

Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Spring 2021

Message from the Publications Chairman

Patricia Clayborn

We are sending you our heartfelt good wishes and we are approaching Spring with hope and cautious optimism. In the hope that we may one day be able to again travel freely, we offer the following destination: the "signal box" at the train station in Cliburn, Cumbria. Click on this link to find out more:

https://cliburnstation.co.uk/accommodation/cliburn-signal-box/

Member Walter Sheffield of Fredericksburg recently reminded us that it will be the 400 year anniversary on August 8, 2021 for the day when Colonel William Claiborne arrived at Jamestown as the first Colonial Surveyor. Mr. Sheffield happily told us that this day marks the 400th year that our forebears have been Virginians! Historian Gene Williamson in his book "Chesapeake Conflict" has told us that "William Claiborne was twenty-one when the George and the Charles sailed through the Virginia capes into the lower Chesapeake Bay on August 8, 1621, to be welcomed by the cannons of the Point Comfort fort guarding the entrance into the James River. The ships anchored while the new Governor, Sir Francis Wyatt, was rowed ashore to exchange greetings with the fort commander and to report that the voyage had been calm, without the loss of a single life among the two hundred passengers--a significant achievement in the seventeenth century, when death was not uncommon in the filthy holds of the small merchant vessels. Nor was death a stranger in the colony. In spite of mass migration to Virginia in previous years--averaging a thousand settlers a year--the population stood at only twelve hundred when Claiborne arrived."

In this issue, we get to hear from our respected Registrar, Frank Rura, and gifted Vice President, Elizabeth Richardson. We also ask your help in searching for a portrait of Elizabeth Butler (Boteler) the wife of Colonel William Claiborne - if such a portrait exists. And we find out much more about Romancoke than we knew last issue. Perhaps we can also discover more details on why John Smith named "Claiborne's Isles" after Colonel William Claiborne. A magical tower in Scotland is featured, and, finally, we have a family farewell to John Poindexter Irby III.

I have included a dues payment form in this newsletter for your convenience. As always, please feel welcome to send your family stories for future newsletter publications.

Thank you for your continuing membership and for contributing to our Society!

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

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New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Clan: Lorna and David Rosenstein of Layton, Utah Frances and Stetson Fleming of Savannah, Georgia John Clegg Roberts of Savannah, Georgia

IN THIS ISSUE:

	Page	l
Message from the Publisher	1	l
Society Membership and Reunion Updates	2	
Search for a Portrait of Elizabeth Boteler Claiborne	3	l
Romancoke Revisited	4	l
Claiborne's Isles	7	l
A Tower in Scotland Built by the Le Franceys Family	8	l
In Memoriam: John Poindexter Irby III	10	



Dear Members:

Foremost, I hope you are all staying in good health and anticipating the joys of the arrival of spring. Susan (past President) and I always look forward to the gardening that this time of the year brings; being out-doors again after a long winter is so refreshing and provides a feeling of renewal.

I especially want to thank our many cousins who have faithfully continued to support the Claiborne Society through their annual dues payments. Even though the dues are small, taken together, they provide opportunities for our Society to undertake projects which continue to herald the importance of the Claiborne family. You can read about many of our accomplishments in past Newsletters.

As in the past, I give special acknowledgement to those who submitted <u>membership renewal forms</u> along with their dues payments (these forms are included in our *Claiborne Society Newsletter*). Our cousins are such a dynamic group! Frequent address changes, new phone numbers and email preferences keep me busy keeping accurate membership records. The renewal information you furnish on your renewal form is such a great help! Please continue to contact me whenever you address, email, phone number, etc. changes. You can write, or email me at <u>frank9111@verizon.net</u> with any new details. Your benefit is that it will insure that we can deliver the most up-to-date information about Society events and publications. As we continue to shift our distribution of Newsletters, notifications and announcements more towards direct email, replacing postal mail whenever possible, knowing how to reach you is so very important.

Wishing you all the best in 2021!

