could dispose of them at once and at handsome profitsöí øFears that if Clay does not act quickly, those who want them in our neighborhood should buy out of the first droves that will make their appearance in the marketöí øOur planters will have a very heavy crop to take in, and I think will have to purchase a great many mules for this and a number of years to come.ö

18. George Prentice, Editor of Louisville Journal, in 1855 says of the destruction of the original Ashlandí øWe think the act was vandalismí that the demolition of the old Ashland mansion by the son of him who made the very name of the place immortal was a deed unparalleled in the anal of fathers and sons.ö

19. In 1844, writes to Joshua Giddings explaining that the speech he had made in Raleigh, North Carolina, öí as corrected by me, was written out by the aid of notes taken by a stenographer at the time it was delivered, and there are other omissions of what I said in the delivery of it unintentionally made. Your own experience in the preparation for the press of speeches previously delivered, will have suggested to you how impracticable it is to write them out exactly as they were delivered.ö

20. In 1847, Henry takes his grandchildren to Frankfort to join the 20,000 people who had gathered for the burial of Kentucky's fallen heroes. Had he won the Election of 1844, this event may well not have happened.
21. George Prentice, in 1855, challenged to a duel by James Clay would not accept the challenge. "I do not wish to kill you, and I am very clear in the opinion that my article affords you neither just cause nor rational pretext for killing me." Clay's challenge was in response to a newspaper article where Prentice was extremely critical of him for tearing down his father's Ashland.
22. In 1850, "The Great Compromiser gave a long speech, one of the longest he ever delivered, and it totally convinced many of those who heard him that a compromise must be enacted." Went on to say that "abolitionists live by agitation. It is their meat, their bread, the air which they breathe" and "if Kentucky were to engage in any action against the Union, never, never will I engage in any action with her in such a cause."
23. In 1847, asks a favor of his friend, Thomas Stevenson. He wants him to present to G.W. Cutter, of Covington, "a ring, containing some hair of my beloved son." Clay has not been able to find a suitable ring in Lexington, asks his friend to find one in Cincinnati, at the cost of \$15 to \$20 dollars, to have the enclosed hair or part of it placed in the ring, and present it to Captain Cutter. Cutter was the last to speak to Henry Clay Jr., and received from him a brace of pistols which he presented to his father.
24. In 1844, James C. Johnston, of Edenton, North Carolina, sends the Henry Inman painting of the Washington Family to Ashland. Wishes it to be presented to Lucretia "because I think there is a great similarity in her character to that of Mrs. Washington" adds that "if Mrs. Clay will think the painting worthy of a place at Ashland, I shall be truly gratified and highly honored."
- In 1847, Henry heads to White Sulphur Springs (Greenbrier) to escape the misery at Ashland. This was how he coped with the tragedy of his 7th child's death.
25. In an 1825 letter to John Quincy Adams: "I am still detained by the illness of my daughter, of the termination of whose case we can neither anticipate the time nor the manner. I am greatly mortified and distressed by the occurrence. I shall lose no time that is not avoidable in reaching the city." Eliza died in Lebanon. Clay discovered this by reading it in a newspaper at a tavern near Washington.
26. An 1848 letter to Lexington Observer, reported that, as would be the case later in history "The condition in which our volunteers have been compelled to return home from Mexico, excites almost universal indignation and execration towards the Government and its officers. Nearly all these returning troops are penniless and ragged, and compelled to remain so." As we know, Clay was very opposed to this war.

27. In 1844, Clay writes the 2nd Alabama Letter in response to the problems his first Raleigh Letter, and 1st Alabama Letter, had created for him. "The Second Alabama Letter committed the serious mistake of insisting that slavery really did not enter into the question of Texas annexation, which made him look foolish" ö
28. In 1838, responds to Rufus W. Griswold relative to questions about his stance on slavery; expresses that Congress could not abolish slavery in the District of Columbia , "without a violation of good faith," and that "Congress had no power to prevent the removal of slaves from one state to another" goes on to say "It is remarkable that, at the very moment when I am replying to you, I have before me several letters from the South stating that I am charged there with being an Abolitionist."ö
29. In 1825 Clay was invited to a public dinner in Lebanon, Ohio. He declined because of the illness of his daughter, Eliza. "He did however attend a dinner in honor of DeWitt Clinton, and after a toast to his health had been drunk, he returned thanks in a most pathetic and eloquent address, as well for the affectionate regard manifested for his person by the citizens of Lebanon, as for their kindness and attention to his family during his stay among them."ö
30. In 1818, at a Frankfort Dinner, makes a toast: "The only true and genuine cause of Legitimacy" the cause of the people" then he delivered "a short, neat and elegant address" and "positively disavowed the intention which has been so often attributed to him of attempting or wishing to organize a party in opposition to the administration."ö
31. In an 1846 letter to William Wedgwood, gives an account of his financial status: "It is true that I am not rich; but I am now nearly free from debt, and I possess a competency to enable me, to live in comfort during the remnant of my days, and to fulfill some of the duties of hospitality."ö

August

1. States, in a letter to Dr. William Mercer (New Orleans), in 1851: "Owing to the delicate state of my health, to my age, and to the unsuccessful and frequent use of my name, as a candidate for the Presidency, heretofore, I have written to some friends that I cannot consent to the further use of my name for that office."ö
2. In 1821, recommends John James Audubon to John Quincy Adams: "He has an uncommon talent for drawing and some of his sketches of birds which I have seen greatly excel those beautiful ones taken by the late Mr. Wilson."ö Wilson was recognized as the foremost American ornithologist.

3. Anthony Butler wants to meet with Clay in 1822. "Don't leave home before I see you. I should like to confer with you before my return (to Mississippi). I am very much of opinion that you have as much to fear from Alabama and Mississippi as from Louisiana" but we will talk of this when we meet. Clay had difficulties with the South.
4. In an 1847 letter to Daniel Ullman "I propose passing through your native state to Cape May (New Jersey), where I desire to enjoy a sea bath, which I have never in my life before had an opportunity of doing."

Also, in 1845, thanks John Tilford for a check for \$5,000 "made by some liberal and kind friends of mine, with the view of relieving me from pecuniary embarrassment." His friends raised about \$25,000 to pay off his debts. "Never ambitious of great wealth, thanks to their goodness and generosity I am now allowed to retain ample means to live in comfort, and to continue to disperse the accustomed hospitalities at Ashland, where I shall always be delighted to see any of them."

5. In 1824, Asher Robbins writes: "The prospect here now is that your and Mr. Crawford's friends will unite in a joint ticket, dividing the votes equally between you; in that event there is every probability of success; but without that union, Mr. Adams I think will get a plurality." Efforts were later made to have Clay run as Vice President under Crawford.
6. 1847 letter to James Brown Clay: "Mr. Elliot, who wants the pair of mules, is here (white Sulphur Springs) and I stated to him that it would be sent to him but that he would have to pay \$50 more than he did for the pair that he last bought. I will write to Mr. Elliot (William St. John Elliot) about the mules you propose sending to Mississippi. you will recollect that mules are not wanted so early in that state as in Louisiana. Dr. William Mercer tells me that he will want ten, and when I told him that the price would be from \$105 to \$110 he did not object. Interestingly, it appears that he is cutting no breaks for two men instrumental in bailing him out of financial ruin.
7. To Mary Bayard, 1847: "After performing the sad and melancholy duty of attending at Frankfort the funeral obsequies of my lamented son (Henry Clay, Jr.) and his slain companions on the 20th; I left Ashland on the 24th for this place (White Sulphur Springs). It was my purpose to execute a wish, which I have long entertained, to visit, for the first time in my life, a seabath at the Bathing Season." He is travelling with Dr. William N. Mercer, his good friend from New Orleans.
8. In 1825, Susan Clay Duralde writes to her parents (particularly to Lucretia) "I have heard that you regret leaving Ashland very much, but for my part I am very glad of it for I think you are worked too much, stay'd at home too much and you were too much plagued there. At Washington you will be forced to go more into

