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Hello again, friends, we're glad to see you all here.

What a summer it has been at the Danbury Museum! From a very successful

Cursive Camp and Music in the Museum Gardens to a celebrity party pig and very popular and hotly contested orb hunts, we've loved welcoming so many of you to our campus and our events this summer.

We have one final Music in the Museum Gardens concert with Billy Michael on Friday, August 25, from 6-7. If weather permits the performance will be under the tent, if not, we'll be set up in Huntington Hall. Friday's music will be a cavalcade of the most popular songs from the Tin Pan Alley 1890s to the early 1970s Hippie Revolution.

And there's still so much more ahead! Our photo exhibit (with new, additional online components each month) is up until December 16 and in very exciting news, we're hosting a series of concerts and performances for our friends at Richter Association for the Arts! Work is beginning on the Richter House, so their autumn concert series will instead be held here—under the tent outdoors when possible, and some indoor performers in the Marian Anderson Studio. All the details for the performances are on our [website](#). For the outdoor concerts, please plan to bring a chair or blanket. The first event is on Sunday, September 3 from 3-4 and will feature the Buby Brothers who play a mix of pop and rock.

We also have cooperative programming in the coming months with The Center as well as events with the Danbury Garden Club, so stay tuned!

And it's never really too early to mark your calendars for our annual fundraising gala to benefit the Danbury Museum! [The Danbury Museum Gala](#) will be held on Friday, February 2, at the Amber Room Colonnade. We're so excited to have an in person event finally and to be able to meet and greet everyone again. The theme? "Back in Black (Tie)." More details to follow in the coming months, but get your party clothes ready!

And we are so very pleased to have another excellent essay from John O'Donnell, this month on an exceptional librarian with a most interesting tie to Jane Austen.

Keep well and we'll look forward to seeing you all here again next month.

[Brigid Guertin](#)

[Patrick Wells](#)

[Michele Lee Amundsen](#)



Reverend James Stanier Clarke

A Multitasking Librarian

By John O'Donnell

One of the most extraordinary aspects of the careers of many librarians is to be able to do many other careers separately or sometimes simultaneously. There are also many major figures who have juggled their careers in this way. A great example (which can be multiplied many times over) are the multiple careers of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 -1832). He was blessed with an overabundance of talents which included writing some of the most important novels, poetry, plays as well as being a scientist and theater director. He also served as a counselor and government minister to the Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. In addition to these careers, he was, although this is rarely noted, the librarian for the duke as well. As any librarian would do, he undertook and successfully completed a major expansion of the library. We will look at another example of librarian multitasking in England with the career of James Stanier Clarke.

Clarke was born in Minorca on December 17, 1765. His father was the chaplain to the governor of the island in the Mediterranean Sea. He completed his early schooling in Southern England and matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge University from which he ultimately received two degrees including a Bachelor of Laws. He took holy orders as well and was appointed to a rectory in

Sussex. He then entered the Royal Navy as a chaplain in 1795. From 1796-1799 he served on board HMS *Impetueux* in the Channel fleet under the command of Captain John William Payne. His life was dramatically changed when Payne introduced him to George, Prince of Wales who in 1820 became King George IV.

The Prince of Wales took a liking to him and appointed him his domestic chaplain and librarian. It was the end of his service afloat, but propelled him into a courtier's career. George also made him historiographer to the King, and he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. Obviously, George had tremendous confidence in Clarke. Clarke was also instrumental in the founding of the influential magazine, *The Naval Chronicle*. The magazine featured up to date information about the navy and articles on maritime history. Clarke also published the first comprehensive biography of Admiral Nelson. He was enjoying success in a variety of fields and now he would have a brief but very important encounter with Jane Austen.

In 1815, Jane was staying in London in order to nurse her brother, Henry, back to health after a serious illness. His doctor realized that Jane was the famous novelist and author of one of the Prince of Wales' favorite novels, *Pride and Prejudice*. The Prince kept copies of this novel at all his residences and apparently read it multiple times. Jane then received an invitation from the Prince's secretary to tour Carlton House (the Prince's main London residence) and the library there. Her guide would be none other than James Stainer Clarke and she was assured of every possible attention. Jane visited and received the tour from Clarke on November 13, 1815 (the visit is included in the 2008 film *Miss Austen Regrets*).

