



# Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Spring 2025

## Message from the Publications Chairman

Patricia Clayborn

St. Cuthbert's Church in Cliburn is a 12th century building with extensive 19th century refurbishment, including a new floor. One of the great questions we have yet to answer is: Where are the Clebornes buried? There are no Clebornes buried in the adjacent churchyard or in the nearby parish of Morland. One theory is that they were buried under the St. Cuthbert's Church floor, but the plaques noting their names were covered by the new floor. We also want to know more about Colonel William Claiborne's time growing up in Kent, where he was born, and the London lives of his brother Thomas and his sisters Sara, Katherine and Blanche, and their children. Nevertheless, we know we are lucky to have as much information as we do.

In this issue we have much lively discussion from members Edwin Allen Tuck, Heath Claiborne Boyer, George Hamilton Claborn, and David Claiborne in our Letters to the Publisher, and Elizabeth Richardson has found a fascinating article on artificial intelligence using Colonel William Claiborne as the subject. We also revisit the topic of the coat of arms and explore the relationship to the Bellinghams of Levens Hall.



ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH AS SEEN FROM CLIBURN HALL, CLIBURN, WESTMORLAND, ENGLAND

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

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

### NEW MEMBER:

We are delighted to welcome the following new member to our Clan:  
George Hamilton Claborn – Moultonborough, New Hampshire

### OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

President	Linda M. King
Vice President	To be announced
Secretary	Nicholas J. Lilly Cline
Treasurer	Charles E. Claiborne
Registrar	Douglas L. Edgmon

### Standing Committees

Reunion	To be announced
Research	Johnathan J. Clayborn, MS
Archives	Susan W.H. Rura
Publications	Patricia Clayborn
Webmaster	Dan Boylin

[www.claibornesociety.org](http://www.claibornesociety.org)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

### PAGE

Message from the Publications Chairman	1
Letters to the Publisher	2
Cleborne Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto	20
"The Bellinghams of Levens Hall"	22
Annual Dues Payment Form	31

## Letters to the Publisher

Allen Tuck wrote: "Hi Patricia! My Name is Edwin Allen Tuck and I have been searching family history 40 plus years. I thought I would try and explain who I am. My Blood lines are Cliborne, Hite, Redd and Tuck. I chase Blood lines, not names. Blood lines get thinner, but do not play out as long as people continue having kids. That is why I have a data base of almost, 24,000 people who are/maybe related to me. I have many cousins who started this research long before I became involved in family history research. Several have passed on, but I continue to search and add new data each day.

I believe we talked on the phone before the 2024 reunion. My computer is fixed now. So how can you help me.

Question? Does the association have a data base of relatives?

Has anyone found a Cliborne/Claiborne connection between England and US. In other words, who came over from England? When? What ship?

I would like to show the connection in my data base, if possible. Can you Help! Call me, lets talk. Have a great day, Allen

### Tuck Linage

I was born, October 19, 1949, Edwin (Allen) Tuck.

I'm the son of Wille Edwin Tuck, Jr. and Nellie Missouri "Peggy" Hite.

I'm third-generation grandson of Willie Edwin Tuck Sr. and Haddie O'Jean Redd.

I'm the fourth-generation grandson of Phaithal Richard Thomas Tuck and Kattie Winn Tuck.

I'm the fifth-generation grandson of Powell Tuck and Elizabeth Powell.

I'm the sixth-generation grandson of Edward Tuck and Margaret Dewberry.

I'm seventh-generation grandson of Edward "Ned" Tuck and Nancey Winfrey.

I'm eight-generation grandson of John Tuck and Marry Powell.

### Hite Linage

My Mother Nellie Missouri "Peggy" Hite.

I'm third-generation grandson of Noel Standley Hite and Virginia Elizabeth Cliborne.

I'm the fourth-generation grandson of William Beverly Thomas Hite and Della Anna Elizabeth Hite.

I'm fifth generation grandson of Thomas E "Tom" Hite and Elizabeth Davis.

I'm sixth generation grandson of Vincent Hite and Nancey Wilborn.

I'm seventh generation grandson of Stanley Hite Sr. and Martha Patsy ?.

### Cliborne Linage

My Mother Nellie Missouri "Peggy" Hite.

My Grandmother Virginia Elizabeth Cliborne.

I'm the fourth-generation grandson of David Apt Cliborne and Tenna Lamay Hite.

I'm the fifth-generation grandson of James Lafayette Cliborne and Minerva Jane Hite.

I'm sixth generation grandson of Agust William Cliborne Sr. and Sarah Salley Hite.

I'm seventh generation grandson of George Cliborne and Jemima Cashion.

I'm eight generation grandson of John Cliborne III and Jean Clark.

I'm ninth generation grandson of John Clyborn Cliborne, Jr. (of Dale Parish) and France Puckett.

I'm tenth generation grandson of John Cliborne I and Mary Shippey.

### Redd Linage

My grandmother Hattie O'Jean Redd

I'm third-generation grandson of Walter Anderson Redd and Mary Allen "Molly" Slaughter.

I'm fourth generation grandson of Richard Harper "Salis" Redd and Rebecca Parrott.

I'm fifth generation grandson of James Robert Redd and Ann "Amy" Whitt.

I'm sixth generation grandson of Thomas Redd and Dicey unknown."

Dear Mr. Tuck: Thank you for your messages. Let's start with your questions:

### Question? Does the association have a data base of relatives?

I am sorry that the Claiborne Society does not have a database of relatives. I have searched through the excellent book "Cliborn-Claiborne Records" but have not found any reference to the Tuck, Hite or Redd Families.

We do support a DNA Study for those with the last name Claiborne in all its various spellings. You may read two of our original reports composed by our previous DNA Administrator at the following site:

<https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/>

Choose: "DNA Study March 2003 Report" and "2013 DNA Report"

### Has anyone found a Cliborne/Claiborne connection between England and US. In other words, who came over from England? When? What ship?

As you probably know, Colonel William Claiborne came over from England in 1621 aboard the ship "The George." For descendants of "John Clyborn of Old Henrico Co, VA (1650/58-1685)" and "John of Dale Parish" there is no documentary proof of any connection to England or to any ship or date.

[https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/john\\_cliborn\\_newsletter\\_article.shtml](https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/john_cliborn_newsletter_article.shtml)

However, our current DNA Administrator, Johnathan Clayborn, has a theory that an Edward Cleiborne who came over on the ship "The Globe" in 1635 might be the missing link.

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

Our DNA Administrator, Johnathan Clayborn, has posted his research as follows:

Home Page: [https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main_Page)

Index of all of his pages:

<https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Special:AllPages>

Clyborns of Henrico County:

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Clyborns\\_of\\_Henrico\\_County](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Clyborns_of_Henrico_County)

Re Edward Cleiborne:

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The\\_Case\\_for\\_Edward](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The_Case_for_Edward)

The Barbados Hypothesis:

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The\\_Barbados\\_Hypothesis](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The_Barbados_Hypothesis)

The Case for William Isome:

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The\\_Case\\_for\\_William\\_Isome](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/The_Case_for_William_Isome)

**Allen Tuck wrote: "Hi Patrica. What do you know about the attached photo? Thanks, Allen"**

Dear Allen: I decided to search through all the records I have to see if I could find the photo of the chart you sent. I did eventually find it among the photographs from our 2015 Claiborne Clan Reunion. I did not attend that reunion, so that may be why I could not remember ever having seen it. To see it yourself, go to the following site: <https://www.claibornesociety.org/newsletters/>

Then choose "Clippings 2015" and then see Page 5 "Reunion Program."

I am guessing that perhaps someone made the chart for the 2015 Reunion, or maybe it was made years before. Once again, I am amazed at such an ambitious work! I am also guessing that it only includes descendants of Colonel William Claiborne, and does not include descendants of "John of Dale Parish." The reason I say that is because there is only one main tree trunk at the bottom, which I assume is the Colonel....

If that is the case, the document that may have inspired this chart might be the book "Claiborne of Virginia: Descendants of Colonel William Claiborne, the First Eight Generations." <https://libcat.familysearch.org/Record/758726>

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn



**Heath Boyer wrote: "Hello Patricia. My name is Heath Claiborne Boyer (William1,2,3,4, Philip Whitehead5, William Dandridge6, George7, Thomas Nelson8, Mary Eliz9, Russell Claiborne10, Maurice Claiborne11, Heath Claiborne12).**

I have been a member since the early 2000s (although I see I need to put another check in the mail!) and of course have a deep interest in Jamestown and King William County. I have not made any of the reunions, but that has not been for lack of interest. I've done extensive research on my own and am writing a family narrative on the early history of Virginia.