- the world and although you will perhaps not like it much at first, you will soon get accustomed to itöí ðMr. Duralde and myself are both well. I have had the fever two or three times occasioned by my having eaten too much fruit. New Orleans continues to be quite healthy and as the season is advancing, we are in hopes we will pass it off without any yellow fever.ö Not to be---a month later she contracts yellow fever and dies. Lucretia lost both of her daughters as Clay begins his time as Secretary of State.
9. Henry writes to Lucretia from White Sulphur Springs, 1847: öI leave here today in company with Dr. Mercer for Cape Mayö expect to be gone about three weeks.ö Notes that seven Episcopal clergymen are at the Springsí ðthere is a good deal of company, and much more expected at this place, which is greatly improved since you were here.ö
 10. In 1827 to James Browní ðWe have around us in this city (Washington) more of a family than usual. Theodore, James, Henry Clay Hart, Martin Duralde (our grandson) and John M. Clay are with us. We have therefore quite a house full. We are all well; but Mrs. Clay's health is not as good as it used to be.ö The Clays moved to Decatur House in 1827.
 11. To Elijah Warner, 1826: öFor the sum of \$1,000 sells ða negro woman named Priscilla of Scilla together with her five children, John, Joe, Caroline, Dick, and Maria.öö
 12. In 1845, Clay cannot advise Calvin H. Wiley, of South Carolina, to come to Lexington to practice lawí describes Lexington Bar as öexceedingly crowded--- there are not more than two or three (lawyers) who make annually as much as \$3,000öí ðThe age of Lexington, the density of our population, and the existence of Transylvania University in the city all contribute to bring to the Bar a greater number of members that find profitable employment.ö
 13. Writes to Dr. William N. Mercer in 1834: öí I hope you will return by this way. Besides the pleasure of seeing you, I wish to consult and advise with you in regard to the purchase of establishment of a cotton plantation in Mississippi. My son, Henry Clay Jr. wants occupation and wants to increase his income. The profession of law offers but few inducements in Kentucky, and indeed he has views not entirely compatible with the pursuit of it. I have a number of surplus slaves here, principally young, and well adapted to a cotton plantationí .ö
 14. James Barbour, 1827: Certified in a letter that he had dined with General LaFayette and Mr. Clay at Columbian College (Dec.15, 1824) and on returning from that dinner to town (just he and Clay) the discussion turned to who the choice for President would be between Adams and Jacksoní öI expressed myself in the event of the contest being narrowed down to Mr. Adams and General Jackson in favor of Mr. Adamsö And Mr. Clay expressed a coincidence of opinionö .ö

15. In 1831, Clay having a good time at Olympian Springs, Kentucky, writes to Francis Brooke that in recent State Elections "In Louisville, the Chairman of the Jackson Convention at Frankfort, went to the polls and voted our whole ticket, declaring that Jackson was an imbecile." Adds: "P.S. My health is good and I am feasting on venison in the greatest quantity and perfection."
16. A receipt from Richard Pendell, 1824, indicates that Clay had spent 578.37 ½ for medical services in 1823. (In 1840 \$197 dollars was billed for January to September).
17. In 1847, Martin Van Buren invites Clay to visit him at Lindenwald (near Kinderhook, N.Y.) "I assure you of the pleasure it will afford me to receive you at my house. I live very retired and my advice would be that you should so arrange it as to spend your Sabbath with me and as much longer as will suit your pleasure and convenience." (Van Buren had visited Ashland for a week, five years before).
18. Writes to Lucretia from Cape May, NJ, 1847: "I arrived here the day before yesterday and took a sea bath yesterday for the first time in my life. The air, the water, and the whole scene greatly interested me. "From all that I hear, there is a deep feeling still abiding towards me, and a hope in regard to the future, in which I do not allow myself much to indulge."
19. In 1822, gives an account in a letter to John Skinner of "My imported English Cattle. Peter Irving, brother of Washington Irving purchased two pair of English cattle, one of the beef and the other of the milk breed. purchases for me, in January, 1817, two pair of Hereford reds. Two of them were two year olds, and the other two yearlings. shipped at Liverpool. received in April or May, 1817. sent a messenger to get them. he brought them about 150 miles from Baltimore into the state of Virginia, and owing to the great heat of the season and the wearing away of their hoofs, he was obliged to leave them there to rest, until the weather became cooler; so that it was late in August before they reached Kentucky. One of the bulls died on his way from Baltimore to Virginia, from overfeeding on Red Clover. estimating the first cost and incidental charges until he got them in Kentucky, the three that survived have come to me at \$500 each."
20. The National Intelligencer carried the story of Eliza's death in 1825. Clay learned of her death by reading it in the newspaper. He was having breakfast at a tavern about twenty miles outside Washington. She had died on August 11th.
21. Speaks to an assembly of 800 to 1,000 in Mt. Sterling in 1829. Goes into detail regarding his choice of Adams over Jackson in 1824. "refers to the corrupt bargain charges brought against him. "the calumnies and atrocious slanders with which he had since been pursued was unparalleled. "if there is anyone now within the sound of my voice who thinks he can prove the corrupt bargain, I

- challenge him to bring it to fair trial in a court of justice, and I'll put down the ungenerous assumptions.ö Went on to say that he accepted Secretary of State not for love of office, but love of country. On Adams: öI know that by accepting an office in which I would have an opportunity to meet him in council, I would be enabled to keep him in the straight path of duty, even if he was inclined to deviate from it.ö
22. In 1825, gives advice to good friend John J. Crittenden (upon his election to House of Representatives): öThe majority should dismiss from their minds all vindictive feelingsí nothing should be done from passion, nor in passioní .Restore the Constitutional Judgesí Repeal bad laws, but preserve good ones even if they have been passed by the late dominant partyí .ö (Good advice down through the ages).
23. In an 1823 letter to George Jones, Clay explains that he cannot attend the Bank of the United States in Columbus due to the state of his health. He was often ill in the 1820s, including when he was Secretary of State.
24. While Clay is at Ghent, the British burn the White House and part of the Capitol (1814)í Margaret Colt describes the event in a Pulitzer Prize winning novel about John C. Calhoun: öí the red coats swarmed up the steps. General Ross himself escorted the conquering admiral to Henry Clay's rostrum, and laughter and cheers broke out as Cockburn called the body to order and put the question -Shall this harbor of Yankee democracy be burned?í . Clay said of this: öIt wounds me to my very soulí that a set of pirates and incendiaries should have been permitted to pollute our soil, conflagrate our capital, and return unpunished to their ships.ö
25. The 1828 gubernatorial election had troubled Clay since it would give the surest clue to what would happen in the state's presidential contest later in the fall. His man, Metcalfe, won, but Jacksonians won the legislatureí Mixed results, but his spin was, öwe need not despair, our chance (I am sorry to be obliged to use that word) is best.ö
26. In 1828, Clay writes from Cincinnati: öI leave here tomorrow via the White Sulphur Springs for Virginia.ö
27. Has returned from Newport (1850) öí has benefitted greatly from this trip;ö also relates that öJames has sent -Old Aaronø home in advance of his family, and I have him here on my hands, which I am sorry for.ö
28. In an 1826 letter to Francis Brooke: öI shall resume my journey on the first of next month, and will probably reach Orange, by the way of Charlottesville, on the 8th or 9th. I purpose remaining a day or two there with Governor Barbour, if at home, and Mr. Madison.ö He reached Charlottesville on September 4th and after

visiting Monticello and the University of Virginia, departed the next day for Barbour's home in Orange.

29. In 1828, Thomas Stevenson writes: "Your sometimes friend Amos Kendall is here – the expression of his countenance excites the idea of a famished wolf – it makes me hungry just to look at his lean, lank jaws, his restless eager eyes, and his voracious, hooked nose." Kendall tutored Clay's children while he was in Europe. Later he would become a key player in Andrew Jackson's "kitchen cabinet" and cause Clay much grief.
30. In 1816, was offered Secretary of War position by President Madison: "Several considerations appear to me to require that I should decline accepting the honor." Speaker of the House was a superior position.
31. Writes to James Brown Clay in 1850: "Wearied out with this long session, and having now been absent ten months from home, I never have been, in my life, so anxious to be there. Present my love to Susan and kiss dear little Lucy and the rest of your children for me!"

September

1. In 1810, Clay rents the Kentucky Hotel (for a year) to John Wagnon for \$1,000 with the appurtenances, and the chandeliers in the Ballroom, excepting the room only occupied by the said Clay as an office and excepting one of the said Clay is at liberty to remove at pleasure.
2. In a letter to Richard Parrot and Company (1813) had purchased a quantity of sugar- sent it from Lexington to Limestone (Maysville) to the care of Mr. John Adams of Pittsburgh \$3,661.54 worth of sugar, including barrels and the cost of transportation.
3. An 1849 letter informs James that Levi has absconded, inveigled away, I suppose, by some of his color or by some of the abolitionists. I have not ascertained what course he has gone, nor shall I take any measures to recover him. I shall have a free Negro to accompany me home. (Levi left Newport on Saturday with \$300 given to him by abolitionists. He returned to Clay on Monday).
4. In 1848, consoles Thomas Stevenson on the loss of a child I tender you cordial condolence on your late bereavement. My own heart has so often bled from similar afflictions that I can easily comprehend the poignancy of your grief and heartily sympathize with you. Time alone, my dear sir, and your dependence on Him who having given her to you, has seen fit to take her away, can mitigate your sorrows.
5. To John Quincy Adams, 1828, from White Sulphur Springs Resort, I returned to this place the evening before last, and I propose stopping here eight or ten days to confirm the re-establishment of my health, prior to my return to the city. (Clay often recreated at White Sulphur Springs, currently the Greenbrier).
6. Writes to Thomas, 1850, We can see no end of this fatiguing session. So far nothing is definitely decided on the slavery question. Perhaps there may be today or tomorrow. In the meantime I am again getting very much exhausted. I wish that I had remained longer in Newport, Rhode Island, where I was much benefitted. I shall (as soon) as possible return home, where I desire to be more than I ever did in my life.
7. In 1849, Clay has just informed Lucretia that he is accepting an invitation to Martin Van Buren's home, Lindenwald, in New York. They spent three days together, discussed their times together, and in opposition, on issues. The two had a grand time, sitting down one afternoon to feast on cruellars, olecocks, suckettush, owgreet cheese and a large tureen of sauerkraut. Papers reported that Henry Clay did not care much for the sauerkraut I have never encountered anything quite so strong as this.
8. Writes to James Brooks in 1848 had received a letter from the state of Ohio, inviting him to become an Independent Candidate for the Presidency I promptly returned an answer stating that I could not consent to any further use of my name in connection with that office.

