



# Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Spring 2012

## Mini Reunion in King's Lynn, England August 21 to August 23, 2012

We have planned an interim Reunion to take place in the Fall of 2012 in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, the birthplace of Colonel William Claiborne's father and grandfather, Thomas Cleyborne, Junior, and Thomas Cleyborne, Senior. In the middle ages, Kings Lynn was an important port for trade with north Germany and the Baltic, and both men served as Mayor and Alderman during that time. Options for some could include an additional trip to Cliburn, Westmorland, the original home of the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall.

This will not be a group tour, but rather a way for individual families to plan and book their own reservations at the same time as other interested families, and, perhaps, arrange meetings with each other when desired.

The dates for the King's Lynn Mini Reunion are August 21 and 22, 2012, along with the morning of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a side note, London is hosting the Summer Olympics this year, but those events will be over by August 12<sup>th</sup>.

What follows are the travel arrangement details of one family that has already booked their air travel and their hotel rooms in King's Lynn at the Duke's

Head Hotel: Susan Penfold, her brother Rick Rose, her cousin Dede Clements, and her mother Ruth Claiborne Rose will be arriving in London the morning of Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. They will leave London by train for Kings Lynn on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. The train trip is a relatively short one and should allow them time for some touring in King's Lynn that afternoon. The following two days of August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> will be devoted to touring King's Lynn. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> they will pick up a rental car and drive from King's Lynn to the town of Cliburn in the Cumbria area. They estimate the drive will take them about 4 hours. They plan to stay in Cliburn for just one night, and then continue their drive further up into Scotland. This might be a good time to remind travelers to Cliburn that Doreen and Derek Bowness, the owners of Cliburn Hall, have asked that visitors please do not disturb the residents, but rather view the Hall from afar.

Claiborne Clan members will want to design their own itinerary, but may also want to coordinate the time in King's Lynn with this family and others. Claiborne Clan member Jill Price lives in King's Lynn, is a King's Lynn Town Guide, and has been the Claiborne Society's connection to King's Lynn for many years. The following hotels in King's Lynn have been suggested by her. She cautions that the time period of the trip is also the high holiday season for England, so reservations should be made as soon as possible. The conversion rate is currently: 1 U.S. Dollar = 0.62651 British Pounds:

1. The Duke's Head Hotel. 17th. century, recently refurbished to a very high standard. In center of town. B & B: Double/twin £86. Single £75. Rating 3-star. [www.dukesheadhotel.com](http://www.dukesheadhotel.com)
- 2 The Bank House Hotel: (old building near river in town, beautifully refurbished, but pricey nevertheless.) Long-term car-parking difficult. B & B: Standard double/twin £110. Single occupancy £90. Rating 3-star. [www.thebankhouse.co.uk](http://www.thebankhouse.co.uk)
- 3 The Grange Hotel (about 10 minutes drive from center of Lynn). B & B: Twin £78. Single £54. Rating 2 star. [www.thegrangehotelkingslynn.co.uk](http://www.thegrangehotelkingslynn.co.uk)
4. Fairlight Lodge Guest House. B & B: Twin £58. Single £39. [www.fairlightlodge.co.uk](http://www.fairlightlodge.co.uk)

Both Susan Penfold and Jill Price have graciously offered to act as contacts, and their e-mail addresses are: Susan Penfold: [srpenfold@aol.com](mailto:srpenfold@aol.com)  
Jill Price: [jpsquared@waitrose.com](mailto:jpsquared@waitrose.com)

## OFFICERS AND BOARD 2011 - 2013

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St. Margarets Church and Marriott's Warehouse, King's Lynn

King's Lynn dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the city is still a working port on the river called The Great Ouse, emptying into the tidelands bay called The Wash. East Anglian wool and agricultural produce were traded from King's Lynn on a route that stretched across the North Sea to Germany and Scandinavia. Known in the past as Bishop's Lynn and Lynn Regis, and often referred to simply as 'Lynn' by locals, the town has two bustling medieval style markets among its maze of winding streets and alleys.

Colonel William Claiborne's merchant grandfather, Thomas Cleyborne, built a warehouse on the River Ouse in 1570 for the storage of coal, salt, corn and wine, as part of the Hanseatic League. Today, it is called Marriott's Warehouse and it houses the Wash Discovery Center and a restaurant called the Green Quay.