I have a son and two grandsons who live near London. The two boys have been in the UK for their entire education. One has graduated university and the younger is halfway through, both in the UK. Of course they have taken ribbing all their lives as "ungrateful and rebellious colonials" and have developed an interest in history out of self-defense if nothing else. They are very eager to get "on the ground" in Virginia and learn more about their own colonial roots.

In August they will be visiting the US and we will be gathering for a family wedding near Richmond. None of them has ever been to Jamestown and Williamsburg. At the risk of being importunate, my question of you is whether the Claiborne Clan has any connections to the people in Jamestown who are involved in the archaeological and historical research who might be able to give us even a little bit of special attention during that visit. Or there may be a local person who does guided tours who might help us focus on what is known about the Claibornes and the Wests (from whom we are also descended through Unity West's marriage to William Dandridge). I would, of course, be happy to pay, either a fee or a donation. I just don't know where to start. I see from the current masthead that none of the Society's officers currently even live in Virginia. If you were in my situation, is there anyone you would call with this question? With many thanks for any assistance. Your distant cousin, Heath C. Boyer"

To: National Society Claiborne Descendants Board

I have just received the following message from Mr. Heath Claiborne Boyer, who is wondering whether the Claiborne Clan has any connections to the people in Jamestown who are involved in the archaeological and historical research who might be able to give him, his son and his grandson a Jamestown / Williamsburg tour during a visit in August. Or if there might be a local person who does guided tours who might help him focus on what is known about the Claibornes and the Wests (see his message below). If so, you may include me in your response, and I will forward the response to Mr. Boyer.

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

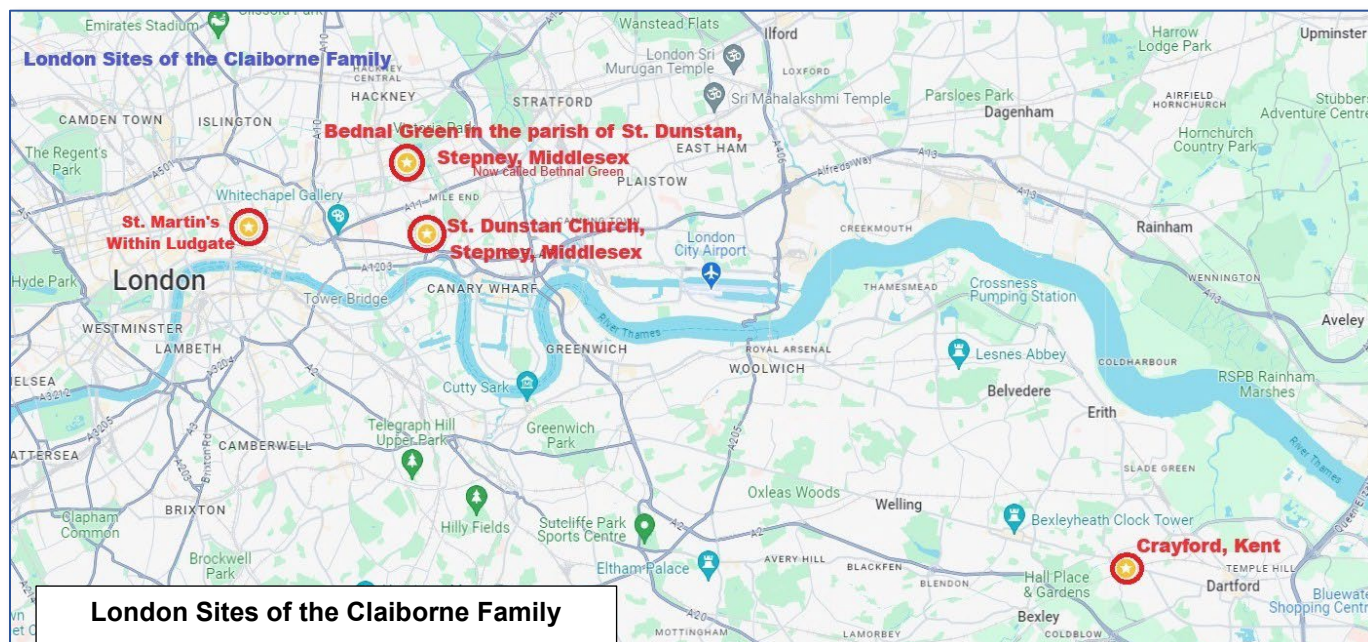
Dear Mr. Boyer: Thank you for your message. I have forwarded it to some of our members who live near Jamestown/Williamsburg, and I am waiting for their response. I have also carbon copied your message to our Board members. As I await their response, I am wondering if you might consider helping our Claiborne Society with information about London. Although we have some pretty good information on the Claibornes when they lived in Kings Lynn, we do not have much information on them when they moved to London. One of our members has done some research on this phase, which we have published at the following site:

<https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/>

(Rev. Henry Brereton, Father-in-Law of Jane Claiborne by Matt Redman; Chestertown, Kent Co., MD; Feb 2022.)

However, there is still so much to learn about the family's time in London, in Stepney Parish, Middlesex, and in Crayford, Kent. I have attached what we know now (*Torrence C. The English Ancestry of William Claiborne of Virginia. Part II, The English Connection*), but it would be wonderful to build on this.

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn



Heath Boyer wrote: "Dear Ms. Clayborn. Thank you for your prompt and kind reply. It's interesting that you would ask about doing research in Kent. More than twenty years ago my wife and I were in London and went out to Kent in hopes of learning something about the Claibornes there. We were fortunate to find a librarian who allowed us to handle the Parish Book containing William's baptismal record. We also went to the church where it took place. At that time we were unsuccessful in learning anything more.

My own experience in researching family origins has, I hope, been improved since those days. And we also had no family in residence there at the time. As it happens we will be in London this coming October, to celebrate a birthday of another of my sons who no longer lives there, but did for a time back in the 1980s. It has been my intention to visit Kent again October and to venture up to Kings Lynn, which has long been on my bucket list.

All this by way of saying I would be delighted to be of whatever assistance I might be. I was just about to raise the issue of our Kentish ties with my son and grandsons in preparation for our Fall trip. If you have any contacts to suggest or any personal knowledge of people in England with an interest in the subject, that might be a place to start. I can, of course, return to libraries and so forth, but I'd prefer to have prepared the ground a bit before I do.

Additionally, as I went back through some of the Newsletters (which I always enjoy) it occurred to me that I may have some references to add to your list for those members with a taste for reading history.

Shomette, Donald G. *Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay and Other Tales of the Lost Chesapeake Tidewater* Publishers, Centreville MD, 1996

Part two of this book is called *Melted Beads* and describes the archaeological efforts to uncover the remains of the ruinous fire of 1631, which destroyed so much of Claiborne's enterprise on the island. It's 100 pages in length and starts with a good summary of Claiborne and the early years in Jamestown. It then deals with the efforts to uncover the artifacts left from his settlement at Kent Island.

Carr, Morgan and Russo, eds. *Colonial Chesapeake Society*; Published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA, by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1988. Chapter One: *Merging and Emerging Worlds: Anglo Indian Interest Groups and the Development of 17th Century Chesapeake*; by J. Frederick Fausz; pp 47-98. Fausz suggests in this essay that Claiborne was America's first "internationalist" because of his determination and ability to deal with not only natives like the Susquehannocks, but the variety of Dutch, French and Spanish economic adventurers of the times. He also discusses the political dimensions of the conflict with Calvert.

Fiske, John. *Old Virginia and her Neighbors* 2vols; Houghton Mifflin & Co, 1897. John Herbert Claiborne says in his introduction to *William Claiborne of Virginia* that he has "followed in the main Latane and also Fiske" in the narrative. This book provides Fiske's detailed discussion of the Virginia-Maryland conflict embodied in the Claiborne-Calvert rivalry.

Latane, John H. *The Early Relations Between Maryland and Virginia*. The Johns Hopkins Press, 1895

This 65 page essay discusses the religious dimension of the politics between Calvert and the Puritans and can be read free on Google Books here:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Early\\_Relations\\_Between\\_Maryland\\_and/ftGw4vyW-qYC?hl=en&qbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Early_Relations_Between_Maryland_and/ftGw4vyW-qYC?hl=en&qbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)

Harris, Malcom H., compiler, *Old New Kent County, Some account of The Planters, Plantations and Places in New Kent and King William County* 2 vols 1060pp. Privately published 1977. Available through the King William Historical Society and at on line used book dealers. Very useful in understanding the relationships among the planter class through the transfer of property.

I look forward to continuing our correspondence. Cordially, Heath"

Heath Boyer wrote: "Dear Ms. Clayborne. Since our last exchange I have gone to Virginia and returned. Although I never heard from anyone else in the Society, we nevertheless had a fruitful trip. My son and grandson were elated at what they learned. On October 4th we fly to London and will be in the UK for about 2 weeks.

I would be happy to make some inquiries, especially if you have specific questions.

