



John Donne: Poet and Preacher

Clay Jenkinson

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

Books by Clay Jenkinson

The Language of Cottonwoods: Essays on the Future of North Dakota

Bring Out Your Dead: The Literature and History of Epidemics

*Message on the Wind: A Spiritual Odyssey
on the Northern Plains*

*The Writings of the Lewis & Clark Expedition
in North Dakota*

*Becoming Jefferson's People: Re-Inventing
The American Republic in the 21st Century*

*A Free and Hardy Life: Theodore Roosevelt's
Sojourn in the American West*

*The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer
in the Wilderness*

Listening to America is Clay Jenkinson's new initiative to make a series of journeys in search of the heart of America at this perplexing time in our history. Please visit LTAmerica.org for more details. Beginning on April 24, 2025, Clay will explore the entire Lewis & Clark Trail, from Monticello in Virginia, to Astoria, Oregon—in a 23-foot Airstream trailer. -

A Few Books about John Donne:

John Carey. *John Donne: Life, Mind, and Art.*

Katherine Rundell. *Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne.*

John Stubbs. *Donne: The Reformed Soul.*

Basil Willey. *The Seventeenth Century Background.*

A.C. Grayling. *The Age of Genius: The Seventeenth Century and the Birth of the Modern Mind.*

To follow Clay's travels and his weekly podcast and written posts, visit LTAmerica.org. Sign up for our weekly newsletter. Follow Clay's explorations along America's greatest rivers on the Lewis and Clark Trail—as we approach the nation's 250th birthday.

Clay is the editor of *We Proceeded On*, the quarterly journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. You should subscribe: www.lewisandclark.org.

Clay's next cultural tour will be the fourth **John Steinbeck Retreat** on the Monterey Peninsula in late September 2025. By then Clay's annotated edition of *Travels with Charley* will be ready to submit to the press. The retreat includes daily site tours at Doc's Lab, the Monterey Aquarium, Fremont Peak, and Point Lobos. The tour includes a special dinner in Steinbeck's boyhood home in Salinas. The retreat will headquarter at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

Clay is interviewing **Native American Elders** throughout the American West about the life and achievement of the photographer Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952). Curtis took 40,000 dry glass plate photographs of Indigenous people in seven regions of the American West. The result was one of ethnography's greatest works: *The North American Indian* (20 volumes). The video modules will be made available to galleries, tribes, museums, historical societies, and other entities interested in Curtis' stupendous achievement. For more information see LTAmerica.org.

Clay is a writer, public humanities scholar, editor, public radio personality, adventurer, leader of cultural tours. He lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, one of the last agrarian places in America. He has a particular interest in the American West.

Clay Jenkinson
701-202-6751
clayjenkinson.com
clayjenkinson2010@gmail.com

1324 Golden Eagle Lane
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503
jeffersonhour.com

A John Donne Timeline (1572-1631)

“No man is an island . . . Everyman’s death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.”

- 1572 born in London
- 1576 death of Donne’s father
- 1584 matriculates at Hart Hall, Oxford University
- 1589 tours the European continent
- 1591 studies at Thavies Inn in London
- 1592 studies at Lincoln’s Inn
- 1593 brother Henry dies in prison after harboring a Jesuit priest
- 1596 with the Earl of Essex and Walter Raleigh in attack on Cadiz
- 1597 military expedition to the Azores
- 1598 becomes Secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal
- 1601 clandestine marriage with Anne More; thrown by her angry father into Fleet Prison
- 1602 Member of Parliament for Brackley, Northamptonshire
- 1605 practices law, writes theological tracts
- 1609 Anne’s father relents, provides dowry
- 1610 publishes *Pseudo Martyr*, an anti-Catholic tract
- 1611 publishes *Ignatius His Conclave*, also anti-Catholic
- 1614 Member of Parliament for Taunton in Somerset
- 1615 ordained in Anglican ministry; appointed Royal Chaplain by James I
- 1616 appointed Reader in Divinity at Lincoln’s Inn
- 1617 first sermon at St. Paul’s Cross; wife Anne dies birthing their 12th child
- 1618 visits Germany with James Hay, Viscount Doncaster (two years)
- 1620 returns to Britain
- 1621 appointed Dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral
- 1623 nearly dies of fever
- 1624 publishes *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*
- 1631 dies in London of stomach cancer

To contact Clay Jenkinson
Clayjenkinson2010@gmail.com
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