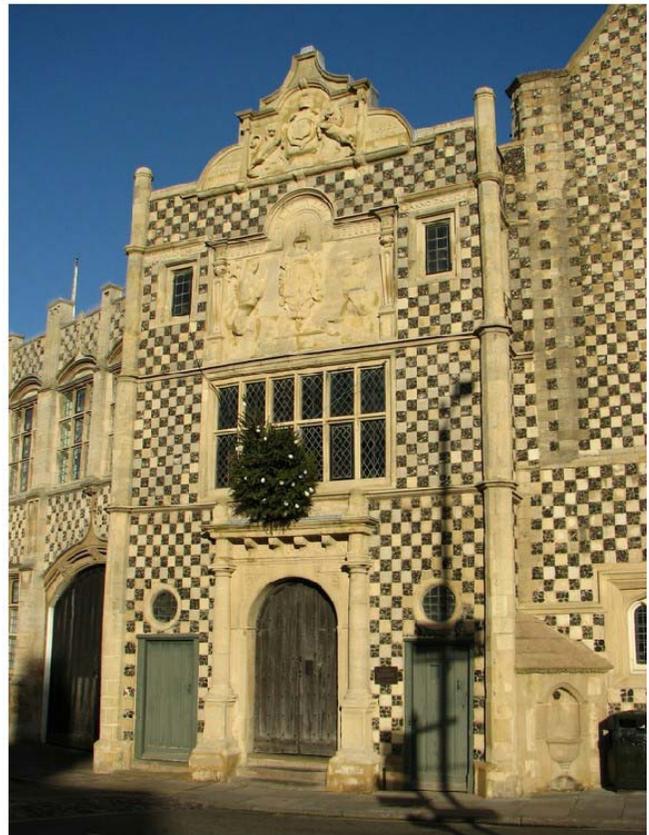
The nearby checkered stone Town Hall has a portrait of Colonel William Claiborne donated by the Society, and a listing of Mayors of the city that include William's father and grandfather. Across the street from the Town Hall and behind the warehouse is St. Margaret's Church, which was a central part of their lives, and the magnificent Trinity

Guildhall, which was built in the 1420s. The Wash National Nature Reserve is the biggest reserve in England and is also the most important wetland site in the UK, with its vast mudflats and huge expanse of salt marsh supporting thousands of birds all year round.



Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee celebrations began on February 6, 2012 with a visit to King's Lynn town hall

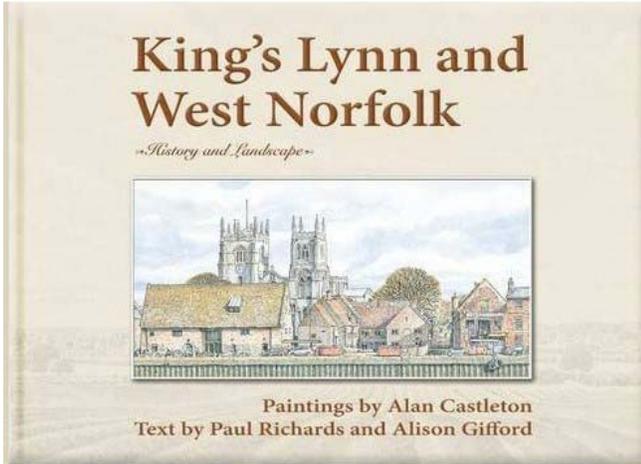
Please make your plans early for this wonderful chance to meet other Clan members and share our history.