No known record of this visit has survived but it appears that there was an initial friendship between the two which provoked a correspondence. It seems that Clarke underestimated Jane but some commentators have described him as being "besotted with her." He did persuade her to dedicate the novel *Emma* to the Prince of Wales (as the Prince had instructed him to do). But then he boldly wrote to her with suggestions about the future course of her writing, which she greatly resented. Clarke's last letter to her is dated 1816 and he died in 1834 at the age of sixty-eight.

This might be the end of the story if not for rare book lover Richard Wheeler. In 1955, Wheeler found a slim volume in an antique store with the initials J.S.C stamped on the spine and the words "Sacred to Friendship." This friendship book included over one hundred verses, drawings, watercolors, and autographs from noted people of the period. There were also two watercolors of unnamed women. Wheeler asked the Tate Gallery for help in identifying the women. One

was identified as Princess Caroline of Brunswick who was George's estranged wife. The paintings prove that Clarke was a master miniaturist adding yet another career to his already bulging resume. The second portrait, a more exciting discovery than the first, Wheeler was convinced was Jane Austen. She is fashionably dressed which would make sense with being honored with a private tour of the Prince's residence. The portrait was done from memory and makes it more credible that Clarke was indeed smitten with Jane Austen.

John O'Donnell first became a history devotee while in elementary school. He was raised in Brooklyn and frequently went to Prospect Park which has a Revolutionary War monument. He was hooked!



Jane Austen as painted by James Stanier Clarke.

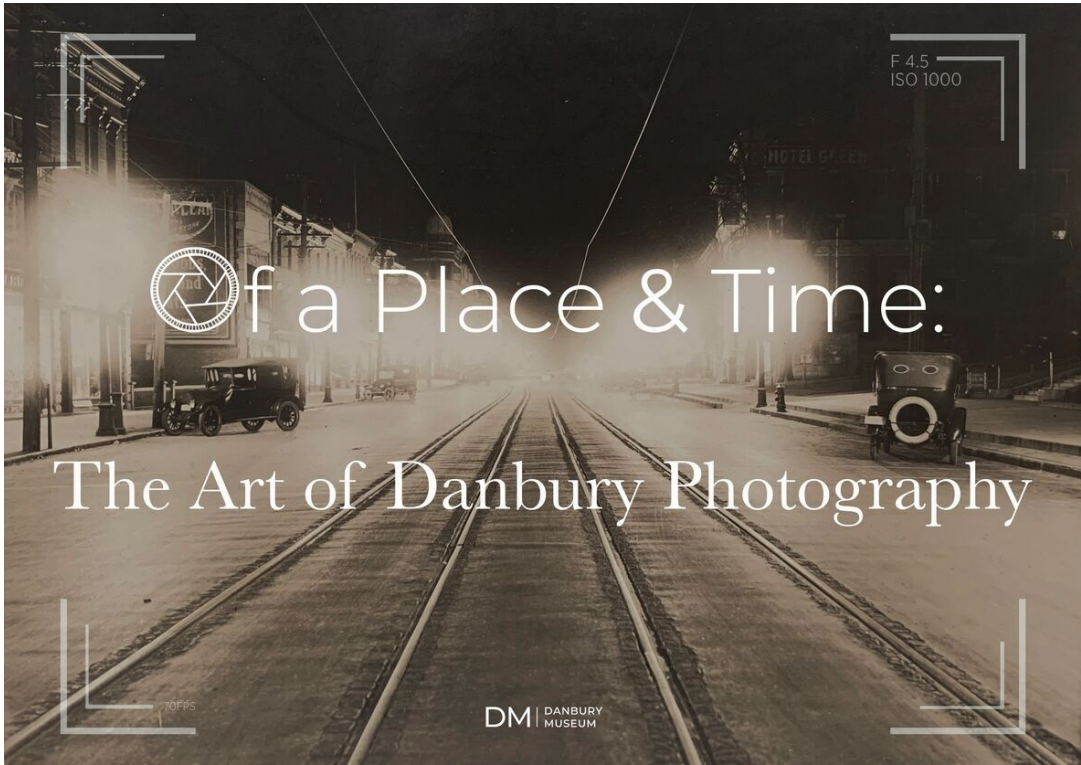


Exhibit open Wednesday through Saturday, 12-4. And visit the online extra, too!





*Richter Arts
Autumn Concert Series*

@ the Danbury Museum

Join us for FREE musical performances on Sundays from 3 - 4 pm on our 43 Main Street campus.

September 3, 10, 17 & 24
October 1, 8, 15, & 22

Details at DanburyMuseum.org



Join us under for free Sunday music all autumn long!



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