

# Claiborne Clippings

Fall 2010

## The Western Migration

**Save the Date for the 2011 Claiborne Clan Reunion:**

**New Orleans - September 29 to October 2, 2011**

By Patricia Clayborn, Vice President

The Westward Diaspora of the Claiborne Clan is best represented by William Charles Cole Claiborne's amazing trajectory from the Virginia House of Representatives to the Tennessee State Supreme Court as a Justice, then on to the United States Congress as the Representative from Tennessee, then to the new Mississippi Territory as Governor, and finally to the vast new Territory of Orleans as its Governor. He interacted daily with men as diverse as President Thomas Jefferson, General Andrew Jackson, and Jean Lafitte, the pirate. When the Territory of Orleans was admitted to the Union in 1812 as the state of Louisiana, he was elected by the residents as their Governor, and, before he died, he was elected as their representative to the U.S. Senate, bringing his life full circle.

Governor Claiborne helped to shape the city of New Orleans, which is a national treasure, with its own distinct heritage. It is the only city in the United States that can lay claim to its own music, its own food, its own language and its own architecture. Please save the dates of September 29 to October 2, 2011 to join us for the Claiborne Family Reunion. We will tour the city's French



St. Louis Cathedral, across Jackson Square, New Orleans

Quarter, ornate cemeteries, the University area and the Garden District, with special stops at Claiborne related sites and commentary by local Claiborne descendants. We will also view Claiborne Family memorabilia at The Historic New Orleans Collection and Williams Research Center. Among other things, the museum has a portrait miniature of Governor Claiborne and one of Clarisse Duralde Claiborne, along with a portrait by Vaudechamp of their son, W.C.C. Claiborne II.

We are fortunate to have the following members agree to be on our Reunion Planning Committee: Jane Boylin, Ninette Webster, Claiborne Perrilliat, Jeanie Perilliat, John Humphreys, III, and Dr. Charles Matthews. We have a contract with the celebrated Hotel

Monteleone for our stay, and more information on making reservations will be forthcoming.

### **2012 Mini Reunion in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England**

We are planning 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



Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England, birthplace of Thomas Cleyborne

for trade with north Germany and the Baltic, and both men served as Mayor and Alderman during that time. Those interested in attending should contact: Patricia Clayborn, Vice President at claybornp@aol.com.

### **Mildred Barker Johnson, Founder Claiborne Clan**

Mildred Barker Johnson died peacefully on August 6, 2010 in Charlotte, NC at the age of 87. Millie was a first-class genealogy researcher and writer. Her work brought together the descendants of William Claiborne for the purpose of scholarship and friendship in the form of the Claiborne Clan, later the Society of the Claiborne Family Descendants.

Millie was born and raised in Kansas City and was a graduate of Randolph Macon Women's College. In 1949 she married Joseph E. Johnson and they became the parents of five children. A memorial service is planned for November 6, 2010 in Kansas City.

### **2011 Claiborne Society Dues**

Our dues year is October 1 to September 30 and we are now collecting them for 2011 . The Annual Dues for the Claiborne Society are \$10. In addition, a lifetime membership is available for \$200 for current members.

Dues are to be sent to the Treasurer, Mary Ann Gilman  
P. O. Box 5  
Port Haywood, VA 23138

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann at [magilman@rivnet.net](mailto:magilman@rivnet.net) or (804)725-2032 – work phone / (804)725-8112 cell phone

**The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Treasurer's Report:  
January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Balance January 1, 2010 | \$6,712.47 |
| Balance June 30, 2010   | \$4,311.33 |

Receipts

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Dues                      | \$1,350.00  |
| Donation                  | 25.00       |
| Interest – Checking Acct. | <u>2.51</u> |
| Total                     | \$1,377.51  |

Disbursements

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Sarah Fenn Memorial Fund                    | \$3,265.50    |
| St.Peter's Church Cemetery<br>Fund Donation | 300.00        |
| Spring Newsletter                           | <u>183.15</u> |
| Total                                       | \$3,778.65    |

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Balance | \$4,311.33 |
|---------|------------|

Chesapeake Bank CD #296514952: \$10,856.30 @ 1.05% (Matures 8/15/11)  
Chesapeake Bank CD #296396747: \$ 5,173.84 @ 0.75% (Matures 12/21/10)

Note: Dues total includes 7 new members and 3 Life Memberships

Mary Ann Gilman, Treasurer

**Capt. Claiborne of the Southern District – Nailing the Flag to Fort Sumpter's Staff**

(In the continuing series of Claiborne family stories, the following is an excerpt from *Our Police: A History of the Baltimore Force from the First Watchman to the Latest Appointee*, edited by de Francis Folsom and published in 1888 in Baltimore MD. The entire text of the book is available at [books.google.com](http://books.google.com))  
Submitted by Ann Claiborne Case.

*Some years ago one of the pictorial newspapers published as a supplement, a large wood engraving representing a young man wearing the uniform of a Confederate lieutenant, climbing a flag pole which had been shot away at the top, and nailing to the part of the staff which was still upright, the flag of the Southern States. The incident occurred during the bombardment by the Federal gunboats and the Morris Island batteries of Fort Sumpter in October 1862. The hero of this thrilling episode was Lt. Charles H. Claiborne, 1<sup>st</sup> Carolina Infantry Regiment, Company G, a Baltimorean and now Captain of the Southern Police District in the City of Baltimore. The Charleston Courier of a few days later printed an account of the incident under the headline "A Brave Deed", in which it said: "One of the most heroic acts of bravery connected with the bombardment of Fort Sumpter occurred on Monday last, \*\*\* The second shell fired*

by the enemy on that day at half past one P.M. carried off the flag staff, but before the flag had touched the ground, it was seized by Lt. C. H. Claiborne, who rushed with it to the parapet through the smoke of the bursting shells, and before the enemy could discover the effect of their shot, its defiant cross was again flaunting in the air.