Frank Rura

Society Reunion 2021

From Elizabeth Richardson, Vice President and Reunion Chairman

Dear Members of the Claiborne Society,

The Claiborne Board has regretfully decided to cancel our 2021 annual meeting because of COVID. We feel that the safety of our members makes this the responsible thing to do, due to the uncertainty of when enough people will be able to get the vaccine to achieve herd immunity. Also, hotels, restaurants and tour companies might find they had to cancel at the last minute if they planned that far ahead.

The Board will make a decision this fall on whether to reschedule the annual meeting for 2022. Before the virus hit, tentative plans were being made to hold the meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, and visit Kent Island which William Claiborne settled in 1631, but eventually lost it to Lord Baltimore. Claiborne spent the rest of his life attempting to regain the island, which led to armed conflict with the Maryland government. Kent Island lies in the Chesapeake Bay, between the eastern peninsula of Maryland and Annapolis, which is a charming and historic waterfront town and the capital of Maryland.

We hope that all of you stay healthy, and that we see you at the next annual meeting whenever that is rescheduled.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Richardson

Correspondence: Portrait of Elizabeth Boteler Claiborne

From Lorna Rosenstein

We received a question from new member Lorna Rosenstein as follows:

"I just discovered the fabulous Claiborne Newsletter. William Claiborne b 1600 and Elizabeth Boteler are my 9th great grandparents through my father's side. What a teary moment when I saw that wonderful picture of him in the newsletter. I will be spending a lot of time reading all of them. Is there a picture of Elizabeth Boteler anywhere? If William got a fancy one, I'd think he did one of his wife, also."

I sent her my response as follows:

"Dear Mrs. Rosenstein: Thank you so much for your message, which Frank Rura kindly forwarded to me. I wish to address your question of whether there is a picture of Elizabeth Boteler anywhere.... and agree with you that if William got a fancy one, there should be one of his wife, as well.

I searched for quite a while for such a portrait, but never found one. I wished to have it in order to include it in the Spring 2016 issue of the Claiborne Clan newsletter where I gave an extensive account of her ancestry. In that issue I asked for help finding more about her- - but I never received any replies.

I believe that William's oldest portrait was painted long after his death, commissioned by descendants and, as I recall, based on small portraits of William and his brother Thomas when they were very young and lived in Crayford, Kent, in the outskirts of London. We do not know where these two portraits are now or whether they still exist.

Claiborne Clan member Elizabeth Richardson has been actively seeking the whereabouts of this oldest portrait, but has not had any responses except one. Charles Matthews of New Orleans told her that he had such a portrait, but that it was lost in Hurricane Katrina. We do not know if his was a copy or the original. Her article is in the Spring 2020 issue on Page 4. There were later portraits of William, but they were all based on the earliest one. See the article in the Fall 2018 issue.

The authors of Appletons 1880 Cyclopedia of American Biography created a beautiful etching of William for their book, that was based on the older oil painting *(shown below)*. I am sorry that all this information is so negative. I am frustrated along with you at not being able to see a portrait of Elizabeth Boteler Claiborne. Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn"



Etching of Colonel William Claiborne Source: Appletons 1880 Cyclopedia of American Biography



Painting of Colonel William Claiborne exhibited at the 1907 Jamestown Exposition. This work by artist Mary Gilmer is a reproduction of an earlier portrait. After the celebration, this painting was given to the state of Virginia and is now in storage at the Library of Virginia.

Correspondence: Romancoke Revisited

From Mary Ann Gilman and Elizabeth Richardson

In response to our article our article on "Romancoke" member Mary Ann Gilman wrote: "I was especially interested in the info on the Claiborne's West Point holdings. I live about an hour from there down on the Chesapeake Bay, and have to pass through West Point to go to Richmond or pretty much anywhere. The town is between two rivers named for Indian tribes – the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi. We visited Sweet Hall, etc. on one of the Claiborne Reunions in Williamsburg."