9. President Adams, in 1826, sends a copy of Resolutions from the Governor of New York, regarding Gilbert Horton (Negro), "Who claims to be a free-born native of this country" had been jailed on July 22 in Washington and "unless claimed as a slave will be sold as such to pay his jail fees as the law directs." The Resolutions call for Horton's freedom, "and establishes a committee to prepare a petition to Congress for the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia."
10. In 1849, visited Paris Furnace, New York. He gave a speech on the steps of Millard Mansion (owned by Industrialist, David Millard). After that visit the house was renamed Clay Manor, and Paris Furnace was renamed Clayville. (There had been a movement to rename the village Clayville for two years prior to his visit).
11. In a revealing letter from Henry Clay Jr, in 1844, he relates to his father a meeting he had with Cassius Clay. He had told him that "he was only in favor of legal and constitutional means of affecting a gradual emancipation of the slaves of Kentucky." But also that "Mr. Clay entertains the opinion that no slave holder after you, if you should be elected, will ever be President of the United States."
 1. Henry Jr. has strong views of his own: "Indeed I have serious doubts if the emancipation of the blacks would not ultimately lead to their extermination and disappearance from among us as we have seen that other inferior race, the Indian, gradually disappear although free" In any event I consider the liberty and Union of the Whites as subjects infinitely superior in importance to the gradual emancipation of the blacks."
12. To John Perrin, of Hanover County, Virginia, regarding a nomination of the 1848 campaign: "I of course could not accept their nomination altho I felt the honor of it with the liveliest sensibility" States that he deplores the state of the country "But it is still our country, and is entitled to our best wishes and fervent prayers."
13. In 1804, enters an agreement with Cuthbert Banks "to purchase a plantation near Lexington on Todd's Road, lately occupied by Elisha Winters, now by Slayback" 125 acres (became Ashland)." He was to receive the deed on November 26, 1809.
14. An 1816 letter to James Madison re: a letter he had received from him "stating your expectation of a vacancy in the Department of War, and communicating your wish that I would take it upon myself the duties of the office. Several considerations appear to me to require that I should decline accepting the honor which your favorable opinion has tendered."
 - In 1826, Clay reaches Charlottesville, Virginia- visits Monticello and the University of Virginia. Jefferson had died earlier that year (July 4th).
15. 1826. After he visits in Charlottesville, Henry travels to Orange, Virginia. There he visits James Barbour (the remains of his house can still be viewed today, Barbourville Ruins). It was at Barbour's home where one of Clay's opponents in the Presidential Election of 1824, William Crawford, suffered a debilitating

- stroke. Crawford's good friend Thomas Jefferson visited him there. It was feared that Crawford would die. While he was incapacitated to the point where he would be unable to serve as President, he garnered third place beating Clay 41-37. Otherwise it is highly likely the House of Representatives would have sent their Speaker to become President in the first of his five efforts to achieve that office.
16. Writes to biographer, Calvin Colton, in 1845 " I have really no coat of arms" " In lieu of it, would it not be better to employ some objects drawn from those interests which I have sought to promote in the National Councils? A loom, a shuttle, anvil, plow, or any other article connected with manufactures, agriculture, or commerce" "
 17. The Globe, an Andrew Jackson newspaper, referred to the Bank of the United States as the "monster", complete with twenty-seven heads and a hundred hands. Francis Blair, a former friend of Clay claimed the bank had been opened for bribery in this election (1832). "Let the cry be heard across the land, Down with bribery- down with corruption- down with the Bank" " In other words, down with Henry Clay.
 18. Susan Clay Duralde, died in 1825, "just five weeks after her sister, Eliza. She was 22 years old- died of "Yellow Fever". She had written to Lucretia to convince her to take Eliza to Washington while their father was Secretary of State. A dying regret was that she could not say good-bye to her parents.
 19. Letter to Madison Cutts, Dolly Madison's nephew, in 1849" regarding the death of Dolly Madison (a very good friend of Clay's" they referred to each other as cousins)" "I hope that Mrs. Madison's will may remain undisturbed. No one can controvert it but her son; and I am deceived in the justice and generosity of his character if would he seek to deprive poor Anna (her niece) of the small portion of an estate the greater part of which is left to him." (Clay was wrong- John Payne Todd attempted unsuccessfully to break the will).
 20. In 1826, conveys to President Adams: "I hasten to inform you that I reached this city last evening, and am ready to receive any instructions with which you may honor me. My return was delayed a few days longer than I expected, by a desire to try the effect of the waters of Virginia mineral springs on my health, which received some improvement from their use."
 21. In 1824 received receipt for dues to Masons" "from Brother Henry Clay, Ten Dollars and Fifty Cents, in full of his dues to Lexington Lodge #1."
 22. In an 1847 letter to Mary Bayard:" "I will not amuse you with events after I left Philadelphia. The newspapers have anticipated me, altho their accounts ought to be received with some abatement of their extravagance. I was not, for example, in any very imminent danger at the Cape from the oversetting of a carriage. Nor did I leap out of it, with a young lady in my arms, although after getting out of it myself I did assist her."
 23. In an 1844 pamphlet addressed to Henry Clay from "Montgomery" highly critical of him:" "You set yourself up, like Nebuchadnezer (sic) of old, for an image of Idolatry, and the type of worship was a Golden Calf. You thought to ride

- into office on the back of the Bank of the United Statesöí òThe Texan question found you asleep, and dreaming in your Ashland shadesöí
24. In 1846, writes to Dr. George McClellan about the death of one of his òfavoriteö grandsons, Martin Duralde, in Philadelphiaí òAh! My dear friend, I hope you have had a less measure of affliction than has fallen my lot. Death, ruthless death, has deprived me of six affectionate daughters, all that I ever had, and has commenced his work of destruction, with my descendents, in the second generation. I bow submissively to the dispensations of an All-Wise and MERCIFUL Providence, thankful that I have been myself so long spared, althoø spared to witness and to feel these great domestic misfortunes, not to speak of others which I have painfully experienced.ö (Duralde died of TB, was buried in Philadelphia)
 25. Cassius Clay writes to Henry in 1845: questions his role in the dismantling of his office of the newspaper, True American, öí your name was currently used as having given sanction and approval of the lawless action of the Rebels of the 18th of Augustö í James Clay was Secretary of the Committee of Sixty which was responsible for the actioní understands that Henry had gone on to the Virginia Springs rather than to be available to helpí òthus leaving me here to perish under that tide which you had assisted in raisingöí òWhen I remember that I have devoted all the days of my manhood- my purse- my person and my honor to the success of the Whig cause, which would result very certainly in your personal elevation, I cannot in justice to myself or to you allow these reports though vague and indirect in authority to pass without hearing from yourself the whole truth.ö
 26. Says good-bye to Mary Bayard in an 1850 letter: Richard Bayard has accepted a mission to Brusselsí òConsidering the accidents of human life, especially those which are incident to my advanced stage of it, we may never meet again. This to me will be a great privation; cheerfully however submitted to, from the hope that it may redound to your health and happiness. But truth and friendship compel me to say that a large portion of my own satisfaction and enjoyment in life has been, during the last seventeen years, derived from your society and friendship.ö
 27. 1845. Letter to Henry Grinnell and Ezra Nye, thanking them for a picture of a ship named after Henry Clayí has received it via Cincinnati: öIt is a beautiful and splendid object of art, presenting a magnificent ship, highly creditable to the enterprise of the owners, and the skill and taste of its construction, as well as the pencil of the artiste who painted ití We will preserve the picture, as one of the most cherished ornaments of our house, and exhibit it to our friends, who may visit us, with the highest satisfaction, and with feelings of never ceasing gratitude to the friendly source whence it comes.ö Goes on to thank them òfor obliging offer of a free passage to Europe in this Noble vessel,ö but ònot probable that he shall ever again make a voyage to Europe.ö
 28. Daniel Webster writes Clay with advice in 1835: òKnowing the ardor, and the intensity, with which you may probably apply yourself to the duties of your place (Secretary of State), I fear very much you may over-work yourselföí calls on him to repudiate two false maxims, which had obtained currency among men; that

- for his part, he never did anything today, which he could put off till tomorrow; nor anything himself, which he could get another to do for him- I still think you ought to be a good deal governed by the same rules, especially the last
29. In 1842, speaks before a crowd at a barbecue in Dayton, Ohio, estimated to be between 100 and 200,000 people. This event, sponsored by the Ohio Whig Party, illustrated that, indeed, Henry Clay was a "Rock Star" of his time.
 30. 1842. As "The Great Orator" left Dayton in the afternoon, thousands remained from the previous day's barbecue. They filled the streets to see him on his way, to shake his hand, to shout encouragement. Then he was gone, and the great event was truly over.

