



Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Fall 2018

2019 Claiborne Reunion Williamsburg, Virginia

July 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2019

Message from the Reunion Chair: Clai Bachmann, Vice President Claiborne Society

The Biennial gathering for the Society of Claiborne Family Descendants will be returning to Williamsburg Virginia for 2019. This reunion is timed so that members may attend the American Evolution 1619-2019 event celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the First Representative Assembly held in the New World at Jamestown in 1619 on the day following our Claiborne Reunion. The highlights of the events celebrating this 400th anniversary will be on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, with legacy societies such as ours attending at Historic Jamestown in the morning, and Legislators and other dignitaries attending at the Jamestown Settlement later in the day.

Though William Claiborne did not arrive in Virginia until 1621 he was likely the longest serving and most influential colonist to serve in the colonial government during the 17th Century. William was brought to Jamestown by Royal Governor Wyatt as surveyor for the new town expansion of the Jamestown Settlement. Governor Yearly, in 1625 recognizing his talent, made him the first Secretary of State for the Virginia Colony, a position which he held for many years. He also served as Parliamentary Commissioner, and Burgess from several areas for many years. He was made Treasurer for life by the King and at one point he became Deputy Governor.

His many other successes in addition to his positions in colonial governance included a successful business. Trading for furs throughout the Chesapeake and even into Delaware and Pennsylvania with many Indian tribes, and supplying these both to the colony, and to the large existing European market created a prosperous living. His leadership to defeat Indian attacks in an area near the current town of West Point was rewarded by land grants of thousands of acres in the Virginia colony by a grateful King. Therefore, we celebrate together the event initiating the formation of our representative democracy, and William Claiborne's long and active participation during the 17th century to strengthen its successful evolution.



Williamsburg Lodge 310 South England Street, Williamsburg

2019 Claiborne Society Reunion Outline

Saturday, July 27th

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Registration and Hospitality at the home of Clai Bachmann. Some early Claiborne Society memorabilia will be on display. Check into Williamsburg Lodge - Dinner and evening on your own with Claiborne and Cliborn relatives and friends.

(continued on next page)

OFFICERS 2017 - 2019

President	Susan W.H. Rura
Vice President	Clai Bachmann
Secretary	Linda M. King
Treasurer	Charles E. Claiborne
Registrar	Frank Rura
Standing	Committees
Reunion	Clai Bachmann
Research	Dr. Alex Waldrop
Archives	Vera "Curly" Moore
Publications	Patricia Clayborn
Webmaster	Dan Boylin

www.claibornesociety.org

Sunday, July 28th

9:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Meet in the Williamsburg Lodge Lobby to board bus departing at 9:00 for Historic Jamestown. Claiborne Society Activities upon arrival at Historic Jamestown will include, with guide, Jamestown Fort, brick Church with marble memorial to William Claiborne, the Museum of artifacts and the new historical information. A walking tour of the New town area, with interpreter, and the Ambler Mansion ruins, will complete the tour of Historic Jamestown.

12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm

Lunch at the Dale House Café at Historic Jamestown or leave for Jamestown Settlement cafeteria. (TBD)

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Board bus for Jamestown Settlement – Museum, movie, rebuilt village, Indian village, ships, gardens – showing what Jamestown and the surrounding area was like in the 17th Century

4:00 pm

Bus returns to Williamsburg Lodge. Dinner and evening on your own to explore Williamsburg and rekindle friendships

Monday, July 29th

9:00 am to 12:00 Noon

9:00 - Meet in the Lodge Lobby to board bus departing for the Muscarelle Museum to view a painting of William Claiborne - given to the William & Mary Library in 1904. (Possible project for the Claiborne Family Descendants). 10:00 - Board Bus to visit the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum including Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.

12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm

Lunch at the Museum cafeteria. Return to galleries on your own.