Regarding the same topic we were grateful to hear from Elizabeth Richardson as follows: "I was very interested in your article on Romancoke in the last newsletter. I've been meaning ever since to send you a picture *[shown below]* of what was said to be Romancoke house in an 1883 article in The Magazine of American History. (Same article also had an etching of one of the earliest pictures said to be of William Claiborne.) I suppose this would be the house that Lee built. I also looked to see what I had on Romancoke, and have attached a write-up for a 1937 King William house tour *[shown on following two pages]*, which I thought had a lot of interesting info in it. (But not documented unfortunately.) It said that remains from the original house were still to be seen (I wonder where) and that Lee originally occupied a farmhouse elsewhere on the estate, said to be an overseer's house, but later built a "very good" farmhouse (which Daniel in your link called a cottage.)

CLAVBORNE THE REBEL

89

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His adventures now begin. He sailed from London in 1621 with Sir Francis Wyat, the new governor, and they went in "the good ship George," a vessel of 300 tons, which is said to have been the same which brought to New England a number of Pilgrims in 1629. A wonderful document went in the George which the Virginia planters soon greeted with joy—the old "Ordinance and Constitution," wrung from James I. by the Virginia Company, which virtually established republican government in America. The burly planters no doubt warmly welcomed those who brought this important franchise to the little capital of Jamestown; and

Surveyor Clayborne entered upon his public duties under the fairest auspices. We hear nothing of him in the great Indian massacre of 1622, but in the succeeding years we may trace him going in and out among the planters, surveying their lands, recording deeds, and gradually becoming a person of importance. His fortunes are also improving steadily. Three years after his arrival we find Governor Wyat patenting to him 17,500 acres of land; and before



he dies he will possess in all nearly 50,000, exclusive of a certain great "Kent Island" which he also claims. He is now a person of prominence. He has made his mark as a man of energy and incontestable ability in

Page 89 from: The Magazine of American History with Notes and Queries. Vol. X August 1883 "Clayborne The Rebel" by John Esten Cooke

This page shows the original Romancoke and also mentions the fact that John Smith named the "Claiborne Islands" after William Claiborne, and that the Countess of Pembroke was his cousin.

Recent research has now shown that the Countess was actually not his cousin.

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.

Correspondence: Romancoke Revisited (continued)

From Elizabeth Richardson

In my final attachment, the author said that in 1897 the old Romancoke house was in ruins and there was nothing to see of interest but Thomas's grave. I wonder if this was referring to the original house or possibly the overseer's house? It couldn't be referring to the house Lee built because he was still living there then. By the way, thanks for your reference links. The article about Daniel's visit to Romancoke was fascinating - not just for his description of Romancoke and its contents, but his comments regarding other people and places in the county."

From: Notes on the Colonial Houses and Plantations in King William and King & Queen Counties to be visited on the Annual Pilgrimage Sponsored by The King William Tuberculosis Association.....April 23 and 24, 1937.

ROMANCOKE

This place was known in the early days as Remuncock, and more recently has been called Romancoke. The plantation in the past has been owned by more prominent men than probably any one place in Virginia, beginning with Col. William Claiborne, first Secretary of the Colony, and a member of the Council.

An abstract of his patent shows that he was given five thousand acres of land in Pamunkey Neck, beginning at Mattadequon Creek, and up the Pamunkey River to Cohoke Creek, and as far inland as necessary to furnish him the desired number of acres. The inland boundary must have been very close to the King William Highway from West Point to Cohoke, as it runs today.

It was stated in the patent that this land was situated where he landed his army in 1644. It was during the Indian War of that year, it will be recalled, that old Opechannough was taken prisoner and carried to Williamsburg and there murdered. The old chief had had his chief town Cinquotek, where the town of West Point now stands.

Col. Claiborne took up his land here in 1656 at the instance of the Council, and was certainly among the first few settlers in the lower part, probably coming at the time the Wests settled in West Point.