The brave lieutenant was immediately followed to the parapet by Messrs M. F. Devereaux and Bannon of the Engineer Department, who, during the considerable space of time occupied in readjusting the staff, afforded a most conspicuous target. ...”

*When they descended from the parapet, the young officers found a squad of men preparing to go after them with stretchers. The intrepid lieutenant was complimented by Jefferson Davis through general orders for his bravery. The engraving which depicted Lt. Claiborne’s gallant act still hangs framed in many southern homes and public places though few know the identity of the chief actor or his present whereabouts.*



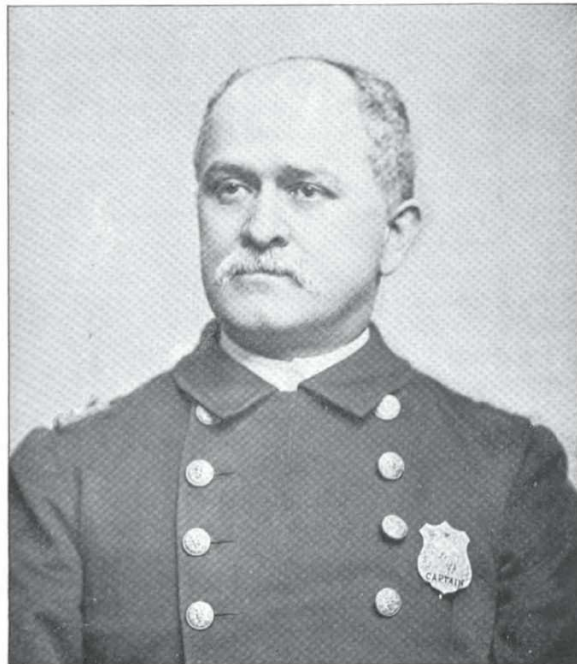
**Raising the Confederate Flag  
at Fort Sumter October 1862**

*Capt. Claiborne was born in Baltimore, MD on July 21, 1841. His parents both died while he was very young and he was brought up under the care of his aunt.*

*Shortly after the election of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency in 1860, a military company of southern sympathizers was formed in Baltimore. Charles Claiborne became one of its most active members. In December 1860, Mr. Claiborne and two other members of this regiment had a “Palmetto flag” painted and a meeting was called at the Liberty engine house to attend the ceremonies of throwing the flag to the breeze. An angry crowd gathered and it was some time before Mr. Claiborne and his associates could escape. As Baltimore became an unpleasant place for him, Charles enlisted in the First Carolina Regiment for one year. At the end of his term of enlistment, he withdrew and joined the Baltimore Light Infantry Regiment at Richmond, then a part of the Army of Northern*

Virginia. He participated in the valley campaigns, taking part in the fights at Cross Keys, Harrisonburg, Stratsburg, Luray, Winchester, the Seven Days battle in front of Richmond and the battles of Mannassas (second), Thoroughfare Gap, Harper's Ferry and Antetam. Then being wounded in the knee he was prostrated for some weeks, after which he went to Charleston and rejoined the First South Carolina Infantry. He was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant and rejoined his old regiment in Ft. Sumpter.

The incident related in the beginning of this sketch took place during Lt. Claiborne's second term of service in Col. Butler's regiment. After the Union forces captured Ft. Sumpter, the Confederates were forced to evacuate and Lt. Claiborne's regiment joined the western army and took part in the battles of Aversborough and Bentonville. When at Greensborough the intelligence reached the soldiers that General Johnson was making terms to surrender to General Sherman. The day before the surrender, a large number of soldiers left the army. Among them was Lt. Claiborne. He made his way to Spartensburg County South Carolina where he secured an engagement as a school teacher. He continued teaching school there until the autumn of 1867 when he returned to Baltimore and found a position in the iron foundry of his uncle Mr. B. S. Benson. He brought with him his wife whom he married while he was teaching school.



**CHARLES H. CLAIBORNE,**  
**Captain of the Southern District.**

Portrait from the book "Our Police: A History of the Baltimore Force From the First Watchman to the Latest Appointee" Edited by De Francias Folsom

*On December 21, 1868, Lt. Claiborne was appointed on the police force as a patrolman. In 1874 he was promoted to sergeant and then lieutenant later that same year. In 1886 he was promoted to Captain of the Southern District. His command consists of 117 men all told.*

(According to the *Claiborne of Virginia: Descendants of Col. William Claiborne* compiled by J. F. Dorman, Charles Harrison Claiborne died in 1899 and was survived by his wife, Jane and their five children.)

### **Share Your Family Story**

If you would like to share any of your family stories with the members of Society of the Claiborne Family Descendants, please contact Ann Case at [aclaicase@gmail.com](mailto:aclaicase@gmail.com) or 35600 Cedar Valley Lane, Rehoboth Beach DE 19971

### **The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Officers and Board**

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Will Claiborne     |
| Vice President | Patricia Clayborn  |
| Secretary      | Susan W.H. Rura    |
| Treasurer      | Mary Ann Gilman    |
| Registrar      | Bill Bissell       |
| Research       | Dr. Alex Waldrop;  |
| Archives       | Curly [Vera] Moore |
| Publications   | Ann Claiborne Case |