I have read again the material on Brereton and notice that the James family brewery was called Rams Head and was located on Lower Thames Street near The Tower. My cursory search revealed that there was a 16th century brewery, inn and pub called The Ram, in Wandsworth that now seems to be part of a redevelopment area. Wandsworth is not near Thames Street (lower or upper) but one entry I saw mentioned that most of Thames Street was destroyed by the Great Fire in 1666, so I naturally wonder if the brewery might have been relocated after the fire. The similarity of the names is my only hook here.

We know that the widow Sara Smith James married Thomas Cleyborne and bore four children before he died in 1597. She then married Thomas and started her new family with Thomas, William, Sara, Katherine and Blanche. Her home before the death of her husband was in Stepney, which is not far from St Martin Ludgate.

It seems someone has already looked into the Drapers archives, so not sure there's much there left to do.

Someplace, I can't recall, I think I read that William met Elizabeth in Kent and persuaded her brother to come to Virginia and bring her along. But I don't find anything suggesting the Botelers lived in Kent.

I was browsing through back issues of the Newsletter and saw that several years ago I had submitted two of the books I mentioned in my last email. I remembered them as something I had intended to bring to your attention and was surprised, yet again, at how fragile memory can be. Please excuse the repetition.

Next, while browsing I was struck by the extent and clarity of your own research on behalf of the family. Thank you for your hard work. One of the things I am hoping to discover is the current state of our knowledge regarding the nature of William's connection to the Cliborn/Cleborn, etc lines of Westmoreland. I know that the "pedigree" summary in J.H. Claiborne's biography of William was called into question by one of the Stanards, and I have read carefully parts one and two of the "English Ancestry" articles. Your own continued work on the Cliborn family suggests that the connection is solid, but it's not clear to me what the line from Thomas Clayborne of Kings Lynn is to the Cilborns of Westmoreland. Maybe I haven't read carefully enough. Am I correct that the strongest evidence we have of William's connection to Westmoreland Cliburns is his use, on a couple of occasions, of a seal resembling theirs? What have I missed?

I think the last loose end on my list is a question about whether the Society has any relationship with descendants of the Stanard family. Jane Stith Craig married Robert Stanard, and Jane's two sisters, Mary M. and Arnette, married brothers George and Philip Whitehead Claiborne. George is my GGG grandfather. My GG grandfather, Thomas Nelson Claiborne, wrote a letter asking a member of the Stanard family where the Claiborne family Bible might be, because the last time he saw it was in the Stanard home. Have you ever heard this story? The letter is in the LVA collection. I have a copy.

My son and I are planning to make a day trip to Kings Lynn. I wonder if you have any suggestions about who to contact there since the loss of Jill Price. Many thanks for your help. All Best. Heath Claiborne Boyer."

Heath Boyer wrote: "Dear Ms Clayborne. In preparing for our trip to England, for which we leave later today, I was reviewing some files from my years of research into my particular line of Claibornes. I found the attached news item dated 1907 from a newspaper in Holt County, MO to which my GGGrandfather Thomas Nelson Claiborne emigrated in 1857. You are probably aware of the Claiborne Reunion which took place at the Jamestown celebration, but the rest of the information might be of interest. George and Roy Claiborne were sons of T.N. and brothers to Mary Elizabeth who married William Boyer. Wm and Mary (Mamie) were my great grandparents. I knew William when I was a child. Kind regards, Heath Claiborne Boyer."

George and Roy Claiborne, of St Joseph, sons of Mrs Mary Claiborne, formerly of Forest City have received a special invitation to attend the reunion of the Claiborne family which will be held at the Jamestown exposition, Tuesday, June 18. The Claiborne brothers also have a watch which is wanted for exhibition. It is 175 years old and has been handed down from generation to generation. On the face, instead of having figures to tell the time of day, it has the letters "Geo. Claiborne." It winds with a spring and an endless chain. Both of the brothers have carried it for a number of years. It is now in the possession of their mother. Roy married Miss Amanda, daughter of Mrs. Emma Harris, of this city.

Ivor Rowlands wrote: "I discovered the National Society of the Claiborne Family Descendents recently whilst preparing for a visit to King's Lynn by Heath Claiborne Boyer of Chester, Vermont and his wife, two sons and grandson.

I met Heath and his family in King's Lynn yesterday and they had a full-on day discovering more about the lives of William Claiborne and his father and grandfather.

I thought that your members might be interested to hear about their visit, about King's Lynn's connections with the Claibornes and about a tour that will be made to Lynn next year by Art & Architecture Tours LLC of Richmond, Virginia. The tour starts and ends in London and includes 7 days in Lynn, allowing a leisurely opportunity to discover Lynn and to visit some of the most impressive historic houses in the East of England, as well as attending some of the King's Lynn Festival concerts. Details can be found in this link <https://www.artandarchtours.com/tours-for-2025> and in the attachment, and anyone would be welcome to join us.

Regarding Heath Boyer's visit, among the items of interest that they discovered were:

- A visit to the Borough Archive to see the entry in the Hall Book showing Thomas Claiborne's appointment as Mayor - King's Lynn has one of the most complete medieval archives of any town in England.
- A private viewing of the portrait of William Claiborne that was commissioned by King's Lynn Town Guides and NSCFD in 1996.

- A 2-hour guided walk of Historic Lynn, revealing some of the finest medieval architecture, guildhalls, churches, warehouses and historical waterfront.
- Visit to the site of Thomas Claiborne's family house opposite St Margaret's Church.
- Lunch in Marriott's - the warehouse built by Thomas Claiborne and now a restaurant and museum.
- A meeting with Dr Paul Richards - Lynn's foremost historical academic and a Freeman and Alderman of Lynn (as was Thomas Claiborne). Dr Richards talked about Lynn during the time of the Claibornes and signed a copy of his book containing an essay about Thomas Claiborne. The meeting was in Hanse House, the C15 Hanseatic warehouse that is next door to the Claiborne house and warehouse.
- The discovery that Thomas Claiborne was most likely in the audience in 1592 when Shakespeare performed in St George's Guildhall - Britain's oldest working theatre and the only theatre in the world that can claim Shakespeare performed there.
- Visit to the site of other Claiborne premises on St Nicholas Street.

I would be very happy to provide any more details about Lynn or to help your members with any plans they might have to visit. A short video about Lynn is available by clicking this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw7YQzeoC9o>

<https://www.kingslynnontownguides.co.uk/most-surprising-town>

Many thanks for reading this email. Regards, Ivor Rowlands. 07824 306404 [surprisingtown.co.uk](http://surprisingtown.co.uk)

Dear Ivor: Thank you so much for all this information. We will include it in our next newsletter, which will be published in the spring. If you would like to see some of our past newsletters, you may view them at the following site: <https://www.claibornesociety.org/newsletters/>

I can send a special e-mail regarding the tour of King's Lynn now, and I will carbon copy to you. The membership's e-mail addresses will be hidden in the Blind Copy section for the sake of privacy. Thanks again for all your help! Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

To: National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants:

Please see the following message from Ivor Rowlands, tour guide in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, regarding an upcoming tour that includes a week in King's Lynn.

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Ivor Rowlands <ivorowlands09@gmail.com> Saturday, March 16, 2025

I wanted to remind your members that the booking deadline is approaching for John Braymer's Art & Architecture Tours' visit to King's Lynn.

We have added quite a lot of detail to the itinerary, including all of the Festival concerts that will be included. I have attached the full itinerary for circulation if you think your colleagues may be interested.

There are still a few places left. Bookings need to be registered by 31st March, and I'll be happy to do an online call with anyone who would like to find out more.

Many thanks. Regards, Ivor Rowlands 07824 306404 #surprisingtown

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.artandarchtours.com/tours-for-2025>

=====

Summer Music, Medieval Architecture and Magnificent Stately Homes in Britain's Most Surprising Town

Join us for 10 days in London and King's Lynn exploring some of the most renowned historic homes in the country and discovering some unknown gems, whilst enjoying musical entertainment from the King's Lynn Festival.

Our tour includes:

- 9 nights' hotel accommodation with full breakfast in heritage properties. 2 in London, 7 in King's Lynn.
- 4 dinners and 6 lunches.
- 6 concert performances.
- 9 private visits to historic houses / monuments.
- 7 guided historic tours and 1 lecture.
- Travel throughout in executive air-conditioned coach, accompanied by John Braymer and a knowledgeable local guide, supported by expert guides in each location.

We commence our trip in London, where we will be guests at the Naval and Military Club housed in the St. James's Square home of the late Viscount and Viscountess Astor. (Members of the tour will be offered the opportunity to add an early arrival and to attend a BBC Proms concert. Possibly the world's greatest classical music festival, the Proms has been going on since 1927.)