October

1. In 1842, Clay, on his way from the speech he made before a crowd estimated to be between 100,000 and 200,000 (at a barbecue in Dayton, Ohio), stops for an appearance in Richmond, Indiana. At the conclusion of his "stock address," in front of a crowd of 10,000, Hiram Mendenhall and a group of Quakers present him with a petition to free his slaves. Clay uses his sarcastic wit to chastise Mendenhall (see copy of his remarks on the wall of the Dressing Room) ended his remarks by telling him to mind his own business. He won the day with the crowd, but his performance provided fodder for abolitionists to use against him in the 1844 Presidential Campaign.
 2. In 1849, informs James that his slave, Levi, left him at Buffalo, and has returned again to Louisville "my crops of hemp and corn are uncommonly fine" our love to Susan Jacob Clay, and kiss dear Lucy and the other children for me. Clay often mentioned "Lucy" in his letters.
- In 1850, Clay reached Lexington "to be met on the outskirts by a great crowd. The horses were unhitched from his coach and, amidst the ringing of the bells and the firing of cannon, men with bared heads drew the vehicle down what is now Limestone Street and finally to the Phoenix Hotel." Completing the expected speech, he points toward Ashland and said, "There lives an old lady about a mile-and-a-half from here, whom I would rather see than any of you." This was his return to Ashland after his strenuous and frustrating efforts to enact the Compromise of 1850.
3. In 1849, the Lexington Observer newspaper reports that: "We learn that, on Clay's arrival at Sandusky, he sent a telegraphic message to the proprietor of the American Hotel, stating that on arriving at Sandusky his servant, Levi, was nowhere to be found. It will be recollected that he was once before induced to leave by the offer of \$300, but refunded the money and returned to his master at Newport. We learn that Mr. Clay has authorized Mr. Hodges to pay his expenses home if he repents of the step he has taken and wishes to return."
 4. Amos Kendall (1825) writes "Yesterday in a playful conversation, Squire Turner of Richmond said to me, 'We heard up our way, that you was to have a place in the Department of State at Washington for the purpose of writing for Adams and Clay.' Not having heard from you, I presume you have made no arrangement to offer me such

a place in your Department as would afford me a pecuniary inducement to abandon my present business.ö Had Clay found a position for Kendall, he may well have prevented him from turning to Andrew Jackson. He became a key member of his öKitchen Cabinetö and a very effective opponent of Henry Clay.

5. Nicholas Dean informs Clay in 1848: öYou are idolized! óI am quite aware how wide spread throughout the Country, are similar feelings, butí New York must certainly be the focus, --the only spot where the cry is heard --give us Henry Clayø boots for President rather than any living man, save himself.øö Clay probably thoughtö too bad they didnø vote that way in 1844. While he was worshipped and adored when he visited New York, his öRock Starö status did not translate to political support.

-In 1842, four days after his Richmond (Indiana) encounter with Hiram Mendenhall, Clay performed again at the Indianapolis barbecue with approximately eighty thousand gathered to hear him. He says he ödoes not believe, however, that he personally is worthy of the grand reception he has received.ö öNO, NO! It is the cause-THE GLORIOUS CAUSEö the system of National policy, of which I have long been an humble advocate, that calls forth this exhibition of feelingö this display of sensibility.ö

6. Joshua R. Giddings, in 1847, has written him about a possible Whig nomination for the 1848 Electionö Clay hasnø determined if he would accept it if offered (He would have). He responds to questions about slavery: öYou kindly refer to the subject of the slaves I hold, and tell me what would be the good consequences of my emancipating them. I regret as much as anyone does the existence of slavery in our country, and wish to God there was not a single slave in the United States, or in the whole world. But here the unfortunate institution is, and a most delicate and difficult affair is it to deal with. I have during my life emancipated some eight or ten, under circumstances which appeared to me to admit of their emancipation. The last was Charles (Dupuy), and I am not sure he is benefited by his freedom. Of the remainder (some fifty odd), what I ought to do with them, and how, and when, is a matter of grave and serious consideration often with me. I am perfectly sure that to emancipate them forthwith would be an act of great inhumanity and extreme cruelty. I wish you would come and see me and them. Do come. You would behold them aged and decrepit men and women and helpless children, utterly unable to gain a livelihood or support in the world. They would perish if I sent them forth in the worldöí öAlas; alas! My good friend, I fear you have a very inadequate idea of the duties, obligations, and relations which exist between my poor slaves and me.ö

-According to the Lexington Observer, Dr. William Mercer is visiting at Ashland. Dr. Mercer always extended hospitality to Clay when he visited New Orleans. His home, 834 Canal Street, still survives. It is the home for the Boston Social Club. (1847).

7. John M. Berrien writes to Clay 1841: öI intended, my dear Sir, prior to my departure from Washington, to have had the pleasure of calling to see you; but the bustle of preparation for my journey, and the eagerness of my Compagnons de Voyage to start prevented meö í öI am considering whether I shall return or not to the next session, with a strong inclination to stay at home.ö (He did return next session but did not complete it).

8. To James Brown in 1826: öWe returned to this place [Washington] two weeks ago from Kentuckyí health has improved from three weeks stop at Virginia Spring.ö His reception in Kentucky and on the journey, öall I could have wished it to beí .ö öMr.

Adams has been three months from the Capital. The death of his father has been the principal cause of it. The papers will inform you of the sensibility which has been excited by the death of Mess. Adams and Jefferson on the same day, and that day the 4th of July.

9. To Fernando C. Putnam in 1844: "Although I am not a member of any Christian Church, I have a profound sense of the inappreciable value of our religion, which has increased and strengthened as I have advanced in years; and I sincerely hope that I may yet be inspired with that confidence in the enjoyment of the blessings, in another state of existence, which it promises, that disarms death of all its terrors." Putnam was an Episcopal Rector in New Jersey. Clay would join the Episcopal Church in 1847 (at the age of 70).

10. In 1805, the Trustees of Transylvania University elected Clay as Professor of Law and Politics. He would serve as such until 1807.

11. In 1823 he spoke to the Synod of Kentucky (composed of all the Presbyterian Clergy in the state). No notes, he spoke from memory on the topics of desirability to colonize the free blacks of America, and whether it was practicable to do so. "On both of these issues he expressed his thorough conviction of their importance, and the entire possibility of carrying them into effect."

-In 1815, a tribute of respect was paid to Clay for his efforts in settling the War of 1812 at a Public Dinner at Postlewaites Tavern (would be where Phoenix Hotel was). A good time was had. 21 toasts proposed to Clay.

12. Writes David Mundell, in 1848, "I thank him for the boots he made and had given to him, and his friendly sentiments regarding the Whig Presidential Nomination (which didn't happen). He regrets the loss primarily for the sake of his friends." In an interesting commentary he also stated: "We have had good and bad Presidents, and it is a consoling reflection that the American Nation possesses such elements of prosperity that the bad Presidents cannot destroy it, and have been able to do no more than slightly retard the public advancements."

-In 1840, in a Deed of Emancipation filed in Fayette County, KY., Clay emancipated his slave Charlotte and her daughter, Mary Anne. He noted in the document that Charlotte had "nursed most of my children, and several of my grandchildren." He specifically stated, however, that none of the children born either to Charlotte or Mary Anne prior to the date of the deed were included in the emancipation; "indeed, such children remain subject to me."

13. James Brown, 1825, expresses sorrow of hearing that twelve year old Eliza had died. "She had attained that age at which children are particularly interesting, and in the absence of her sisters would have been for many years an agreeable companion to her mother." "It has perhaps been fortunate that this melancholy event has been succeeded immediately by the variety of travelling and the occupation attendant on forming a new establishment. These serve in some degree, to divert the mind from its afflictions, and to blunt the edge of misfortune." Eliza died in Lebanon, Ohio, and was buried there 69 years before her body was re-buried in the Lexington Cemetery.

-Advice from Daniel Webster, 1826: "You must allow me to express my most anxious and earnest hope that you will not over-work yourself, the ensuing session and winter. What cannot be done without the sacrifice of your health, must be left undone, at whatever expense or hazard." He especially recommends the constant employment of an Amanuensis. "The difference between writing at the table, and dictating to another, is very great." "If I were you I would not touch a pen, except to write my frank. Make the Clerks do all that Clerks can do, and for the rest, dictate to an Amanuensis."

14. 1845, instructs Henry Clay, Jr. "I wish you would say to Mr. [Thomas] Smith that I sent a barrel of old Bourbon to his house through the Railroad, which I wish carefully forwarded to Dr. [Henry] S. Levert, of Mobile, free from expense to him." Dr. Levert was Octavia's husband. Clay had a special relationship with her. The Leverts gave a ball in honor of him, at their beautiful home in Mobile, in 1844.

