



Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Fall 2012

Reunion in Richmond, Virginia Save the Dates: October 3-6, 2013

By Susan Williams Harrod Rura, Vice-President

Our next Claiborne Reunion is planned for October 3-6, 2013 in Richmond, Virginia, a city of interest both architecturally and historically. This is our time for renewing friendships, sharing our common ancestry, and reveling in the courageous deeds and exploits of our forebears.

Richmond wears its history well as old neighborhoods and landmarks are juxtaposed with fine lodging and delicious food. We expect to stay at the OMNI RICHMOND hotel (negotiations ongoing) at the edge of the cobbled streets of Shockoe Slip, two blocks from the site of Captain Newport's first landing. The finest restaurants can be found within 1-2 blocks.

As usual our hospitality room will be open for greeting arrivals and displaying Claiborne Clan memorabilia. Friday will be our day to tour Richmond. Saturday will include business meeting, historical research, and evening banquet with speaker.

We plan to visit Libby Hill, where the "view of the James" reminded William Byrd of the "view of the Thames" at London's Richmond Hill, Chimborazo Medical Museum, St. John's Church (a Claiborne marker here), Tredegar Iron Works, a Civil War Museum, and for the adventurous a ride to Petersburg.

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History abounds from Richmond to Petersburg and your ancestor experienced it here. Mark the dates October 3 to October 6, 2013 to come for fellowship and an exciting time with the Claiborne Clan.

RICHMOND: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Susan Williams Harrod Rura, Vice-President

English settlers arrived on Jamestown Island in 1607, thereby establishing the first English colony in America. Eight days later, Captain Christopher Newport led an exploration group up the James River arriving at the falls and an Indian village, the site of present day Richmond. This excursion could be considered the beginning of the city's history.

The Town of Richmond would not be established until 130 years later. For now this place was the frontier, important as a trade outpost and a defense against an unknown environment. Settlements grew along the shores of the James, including Bermuda Hundred, Flowerdew Hundred, and Martin's Brandon. Commerce flourished along the navigable James river, providing access to the mother country but ending at the falls.



City of Richmond, Virginia, From the Hill above the Waterworks, 1834. W.J. Bennett Hand-colored aquatint engraving. Voorhees Collection. The Library of Virginia.

Eventually Captain William Byrd was granted land for establishing a town. It was his son William Byrd II, sixty years later in 1737, who laid out the town structure along Shockoe Creek. Richmond is shaped by its hills and creek valleys. Shockoe Creek flows through a ravine with the steep Capitol hill on the west and elevated Church Hill on the east.

Although a small settlement, it produced notable landmarks and noteworthy men. Patrick Henry, at the second Virginia Convention, held at St. John's Church on Church Hill, rallied the people with his "give me liberty or give me death" speech thereby igniting an American Revolution. Thomas Jefferson, second governor, chose the design for the Capitol, after a Roman temple in southern France, Maison Carree.

Before the Revolution was over, the capital of Virginia was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1779 for defensive reasons. It was considered to be "more safe and central than any other town on navigable water." Nevertheless Richmond was burned by Benedict Arnold and again later set afire just before the Fall of Richmond at the end of the War Between the States.

Between these two fiery events, Richmond, with its sea-bound river, canal system, and railroads, prospered, creating wealth-producing industries such as flour mills, iron and foundry works, and tobacco manufactured products. When civil war broke out, it was natural that dynamic Richmond would be chosen as the capital of the Confederate States of America.

Once again Richmond was a target, not of the British this time, but of the Union Forces of the U. S. Government. Twice it was the focus of major military campaigns, in 1862 with cautious General George McClelland and in 1864-5 with determined General Ulysses S. Grant. Many battles were fought within Richmond's environs. McClelland's forces were close enough for fighting to be seen from Richmond rooftops. But with Grant, Richmond was kept in a virtual state of siege causing huge hardships to the civilian population. The massive numbers of casualties required requisition of warehouses as hospitals and prisons, and eventually dedicated land for cemeteries and burials. This was war on the home front affecting women and children, who were left to deal with the aftermath of battle.