The following morning, we set off on our 8-day discovery of the highlights of the East of England, based in the charming medieval market town of King's Lynn. Once one of the wealthiest towns in England, Lynn has over 450 Listed buildings including the finest collection of medieval architecture anywhere in the country, for a town of its size. It has two medieval market places, one of which is the largest in England, two medieval

Guildhalls, one of which, St George's, is the largest in England and contains a theatre whose stage was graced by Shakespeare. We will enjoy two guided walks of Lynn and private visits to three of its most impressive 15th c. merchant's houses – all revealing why it deserves its reputation as Britain's most surprising town.

Our comfortable 17th c. hotel is ideally situated in the heart of the medieval town, close to the River Great Ouse, and will be home for 7 nights, allowing a restful retreat after each busy day of activities.

King's Lynn Festival was inaugurated in 1951 to celebrate the restoration and refurbishment of St George's Guildhall. The Festival was founded by Ruth, Lady Fermoy, the maternal grandmother of Princess Diana who grew up and went to school in King's Lynn. The late HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was the patron of the Festival from 1951 until her death in 2001. She was a regular attendee of the Festival from her private home at nearby Sandringham. HM King Charles III recalled in 2017 how one of his very earliest memories of hearing classical music was when he accompanied his grandmother to a Festival concert at St George's Guildhall. In 2025, the Festival will be enjoying its 75th season and our itinerary includes admission to five of its concerts.

#### Detailed itinerary

##### Saturday 19th July 2025

- Arrival in London and transfer to Naval and Military Club (known as the In and Out) on St. James's Square. Once home to Lady Astor (known to many as Virginia-born Nancy Astor—the first woman elected to serve in the British House of Commons), the In and Out is arguably the most conveniently located lodging in all of London.
- After some time to freshen up, we will meet our local guide Ivor Rowlands who will be accompanying us throughout the tour.
- After the meeting, those opting for a concert will make the short journey to the Royal Albert Hall for a BBC Promenade concert.

##### Sunday 20th July 2025 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

- Depart London hotel at 8.30am for the journey to King's Lynn.
- Our first stop will be for a private tour of Audley End – built in the early 1600s and later purchased as a ready-made palace by King Charles II.
- After a light lunch we will continue to Cambridge for a guided visit to King's College Chapel - the grandest and most beautiful building in Cambridge. We will then stroll to the Fitzwilliam Museum, the principal museum of the University of Cambridge, housing a world-renowned collection of over half a million beautiful works of art, masterpiece paintings and historical artefacts.
- Onward travel to Bank House Hotel and Duke's Head Hotel, King's Lynn. There will be ample opportunities to discover the charming highlights of this little-known Hanseatic town, including private visits to Grade 1 Listed houses, guildhalls, churches and other buildings, many of which are not usually open to the public.

Welcome 3-course dinner at the Bank House, overlooking the iconic Custom House and Purfleet Quay with its statue of explorer George Vancouver.

##### Monday 21st July (Breakfast, Lunch)

- Our guide will meet us at 8.30am for a leisurely walking tour of Historic Lynn, exploring medieval buildings, hidden courtyards and the Hanseatic riverfront all revealing King's Lynn's story from small settlement to successful port and elegant town – along with the stories of the people who left their mark here. We will make a private visit to Grade I listed Clifton House and its Elizabethan 5-storey tower in the company of Dr Simon Thurley CBE.

At midday we will make the short journey to Castle Rising, where we will meet up with our local guide, Dr Barry Blades. After a buffet lunch in the Black Horse Inn, we will embark on our guided tour.

Castle Rising Castle is one of the largest, best preserved and most lavishly decorated keeps in England, surrounded by 20 acres of mighty earthworks. Building began in 1138 by the Norman lord William d'Albini for his new wife, the widow of Henry I. In the 14th century it became the luxurious residence of Queen Isabella, widow (and alleged murderess) of Edward II.

We'll return to Lynn in time to take a late afternoon river trip on the Baden Powell – a unique double-ended fishing boat that was built in Lynn in 1900 and the subject of a recent restoration by local enthusiasts.

In the evening, we will attend the medieval Grade I listed Trinity Guildhall for an entertaining performance by James McConnel and Ella McCready with their latest collection of up-to-the-minute original songs, improvisation and chat.

##### Tuesday 22nd July (Breakfast & Dinner)

- We leave our hotels at 8.30am for a full day trip to Holkham Hall and North Norfolk. Holkham Hall is a magnificent Palladian mansion built over thirty years from 1734 to house the priceless collection of treasures collected on his grand tour of Europe by Thomas Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester.

The morning will be spent enjoying a private tour of Holkham Hall, with its famous marble hall and Roman art treasures. Tea/coffee will be served in the marble hall, providing ample time to take in its beauty. There will be time to explore the walled gardens and museum and enjoy a light lunch in the courtyard.

In the afternoon we will be joined by John Vigar for a tour of three Norfolk coastal churches. John is a leading ecclesiastical historian and the foremost expert on medieval churches in the UK.

North Norfolk has a reputation as a foodie's heaven, and we will remain on the coast for dinner in the award-winning White Horse at Brancaster for a three-course fish supper, overlooking the salt marsh and sea.

We return to Lynn in time to visit the Greenland Fishery – a Grade II\* listed timber framed house dating from 1604 – for a private musical recital from contemporary composer and performer Stevie Wishart, who will also demonstrate the Hurdy-Gurdy.

##### Wednesday 23rd July (Breakfast & Lunch)

- Today we depart at 9.00am for a full day trip to Houghton / Norwich. Houghton Hall was built in the 1720s and is one of England's finest Palladian houses. It has an exquisite 5-acre walled garden and is home to an internationally renowned contemporary art exhibition held in the extensive grounds each summer.

We arrive at Houghton before it opens to the public, allowing time to view the latest large scale sculpture exhibition – this year by internationally renowned sculptor Stephen Cox, who will showcase his largest exhibition ever.

Our private tour of Houghton Hall will show the no-expense-spared and opulent taste of Britain's first and longest-serving Prime Minister. Sir Robert Walpole was MP for King's Lynn for the entire 20 years of his premiership and his Palladian pile is one of the highlights of any visit to Lynn.

After a light lunch in the privacy of the Old Kitchen in the south wing of the House, there will be time to visit the fabulously restored walled garden and extensive parkland with its impressive modern sculpture collection.

We will continue to Norwich – once England's second city and now the most complete medieval city in England.

We will visit the 900-year-old Cathedral with our private guide. Herbert de Losinga was the first Bishop of Norwich, and it was he who built the cathedral from 1096 – as a penance ordered by Pope Urban. Under the same penance, he founded King's Lynn as a town in 1101.

Afterwards, we will have a short, guided tour of Norwich before returning to Lynn in time for supper.

#### Thursday 24th July (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

We set off at 8.30am for a full day trip to Burghley House and Stamford. Burghley was built between 1555 and 1587 by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I; it is one of the largest and grandest surviving houses of the 16th c. and a wonderful example of the great 'prodigy' houses, built to honour the Queen.

Burghley is known as a Treasure House due to its incredible collection of artworks that are complete and original to the house. One of the more curious displays is a trio of portraits of Charles I, Charles II and Cromwell all hanging in the same room! Our visit to Burghley will be completed with an opportunity to visit two innovative gardens – the Garden of Surprises, with its entertaining mix of classical, astrological, astronomical and aquatic features, and the Sculpture Garden laid out in the landscape created by Capability Brown.

We will provide a two-course lunch in Stamford before meeting our guide for a short walking tour of one of England's most picturesque Georgian towns. Stamford is situated on the Great North Road from London to Edinburgh. It has been an important and prosperous town for centuries and is widely regarded as one of the finest stone towns in England. We will take a guided walk around its beautiful mellow limestone Georgian architecture and bustling town centre.

We return to Lynn for a buffet supper on the riverside terrace of Bank House, before we attend King's Lynn Minster for a concert by The Piatti Quartet playing music by Schubert and others.

#### Friday 25th July (Breakfast & Lunch)

There will be no travelling today, as we will have a day focussing on King's Lynn.

We will start at 9.00am with an illustrated talk in the Grade II\* Marriott's Warehouse - built in 1580 by the family of William Claiborne, an early American settler and major political figure of the mid-Atlantic colonies. Our guest speaker will be Ben Colson MBE, a senior house steward at Sandringham House who will talk about the early days of Sandringham, how it was purchased for Bertie, then Prince of Wales and later King Edward VII, as a means of getting him away from London. Ben will provide some interesting insights into life in the private Royal household.

Afterwards, we will attend a Festival 'coffee concert' by The Aestus Quartet in the magnificent surroundings of King's Lynn Town Hall. Coffee and cake will be served in the medieval Stone Hall, dating from 1421, and the recital will take place in the Georgian Assembly Room.