-1817 to Joseph Gales Jr.: "I find since I left the city that a servant boy of mine has taken it into his head to leave Mrs. Clay, which he has done for no other reason than because we have spoiled him by good treatment." Clay offers a fifty dollar reward for his return.

15. On October 15, 1829, "While on his way to a barbecue in Harrodsburg, KY, stops at Shakertown and is provided with dinner and presented a piece of cloth as testimony of their high respect for his public services and character." He offers these comments to the Shakers: "It would be uncandid to say, that I concur with you in your religious practices. But this is your affair, not mine. It is in its social aspect that I contemplate and have ever admired your society. The example which it exhibits of industry, economy, regularity and fidelity to engagements cannot fail to communicate a salutary influence around you. These valuable qualities more than redeem any error, if there be error, in your religious creed, which only HE has a right to decide who governs the universe and judges us all. Entertaining these views of your institution I should regret the existence of any dissensions among you which might threaten a dissolution of your interesting Community and I hope that none may arise. With my best wishes for its prosperity, and for the individual happiness of all its members, I pray you to express to them my grateful acknowledgement, for this proofs of their respect and friendship, with which I have been this day honored."

16. Palmyra New York Whigs had proposed his name for President in 1848. He expresses the "liveliest gratitude," but asks that they not "press the use" of his name for that purpose. Various offers of support for him as an independent candidate after he failed to get the nomination were declined.

17. Edwin Upshaw, in 1821, sells to Clay the following slaves: "Coty for the sum of \$352, and Jude for the sum of \$117 to me in hand paid." "

-1850. A free barbecue held in Lexington to celebrate Clay's accomplishments relative to the Compromise of 1850. 6 Resolutions offered, 10 toasts in his honor, John C. Breckinridge made a speech, and Clay gratefully responds.

18. On this day, in 1862, that which Henry Clay had managed to hold off through his three Great Compromises came to his beloved Ashland. John Hunt Morgan's Confederate troops outnumbered Union troops and prevailed in a short skirmish that claimed several lives. One of them, George Washington Morgan, his cousin. The Ashland we see today

experienced the trauma of the Civil War— including serving as a hospital for wounded troops, and almost witnessing a shooting on the stairs after the battle.

-LaFayette writes in 1824: He plans to visit New York, Norfolk, Richmond, Monticello, Montpelier, then to Washington. Later he intends to visit the Southern and Western states, and I anticipate the pleasure to find myself under your friendly roof at Ashland. .ö

19. Writes Mary S. Bayard in 1848: This has been a year of great domestic affliction to us. In the spring we lost a favorite grandson (James Irwin, Jr.) under painful circumstances. And a few weeks ago the husband of our eldest deceased daughter (Susan Clay Duralde), Mr. Martin Duralde Jr., and a niece of Mrs. Clay (Eliza Ross), who she dearly loved.

-1835 invites Charles Mercer to dine with him at Ashland: had heard he was in Lexington: went to his tavern to see him, but missed him: This afternoon I have to attend the funeral of Mrs. (John W.) Hunt: Will you do me the favor to dine with me tomorrow or Wednesday at 2 o'clock (as the day may best suit you): I should be mortified if you left Lexington without my having the pleasure of seeing you, and at Ashland. .ö

20. Re: A legal matter in 1812: I have to apologize to you for the inattention which has taken place on a payment. However unaccountable it may appear the fact is it wholly escaped my recollection during the very short time I was at home. Having my family with me last Session as well as this and being consequently under the necessity of travelling much slower, the truth is I had scarcely time to turn around me when I got home before it became necessary for me to set out again---hope to get you a more satisfactory account soon.ö

21. In 1937, Country Home Magazine, through the Kentucky Live Stock Improvement Association, installed a plaque on the grounds of Ashland that reflected Clay's legacy as a farmer/stockman: Brought to Ashland and its pastures Hereford Cattle from England in 1817, and added them to his herd of Shorthorns. Here he pioneered thoroughbred horse breeding in the Bluegrass. To this farm he brought Jack Stock from Spain, here he bred Marino Sheep, Red and Belted Hogs, and by his example constantly inspired other farmers to improve their livestock.ö

22. In 1850 sends an encouraging letter to Henry Clay III: I got home about three weeks ago, and found all well here. I have received from Washington an official report of your Demerits the last month, representing the number of 15. This, I believe is less than the preceding months averaged; and I hope you will exert yourself to diminish them, until none remain to be charged to you.ö

-1821, having left Congress to catch up on his finances writes to Langden Cheeves: I will thank you to place with the Cashier of the Bank the \$2,000, the residue of my fee for conducting the suit in Ohio: Clay was working as chief Consul of the Bank of the United States. The case was Osborn v. B.U.S. At question was whether Ohio could seize Federal tax money to pay taxes the state imposed on the B.U.S. It has been cited eighty-six times as a precedential case by the Supreme Court. Another victory for Clay, the lawyer.

23. In an 1833 speech at Faneuil Hall, Boston: "States that he had hoped on his journey to pass on quietly; without attracting any notice on his account, or coming into contact with large portions of his fellow citizens, but nothing could induce him to remain silent after the enthusiastic demonstrations which he had been received; and especially THIS day, in this Venerable Hall notes that among his earliest memories were revolutionary events and incidents of which this hall, this city, and this state, were the patriotic theatre." He ends by saying that if "human liberty shall be once more exposed to danger in this favored land this hall will again resound with inspired eloquence."

24. An article in the Kentucky Gazette: "A Republican of 98" attacks Clay for not complying with the legislature's wish that he cast a vote for Andrew Jackson in the 1824 Election "Sir, you abandoned the principles and rights of the people who have sustained you."

-In an 1825 letter to Charlotte Mentelle, expresses feeling about their daughter, Susan's death (just a month after daughter Eliza had died): "Her last care seemed to be for us and for her children. She knew, by her own feelings, as a mother, what must be ours. Oh! Madam is it not cruel out of six daughters to be deprived of all but one!" He also mentions their need for Sally Hall (who served as a housekeeper for 50 years at Ashland). "We are keeping house. Mrs. Clay wishes, as I do, very much for Sally Hall, and we are in some uncertainty about her coming. She would do well I think not to wait for the use of the river, which is very uncertain. The roads are now good, the stage makes its day's journey with ease; and if she gets fatigued she could always stop and rest a day or two. There is no danger, and almost always somebody travelling in it; the fewer however the better."

25. An 1824 letter to Charles Hammond outlines the importance of New York for Clay in the Presidential Election: "My entry into the House depends upon New York. If that state divides its vote with either Mr. Adams or Mr. Crawford and myself I shall be returned." "The New York results were devastating for Clay." New York denied him the Presidency again in 1844. Had he received their support many believe he would finally be President. Voting fraud there, and in New Orleans, contributed to Polk's upset victory. Even in the 1840 Election, New Yorker, Thurlow Weed helped ensure that he wouldn't get the nomination in a year when whoever the Whig Party nominated would be elected.

26. 1851 "James moved his family to Missouri in 1851, settling near St. Louis, where he reported to his father that Thomas Hart Benton was befriending him" "The information mildly wounded Clay, the implication being that Benton was a more competent mentor." Months later when James learned his father was dying, James expressed to his mother: "He has been to me the best of fathers, and in losing him, I shall also lose the best and almost only true friend I ever had."

27. Informs James in 1850: "I sold your house and lot, and the ground which you are to get on Megowan's death on the 24th. inst. to Harvey Miller at \$9,000. Considering your anxiety to sell, the sale is a good one, property being very low in Lexington. The only regret I have is that, if you had been at home, perhaps I might have sold you Ashland and taken your property in part. Your mother has had all your furniture brought to Ashland except the bedstead and looking glasses, which I will try to sell to Mr. Miller."

28. Reports to James Brown (1827) his, and Lucretia's, health status "Neither is Lucretia's health as good as she enjoyed in Kentucky. We are both getting old, and both feel it."

-(1799) Peyton Short writes: "Your brother Mr. John Clay called on me a few days ago with a verbal message from you requesting that I would pay him the Balance of your Demand against me on account of the purchase of the Negro Man Dick" I was entirely destitute of the means of paying. He goes on to say that he expects to be able to pay soon. This is certainly one of the first accounts of Clay selling slaves.

29. To Thomas Stevenson (1848) "intends to passing the ensuing winter at the South, and if I go, it will be between the middle and last of December. In the meantime, with the exception of about a week that I may be in Louisville (but when I cannot now say) I shall be generally at home" "I read with attentive interest your apprehensions of the future. Knowing however the proneness of men of advanced age to look upon their own latter times unfavorably, and to draw disadvantageous comparisons between them, and the earlier periods of their life, I have not allowed myself to indulge in these gloomy feelings."

30. To Griffith Owen (1850) "expresses his sympathy after the destruction of the Church in Southwark in Philadelphia and admires the motives which prompt the desire to have it rebuilt" "Regrets he cannot accept an invitation to deliver a discourse or lecture in order to promote it, because he is already too burdened with engagements, public and private to contract any new one."