1:45 pm – Return to Williamsburg Lodge

2:00 – 5:00 pm – Business meeting in the Lodge

6:30 to 10:00 pm - Banquet and Speaker in Lodge

Tuesday, July 30th

Check out 11:00 - On your own

Some Claiborne Society Members may wish to attend the American Evolution Event 1619-2019, at Historical Jamestown in the early morning; Check out timing will need to accommodate an early arrival for those choosing to attend the Historic Jamestown event (time TBD) celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the first Legislative Assembly in the New World.

Many thanks to our 2019 Reunion Committee:

- Elizabeth Richardson
- Pam Meiring
- Sara "Sally" Prosch James
- Mary Ann Gilman
- Ed Ayres
- Alex Waldrop
- Beverly Davis

William Claiborne of Virginia

From Clai Bachmann

The Virginia Colony was the "brain child" of a group of successful Englishmen who could see and appreciate the advantages for their country and, for their own wealth in the mercantile opportunities represented by colonial settlements. The Spanish had been bringing gold out of central and South America for a hundred years. The French, Portuguese, Dutch and others had brought new products to their countries from colonies. The new mercantile activities of these countries inspired Kings and Queens to invest in the adventures of exploration. King James of England and Elizabeth before him were not to be outdone.

The settlement of the Virginia Colony that began in 1607 got off to a wobbly start during its early years. It nearly failed during the starving time, and was rescued by the of supply ships of Lord Delaware in 1610 at the mouth of the James, which convinced the desperate and starving colonists to return to Jamestown and continue their efforts. The colony persisted thanks to extreme martial law enforced by John Smith and others.

Through the discovery of a strain of tobacco which was marketable to the English it seemed that the colony might have a chance to succeed by 1618. These hopes lead colonial leaders to convince the King to continue his support for the London Company and it's Virginia Colony. As the colony began to expand outward from Jamestown it became clear to leaders that some form of local government directed and accountable to the Royal Governor was needed. In 1619 this was accomplished with the creation of the First Representative Assembly at Jamestown, The House of Burgesses.

William Claiborne was not present for this founding moment, but, based on his extensive career in the Government at Jamestown in a variety of capacities during the 17th Century, he may well have been the been the longest serving, and most influential participation in the colonial government during the 17th century.

William Claiborne was born about 1587 in Kent, England, the son of a successful mercantile family. He was a second son, and as such realized that he would not inherit the family business and property. As were many Englishmen, he was attracted by colonial prospects due to the limiting law of Primogeniture.

William, a Cambridge graduate, was brought by Governor Wyatt to the Virginia Colony in 1621 as a surveyor. His first project was to lay out the new town area of Jamestown. The Virginia Company had engaged him for this purpose with a salary of 30 pounds and a house.

By 1624 the London Company had failed, was disbanded and the colony, taken over by the King, became a Royal Colony. In 1625 Governor Yardley was appointed Royal Governor and he appointed William Claiborne as his Secretary of State, and a member of the Governor's Council. William held that position in 1627, 1629, 1631-2, 1633, 1644-45, 1652, 1655, 1658, 1659 and 1660. (Richard Kemp was appointed Secretary of State in 1637, and after him Richard Lee, but in April 1652 the House of

Burgesses restored Claiborne to the place he had held until the Restoration. On April 6th 1642, the King appointed him Treasurer of Virginia for life (it is unknown how long he held this office).

Besides these governmental accomplishments, Claiborne was involved in a variety of other significant areas. Already mentioned was his activity as surveyor for the Jamestown Colony during the period of its expansion and improvement. His Cambridge education and mathematical background clearly fueled this accomplishment.

A third activity for both self-support and economic advancement would have been his trading business. This was carried out from a base in Hampton and pursued in territory around and to the length of the Chesapeake Bay, into areas of Delaware and Pennsylvania. This first business centered around the fur trade which is well documented in Pelts and Palisades by Nathaniel Hale. Fur Trading had been and still was a very lucrative business as royalty and all who could afford furs considered them a great luxury and indicative of status. Besides offering his furs in the colony as well as England, William was known as to have had excellent trading relationships with the Indians.

A fourth area of service and success that William Claiborne could claim was his role as commander of military force. In 1629 William commanded an expedition against the Indians, which defeated them, under their King Candiack, near the present West Point. He led another force against them in 1644 (as a grant to him for 5,000 acres on the North side of the Pamunky River reveals). The land is described as "running westerly to a point of Land where the said Col. Claiborne landed the army under his command.