A 2-course lunch will be served in a nearby restaurant in the Saturday Market Place, before visiting GroundWork Gallery – an international award-winning gallery of art and the environment. We will be greeted by the Director/Owner, Dr Veronica Sekules who will provide a tour of the show and introduce one or two of the artists.

We will proceed to visit one of the magnificent merchant houses on King Street – described by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as contributing to one of the 'finest Georgian walks in England'. Our host will be Dr Robert Anderson, former director of the British Museum at the time of the renovation of the Museum's reading room and installation of the Great Court in the 1990s.

In the evening, we will attend King's Lynn Corn Exchange for a foot-tapping concert by Jools Holland & his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. Jools is the UK's most popular pianist and bandleader.

#### Saturday 26th July (Breakfast & Dinner)

Today there will be the option for a leisurely breakfast or a short walking tour of 'religious Lynn' commencing at 9.00am. The walk will include Grade I listed Greyfriars' Tower (one of only two remaining medieval Franciscan towers in England), a visit inside the unique Grade I listed Red Mount Chapel dating from 1475, with its upper and lower chapels constructed around two cleverly designed staircases intended to keep priests and pilgrims separate, and All Saints Church – the oldest church in Lynn, with a unique anchorhold and its connections with mystic Margery Kempe.

At 11.00am we will depart for a short trip to visit the magnificent Ely Cathedral, known as the Ship of the Fens and regarded as one of the wonders of the medieval world. Ely gets its name from Eel Island, a reference to the fact that it once stood on a small island in the middle of the fens, much of which sits below sea level and was once mostly covered in water. As a result, the Cathedral and its impressive octagon lantern tower are visible from miles around. We will take a private guided tour of the Cathedral followed by some free time and a chance to have some lunch.

We will return to Lynn in the late afternoon. In the evening, we will provide a 2-course supper at The Crown & Mitre – a Grade II listed building built as private houses in the 1600's and converted into a pub in 1743. It has commanding views overlooking the River Great Ouse.

We end the day – and our stay in Lynn – with an orchestral concert at King's Lynn Corn Exchange. The Grade II listed facade of the Corn Exchange is a testimony to the splendour of Victorian architecture which now fronts a multipurpose venue. Originally built in 1854, facing the town's major public square, the Tuesday Market Place, it has an elaborate stone facade, topped by a statue of the Roman goddess Ceres – god of the harvest. It has become a tradition to end the KL Festival with an orchestral concert. This year, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing music by Vaughan Williams, Mendelsohn and Tchaikovsky.

#### Sunday 27th July (Breakfast & Lunch)

Today, we check out of our hotels for a 9.00am departure to London, stopping at Oxburgh Hall and Bury St Edmunds.

Oxburgh is a beautiful, and imposing, Tudor brick manor house reflected in a tranquil moat and notable for its decorative chimney stacks. Built by the Catholic Bedingfeld family in 1482 as a statement of power, the hall and the family have endured turbulent times. Through religious persecution, Civil War devastation, near dereliction and threatened demolition, Oxburgh's story is one of survival.

Although now owned by the National Trust, the family are still in residence and occupy part of the house. The dormer windows in the roof were the subject of an unexpected incident in 2016 that saw the roof collapse. A £6m roof restoration project was completed in 2022. On our private tour of the exterior, we will hear about the past and the future of the hall, before touring the house. Highlights include embroideries by Mary Queen of Scots, the King's room – built for Henry VII, and the C16 priest's hole that would have protected persecuted Catholics during raids by Elizabeth I's officers.

We will stroll across the village green for a 2-course lunch served in the garden room of the Bedingfeld Arms.

After lunch, we will continue to Bury St Edmunds for a walking tour of the Abbey and town. The earliest settlement in Bury St Edmunds dates back to early Saxon times, but it was not until the ninth century that events of national significance first took place here. There were frequent invasions by the Vikings, and when a young Anglo-Saxon King Edmund led his troops against them in 869 AD it was to be a turning point in English history. Edmund's forces were defeated, and he was martyred for refusing to renounce his Christian faith. He soon became a saint. In Medieval times, The Abbey of St Edmund was one of the richest, largest and most powerful Benedictine monasteries in England and people came from all over Europe to visit St Edmund's Shrine.

We will then continue on to London where we will arrive at our hotel around 6.00pm, leaving the rest of the evening free. (An optional BBC PROMS concert is also a possibility.)

Monday 28th July (Breakfast)

Our tour ends after breakfast, leaving you free to arrange any onward travel or to enjoy some extra time in London. (Optional extensions in London can be arranged through John Braymer during the registration process.)



**George Claborn wrote: "I'm George Hamilton Claborn, descended from Leonard Claiborne, born 1759 and married to Francis Tanner. I do not have his lineage back to William, but that's what I hope the Society can tell me. My ancestors from Leonard down are:**

- **James B. Claiborne b 1806**
- **Doctor Samuel Claborn b 1865**
- **Leonard Azle Claborn b 1895**
- **Kenneth Dale Claborn b 1925**

**Thanks! - George**

Dear Mr. Claborn: This is from Patricia Clayborn, Society Communications Chairman, welcoming you to the Claiborne Society. I would like to invite you to read our past newsletters at the following site:

<https://www.claibornesociety.org/home.shtml> Choose: "Newsletters"

Based on the lineage you described, I think that you will be particularly interested in the Fall 2014 issue, where Clai Bachmann describes her descent from Leonard Claiborne of Chesterfield who married Frances Tanner from Amelia County. My understanding of our current knowledge is that Leonard was not descended from Colonel William Claiborne - but rather was descended from "John of Dale Parish." I am also descended from the same John of Dale Parish, and you can read more about this in our current Clippings 2024 issue, on pages 16 and 17.

You can join our DNA study, if you like, at the following site:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/claiborne/about/project-statistics>

Again: Welcome! Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

**George Claborn wrote: "Thank you, Patricia! Really appreciate the pointer. I saw on wiki tree that my ancestors did not lead back to William; perhaps somewhere further up the line, but that's pretty murky. The DNA study sounds interesting, but I don't understand how it works nor all the jargon. Thanks again! - George"**

Dear George: Thank you for your message. I believe that the DNA studies are difficult for most of us to understand – and I will not be able to change that. However, it has helped me to read the old first announcement from years ago, which was simpler and more to the point. The report I am referring to is posted on our web site as follows:

<https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/>

Go to the bottom of the page and choose "DNA Study" "March 2003 Report." This report explains that after many of our members originally contributed to the study, the results were found to be four major groups. There were other results outside these four major groups, but their numbers were very small. Here are the four major groups:

1. the descendants of William Claiborne of Virginia, son of Thomas Cleyborne of King's Lynn, Norfolk County, England.
2. the descendants of the Westmorland family of Cliburn Hall in England.
3. the descendants of John Cliborn/Clyborn of Old Henrico (John had land in an area called Bermuda Hundred located in current Chesterfield County which is south of the James River near Richmond.) NOTE: This family has often been referred to as the John of Dale Parish line.
4. the descendants of John Clibborn of Durham, England who went to Moate, Ireland around 1640; John Clibborn later became a Quaker.

My brother was found to be in group number 3: "John of Old Henrico" also known as "John of Dale Parish."

I have spoken with descendants of Leonard Claiborne, born 1759, married to Francis Tanner – and my recollection is that they told me that they also ended up in group number 3 after joining the DNA study. They told me that their great-great-grandfather was Leonard Claiborne (1759-1839). They said that Leonard was the oldest son of Jonas Cliborn (c1733-1795), who was the oldest son of John of Dale Parish.

I might be remembering this incorrectly, so you should not take my word for it. If you wish to join the DNA Study, you will be able to find out for yourself.

Our new DNA Study Administrator has worked very hard to try and make things easier to understand. He wrote an article for our newsletter and you may read it in the Spring 2022 issue on page 6.

He also wrote the 2023 report on our research page. In addition, he has created an entire web site for these questions at: <https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Special:AllPages>

I hope some of this information is helpful. We are all on the same fascinating journey of discovery!