Col. Claiborne and his sons were opposed to Bacon in 1676, and in that year Carbo. the old man died. The site of the grave is not known, but it is believed to be near that of his son, Capt. Thomas Claiborne, who was buried close by the King William road, near where the old carriage road from Chelsea entered the main road. The stone marking this was removed a few years ago to Hollywood Cemetery.

The first house in Romancoke stood in the field opposite Bellview barn. Evidence of a colonial home is still to be seen there, fragments of brick, bottles and pipe stems, the last things to perish, and the irrefutable proof of a colonial habitation.

Correspondence: Romancoke Revisited (continued) Received by Patricia Clayborn

The graveyard, situated as it was, clearly indicates that the Claibornes lived nearby, and there is no record of an ancient house in the Romancoke neck, where the present mansion stands, and the house built by Capt. R. E. Lee stood.

On the original Claiborne grant, above mentioned, were built the homes of numerous Claibornes, at a later day. Tuckoman, just below Sweet Hall, now owned by Mr. J. H. Richards; Sweet Hall, where several generations lived and were buried, as elsewhere shown; Claibornes, a farm now known as Brickhouse, and a plantation which also belonged to the Custis family; Smith's Ferry, properly called Cohoke; all came within the metes and bounds of the original grant and passed to the children of Col. William and their heirs.

Of the original Claiborne homes the sites are known, but only Sweet Hall (and some question about Windsor Shades) survived the ravages of time and fire.

So interesting is the history of Romancoke that some space is due its descent from one owner to another. Col. William Claiborne received his grant from Gov. Richard Bennett for the Commonwealth under date of September 1, 1653. It passed at his death to his heirs and the lower part, Remuncock Neck, was the home of Capt. William Claiborne, a grandson, in 1698. Because of the fragmentary state of the King William County records, it cannot be definitely said how long Capt. William Claiborne lived here, but he was a vestryman in 1734.

William Black probably bought the land from the Claibornes. It will be recalled that in 1771, on November 6, George Washington recorded in his diary that he had purchased the land for his stepson, John Parke Custis. The estate passed from John Parke Custis to his son, George Washington Custis, and at his death in 57? grandson 1848, to Captain R. E. Lee, Jr., who sold it about 1916. The present owner is Mr. Elis Olsson.

The farm house, which Capt. Lee occupied when he came to the plantation just after the War, was spoken of as the overseer's house. In time, he built for himself a very good farmhouse and this served as a nucleus for the very striking mansion which now serves the Olssons. It is on the same site, in a very pretty grove facing the Pamunkey, to gather the last rays of the setting sun.

...

Claiborne's Isles From Patricia Clayborn

My current task that I have set for myself is to find out why Captain John Smith named the islands outside Massachusetts as "Claiborne's Isles" in his map of New England printed in 1616, which was based on his travels of 1614 *(see map below)*. The college that William attended theorizes that William Claiborne was with him on that voyage - but William would have been only 14 years old if that was the case.

I also wonder whether William Claiborne received his commission as surveyor 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 Smith 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."

Willam'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. I have not yet found a familial connection between John Smith's Family and Sara's.

Another connection with the Virginia Company of London was the fact that Sara Smyth James Cleyborne's first husband was Roger James II (c1550-1596) whose eldest son, Sir Roger James III (1589-1637) was a shareholder in the Virginia Company. Sir Roger may have been the one who recommended William.



A Tower in Scotland Built by the Le Franceys Family

From Patricia Clayborn

The Le Franceys family (ancestors of the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall) built a fortified house in Scotland near Moffat as tenants of the Bruces in the early 1200s. The tower eventually came to be known as "Frenchland Tower." Medieval documents were usually written in Latin, and in those the Le Franceys surname was often spelled "Francigena." It was also written as "Francensis" "Franciscus" "Franceis" "Franceis" "Franceiss" and "Franceys."

Records from 1218 state "that Roger, son of William Franciscus, quit claims to Sir Robert de Brus, Lord of Annandale, land which the grantee held of him in the territory of Annan, for the excambion [exchange] of land in the territory of Moffat, which William Franciscus, the grantee's father, formerly held of Sir Robert de Brus." King David I of Scotland had granted all the lands of Annandale to Robert the Bruce in 1124.