A final leadership role to which William Claiborne was appointed was as a justice and member of the quorum of Accomac County in February of 1631-32. He also presided as a justice of York County in 1633.

Due to his trading activities and service to the Colony William Claiborne was granted thousands of acres of land and generated quite an impressive inheritance. Some of his descendants have an impressive track record of service to the country and it's development including major leadership positions as new states were named. As early as the late 18th and early 19th Centuries one great, great, great grandson, Charles Cole Claiborne, became the Governor of the new State of Louisiana. Thomas Augustine Claiborne had significant leadership roles and responsibilities at the beginning of the State of Tennessee and it's capital, Nashville. A cousin and Great, great grandson, Thomas Burrwell Claiborne also assisted with the beginning governance in Tennessee.

Moving into the 20th Century, the Claiborne Society is Proud to recognize the contributions of Thomas Hale Boggs (deceased) who was a U.S. Congressman from the State of Louisiana. Upon his demise his wife, Corrine Morrison Claiborne Boggs, "Lindy", was elected to his seat - as an early women legislator. Their daughter, "Cokie" Roberts, has enjoyed a successful career as an author, editorial reporter and columnist.

References:

Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 1, pp. 314- 315.

Pelts and Palisades, by Nathaniel C. Hale, Chapter XI The Bay of Virginia, by Nathaniel C. Hale, pp. 114 – 123.

William Claiborne: Excerpt from Abstract of Virginia Land Patents. Vol. 1, p.314

Collected by Clai Bachmann

The Virginia Company engaged William Claiborne to go to Virginia as the surveyor, with a salary of 30 lbs. a year and a house. He came to Virginia with Governor Wyatt in 1621. In 1625 Gov. Yearly appointed him Sec. of State for the Colony and member of the Governor's Council. He held that position in 1627, 1629, 1631-2, 1633, 1644-45, 1652, 1655, 1658, 1659 and 1660. (Richard Kemp was appointed Sec. in 1637) and after him Richard Lee, but in April 1652 the House of Burgesses restored Claiborne to the place he held until the Restoration. On April 6th 1642, the King appointed him Treasurer of Virginia for life (it is unknown how long he held this office).

In 1629 he commanded an expedition against the Indians, which defeated them, under their King Candiack, near the present West Point, and he led another force against them in 1644, (as in a grant to him in __ for 5,000 acres on the North side of the Pamunky River). The land is described as "running" westerly to a point of land where the said Col. Claibourne landed the army under his command, Anno 1644. Wm. Claiborne was appointed a justice and of the quorum of Accomac County in February 1631-2. He was a Justice of York County in 1633, and of Northumberland County in 1653.

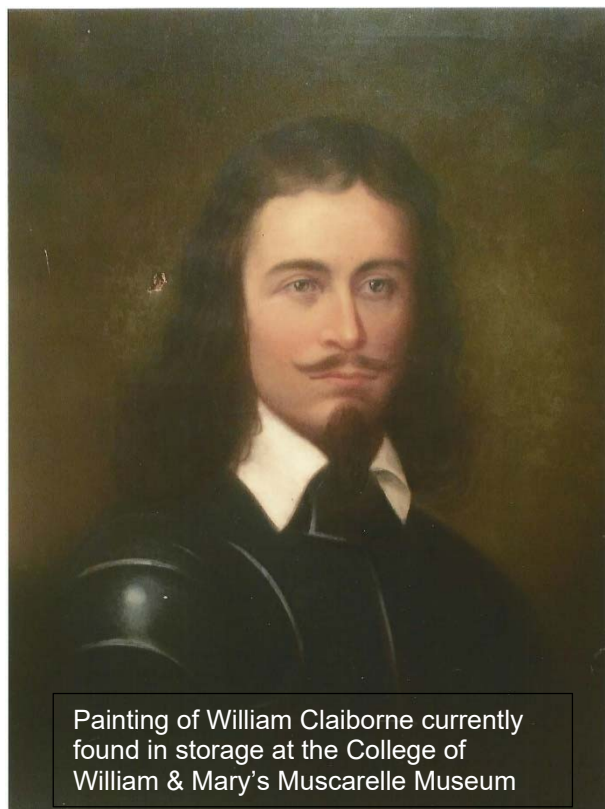
In 1631 Claiborne made a trading settlement on Kent Island in the Chesapeake, and was associated in business with various persons in London. However, the proprietors of Maryland (Lord Baltimore/the Calverts) claimed that the island was included in their grant. A long struggle followed, in which force was used on both sides. Several of Claiborne's men were killed and captured, two of his vessels were taken and he was expelled from the island, incurring a heavy loss.