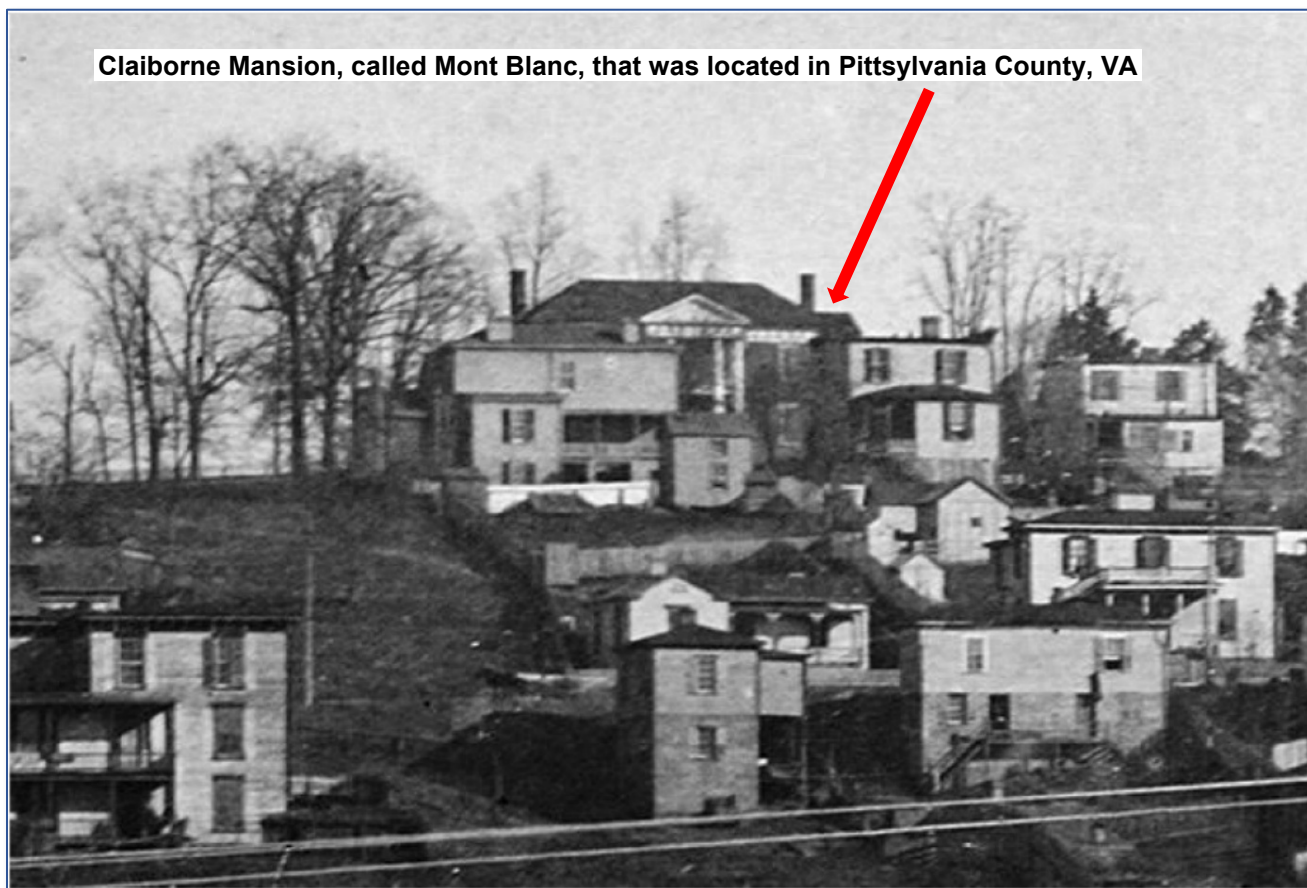
Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn



Jonathan Hackworth wrote: "My name is Jonathan Travis Hackworth of Danville, VA. I'm an executive board member of the Danville Historical Society located in Danville, VA. I'm reaching out to you to see if you could inquire of your membership, the Claiborne descendants, if anyone has a photograph of the Claiborne Mansion, called Mont Blanc, that was located in Pittsylvania County, VA; later named North Danville / Neapolis. The only photo(s) we know of are one that is owned by the late Danny Rickett's estate which shows the roofline and the house hidden by other homes that were built after the mansion passed from the ownership of the Claiborne family to the Keen family. The other is a poor quality photo that ran in the local newspaper from the late 1890's (*reproduced below*) when the home was being demolished. The former Claiborne Mansion was built by Col. Leonard Claiborne and stood at the site by 1850; most likely prior to that date.

Any help you can offer in helping fill this hole in our local history would be most helpful.

Sincerely, Jonathan T. Hackworth, Danville, VA - Danville Historical Society"



Dear Mr. Hackworth:

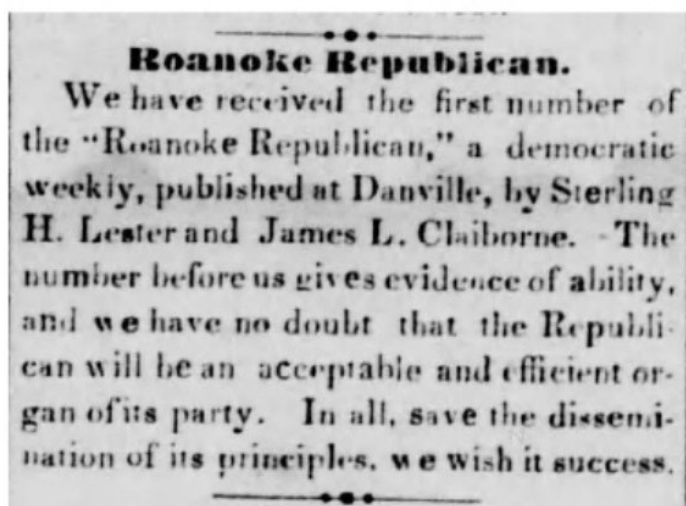
Thank you so much for your message. I am the editor of our National Claiborne Society newsletter, and I will be publishing your inquiry in our spring issue as a letter to the editor. You may read our past newsletters at the following site: <https://www.claibornesociety.org/newsletters/>

In the Spring 2020 issue, on page 4, one of our members asked for any information on a missing portrait of Colonel William Claiborne. We never got a response on that inquiry. I see that your article mentions a portrait. I wonder if they have anything to do with each other? At any rate, please feel welcome to contact us with any other questions you may have, and look for our Spring issue. Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

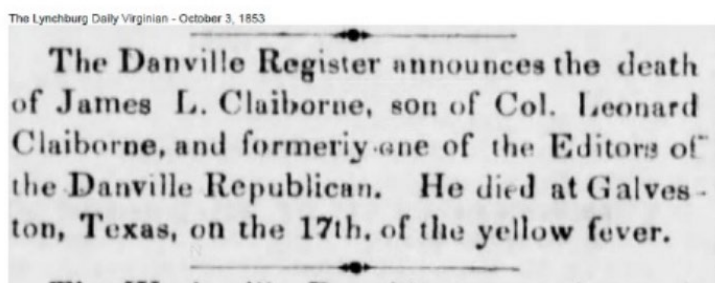
Jonathan Hackworth wrote: "Patricia, thank you for reaching out. Here is a more inclusive article, I believe from 1940, detailing the portrait of William that was donated to the former Bellevue School (now demolished) in Danville, VA. I also don't know if this will help, but here are a few articles from Virginia regarding the owner and son of the builder of the Claiborne Mansion (Mont Blanc) in Pittsylvania County, VA; later called Neapolis, VA. Leonard Claiborne (1791) married Letitia White Clark (daughter of Col William White of Pineville, Pittsylvania County, VA) on/or about November 24, 1818. Children: William Clark Claiborne; Richard Henry Claiborne; David Augustine Claiborne; John F. Claiborne; Mary Jane Claiborne; Thomas Doddridge Claiborne; Elizabeth C. Claiborne; Felix Grundy Claiborne; Ellen Aubrey Claiborne"

Dear Mr. Hackworth: Thank you for these additional documents. I will include them in the upcoming newsletter in the hope that they will be meaningful to some of our members. Gratefully, Patricia Clayborn

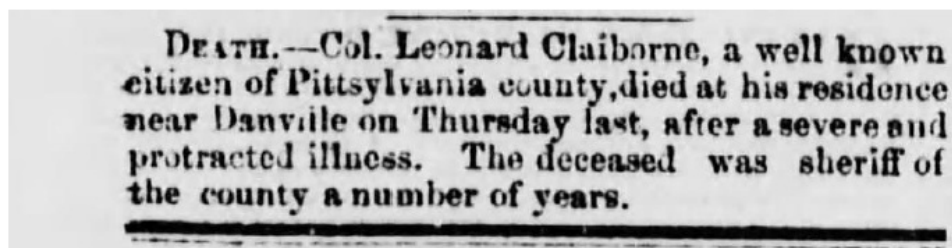
**The Lynchburg Daily Virginian - March 22, 1852**



**The Lynchburg Daily Virginian - October 3, 1853**



**The Lynchburg Daily Virginian - August 16, 1858**



Died, on Thursday the 5th of August, at his residence near Danville in Pittsylvania county, of inflammation of the breast, Col. LEONARD CLAIBORNE, in the 66th year of his age.

