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*Claytonia*

*Montiaceae*

[*Portulacaceae*]

*Claytonia* commemorates an English-born plant collector, John Clayton (1686-1773) who emigrated to Virginia in North America in 1705. He sent many plant specimens to Europe and corresponded with leading botanists of his time such as John Bartram in England, the Dutch J.F. Gronovius, and Carolus Linnaeus, as well as statesmen including Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), and Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826). The English Quaker botanist and naturalist, Peter Collinson (1694-1768), is understood to have held John Clayton in such high regard that he described him as the ‘greatest botanist in America’. Clayton’s collection of plant specimens is considered today to be of historical importance, not least because some of the specimens were included in works published by his peers, and more especially the fact that Carolus Linnaeus’ knowledge of North American plants relied upon Clayton’s plant collection, and the work of Pehr Kalm (1715-1779).