On September 26, 1661 he was appointed one of the parliamentary commissioners to subdue Virginia and Maryland, and in the next year expelled Lord Baltimore, Governor, and obtained control after a dispute of twenty years. In 1654 the Claiborne party totally defeated the Balti party, led by Governor Stone (who had again resisted) and remained in undisputed control until Baltimore had made his peace with the Parliament in 1658, when Claiborne disappears from active participation in Maryland affairs.

As late as 1675, Claiborne petitioned the King for redress for the many loses and injuries he had received from the Calverts, but without avail. In the Northampton records, April 1653, is an order referring to the "Worshipful Col. Wm. Claiborne, Esq., Deputy Governor, an office which has not been elsewhere noticed; but to which he must have been appointed in Bennett's administration.

William Claiborne Portrait Owned by the William & Mary Muscarelle Museum

From Clai Bachmann and Elizabeth Guy Richardson



Painting of William Claiborne currently found in storage at the College of William & Mary's Muscarelle Museum

A painting of William Claiborne is currently (as of this writing - 8/02/2018) found in storage at the College of William & Mary's Muscarelle Museum. The Museum is currently beginning work on an expansion to significantly increase the size of the museum so that they may exhibit their own collection of paintings, which includes a painting of Col. William Claiborne.

We are hoping the Claiborne Society may consider a donation to the museum for a small repair to the background of the painting and for framing. The Assistant Curator, Lauren Greene, has been very encouraging, and will provide us with the necessary permission, and associated costs of framing and repair, for us to consider at our 2019 Reunion. A visit to view the painting during the reunion prior to consideration is planned.

This painting was given to the William and Mary Library by Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne of Richmond, who in 1904 made a \$1,000.00 donation to the college to form the nucleus of a fund for a library of Virginia books. The painting was hung originally in the Marshall Wythe building of the William & Mary Library.

On June 8th of 1905 there was an unveiling of the portrait. A Richmond Times - Dispatch, June 9, 1905, article described that Miss May Burnet Claiborne, daughter of Dr. James W. Claiborne of Petersburg, VA. unveiled yesterday, a portrait of William Claiborne, first secretary of the Virginia Colony, at the College of William and Mary. The portrait's donor was present at the portrait's unveiling ceremony. The presentation address was

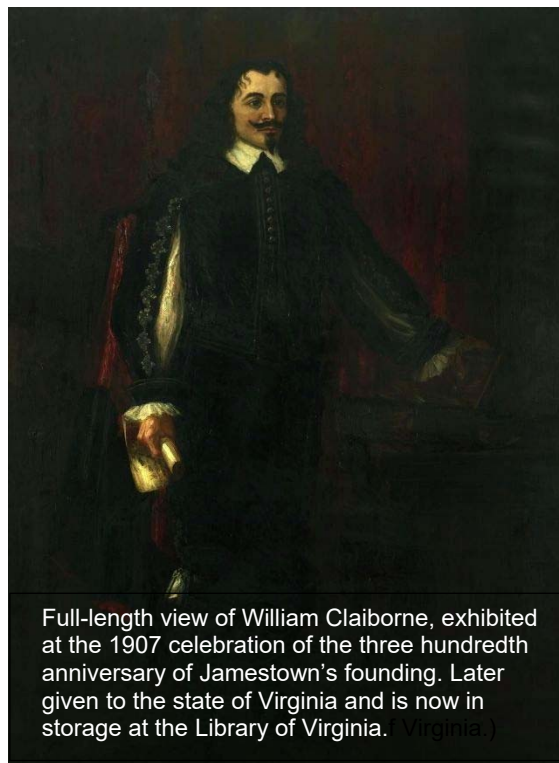
made by the Hon. James Alston Cabell, Mrs. Claiborne's brother.