As with any calamity and destruction, there is always the possibility of rebirth and renewal. It requires a hardy spirit, a forward-looking attitude, and sheer physical energy. Richmonders have a sense of being forged by their history into a confidence about the future as well as a reverence about their past.

Impressions of King's Lynn August 21-22, 2012

By Diane "Dede" Claiborne Clements

After a rendez-vous in London, several of us Claiborne descendants journeyed to King's Lynn to visit the ancestral roots of William Claiborne. Dede Clements, Ruth, and Rick Rose arrived by car with the help of GPS to navigate British roundabouts and highway exits. Susan Penfold and Julie Haynie came by rail

and managed to avoid being detached in Cambridge. They were met at the King's Lynn Station by Jill Price, the experienced guide familiar to many in the Claiborne Society. She proceeded to make our visit easy and meaningful. We were steeped in history from the outset.



Quay in front of Claiborne warehouse

Old King's Lynn is a small area of narrow streets around a central square that still serves as a weekly market place. It's bordered on the West by the Ouse River flowing into "The Wash", an inlet of the North Sea. Vistas are dominated by old slate or tile roofs and graced by flowers. Church spires rise above the two-story brick structures, and sea gulls squeal over the now sleepy seaport. We lodged at the Dukes Head Hotel, facing the square just a block from the water, so we could walk to most interesting sights. After lunch, Jill took us out and began to illuminate our quaint surroundings.



Group assembled before entering Town Hall to meet Mayor
Left to Right: Rick Rose, Jill Price, Julie Haynie, Susan Rose Penfold,
Ruth Claiborne Rose, Diane Claiborne Clements (Dede)

Our first stop was the Town Hall, an interesting "checker-board" pattern of local flint and stone whose oldest section dates from 1420. Indeed, the Trinity Guildhall (its formal name) reflects the medieval hey-day of King's Lynn. The high vaulted ceilings, great

leaded windows, and gorgeous paneling seem almost ecclesiastical in their authority, and they house numerous treasures from the Town's past -- silver salt bowls, a magnificent chalice, paintings, annals detailing its history, and more. We were excited to see Elizabethan period references to the mayoral rules of William's grandfather and father, both named Thomas Claiborne. Jill, whose own research augments the local histories she commands, reminded us that young William Claiborne went to Pembroke College at Cambridge University when he was just 16, six years before he set sail for Virginia in 1621. Besides the Claibornes, other prominent citizens of King's Lynn include Sir Robert Walpole, England's first Prime Minister (1720-40), and George Vancouver, whose 18th c. exploits in North America are a source of pride.



In Town Hall great room, large enough for over 60 Counselors to meet Julie Haynie, Ruth Rose, Susan Penfold, Jill Price, Dede Clements

A special pleasure at the Town Hall was meeting Mayor Wareham. What an engaging and distinguished gentleman. Honored by a Claiborne visit, he was dressed in his traditional red robe with fur trim and adorned by the heavy breast chains and crest of his office. He could not have been more gracious, serving us tea in his impressive chamber and regaling us with jolly stories of the Counsel's work, his travels in the US, and the Queen's recent jubilee celebration in that very room -- yes, we were in the same chairs she and Phillip had used!

Across the cobbled street lies St. Margaret's Minster. The huge grey stone Church has two imposing towers and is decorated with a large clock on one side and, on the other, an instrument indicating the tides -- yet another reminder of the old Town's commercial life-blood.