The deceased was born in the county of Halifax, and when a young man removed to this county, and engaged successfully in public life, the duties of which he discharged faithfully, promptly, and to the satisfaction of all with whom he had transactions. He made a profession of religion upwards of thirty years ago, and united himself with the Presbyterian church in Danville, under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Plumer, where, when in health he was always found attending upon the ordinances of the Lord, and was a liberal contributor to all benevolent schemes. In the domestic circle his virtues shone conspicuously as a devoted husband, an affectionate, and kind master. In truth his domestic relations, as well as all of his other avocations were reduced to such a complete system that when his Lord and master required him to surrender his stewardship, all things were in order, leaving a noble example worthy to be emulated by all of his friends. May he who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," protect and guide the widow and the orphans, is the prayer of many warm friends and devoted relatives.

# William Claiborne Portrait Is Presented To Bellevue School

## William DYNAMIC FIGURE COLONIAL TIMES

Memorial to the Late Mrs.  
Mary Claiborne Kilby,  
A Descendant

A portrait of William Claiborne, one of the most dynamic figures among the pioneers who had a hand in shaping the early development of the Old Dominion, found a permanent resting place at the Bellevue School in North Danville at presentation ceremonies held last night before a gathering which included at least two direct descendants of the subject of the portrait. The joint gift of John Tyler Claiborne of New York and James T. Kilby of Milton and Danville, the gift is a memorial to the latter's wife, Mrs. Mary Claiborne Kilby, a ninth-generation descendant of William Claiborne.

Appropriately, the Bellevue School stands upon the site of an ancient home, itself long used as a school building, which was erected by Leonard Claiborne, descendant of William Claiborne, and occupied for several generations by the family.

Mayor E. B. Meade presided at the ceremony and introduced Mr. Kilby, who made the formal presentation of the portrait.

William Claiborne, said Mr. Kilby, was born in Westmoreland, England, in 1587. At the age of 33 or 34 he went to London, where he met Captain John Smith and was so much interested in tales of the new colony that he shortly afterward visited Virginia. He returned to England, but in 1631, he again headed for Virginia aboard the sailing ship Deal, provided with a royal license to explore and trade in the New World. Some of his earliest adventures were incident to a clash of interests with Lord Baltimore, and a battle between the forces of two men for possession of Kent Island, near Annapolis, is said to be the first naval engagement to take place in American waters.

Some of the responsible offices in the colonial government which were held by Claiborne were listed by Mr. Kilby, as follows:

Royal surveyor, for which he received thirty pounds a year and a house; commander of the Indian campaign of 1624; secretary of state for the colony, 1623-38; exploration and trading under warrant from Charles I. treasurer of the colony for life, 1642; commander-in-chief of the Indian expedition of 1644-5, and joint governor of Maryland, with Richard Engle, 1652.

William Claiborne's home in King William County, six miles up the river from West Point, is now owned by Robert E. Lee, Jr. and G. R. P. Curtis, said Mr. Kilby, who has in his possession copies of many of the inscriptions from tombs in the ancient graveyard there.

The portrait presented to Bellevue School is three-quarter length, and was painted in 1909 from a full-length portrait which now hangs in the state library at Richmond. The latter was presented to the state by the Claiborne descendants on the occasion of a family reunion held at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907.

Mr. John Tyler Claiborne, formerly of Martinsville and now a New York insurance executive, later acquired the portrait and recently suggested that it be presented to some Virginia institution in memory of Mr. Kilby's

## Claiborne Portrait Is

PIONEER VIRGINIAN HONORED HERE



—Register Staff Photo

Principals in the ceremony accompanying the presentation of a portrait of William Claiborne, dynamic figure in the early Virginia Colonial history, to Bellevue school last night, are shown standing on either side of the portrait. They are, left to right, School Superintendent G. L. H. Johnson, Principal W. Harold Ford, Mayor E. B. Meade, Hugh Thomas and Miss Alice Claiborne Kilby, eleventh-generation descendants of William Claiborne, and James T. Kilby, who made the presentation address.

The portrait was the joint gift of John Tyler Claiborne of New York and Mr. Kilby, and is a memorial to the latter's wife, the late Mrs. Mary Claiborne Kilby. Bellevue school stands on the site of a home built in early times by a member of the Claiborne family, and which, in later years, served as a school, until replaced by the present building.

late wife, Mr. Claiborne's first cousin. After considering a number of institutions, the Bellevue School was selected as the most appropriate for a permanent home for the portrait.

The portrait was accepted on behalf of the school by Superintendent G. L. H. Johnson of the Danville school system.

A brief history of the old Bellevue School building was given by Mrs. Robert Thompson, who said that it was built originally as the home of Leonard Claiborne. At that time the grounds included a large tract of property, which later was subdivided, while the building was purchased for use as a school in 1883.

A number of reminiscences of their experiences as pupils in the old school building were given by Hugh Williams, and W. E. Gardner, while Mrs. Agnes Ragland, veteran teacher in the present school system, told of teaching a class in what originally had been the kitchen of the old building.

In addition to giving a number of anecdotes from the standpoint of a pupil in the old school, Mr. Williams paid a tribute to such veteran teachers who served there as Mrs. Mary E. Stovall, Miss Sudie Fitzgerald, Mrs. Salie Grady and Miss Kate Flynn, whom he said had made a lasting imprint upon the characters of those whom they instructed.

Those occupying the platform were Mayor Meade, Superintendent Johnson, W. Harold Ford, principal of the present school, Mr. Kilby, Harry Thomas and Miss Alice Claiborne Kilby, the two last eleventh-generation descendants of William Claiborne.

The Rev. O. A. Guinn, superintendent of Danville Night School, conducted the devotional, while the musical program included a solo by Hapson Browder and group singing. Mayor Meade was introduced by Mrs. P. J. Burton.

and Anna Carolyn Winner of Thomas Jefferson High were rated superior among soprano soloists competing today. Geraldine Estep of Harrisonburg Junior High was rated excellent.

Other ratings included:

Bass-baritone: Billy Pierce, East End Junior High of Richmond, excellent; Lee Paul, Pittsylvania High at Chatham, and Robert Gwiley of Schoolfield, superior; Richard Turner of Maury, Norfolk, and Hugh Young of Granby, Norfolk, excellent; Frank Ray of George Washington, Alexandria, and Jean Mallineau of Jefferson High, Roanoke, superior.

Boys' small singing group: Hargrave Military Academy, excellent; Maury High, Norfolk, superior; John Marshall, Richmond, superior; Thomas Jefferson, Richmond, superior; Granby, Norfolk, excellent and Schoolfield, superior.

Mixed small group: Schoolfield, Washington-Lee of Arlington, and Maury of Norfolk, superior; Thomas Jefferson of Richmond, Jefferson of Roanoke and Jefferson of Falls Church excellent.

David Claiborne wrote: "Patricia, thank you for that excellent report on the reunion and DNA efforts. I provided a DNA test years ago. How might I update it and hopefully obtain my exact information? Also it would be good if the family had Johnathan's contact information so that the DNA results can be fed to him or others. David Claiborne."

Dear David:

Thank you so much for your message. You may access the DNA Study at the following site:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/claiborne/about/project-statistics>

Besides this site, our new DNA Administrator, Johnathan Clayborn, MS, has made himself available to us in several different ways:

He has created an entire web site to answer our questions at the following address:

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main_Page)

There is a good index page at this address: <https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Special:AllPages>

Please save these to your internet "favorites" so they will be easy to find in the future.

Johnathan has also contributed to our newsletter and you may read one of his articles in the Spring 2022 issue on page 6. In addition, he wrote the 2023 DNA Study report on our research page as follows:


<https://www.claibornesociety.org/research/>

Go to the bottom of the page under "DNA Study" and choose "2023 DNA Report."

I hope this information is helpful. We are all on the same fascinating journey of discovery!

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

[https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Main_Page)



Main page  
Recent changes  
Random page  
Help about MediaWiki

Tools

What links here  
Related changes  
Special pages  
Printable version  
Permanent link  
Page information

Main Page Discussion Read View

## Main Page

Welcome to the Claiborne-Clyborn DNA and Genealogy Site.

This website builds upon the Family Tree DNA Claiborne Surname Project, but it is not affiliated with Family Tree DNA in any way. The website is for all families of Claiborne, Clayborn, Claybourne, Clyborn, Cliborn, in any variants and from any location in the world. My hope is that that we will be able to cross-reference the DNA sequences and the genealogical trees to build a better understanding of our family relations and genetic dynasty. If you are looking for information, please use the links below (and please bear with me as I build out this site). If you have taken a DNA test from any testing service and you would like to participate in this project, please let me know and I will include your information. If you would like to help out a project researcher, please let me know that as well.

-Johnathan Clayborn, MS

I'm excited to announce that Dr. Joshua Isom has been added to the site as a collaborating researcher. Dr. Isom has been instrumental in solving several family mysteries and I am excited to be able to collaborate and work with him on this project.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Genealogy
- 2 Project Updates
- 3 Genetics and DNA
- 4 Links and Resources

### Genealogy

- Family Groups
- Maps
- What is Family?