The Virginia Gazette, June 3, 1905, had reported that "the portrait of Col. William Claiborne, the celebrated 'Rebel', so called, will be unveiled". This article also reported the donor as Mrs. Herbert Claiborne of Richmond along with mention of her monetary donation for the library of Virginia books. The Gazette described the portrait as "an exceedingly handsome one, and is a worthy representation of the great patriot, who in opposing the grant of Maryland to Lord Baltimore, was the first to protest against this appropriation of the grant of this domain of Virginia."

The artist of this portrait is not documented. However, it is not unlikely that it was painted by Mary R. Gilmer, who did a very similar half length painting owned by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (formerly the Virginia Historical Society).

Miss Gilmer also painted a larger full-length view of William Claiborne, done at the behest of Claiborne descendants to exhibit at the 1907 celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of Jamestown's founding. (Afterwards, this latter portrait was given to the state of Virginia and is now in storage at the Library of Virginia.)

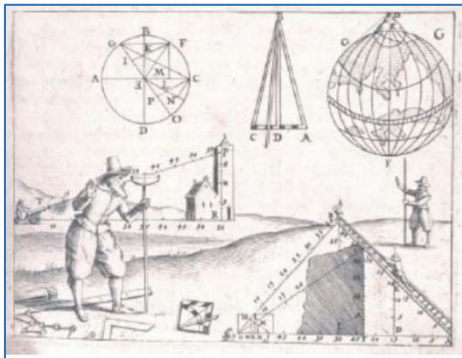
Most of the information above on the provenance of the William Claiborne painting at the Muscarelle was compiled by Elizabeth Guy Richardson, the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne, with the assistance of the Visual Studies Registrar at the Library of Virginia.



Full-length view of William Claiborne, exhibited at the 1907 celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of Jamestown's founding. Later given to the state of Virginia and is now in storage at the Library of Virginia.

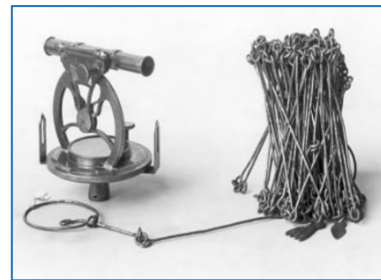
Surveyor General William Claiborne

By Patricia Clayborn



Colonel William Claiborne was a pioneer, settler, tobacco planter, fur trader, Parliamentary Commissioner, Treasurer, Statesman, and the first Secretary of State of the Virginia Colony. But he was also the first surveyor in the New World!

What must it have been like to stand on shore looking west over this uncharted continent with a simple surveyor's compass and chain in your hands?



In 1600 when William Claiborne was born, Great Britain needed detailed maps to back up land claims in the New World, which in turn called for advanced surveying techniques. The mariner's compass as we know it today was developed, and soon after an English mathematician and astronomer named Edmund Gunter invented a surveyor's chain which transformed the process, with 100 links, measuring 66 feet long.

A chain stretched to its length 80 times would define the length of a mile. A chain stretched out 10 times in one direction (600 feet) and once in the other direction (66 feet) would define a rectangle enclosing one acre. Although the full chain was standard equipment in England, dragging a sixty-six-foot chain through the forest of colonial Virginia was impractical. A long chain would get caught on brush or logs and the dense vegetation often made it difficult for the chain carriers to see each other. William Claiborne probably used a half-or two-pole-chain, which had fifty links and was thirty-three feet long.

His job description included taking care "both of Generall and particular Survayes, whereby a true Mapp and face of the whole country may bee exactlie discoverid." The job also was that of the town-planner: the Surveyor General had to "Cast an Imaginarye eye and view, wher and wch way the grand highwayes may bee like to strike and passe through the Dominions."