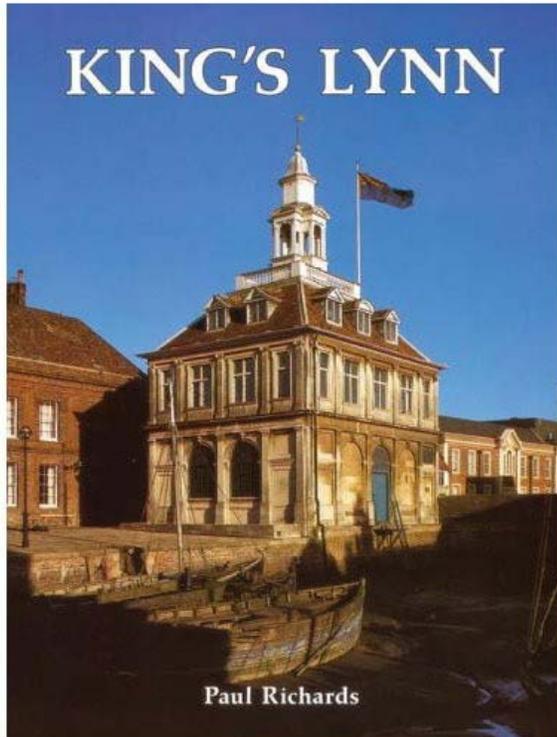
King's Lynn Town Hall

## Claiborne Related Books

**“King’s Lynn and West Norfolk”  
“King’s Lynn”  
By Paul Richards**



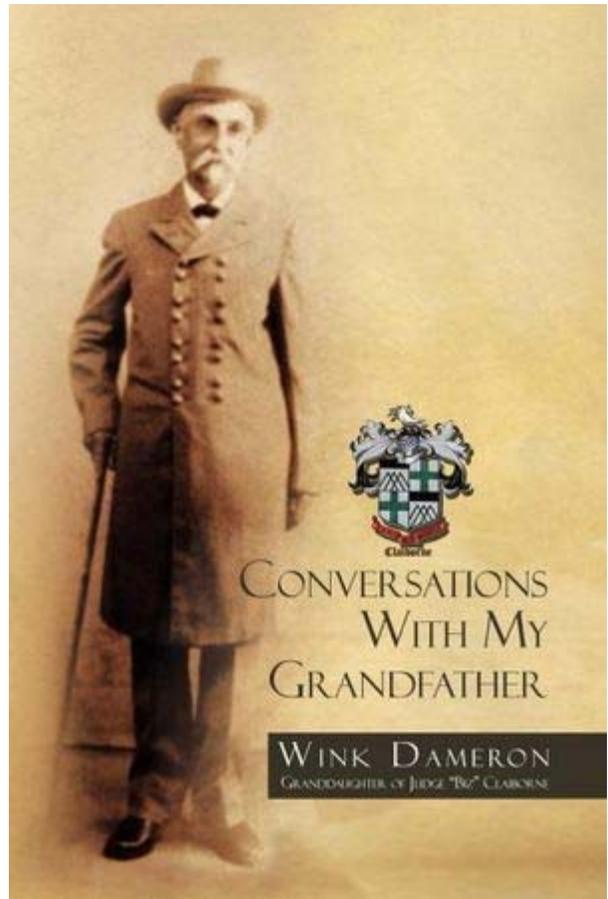
Dr. Paul Richards is a King’s Lynn historian and former mayor of the town. He helps visitors envision the past by leading them on walks all over town that turn into adventures. He has written two books about Lynn history, and they are available online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).  
E-Mail: [p.richlynn9x@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:p.richlynn9x@tinyworld.co.uk)



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## **“Conversations With My Grandfather” by Wink Dameron Blair**

This book recounts first-hand stories of Louisiana Statesman, Civil War Veteran and District Judge Louis Bingaman “L.B.” Claiborne, of New Roads, Louisiana (1842-1934) as told to his granddaughter, Claiborne Clan member Wink Dameron Blair. Judge Claiborne’s father was Col. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne II, of Adams County, Mississippi, and his grandfather was Col. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne I, of Sussex County, VA., who was the brother of Gov. William Charles Cole Claiborne, first Governor of the State of Louisiana.



L.B Claiborne attended Georgetown University and was present at the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. He joined the Coupee Artillery, CSA, and was taken prisoner at Vicksburg, MS and again at Selma, AL, in April 1865. He was admitted to the bar in 1867 and was elected Parish Attorney of Pointe Coupee Parish in 1869, where he served for 19 years. He later became Judge of the 21st Judicial District Circuit Court of Louisiana.

As Wink states, this is a "memoir" - the actual words of her 89 year old grandfather, who had a photographic memory - relating personal stories of his college days and several visits to the White House as guest of the President (due to his father's friendship with the President). The book includes many other fascinating episodes of his life, including his later service as a State Legislator, District Judge, School Superintendent, Founder and Publisher of a local newspaper, head of Louisiana Civil War Veterans, and much more. It illustrates why he was such a tremendous influence on his descendants. A "thumbnail" Claiborne genealogy section is included in the book.

Judge Claiborne dictated the stories to Wink when she was an 8 year-old girl living in her grandparents New Roads, Louisiana home during the Great Depression. Copies may be ordered at any bookstore, or online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), or [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com).

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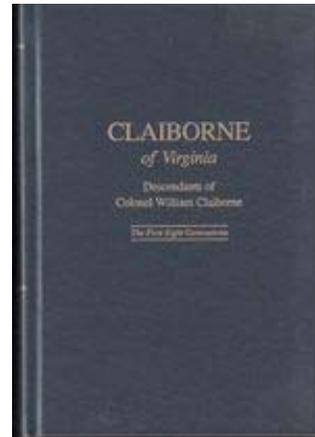
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**"CLAIBORNE OF VIRGINIA:  
Descendants of Colonel William  
Claiborne: The First Eight Generations"**  
By John Frederick Dorman and Claiborne T Smith

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants has recently come into possession of a number of copies of this definitive source of Claiborne family history and have them available for purchase. Originally, this book sold for \$70.00 but the Society was able to secure a number at a much reduced cost. All proceeds go to the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants. Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr., a retired psychiatrist from Philadelphia, co-authored the book with John Frederick Dorman, and it won the Best Book in Genealogy Award in 1996. The book is 836 pages with an extensive name index.