31. In 1847, James Brown Clay, gives us some insight into Ashland economics "the sale of Stock has just arrived in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has sold nothing so far except one horse" "expects little difficulty, this not being the region for mules" "has travelled 505 miles with stock" "the stock look very nearly, if not quite as well as when I left home" "also asks his father to tell Richard Pindell that there is great scarcity of pork through this whole region" .

-In 1830, writes Henry Clay, Jr.: "You are however constantly in my hopes and thoughts" the more so perhaps because my regret and disappointment are so great in respect to your older brothers. They are both here, and I see nothing in the future, respecting either of them, to mitigate the mortifications of the past" "I turn from these painful sons with pleasure to Anne" She is one of the few sources which I have of real happiness. "about a week ago she brought me a granddaughter" there is a prospect of her permanent residence near me."

November

1. In 1823 Samuel Redd provides a receipt for \$300 from Clay for a new carriage he has purchased "notes a balance of \$220 to be forthcoming on his return from the Eastward."

- A statement of assets completed in November of 1840 reports that Clay owned 46 slaves (\$11,500), Ashland (\$41, 200), Mansfield (\$6,000), 1,500 acres of land in Illinois (\$12,000), 680 acres between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers (\$6,800), 400 acres in Ohio (\$2,000), considerable stock and other possessions bringing total assets to \$127,030.

*(This is a reference you could refer to anytime through November)

2. In 1846 writes to Joseph Hoxie advice on the esoteric subject of Indian Corn ground with the cob as suitable food for cattle and horses. Clay relates that "nothing can be finer for that purpose." Two days later he sends a clarification: "I ought to have said, that the cob when thus ground forms a substitute for, and in a great measure supersedes the necessity for hay or other rough food." Considered a very knowledgeable "scientific farmer" his advice was often sought, and he strived for accuracy with his answers.

3. In 1845 writes to Susan Jacob Clay "glad to hear that dear Lucy had recovered" wants her to tell James that Ursin Bouligny, Jr. sold 52 mules for \$6,185 and hoped to get for the remaining 10, \$100 a piece. "We are all well, and all write in love to you, and do not omit to kiss precious Lucy." "

4. In 1780, Henry Clay's father will provides 4 year old Henry, two slaves, James and Little Sam. Thus begins a lifetime of owning slaves.

-In 1822, from William Warren, a Bill of Sale "releasing, relinquishing, and transferring to said H. Clay all my right title and interest to four negroe slaves, to wit Precilla a woman and her three children John, Joe and Caroline."

5. In 1821 Clay covenants to lease to members of Transylvania's medical faculty, two large rooms in the Kentucky Hotel, which have been fitted up for the above purpose for a term of five years. He owned several properties in Lexington and elsewhere.

-1827, Clay tries to recoup the sum of \$117 for the purchase of a defective slave named Jude from a Mr. Edwin Upshaw "On the 17th of October, 1821 (I purchased) a negro slave named Jude at the price of \$117 which was paid to the said Upshaw. The said slave was sold as a hearty, healthy woman, though somewhat advanced in years, and (I) purchased her under that full persuasion. Since the sale and the payment of the purchase money, (I) have discovered that the said slave is entirely unsound and diseased, so much so as to be worthless" the unsoundness of the said woman was known to the said Upshaw and to some of the legatees and he is advised that they were bound to have communicated the fact at the sale" signed H. Clay.

6. In 1797 receives his license to practice law in Virginia "We have examined him touching his capacity, ability and fitness and having found him duly qualified: This is therefore to license and permit the said Henry Clay to practice as an Attorney at Law in the Courts of this Commonwealth." This document hangs on the wall in Clay's study/office at Ashland.

7. In 1806 Henry Clay hired to defend Aaron Burr after the federal magistrate in Frankfort had requested authority for apprehending Burr "on the charge of preparing an attack against Mexico and bringing about the dismemberment of the Union." Initially successful, the case continued to develop and once Clay realized the political implications he steered clear of Burr. He had been suddenly elected U.S. Senator to fill an un-expired term.

8. In 1824, writes to Nicholas Biddle that the capitol at Frankfort has burned" there will be an effort to move the seat of government from that place "Its establishment there has been the occasion of much dissatisfaction always." He is giving Biddle a heads up that a request for financial aid may be coming to the Bank of the United States. Clay never liked the capitol being at Frankfort.

9. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1831 will serve until 1842, and then again from 1849-1852. Over a century later he would be selected as one of the top five Senators in American history. Actually J.F. Kennedy, who headed the selection process, said he was number one of the five a big admission on his part since fellow New Englander, Daniel Webster, was one of the five.

-In 1826 is asked for agricultural advice by Francis Voris, of Shakertown (Harrodsburg):
öWe occasionally see scraps of newspaper publications on the subject of manufacturing sugar from the beet in France; and as our society are in the habit of raising the beet to great perfection, we are in hopes that we can be enabled from the information within our reach through you to turn them to some more useful and good account than formerly ö
Wants Clay to find out:

-How we may cultivate any change from our present mode of cultivation

-The amount of labor to make 10,000 pounds of sugar

-What is the machinery necessary and where to procure it. Please send them a drawing of the machinery.

-Wants information as early as possible so they may raise a crop of beets the next season

-Also thanks him to communicate to me from time to time any useful information which you may obtain on the subject.

And P.S. öBe pleased if you can procure them, to send me some of the seed of the proper kind of beet, if they are anything different from the kind we have.ö

10. In 1823 writes William Hendricks (Indiana) asking for support for President in the 1824 Election. This is how campaigning was done, through correspondence with friends around the country, much of it from Ashland öThere is no event that I know of that can now happen in the West that would so much tend to promote my election, as a recommendation of me by your stateí ö

11. J.W. Mighels, of Portland Maine, writes to Clay in 1844: öReports that when news of New York's election results arrived, all our friends turned pale, and the little children, even, burst into tears! My own little boy of 14, was so much affected that he came near fainting in the Clay Club Room, and passed a sleepless night.ö He was inundated with this kind of response from his supporters.

-Son, Theodore, in 1825, writes regarding the great loss of his sisters, Eliza and Susan, earlier that year. He expresses, öí great concern for the deep distress, in which our great loss must have thrown yourself and my motheröí öAs I advance in years I feel the value of a relation more and more, because they must and should be the best friends. I hope however that you may not suffer your spirits to be too much depressed, for it is an inevitable effect that the health is thereby impaired, and that of yourself and my dear mother by these repeated shocks is more and more necessary to our happiness.ö In 1831, in another great shock to Henry and Lucretia, Theodore was committed to the öLunatic Asylum of Kentucky.ö

12. In a speech to Dr. Boyd McNairy öacknowledges the gift of a silver vase delivered for a large circle of Tennessee ladiesöí views öthe precious testimonials of their inestimable

respect and regard as a proud incident in my life, ever to be remembered with feelings of profound gratitude and delight,ö accepts öwith greatest pleasure, the splendid and magnificent vase of silver.ö This beautiful vase may be seen today at the Tennessee State Museum, Nashville.

13. In 1847 delivers his famous Marketplace Speech in Lexington. Abraham Lincoln attended and heard Clay speak boldly against the Mexican War (only a few months after Henry Clay, Jr. was killed at Buena Vista). This speech marked Clay's intention to try yet one final time to become President. Lincoln went on to Washington to propose the öSpot Resolutionö calling for Polk to prove just where the Mexican War started. The criticism he received for this proposal contributed greatly to his withdrawal from politics for nearly a decade.

14. In 1851, his last day at Ashland, he writes to his very good friend, Octavia Levert, öí I have been rusticated here all summer and fall struggling with precarious and delicate health, and not certain of the final issue. I am still debilitated, and with much hesitation purpose starting tomorrow for Washingtonöí . öI am delighted to hear of your being safely established in your beautiful mansion. If I am ever permitted again to visit Mobile, I shall eagerly look out for the apartment, which your kindness has allotted to me.ö

15. In 1851, leaves Ashland for Washington for the very last time. It took seven or eight days to get there, as opposed to the three weeks required in his early career.

-In 1850, speaks in the Old Capitol Building to the General Assembly of Kentuckyí talks of the Compromise of 1850 and öasserts that the principal reason he returned to public life was the perhaps presumptuous hope that I might be able to allay the gathering storm.ö He explains his positions relative to the various components of compromise and announces öI want no office, no station in the gift of man except a warm place in your hearts.ö In a lesson for us today, he contended one of the benefits of the crisis had been that Democrats and Whigs öhave been more thrown together in free and friendly intercourseö I was in conference and consultation quite as often, if not oftener, with the Democrats than Whigs; and I found in the Democratic Party quite as much patriotism, devotion to the Union, honor, and probity, as in the other party.ö

16. Having won the U.S. Senate seat by just 9 votes over Richard Mentor Johnson, Clay grumbled to James Conover, in 1831, that öI go to my postí with no anticipations of pleasure from occupying it.ö

17. Zachary Taylor writes in 1848: öI beg leave to return you many thanks for your kind invitation to visit Ashland should I go to Kentucky before you leave for the South; which it would afford me much pleasure to have done and passed a few days under your hospitable roof, but I must forego this pleasure as it will be out of my power to leave Louisiana or Mississippi for several monthsí .ö He adds that he may see him in New Orleans in January.