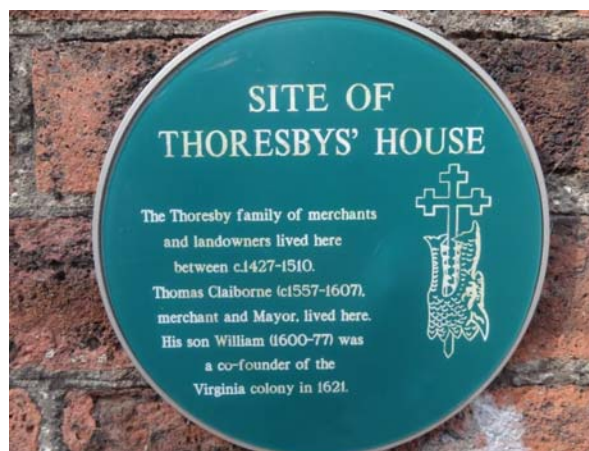
The Church interior, like St. Nicholas Chapel on the other side of the square, is warmed by a wood ceiling and stunning stained glass imagery. Some graves are

enclosed in the floor, but many, including the Thomas Claibornes, were covered over by Victorian tiles in the 19th c. Still on display, however, are two very large tombs of other King's Lynn leaders. Jill, on behalf of the King's Lynn Town Guild, had rubbings done of their beautiful brass covers and displayed the intricate artwork in time for the Queen's visit.



With Mayor Wareham in his office Jill Price, Ruth Rose, Julie Haynie, Mayor Wareham, Rick Rose, Dede Clements, Susan Penfo

Outside, on the Church Rectory's garden wall, is a small historical plaque indicating that the 16th c. Claiborne home lies at the bottom of the yard -- unfortunately hidden from our view and accessible only from the Rector's home. But the flowering shrubs peeking over the bricks attest to its lovely surroundings. Our first day ended with a gourmet dinner on the riverfront, a meal we invited Jill to join. As the sun set over the water, we continued to be awed by her knowledge, touched by her devotion to her Claiborne Society friends, and delighted by her humor and warmth.



Historic note indicating Claiborne dwelling

Jill returned us to the quay next day. On the stroll, we saw the Merchant Exchange and explored the warehouses and docks where huge quantities of

grain had been exported and wine imported, along with other commodities that made King's Lynn so prosperous through the 17th c. Most of the warehouses, including those first owned by members of the Hanse, a significant Baltic trade league, have been converted into desirable dwellings. One, Thoresby College, housed monks originally but is now a useful community center – I would love to have my book club meeting in the 16th c. vaulted chamber with huge beams! Other converted warehouses have become offices, stores, and restaurants. In Thomas Claiborne's former warehouse, we paused for a coffee in the cheerful shop, while studying the big doorway to the wharf and the massive beams supporting the old structure. Given the busy construction on the key, it seems that renovation work has replaced trade as a profitable business in King's Lynn.

As we walked on, Jill also pointed out interesting features of medieval and Georgian dwellings, too numerous to recount. A magnificent house several miles East of King's Lynn, however, deserves special mention – Sandringham, the Norfolk retreat of British monarchs since Victoria. We drove to it after lunch and spent some time among throngs of English families on holiday, all of us enjoying the grounds and admiring royal rooms, furnishings, and personal photographs. Such intimacy was an unexpected treat indeed.* The proximity of Sandringham to King's Lynn may explain why "our" Town was Queen Elizabeth's first stop on her Jubilee tour of her realm. If we had scheduled more time in the region, visits to Walpole's home, Houghton House, and nearby Cambridge University would have been pleasant and interesting—recall "Brideshead Revisited"!



The village of Cliburn

But our next destination was northwest in Cumbria to glimpse Cliburn, where a branch of Claibornes may be linked (see book by Lolita Bissell). If you blink, you could miss the cluster of houses along the small

country road. Were it not for the lovely little church, it wouldn't even classify as a village. But the stone Church and its graveyard are memorable, set on a hill amidst vibrant greenery. Indeed, the rolling and craggy landscape contrasts boldly with the flat land of southeast England. Around Cliburn, the hillsides dotted with sheep and ancient stone walls preview the rugged Scottish scenery just north. This Westmoreland setting is deeply evocative of old Cliburn life, perhaps more than Cliburn Hall. The view of the 14th c. house from the lane has been obscured by its current owner, who has constructed dairy farm buildings in front of the house.