Later, the surname of the Le Franceys family members in this area became simply "French." They were "The Frenches of Frenchland" and the tower became "Frenchland Tower." Our Claiborne Clan DNA study found closely matched relatives named "French" who came as Norman conquerors to Scotland and Wales.

Originally it was a stone rectangular tower house made up of three stories and a garret, with narrow spiral stone stairs in the corner. In the early 17th century Robert le Franceys rebuilt the tower and added a substantial L-plan wing with a wide staircase. Today, the tower roof and internal floors have all collapsed but it contains much architectural and structural detail, such as traces of windows, the spiral stair, gable fireplaces, recessed cupboards, and slit defensive windows in the attic. Internally, there is evidence of a division of the first floor into a hall and chamber. The third floor is also divided into two compartments.

Blocked doorways and windows indicate how the layout and function of the elements of the building was deliberately altered over time during its use. The roof was originally of thatch but most recently was of slate. The gable end walls are all that is left to indicate the original height of the tower. The entrance was probably located in the south wall of the original block, and there are traces of a low earthwork bank adjoining the monument on the north side. Around it there are marks of an enclosure and to the south-east, evidence of the foundations of outbuildings



(continued on next page)

A Tower in Scotland Built by the Le Franceys Family (continued)

Sometime in the 16th century the Le Franceys family received the nearby 13th century chapel called "Kirkbryderigg" dedicated to St. Cuthbert, and the manors of Craikscraigs, Gardenholm, and Holehouse from the Knights Templars of St. John of Jerusalem. All that is left of the chapel is a gothic window and wall fragments, but, like the tower, there are remains of extensive buildings close by, to which the chapel was attached. The Templars possessed land for two miles around the chapel, including Gardenholm, where they had an orchard.

The Knights owned approximately 500 properties in Scotland in the 200 years prior to this time. The Templars formal title was "Militia Templi Jerosolimitani" and their headquarters at the Preceptory Ballantrodoch (now known as the village of Temple, Midlothian) was under the direction of the London Temple. The Knights Templars were welcomed to Scotland by David (1124-1153), but were suppressed in France by the Pope in 1312, with most of their French possessions going to the Knights Hospitallers. The knights who were not arrested could safely come to Scotland where they were free of any action by the Pope, due to the fact that Robert the Bruce had been excommunicated by the same Pope.

One cannot help but wonder if the Le Franceys family members might themselves have served as Templars or Hospitallers in the past.

Frenchland Tower is in the parish of Moffat and the county of Dumfriesshire. It is located 22 miles north-east of Dumfries and one half mile east of Moffat, off the A708, and the site is visible from the road. Latitude / longitude: 55.334159, - 3.4175868.

Sources:

Transactions and Journal of Proceedings of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. Session 1896-1897. 1898. Printed at the Standard Office, Dumfries.

Turnbull WR. History of Moffat: With Frequent Notices of Moffatdale and Annandale. 1871. William Gilchrist Printer, Glasgow. Fairfoul TM. Fairfoul's Guide to Moffat: Moffat District and the Yarrow Lochs. 1879. Moffat, Dumfries.

French ADW. Notes on the surnames of Francus, Franceis, French in Scotland, with an account of the Frenches of Thornydykes. 1893. Priv. pr. Boston.



In Memoríam

John Poindexter Irby III December 12, 1922 - March 19, 2021



John Poindexter Irby III

The Claiborne Society was saddened to hear from member Jennie Howe of the passing of John Poindexter Irby III of Raleigh, North Carolina. He died on March 19, 2021 at the age of 98. John was born in his grandparents' home in Nottoway County, Virginia on December 12, 1922 and was the son of Dr. John P. Irby, Jr. and Florence Broaddus Irby. He was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Margaret Wall Irby. He is survived by his three children, Grace Irby Robbins, her husband, Chuck, and their children, Walker Coleman (John), Austin (Mary Keith), Irby (Ashton) and Claiborne; Margaret Irby Clement, her husband, Whitt, and their children, Whitt, Harrison and John; John Poindexter Irby IV, his wife, Amie, and their children, Henley and John; and his great grandson, Claiborne Coleman. He was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Edward Claiborne Irby, and his two sisters, Emily Harrison Irby Short and Grace Irby Garrett.

