



PROJECT SOLAR MARY

I first became aware that I would support the project to solarize the Claymont Barn with a substantial financial commitment a few days after the 50th Anniversary Event in October of 2024. I say became "aware" because this decision—if one could call it a decision—did not come about though any normal decision-making process. It was simply a "Knowing" of the kind that sometimes, in matters both large and small, just comes and stays.

As is usual in such happenings after a Knowing plants itself, my rational mind does its habitual thing—attempting to "explain" or "justify" the Knowing, in ways it finds more comfortable. As I have reflected on explaining this particular Knowing, I think it has do to with Claymont's initial founding by Mr. Bennett and the early days after his death as his followers worked to carry forward his Vision—

that Claymont would nurture in a particular group of individuals something missing in the World, yet desperately needed: a way of Being that transcends the automatic, sleep-filled lives common to so many, many of us.

Part of Mr. Bennett's method seems to have been to extract those individuals for a time from the world around them, into a different world that functioned according to a different set of understandings and rules, in order to firmly establish in those individuals a different way of Being that could be taught to others. This he did at Sherborne and this he intended to do at Claymont on a secluded piece of land that could become a self-sustaining community—apart, for a time, from the surrounding world.

Fifty years later that need still exists. Solarizing the Barn symbolically and practically links Claymont's founding vision with its future vision: more attention to dependence on the Land, the Sun, and Nature; an attempt to limit being dependent on the prevailing corporate structure and its rules; an effort to pay the debt of our existence and lessen the sorrow of our Common Father; an expression of Hope that Claymont has a Cosmic role to play.

Upon further reflection, perhaps it's best to leave my rational mind out of it altogether, and simply accept the Knowing that has planted itself in me. I intend to continue to put financial resources into the project to solarize the Barn. I hope others will join me too.

—Mary Ellen Jernigan, March 2025

SUPPORT CLAYMONT'S INITIATIVE TO SOLARIZE THE BARN

Please consider supporting our effort to bring our community and buildings into better harmony with the land and our planet.

