

**POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC:
ROBERT R. HENRY EXPOSES ARCHIBALD CLARK'S
"SECRETS WORTH KNOWING" IN ST. MARY'S, GEORGIA**

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The story of Robert R. Henry is a tale of British invasion, soldiers-of-fortune, slave smuggling, pirates, presidential politics, office-seeking, and much more. One man of limited financial means set out in the 1820s to expose what he believed was a national conspiracy that stretched from Washington to Georgia to New York. Robert R. Henry, however, may have actually been a mentally unbalanced and unscrupulous office seeker attempting to ruin the career of an honest and beleaguered bureaucrat, Archibald Clark. Although Henry failed to have Clark removed from office, he did succeed in forcing two official investigations, arranging an interview with the President of the United States, forcing a Congressional inquiry, and bringing about a newspaper campaign.

Despite all the famous names and curious circumstances connected with the Clark affair, the greatest value of this study is in showing, through the papers of Robert R. Henry, what a political activist of his period could accomplish. Seldom have the actions and thoughts of an activist representing any time period been documented in such detail. Because of what Robert R. Henry was able to do, we know what was possible and probably accomplished by many others of his time.

*Synopsis provided by the author.