John graduated from Virginia Military Institute, Class of '44, with a BS in Civil Engineering. His education was interrupted in 1942 when he was called to serve in the U S Army Armed Forces in Europe. He became a 1st Lieutenant in the Armored Division of General George Patton's 3rd Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action and was named a Knight in the National Order of the French Legion of Honor. John returned to VMI where he graduated with the class of 1947 and was later called to serve in the Korean War.

John began his career with Myron Sturgeon Consulting Engineers, in Norfolk, Virginia where he was involved in design, construction and supervision of electric power plants and highways throughout Virginia.

He then worked with Stone and Webster, and in 1960 he and his family moved to Raleigh where he became the Managing Engineer for Portland Cement. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina and Virginia and finished his career by founding Irby and Associates, Consulting Engineers, working with construction and architectural firms throughout North Carolina.

During his career, John organized and served as an Executive Vice President of the American Concrete Paving Association. He served as President of North Carolina's American Society of Civil Engineers and as a Fellow in the American College of Civil Engineers. He also served as president for the NC/SC American Concrete Institute. John was an active member of White Memorial Presbyterian Church for 55 years. John was a member of the Jamestowne Society, the Claiborne Society, and the Carolina Country Club.

An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed many days of bird and deer hunting throughout his childhood in southern Virginia and later in his life with friends as members of the Lake Mattamuskeet Hunt Club, Hyde County, NC. He enjoyed riding horses, raising hunting dogs and his vegetable and flower garden where he propagated Old English boxwoods. It was not unusual to see friends admiring his extensive vegetable and stonewalled boxwood garden at his home. John particularly enjoyed sharing his world class tomatoes with neighbors and friends. He was a humble man beyond words, contributing a great deal to his family, community and country.

A family memorial service was held at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. A private graveside service was also held at Lakeview Cemetery, Nottoway County, Virginia. The family wishes to thank Transitions Life Care, Lisa Ginsberg, Rosa Herrera, Oumie Jallow, Awa Mbye and Dulcina Assuman for their loving care of John during his final days. As a memorial, contributions may be made to the VMI Foundation, P.O. Box 932, Lexington, VA 24450, White Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1704 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, NC 27608, or Transitions Life Care, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Jennie Howe also sent us the following article regarding John Irby from the January 24, 1018 Blackstone, Virginia Courier's "Just Hanging On" column by Doug Coleburn, which included the following:

"John Irby spent his early life on Oak Street directly across from Blackstone High School. His father, Dr. Poindexter Irby, was a beloved dentist. His mother was also the mother of two very talented and beautiful girls, Grace and Emily Harrison, and another son, Dr. Claiborne Irby, a retired physician residing in Lynchburg.

John was an engineer by profession. He interrupted his career long enough to lead a platoon of soldiers against the Germans and, in so doing, they drove the Germans from a concentration camp, freeing several hundred French POW's. The French government finally got around to honoring him for his actions, which saved the lives of those Frenchmen.

At a ceremony held in Raleigh, NC, Mr. Irbys city of residence, he was named a Knight in the National Order of the Legion for Honor for his service in the liberation of France. Lt. Irby also received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Germany, specifically for leading his troops against a much larger enemy force.

I know John Irby. Growing up in this small town, everyone knew everyone else. What I didn't know was that he was a war hero. There are many such veterans of our several wars whose stories have not been told. Those brave men who won WWII are fast dying out. We are so glad to hear about John Irby's gallantry.

If my late brother Curtis, were living, he would most likely say, 'I'm not surprised at anything good I hear about John Irby. He is one heck of a nice guy."

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Claiborne Society Newsletter