Some say that William Claiborne received his commission as surveyor because he was related to Anne Clifford (1590-1676), the Countess of Pembroke and Dorset, whose husband, Philip Herbert 4th Earl of Pembroke (1584-1650), was a prominent member of the Virginia Company. We know that a different William was related to the Countess but cannot prove that Colonel William Claiborne was. The other William was William Cleburne (1587-1660) of Cliburn Hall Westmorland - who lived all his life in England as a Vicar.

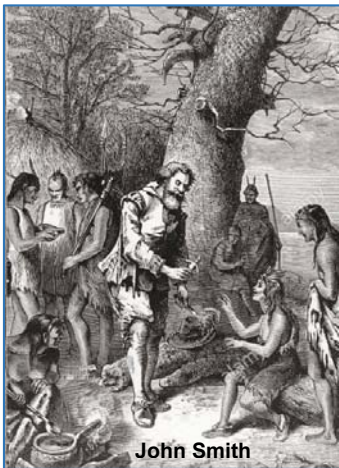
This is the same Vicar of Nidd who was confused with Colonel William Claiborne on other occasions. The Vicar's mother, Grace Bellingham Cleburne, was the daughter of Sir Alan Bellingham and Dorothy Sandford. Dorothy was the daughter of Sir Thomas Sanford of Askam, who was cousin to the Countess.

We know that Edmund Cleburne's widow, Elizabeth Hutton Cleburne (1605-1680) and her son Thomas Cleburne (1632-1675) were personally acquainted with the Countess - who mentions them in her diary - but we have not yet found a familial connection between the Countess and Colonel William Claiborne, Surveyor General.

(continued next page)

Descendants of Edmund Cleburne

- 1 Edmund Cleburne
- .. +Grace Bellingham
- .. 2 Thomas Cleburne
- +Frances Lowther
- 3 Edmund Cleburne
- +Elizabeth Hutton
- 4 Anne "Nanne" Cleburne
- 4 Timothy Cleburne
- +Mary Talbot
- 4 Barbara Cleburne
- 4 Elizabeth Cleburne
- 4 Thomas Cleburne
- +Isabel
- 4 Matthew Cleburne
- 3 Richard Cleburne
- 3 William "Wise William" Cleburne
- +Bridgetta Warde
- 4 William Cleburne
- +Elizabeth Cambie
- 4 Richard Cleburne
- 4 Mary Cleburne
- +Richard Allen
- 3 Frances Cleburne
- 3 Grace Cleburne
- 3 Mary Cleburne
- 3 Ann Cleburne
- .. 2 William (Vicar of Nidd) Cleburne
- +Jane Randerson
- 3 Peter Cleburne
- 3 William Cleburne
- 3 John Cleburne
- 3 Simon Cleburne
- 3 John Cleburne
- .. 2 Robert Cleburne
- .. 2 Agnes Cleburne
- .. 2 Dorothy Cleburne



John Smith

The surveyor's compass contained a magnetic needle floating above a circle marking 360 degrees. Prior to being saved by Pocahontas, Captain John Smith (1580-1631) offered his compass to his captors as a fascinating diversion and a delaying tactic while he explained how it worked. Smith used his surveying skills to map the shape of the Chesapeake Bay, and determined that the Susquehanna, Potomac, Rappahannock, or James Rivers did not provide the long-sought Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean.

We wonder whether William Claiborne received his commission because he knew John Smith personally. John Smith served as an apprentice to the wealthy King's Lynn merchant Thomas Sandyll [Sandall] in 1595 and 1596. Sandyll was Mayor of King's Lynn three times, and John would certainly have met the Claiborne Family of King's Lynn during these years.

The Pembroke College biography of William Claiborne states that when Claiborne started college at Pembroke on May 31, 1617, "it was probably after he had already been at least once to the New World with John Smith to whom he appears to have been related

through his mother. In its seventh state, printed in London in 1616, Smith's map refers to the islands that form the Southern tip of the main entrance to Boston harbor as 'the Claibornes'...allowing us perhaps to date Claiborne's first voyage to 1615 or 1616, in his 'gap' year."