Cliburn Hall

My Claiborne family's actual ancestor remains mysterious for now, but seeing both King's Lynn and Cliburn has doubled the romance of imagining past generations, the sturdy and courageous people who came before us to found our home in the new world. I've been lucky to have made this wonderful trip with my cousins and aunt, regretting only that my deceased mother, Rosalind Claiborne Clements, was not with us. An avid researcher of family roots, she would have loved every minute, and I've felt her spirit constantly.

*In the wilds of Scotland on Sunday August 26, we serendipitously came upon the Royals at Balmoral!! From the country road, we saw some people waiting along the narrow driveway to the Castle gate, so we stopped and joined them. Within a few minutes, Charles drove himself and Camilla across the little road and up to a small hillside church. A chauffer-driven Rolls Royce followed shortly, with the Queen and Phillip clearly visible - she in a bright pink hat and coat. They all smiled and waved cordially to us only a few feet away. I really could not believe our good luck!

More pictures of King's Lynn are available online at the Claiborne Clan website under Reunions.



Claiborne Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto

By Patricia Clayborn

The explosion of information on the internet, including the full text of obscure and formerly unavailable historical documents, has made research on our family much more rewarding. This includes research on our family coat of arms, crest and motto.

The Motto

One find is a document that seems to show that the Cleborne motto is 300 years older than we thought. In 1903 Oswald Barron, FSA, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, wrote in an English publication, "The Ancestor: A Quarterly Review of County and Family History, Heraldry and Antiquities," that the Anglo-Saxon language was still understood by the average person as late as the end of the 1300s. To make his point he stated the following:

"To this the motto of the Cliburn (Clibborn) family seems to bear witness. This could not possibly belong to an earlier time, for only late in the days of Edward III [who ruled from 1327 to 1377] did that family assume the name of Cliburn. The motto, interesting I think as a rare example of a medieval English motto, was "Ne lof clibbor ne(na) sceame (neither praise clings nor disgrace/shame), and was handed down with various loppings till in the seventeenth century it came to the unmeaning 'Clibbor ne sceame.'...The dialect of the deed as might be conjectured from the position of Cumberland – a borderland inhabited by mixed races – shows disintegration of the inflectional endings and of other grammar, as does the motto quoted above (with 'sceame' for 'sceamu'); and one traces in it, in the matrix of the Anglo-Saxon: Gaelic, Cymric and

Norse."

This is new information because: 1) we are given a complete motto instead of the later truncated version, 2) we learn that the motto is extremely unusual because it is written in Anglo-Saxon (Old English) instead of Latin, and 3) we can surmise that it was probably devised at a time when Old English could still be widely understood, perhaps as early as the 1300s.

The translation for each word is as follows:

Ne = adverb "Not, non, neither"

Lof = noun "Praise, glory, a song of praise, hymn"

Clibbor = adjective "Sticky, adhesive" (clifian to cleave, adhere)

Na = adverb "No, not, non, nor"

Sceamu = noun "The emotion caused by consciousness of unworthiness or of disgrace. In a good sense: modesty, bashfulness; in a bad sense: shame, confusion."

Puns in mottos alluding to the owner's name are fairly common. The entire meaning can then be translated as: "Neither Praise Nor Shame Adheres," which is similar to the sentiments of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who famously said: "I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings."

Previously, it was believed that Colonel William Claiborne created the motto to describe his dispute with Lord Baltimore in the matter of the possession of Kent Island. However, this new information suggests that it is much older and was authored by the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall to make use of the word "clibbor" to express their disdain for praise or criticism.

Mottos are supposed to have originated in the war cries of the ancients and were said to have been painted on the shields of the warriors. Heraldry began formally in England as a means of identifying men whose features were hidden in armor, and of identifying their supporters on the field of battle. The oldest coats of arms are the simplest, and often took their designs from the cross braces and struts required to build a shield. Individuals bore the arms of the fiefdom, manor or family with whom they were allied, and that may be the route by which the Claibornes of Norfolk adopted the arms. After all, they already carried a much more important sign of allegiance: their name.