As a result, the cost of the book is **\$10 to Society members** in good standing and **\$20 to all others**. In addition, there is a charge for **postage & handling of \$5 per book**. Payment must be in cash or check payable to Ann Case. Include the

address(s) where you wish the book(s) to be mailed. Remit To:

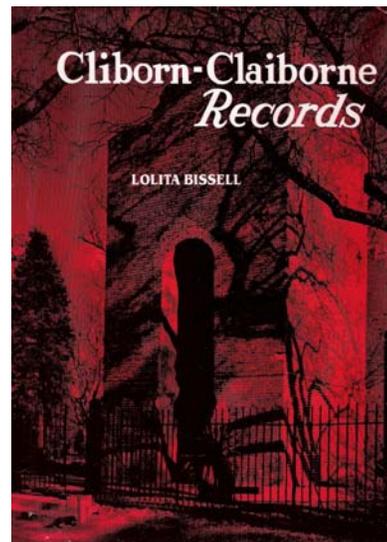
Ann Case  
35600 Cedar Valley Lane  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
Phone: 302.227.2416  
Email: [aclaicase@gmail.com](mailto:aclaicase@gmail.com)



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**"Cliborn-Claiborne Records"**  
by Lolita Hannah Bissell

This is the first comprehensive book on the Cliborn/Claiborne family. The author's son, Bill Bissell, is offering copies for \$40 (which includes shipping) and a discount for quantity (3 for \$100). Copies may be ordered through him at:

Bill Bissell  
1006 Tower Place  
Nashville, TN 37204  
Phone: 615.292.8233  
E-Mail: [billbissell42@comcast.net](mailto:billbissell42@comcast.net)



### A Prayer

The following prayer was first offered at the Claiborne Family Reunion at the Jamestown Exposition on June 18, 1907 by D. Gregory Claiborne Butts of Richmond, VA. In 1992 it was then given by Joseph E. Johnson at the Claiborne Reunion at Williamsburg. It was used again in 1999 at the New Orleans Reunion, in 2003 at the Baltimore Reunion, and most recently in 2011 back in New Orleans. There was interest in printing it for the benefit of the membership at that meeting. Due to space constraints, it was not included in the "Clippings" but it is reprinted below:

"O Lord God, the God of our fathers who, by thy providence, came to these shores in the long ago, we as their descendants, are come together today as one family, gathered from our distant homes to recall their deeds and to seek thy blessing and thy favor in this our day of privilege and opportunity.

We adore thee through those matchless perfections by which thou hast revealed thyself to us in the Person of thy Son, Jesus Christ. Thou are 'our Father'. 'In thee we live, and move and have our being'. 'Every good gift and every perfect gift' is from thy munificent and exhaustless bounty. Whatever is in us of any worth or promise, either to ourselves or to our country, is from thee. Whereinsoever we have failed to do or to be what thou wouldst have us, cometh of our negligence to improve the gift that is in us, and not from any lack of graciousness in thee. We humbly confess our sins and supplicate thy mercy through Jesus, the Redeemer.

We thank thee for that good hand which led our distinguished ancestor to this land of plenty, and for whatever part he may have had in laying the foundation of the Commonwealth so deep and so broad, so strong and so free, that her name rivals in splendor that of the nations of the world. And we bless thee for those liberal and substantial institutions, founded and fostered by the intelligent patriotism of our fathers, which have reflected such lustre upon their names, and brought such great and manifold blessings to us.

We pray thee, O Lord, help us to recognize the exalted position to which they lifted the name of Claiborne, and likewise to apprehend the obligation resting upon us, their children, to keep that name unstained by dishonor, unweakened by treachery, and free from littleness by low-living. May the highest ideals enslave us, the noblest patriotism inspire us, and wisdom and truth lead us in every laudable endeavor. While we would not forget the past, may the present so ingress our thoughts that we may leave no effort untried to make the future as brilliant as possible, and its frame as imperishable as the past in which we glory today.

Give us humility, as well as faith and industry, and to thy great name we will give the glory, world without end."

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### 2012 Annual Dues

Our membership year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Dues for the Claiborne Society are \$10. In addition, a lifetime membership is available for \$200 for current members. Plans are under way for our 2013 Reunion in Richmond, Virginia. To continue to receive newsletters and reunion mailings, please send your check in the amount of \$10 payable to The Claiborne Society to our Treasurer:

Diane Claiborne Clements  
232 Cherokee Station Drive,  
Nashville, TN 37209

Please also include an updated E-Mail address that we may use for mailings, as well as any other new contact information.

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