18. In 1822, Clay is recommended for Presidency by Kentucky Legislature.

19. In 1806, Kentucky Legislature elects Henry Clay to fill out the remainder of John Adair's term (resigned), by a vote of 68-10, over George Bibb. Even Clay's old nemesis Felix Grundy voted for Henry.

20. In 1842, John Neagle does a beautiful sketch of Charles DuPuy at Ashland. He did it in appreciation for what Charles had done to help him with his task of painting "The Father of the American System." Hanging in the dressing room, it contains Neagle's comments: "Charles Dupu (of Mendenhall meaning), a slave belonging to the Hon. Henry Clay, drawn by John Neagle, from the life. Lexington, Kentucky, Nov. 20th, 1842."

-In 1833, "Henry Clay visited Newark, New Jersey, and was shown around town (in the carriage on display at Ashland today). After commenting on how fine it was, the carriage was presented to Clay as a gift from the citizens of Newark. It served Clay for the rest of his life and was used in his funeral procession."

21. Writes to Octavia Levert, in 1844, "To tell the truth, I postponed writing till after the Presidential Election, under the hope that I might be able to communicate to you what I know would have been agreeable intelligence. That hope has not been realized. The election has terminated adversely for the Whigs. This has been a most unlooked for and astounding event, causing many hearts to bleed freely. I did not dream of such an issue of the contest three short weeks ago. I will not deny that it has created with me the profoundest regret, not on my own account only, nor principally, but on account of my country and my friends. I had hoped to be a humble instrument, in the hands of Providence, to arrest the downward tendency of the Government. The Election of 1844 was a crushing defeat for Clay. Finally, he, and most followers thought he would be President."

22. Grandson, Henry Clay Duralde, writes in 1849 to explain to his grandfather "the causes, which induced me to treat you with such shameful neglect and inattention, during your stay in that city (New Orleans) at the same time last winter." He admits to "partaking in pleasures of all kinds at theaters, balls and other places of amusement" "gave myself up to the gratification of my passions" "neglected to visit my relations." "Fearing that you would ask me how I had spent my time, and knowing I would have to tell you the truth, or a falsehood" "thought it would be better not to visit you." Yet one more troubled family member to create stress for Henry Clay.

23. In 1851, Clay arrives in Washington for the last time. He again took up residence in Room 32 of the National Hotel. He attended the opening session, made a short speech, and from that point on was pretty much confined to the room where he would die.

24. 1824. Amos Kendall reports in the Argus of Western America that John Quincy Adams received only 55 popular votes in Kentucky, yet Clay voted for him against instruction from the Legislature. Clay would contend that the Legislature had a right to instruct Senators since they elected them, but not House Members who were directly elected by the people. The Legislature wanted Kentucky's vote to go to Jackson.

25. Dr. William N. Mercer, in 1845, writes: "My family as well as myself look forward with great pleasure, to a renewal of the times so gratifying to us all, in former winters" "looks forward to seeing him second week of December at Canal Street (the house where Clay visited still at 834 Canal Street). In a postscript mentions that he has sent Clay a filly named Magnolia."

26. In 1824, writes from the Albemarle Hotel to Francis Brooke, "I propose visiting Mr. Jefferson tomorrow, and afterwards Mr. Madison. I shall remain a day or two with each of them and expect to reach Fredericksburg on my way to the city of Washington on the 2nd or 3rd of December."

27. Visits with Thomas Jefferson at Monticello in 1824. "Clay's visit with Jefferson was doubtless stimulating. They would have talked about the objects strewn throughout Monticello's entrance hall, about the strangely warm weather, of course, and of crops and horses, and they likely shared stories about bad health, especially their chronic indigestion. They almost certainly talked about the election, although Clay's visit really was social rather than political." (So speculate the Heidlers, in Essential American).

28. M. and R.H. Sweeney, of Wheeling, WV, notify Clay in 1844 "they have sent a large Glass Vase, which was made at our Glass Manufactory in this city, and which was thought worthy of a medal by the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia" (at a recent fair). They ask him to accept the vase as a token of their gratitude for his support of American Manufactures which has allowed them to reach their "present degree of perfection."

29. William Duvall, in 1825, calls attention "to the wreckers on the Florida Keys, and the evils that have, for a long time, and yet continue, to distress the Commerce of the United States on this coast" - refers to activities of vessels as little better than Pirates and Smugglers. He also offered recommendations to deal with the problem. An example of the kind of issues Clay had to deal with as Secretary of State.

30. After Jackson defeats Adams in 1828, Henry writes to Daniel Webster: "We are beaten. It is useless to dwell on the causes. It is useless to repine at the result. The formation of a new cabinet, and the inaugural speech will enable us to discover the whole ground of future operations. I shall retire to Ashland after the 4th of March, and then consider and decide my future course. I do not mean to look at it until then." May well be that his decision to run against Andrew Jackson in 1832 was formulated in his study at Ashland.

December

1. In 1851, makes his last speech in the Senate related to an issue involving a dispute over credentials for Florida's Senate seat. His speech, "often interrupted by his racking cough," took a toll on him. He "fully intended to return to the Senate, but he never did."

2. In 1809, writes to Isaac Shelby (his wife, a first cousin of Thomas Hart) "Clay is one of the Executors of Lucretia's father who had died November 26. He believes Hart's Estate will provide very adequately for everyone concerned" - "but owing to the sudden check to the course of his business produced by this event, a momentary pressure arises against which we wish to provide" - wants to obtain a loan of \$10,000 for twelve months.

3. In 1849, creates a sensation with his reappearance in the Senate, after a seven year absence. "A thunderous ovation echoed around the chamber on his arrival" - much handshaking and kissing as he greeted old friends and former colleagues. "Clay looked old and worn. And he coughed a great deal." Nearly 73 years of age, Clay was "back where he belonged". He "generally kissed the prettiest girls wherever he went, played cards in his room, and enjoyed a large glass of bourbon whenever he relaxed."

4. In 1829, Elizabeth Clay Watkins, mother of Henry Clay, died just 10 days after her husband, Henry Watkins. She was buried beside him at their farm in Woodford County. Later Clay would move her body to the Lexington Cemetery, but not his step-father.
5. In 1824 writes to Francis Brooke...states that the Presidential Election would have been very different had William Crawford withdrawn, and could have done so, "I should suppose, without any mortification to his friends, by placing it on the grounds of the continued precarious state of his health." Having suffered a severe stroke that would have made it impossible for him to serve effectively as President, his 41 votes beat Clay by 4. This meant that Clay was out of consideration for what might well have been his best opportunity to gain the Presidency. He had every right to be upset by this, and further, "I should indeed have been highly gratified if my native state had thought me worthy of even a second place in her confidence and affection. The obligations and respect which I owe her forbid my uttering one word of complaint, on account of her having thought otherwise."
6. In 1839, very upset about not getting the Whig nomination for the 1840 Presidential Election reportedly shouted: "My friends are not worth the powder and shot it would take to kill them!" "I am the most unfortunate man in the history of parties: always run by my friends when sure to be defeated, and now betrayed for a nomination when I, or anyone, would be sure of an election."
7. 1846; Young Men's Henry Clay Association of the City of New York invites Clay to attend their third ball. They had organized to honor Clay's name and to promote the interests of the country by his advancement. He received endless invitations to events in his honor, but on this occasion had to decline as he was on his way to New Orleans and that, "will not allow me to enjoy that satisfaction."
8. In 1849, James Robertson was jailed after being overheard in the Senate Gallery threatening to kill Henry Clay. He was jailed for 2 weeks.
9. In 1844, grants a Deed of Emancipation for Charles Dupuy, the son of Aaron and Charlotte, "do liberate and emancipate the said Charles Dupuy, from this day, from all obligations of service to me or my representatives, investing him, as far as any act of mine can invest him, with all the rights and privileges of a freeman."
10. In 1848, writes to Charles Fenton Mercer: "The Presidential Election is now over, and it must be gratifying to you and other of my friends, that its results demonstrate that I could have been elected with ease, if I had been nominated in Philadelphia." Will he return to the Senate? "If I could be persuaded that I could materially contribute to the proper adjustment of the momentous question of New Mexico and California, I should cease to feel any repugnance to the resumption of a seat in the Senate." And, of course, he was!
11. In 1816, two months old, Laura Clay died of whooping cough. She had contracted the disease on the journey to Washington from Ashland. Both Lucretia and Henry were grief stricken, but the next day he proposed to return to work "worried that he would seem weak and negligent for not presiding over the House." Margaret Bayard Smith gave him a talking to and set him straight. Lucretia was distraught and needed him. He stayed in,

planned the small funeral, and sat in silence with Lucretia. Laura is buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

12. Speaks to the American Colonization Society in 1837: He is the new President
“Reminds his audience that the society was founded only to colonize, with their own voluntary consent, the free persons of color in the United States. It does not exist to perpetuate slavery; nor does it exist to abolish slavery forthwith, and to let loose the untutored and unprepared slaves upon society.” The ACS is different in focus from abolitionists. “Their efforts are directed toward slaves, ours free persons of color” he believes “however, that it might take near two centuries to restore the Africans to the parent country, with all the blessings of law and liberty.”