In the book "An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk," written by Rev. Charles Parkin in 1810, I may have found a Cliburn/Kings Lynn connection. On page 508 a

continued on page 6

William Clayborne is listed as holding the tenure of two tenements in Kings Lynn during the reign of Edward VI, which lasted from 1547 to 1553. Can anyone tell me whether this William Clayborne had any connection with his contemporary Thomas Cleyborne of Kings Lynn or with the Cleburnes of Cliburn? On page 540 the Rector of King's Lynn in 1478 is listed as a Robert Franceys. Can anyone tell me whether this Robert had any connection with the Le Franceys or the Cleburnes of Cliburn?

The Crest

The identifications of war became badges of honor in peace time, and the mottos, the crests (the decorations above the helmet) and the coats of arms were engraved upon seals, sculpted on monuments, and embroidered on surcoats. They took on decorative importance in tournaments, where the crests became extremely large and elaborate. Crests were originally the means by which commanders were distinguished from the others, and were meant to stand high above their heads.

In 1917, John Herbert Claiborne wrote: "In a field, to the rear of Cliburn Hall, stand two old oaks, gnarled, twisted, and decaying. Admiral Cleborne told the writer they were the sole remaining giants of the ancient Forest of Englewood. They are of interest, since they suggest the story told by the Admiral touching a tradition about the Cleburne crest. He said, in very ancient times, when the Forest of Englewood was thick and flourishing, one of the Lords of the Manor, returning home late one evening, was caught in a thunderstorm in the forest, a thunderbolt struck a tree, and a limb of it, in falling, was on the point of knocking him from his horse, but, at that moment, a wolf ran out of the brush and, frightening the horse, caused him to shy, so that the limb fell short, and the horseman was unhurt. From this incident the Wolf is said to have been taken as the family crest, and it has so remained to this day...Another tradition claims the Wolf was derived from 'Hugh Lupus,' Lord Paramount of Cleburne and other lands, but the incident related furnishes the more interesting explanation."

Note on Hugh Lupus: The ancient Barony of Westmorland was granted by William the Conqueror to Ranulph de Meschines, who married the sister of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. Their son Ranulph granted his estates in Westmorland to his sister, whose descendant Sir Hugh de Morville was involved in the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Sir Hugh forfeited his estates, which went to his nephew, Robert de Veteripont or Vipont. Ivo de Veteripont, son of William de Veteripont and Maud de

Morville – sister of Sir Hugh de Morville – gave the manor of Maud's Meaburn to John le Franceys, baron exchequer.

The Arms or Shield

The arms were officially registered by the Royal College of Arms Herald's Visitation of the County of Yorkshire in 1584 as belonging to Richard de Cliburne (c1540-1607) and his son Edmund Cleburne (c1558-c1590), and in 1612 as belonging to Edmund's son Thomas Cleburne (1580-1640) – all of Westmorland and Killerby. The College states that there have been no subsequent grants. For this reason, I believe that it is acceptable for all the many branches of our far reaching clan to feel welcome to enjoy its use in a decorative way, either because it was used by a direct ancestor in the 17th century, or because it was used by those with whom one shows a DNA match.

References:

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2. Bosworth J. An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. Edited and enlarged by T. Northcote Toller, M.A. Oxford: Clarendon Press 1898.
3. Parkin C. An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk. 1810. Pages 508 and 540.
4. Claiborne, John Herbert. William Claiborne of Virginia With Some Account of His Pedigree. G.P. Putnam's Sons New York and London, The Knickerbocker Press 1917.
5. Letter from The Royal College of Arms Richmond Herald, Patric Laurence Dickinson, M.A. to a Descendant of William Claiborne, First Secretary of the Virginia Colony.

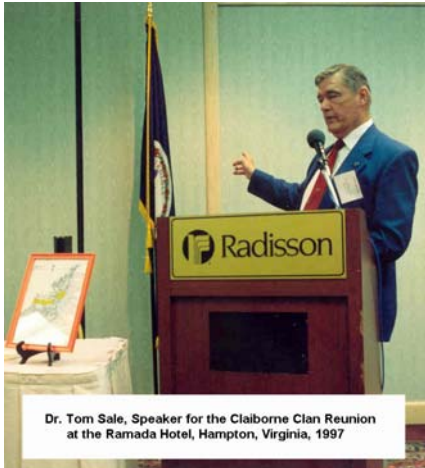


Dr. Thomas Sale Jr.