William's mother was Sara Smith (1581-1626) the daughter of John Smythe a brewer of St. Savior London. John Smith was from Willoughby, near Alford, Lincolnshire, where his father George Smythe was a tenant farmer for Lord Willoughby. He claimed descent from the ancient Smith family of Cuerdley, Lancashire. We have not yet found a familial connection between John Smith's Family and Sara's.

We know William's wife Elizabeth Butler was niece to Captain Nathaniel Butler, the famous privateer and Governor of Bermuda from 1619 to 1622. Captain Butler was the protégé of Sir Robert Rich, the second Earl of Warwick, who was a major ship-owner, statesman, privateer and investor in the Virginia Company. Captain John Smith knew Governor Butler, and wrote about him in his History of Virginia and Bermuda.

In 1623 Surveyor-General William Claiborne mapped out New Towne, immediately southeast of the Jamestown fort, so that colonists could build more substantial homes and large shoreline warehouses much like those of his native King's Lynn. He marked off two parallel streets – River Road and Backe Street - that ran on an east-west axis connected by cross streets. River Road followed the James until it linked up with a trail originally used by the Paspahegh Indians that passed the fort on its way over the isthmus to the mainland.



As Surveyor General, William Claiborne held a high social position if only because possessing a solid foundation in mathematics and astronomy placed him in a class of better-educated citizens. His surveying commission provided him ample opportunities for personal advancement, and he eventually registered more than 45,000 acres of land in his own name. George Washington got his start as a land surveyor in western Virginia and Thomas Jefferson's father, Colonel Peter Jefferson, was land surveyor for His Majesty King George II...but William Claiborne was the first!

References:

Hughes, Sarah S. "Surveyors and Statesmen: Land Measuring in Colonial Virginia." Richmond: Virginia Surveyors Foundation and the Virginia Association of Surveyors. 1979.

L'Estrange Turner, Gerard. "Scientific Instruments, 1500-1900: An Introduction." University of California Press, Oakland, California. 1998.

Pembroke College Alumni and Development Publications: Early Americans. <http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/alumni-development/publications/early-americans/>

Williamson, George C. Countess of Dorset, Pembroke and Montgomery 1590-1676. Her Life, Letters and Work. Kendal Titus Wilson and Son. 1922.

Smith, John. The General Historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles [Bermuda] with the names of the Adventurers, Planters, and Governours from their first beginning Anis 1584 to this present 1624. London. 1624.

Butler, Nathaniel. Hallett, H. (ed.) 2007, Butler's History of the Bermudas: A contemporary account of Bermuda's earliest government, Bermuda: Bermuda Maritime Museum Press, 102-121.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Clan:
Keith and Dana Cleborne of Sanford Florida
Mark Cleborne of Sanford Florida

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send updated contact information to our Registrar Frank Rura, or include it with your dues payment below:

Frank Rura
3052 Rogers Ave.
Ellicott City, MD, 21043
E-Mail: frank9111@verizon.net
Ph: 410-465-4778

ANNUAL DUES

Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. The Annual Dues for the Claiborne Society are \$10. As an alternative, a lifetime membership is available for \$200 for current members. Plans are under way for our 2019 Reunion in Williamsburg. To continue to receive newsletters and reunion mailings, please send your check payable to "The Claiborne Society" to our Treasurer:

**NATIONAL SOCIETY CLAIBORNE FAMILY DESCENDANTS
2019 ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT FORM**

Name

(Optional) Claiborne Line/Anccestor.....

Street Address.....

City State Zipcode

Telephone E-Mail:.....

Check one:	Cost	AMOUNT ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> 2019 Annual Dues:	\$10	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership:	\$200	\$ _____

Send this form and your check payable to **The Claiborne Society** to our Treasurer:

**Charles Claiborne
508 Penny Lane
Woodstock, GA, 30188**

Registrar
3052 Rogers Ave.
Ellicott City, MD, 21043