13. In a letter to Peter Livingston accepts the nomination for the 1832 Presidential Election (Whig Party) “with the assurance that, whatever may be the event of it, our common country shall ever find me faithful to the Union and the Constitution” .

14. Relates to James Brown in 1826: “Mrs. Clay gives parties on every Wednesday evening on which the President’s drawing room is not open. The last was her first, and we had the greatest crowd, it was remarked, that had ever been seen in this city on a similar occasion.” So, at this time in life, Lucretia was socializing in Washington.

15. Writes Nicholas Biddle in 1831, asking if he has come to a decision about applying for an early renewal of a charter for the Bank of the United States (BUS). Clay was encouraging him to do so thinking Jackson “if now called upon he would not negotiate the bill; but that if he should be re-elected the event might and probably would be different.” Biddle did re-apply earlier and Clay was wrong. Jackson refused to grant the charter.

16. In 1850, attends in Washington Jenny Lind’s capital concert. He sat with Daniel Webster. Meeting her after the performance, “she arranged to hear him argue a case before the Supreme Court” and found his voice in speech as captivating as the world found hers in song. “She reportedly once said of Clay, “I just love his voice box.”

-Thanks Henry White, in 1845, for a beautifully printed and bound book entitled, “A Testimonial of Gratitude And Affection To Henry Clay,” several thousand names of friends from Philadelphia who contributed testimonial to his public service. Clay stated, “It will be ever warmly cherished by me throughout my life, and be preserved and transmitted to my descendants as the most honorable legacy which I could bequeath to them.” Also thanks them for the casket of rich jewels presented to Lucretia. The book is on display in the Permanent Exhibit Room.

17. Notifies the Senate in 1851, “I do, therefore, hereby resign the office of Senator of the United States from the state of Kentucky, this my resignation to take effect on the first Monday of September, 1852.” He had returned in 1849 seeking to formulate what became the “Compromise of 1850.” It had the effect of delaying the war another ten years (enabling the Union to build up resources to defeat the Confederacy). Worn out, and sick, Clay announces his intention to hang it up.

18. Late afternoon, 1835, after the senate had adjourned for the day, Clay is at his desk laughing and talking with several friends. He shuffles through his mail “opens one letter bringing him great cheer” “a cheerful account of (daughter) Anne’s steady

improvement.ö The second letter, from Episcopal Bishop, Benjamin Smith, informs him of her death. He is stunned. His response to losing the last of his six daughtersí òEvery tie to life is broken.ö

19. In 1850, attempts to find a position for one of his grandsons. Writes to Henry Grinnell: òI am very desirous to place a grandson of mine, (Andrew) Eugene Erwin, now with me here, in a respectable Mercantile house, to acquire the requisite knowledge in the honorable calling of a Merchantöí describes him as ò17 years of age, well grown, being nearly as tall as I am, free from all dissipation, and as amiable and much beloved by all who know him, as any young man I ever knewí ö Throughout his life, Henry Clay made efforts to help establish his sons and grandsons in productive endeavors.

-1835 to Lucretia: òAlas! My dear wife, the great Destroyer has come, and taken from us our dear, dear, only daughterí I have prayed for her; but oh! my prayers have not been heardí If the thunderbolt of Heaven had fallen on meö unprepared as I fear I amö I would have submitted, cheerfully submitted, to a thousand deaths to have saved this dear childí My dear, I ought to endeavor to comfort you, and I am showing my weakness. I cannot help it. This dear child was so entwined around my heart; I looked forward to so many days of comfort and happiness in her company, during the remnant of my life, that I shall never, never be able to forget her. My tears, and thank God they have flowed almost in a continued stream, have been my only relief. Sleep, food, I have scarcely tasted eitherí .ö

20. In 1830, Henry and Lucretia (and grandson Henry Clay Duralde), òleave Lexington for New Orleans where they planned to reside with Martin Duralde in ògreat retirement,ö but his renown brought almost daily visits from distinguished men in the area, including members of the Louisiana legislature and judges of the Courts. They stayed òa little more than two months, and Clay reported that his wifeø health benefited enormously by passing the winter in the Deep South and that he, too, felt tolerably well.ö Clay visited New Orleans seven times in his life.

21. In 1816, makes a speech at the organizational meeting of the American Colonization Society (held at Davis Hotel in Washington)í said of free blacks, òFrom their condition and the unconquerable prejudices resulting from their color, they never could amalgamate with the free whites of this country. It was desirable, therefore, both as respected them, and the residue of the population of the country, to drain them off.ö òThere was a peculiar, a moral fitness in restoring them to the land of their fathersöí speaks of òinstead of evils and sufferings which we had been the innocent cause of inflicting upon the inhabitants of Africa, we can transmit to her the blessings of our art, our civilization and our religion.ö He clearly delineated that òit constituted no part of the object of this meeting to touch or agitate in the slightest degree, a delicate question connected with another portion of the colored population of our countryöí no connection with emancipation, or the abolition of slavery. Clay was standing in for Bushrod Washington, ACS President. The last sixteen years of his life, Clay would serve as their President.

22. In 1851, writes to John Neagle: òYou inform me that you have offered to the General Assembly of Kentucky, a full length portrait of me which you had takenöí he advises Neagle that the General Assembly was not known òfor its generous patronage of the fine artsö and fears that Neagle òmay be disappointed.ö òI always thought favorably of your

portraitö tells him that if his effort fails ðan event shall occur in regard to myself which cannot be very distant (his demise), at that point I think it probable that your application to the Legislature would meet with more favor.ö Neagle requested \$1,060 for the painting. No action was taken. It now resides in the U.S. Capital.

23. Arrives in New Orleans, 1843, for his fifth of seven visits to one of his very favorite cities. He spent two months there, ðtaking care of his business, gossiping with politicians, and delighting the New Orleans belles.ö He paid glowing tribute to the beautiful women of New Orleans. The ladies loved Henry Clay, and he loved the fact that they did.

24. In 1814 signs several copies of the Treaty of Ghent. ðThe eight diplomats then sat down together for Christmas dinnerí and raised glasses in civil if not altogether cordial regard.ö

25. In 1847, Clay spends his last Christmas at Ashland, and it was a ðWhite Christmasöí ðIt was brutally cold in Kentucky that December, and foot-deep snow blanketed the ground as he left Ashland for Washington, the day after Christmas.ö

26. In 1834, presents his Resolutions of Censure of the Presidentí Jackson is censured by the Senate for unconstitutional behavior ðof removing government deposits from the Bank of the United Statesö an assumption of power over the Treasury not granted to him by the Constitution.ö Henry Clay was elated. However, three years laterö January 16, 1837, the censure was expunged by a vote of 24 to 19.

27. In 1822, informs Nicholas Biddle: ðI shall take my departure from (Lexington) tomorrow to attend the Federal Court in Ohio and to proceed from thence to the Supreme Courtöí Evaluating his efforts on behalf of the Bank of the United States reports that: ðDuring the later term of the Circuit Court in this state, as well as during all the preceding terms, we have experienced the most unexampled success in all the various questions which arose, in causes of the Bank.ö

28. In 1829, John Vance reported to Clay information about the Peggy Eaton Affairø impact on the Jackson administrationí ðWhat you and me, thought idle newspaper slang during the last summer on this subject does at this moment engross the principle part of the light talk at Washington and has cost the President and his sage counselors more trouble than all the subjects brought before them during the present administration.ö Clay must have relished this incident.

29. ðSeventeen states constituted the Union in 1806, when the twenty-nine-year-old Henry Clay was sworn in as the junior Senator from Kentucky.ö He decided to enjoy what would be his short stay in Washingtonö he frankly admitted his intention of spending his time making this a spectacular ðTour of Pleasure.ö

30. In 1815, writes to Amos Kendall thanking him for his ðkindness to our children, and the improvement made in their education, whilst they were under your careí scarcely any circumstance upon my return to Kentucky gave me so much gratification as the improvement, both in manners and education, which my sons had made, in my absence; and I am sure that they will owe much of any success they may hereafter attain, to the impulse given by you.ö Years later, Kendall would become one of Clayø most bitter enemies. He was a very important advisor to Andrew Jackson (part of his ðKitchen Cabinetö).

31. In 1826, sends to St. John's Church, for one quarter's Pew rent, ending December 26th \$13.00. St. John's is in Lafayette Square, across from the White House, and very near the DeCatur House where the Clays resided during his Secretary of State years.

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