The Claiborne Clan has lost much loved past president and active member, Dr. Thomas Sale Jr., who was born on Feb. 26, 1926 in Hampton, Virginia, and died there on June 17, 2012. Dr. Sale is survived by his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth Woodward Sale, his sons, Thomas W. Sale III and John Cabell Sale; and daughter, Sidney Sale Bland, along with his grandchildren, Thomas Wirt Sale IV, Wesley Bland, Anne Carter Bland, and Susan Sale.

Dr. Sale was a 1952 graduate of the Medical College

of Virginia. After an internship and residency in Boston, he returned to Hampton in 1957 as a general surgeon, where he practiced until his retirement in 1994. During World War II, he served in the Fifth Infantry Division of Patton's Third Army, which fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was involved in the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line, and crossed the Rhine River at Oppenheim in 1945. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge.



Dr. Tom Sale, Speaker for the Claiborne Clan Reunion at the Ramada Hotel, Hampton, Virginia, 1997

As time permitted and during his retirement, Dr. Sale joined many genealogical and patriotic organizations, including: Sons of the American Revolution (past president and surgeon general), Jamestown Society (past president), Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters, Order of the First Families of Virginia, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Society of Colonial Wars, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bridger Family Association (past president), Society of the War of 1812 (past state president), Military Order of the World Wars, Order of Founders and Patriots of America, Navy League of the United States, St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, and Tidewater Genealogical Society (past president).



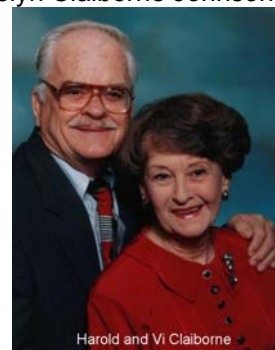
Dr. Tom Sale and Jill Price at the William Claiborne Marker dedication at the Hampton Waterfront, Hampton, Virginia, 1997

He was passionate about history and was a member of local organizations and museums, including: Fort Monroe Casemate Museum (board member), Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation, Mariners' Museum, Virginia War Museum (board member), and Hampton Heritage Foundation. Dr. Sale loved his home city and actively raised funds for the construction of the Hampton History Museum, and served as a board member and past president of the Hampton History Museum Association.

He is remembered fondly by our Vice President Mrs. Susan W. H. Rura, and she has stated: "It is very sad news to hear of the death of Dr. Tom Sale. He was one of my favorite people. I was enthralled with his easy and personable manner with everyone. There was always a kind, interested word from him and if one was lucky, there might be a humorous story to tell. He was a gentleman of the first rank."

Harold Claiborne

Long time Claiborne Clan member and genealogist Harold Claiborne passed away February 15, 2012 in Coleman, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Viola "Vi" Claiborne and his four children, Patrick Michael Claiborne of Wichita Falls, Terry Dean Claiborne of Midland, Patricia Lynn Cloud of Horseshoe Bay, Kay White of Fort Worth, along with 10 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Curtis Claiborne, Jim Claiborne and one sister, Evelyn Claiborne Johnson.



Harold and Vi Claiborne

Harold was born on September 17, 1928, in Trinidad, Colorado, the son of James Ernest Claiborne (a descendant of John of Dale Parish) and Carmel Harmon Claiborne. He grew up in Coleman and attended Coleman High School. He served his country in the United States Army Air Corps. Harold and Vi lived in Midland for 45 years, where he was a mechanical contractor. Following retirement, they moved back to Coleman, where Harold was a member of the Men's Downtown Sunday School Class and First Baptist Church. You may read more about Harold's family history online at the Claiborne Clan website in the Spring 2010 Newsletter.