### Project Updates

Project Updates

### Genetics and DNA

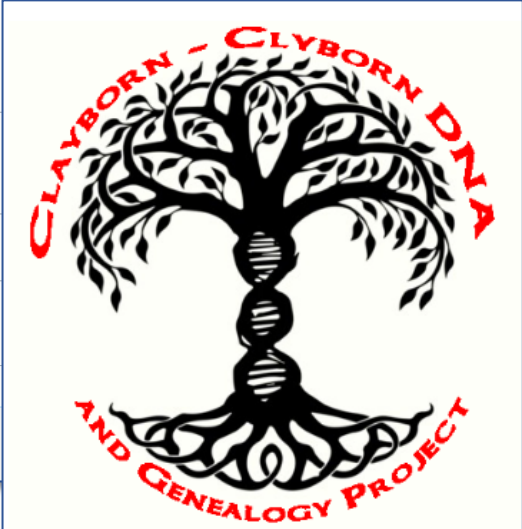
- About Genetic Genealogy
- Y-Chromosome DNA Results

### Links and Resources

- Resources

This page was last edited on 28 November 2024, at 19:32.

[Privacy policy](#) [About Claiborne DNA and Genealogy](#) [Disclaimers](#)



---

## **Artificial Intelligence (AI): Reporting History or Rewriting It?**

**Article by Robert Lowe**

Submitted by: Elizabeth Richardson

Elizabeth Richardson wrote: "I've been waiting for a reply from the author of the attached article answering my question as to which Claiborne #s 8-10 refer to since they're so small I can't tell. I thought the article was pretty interesting and something a little different – don't know whether you would want to print a short part of it in either this or the next newsletter."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Conley

Subject: Fwd: Newsletter article

To: Elizabeth Richardson, Robert Lowe

"Elizabeth Thanks for your email. You are always welcome to use anything from our Newsletter for your Claiborne Society. Here is the copy that Bob Lowe sent me. Hopefully it will work better for your newsletter. ~John "

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bob Lowe

Subject: Newsletter article

To: John Conley

"Dear Kind Sir, Print as you see fit. Bob"

From: Bob Lowe

Subject: Re: claiborne pics

To: Elizabeth Richardson

"Hello Elizabeth: Attached is the original draft I sent to John Conley. Hopefully the photos are better suited to viewing. If not a photo editor can lighten them up. Let me know if you need additional help. Reproducing the article is fine with me, although it was probably out dated before it was published! Emoji. To my knowledge I am not related to William Claiborne.

#8 William C. C. Claiborne. - NYPL Digital Collections

William C.C. Claiborne" National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans Print

#9 William Claiborne Walton (1793-1834) — Log College Press

William Claiborne Walton (1793-1834) — Log College Press

If you would like to view more William Claiborne portraits use Microsoft Bing and ask CoPilot to show you portraits of WC and you will get many examples (and easier to view perhaps). Sincerely, Robert Lowe"

Elizabeth Richardson wrote: "Forwarded is a reply from Bob Lowe re his AI article on William Claiborne portraits. Link to #10 interesting - I wonder who owns this portrait now? And #9 Wm. Claiborne Walton from Hanover Co., Va. Who was he? (Not listed in Dorman's Claiborne book.) Sincerely, Elizabeth."

## **Artificial Intelligence (AI): Reporting History or Rewriting It?**

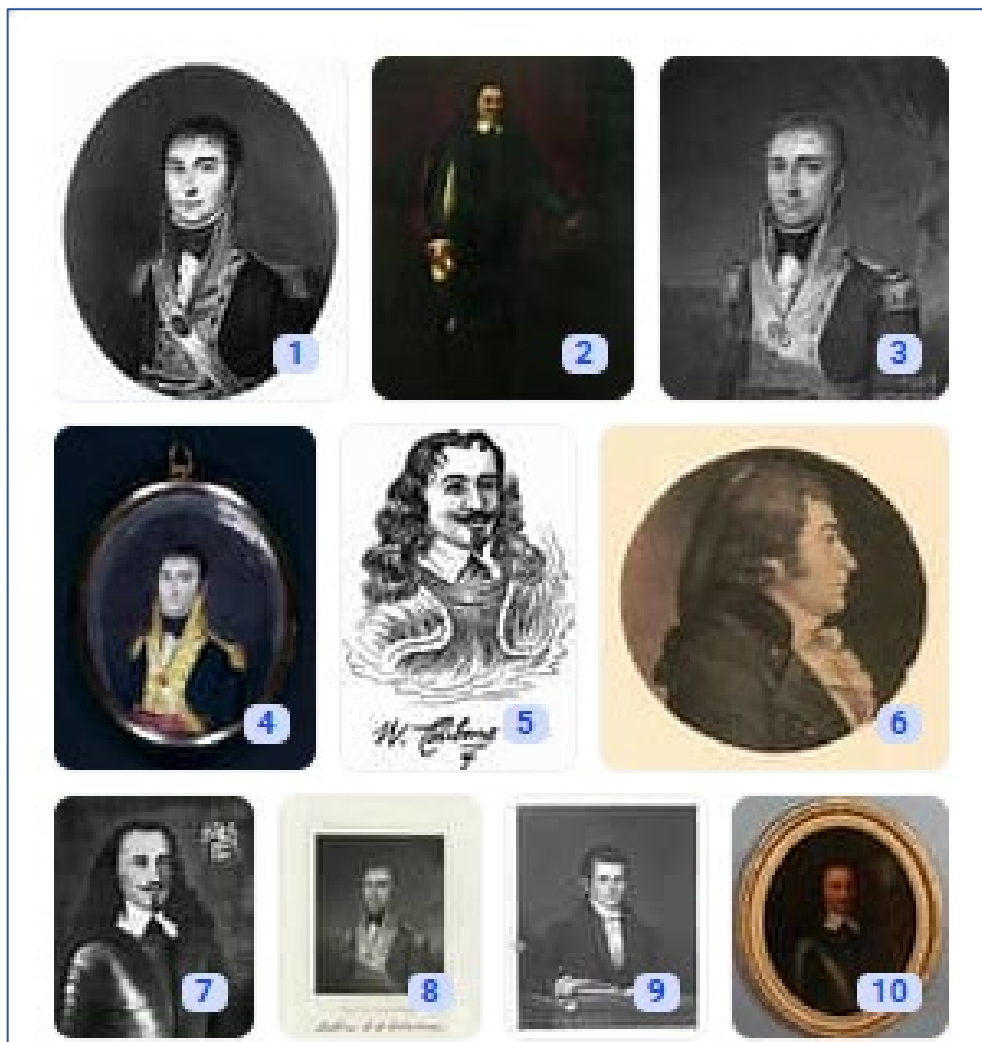
By now most of you have heard the term AI bandied about online, in the news media, and around the water cooler. What exactly is AI and how did it come about? And can it change history?

AI technology is widely used throughout industry, government, and science. Some high-profile applications include advanced web search engines (e.g., Google Search); recommendation systems (YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix); interacting via human speech (Google Assistant, Siri, and Alexa) and text (Grok on Twitter, Copilot on Edge, and Chrome AI) ; autonomous vehicles (Waymo); generative and creative tools (ChatGPT and AI art); and superhuman play and analysis in strategy games (chess and Go).<sup>1</sup> We may not realize the amount of AI applications that have made their way into our everyday lives because they have become so common. Additionally, new applications using AI seem to appear daily! As I write this Apple has announced their generative AI: Apple Intelligence for users of new iPhones. Technology moves at the speed of light!

Although the term AI was born in 1956 at the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence<sup>2</sup> its beginnings have been around since 1936 when Alan Turing developed the Turing Machine. In 1966 the first chatbot ‘Eliza’ was born. In 1972 AI made its way into the medical field with the development of MYCIN. By 1986 computers were given the ability to speak with NETtalk. In 1997 the AI chess computer, ‘Deep Blue’, beat world champion Garry Kasparov in a tournament. Technological advances in hardware and software allowed AI to enter everyday life with programs like Apple’s ‘Siri’ in 2011 followed by Microsoft’s ‘Cortana’ in 2014 and Amazon’s ‘Alexa’ in 2015. Also, in 2011 the AI ‘Watson’ won a television quiz show against human players. In 2018 AI was able to debate complex topics with master debaters in IBM’s ‘Project Debater’ and Google’s AI was able to make a hairdresser appointment over a ‘Duplex’ phone without the person on the other end knowing they were speaking to a machine. Despite all these advances AI is still considered in its infancy. Major considerations are reliability and security.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, the question arises whether AI can alter history by rewriting it. AI has the potential to enhance historical research by processing complex information allowing historians to reveal patterns and provide new hypotheses. However, AI is trained on existing data so there is the possibility it may alter the historical record by including bias in the data. Examples of this are recent deep fakes and manipulations of video and audio.<sup>4</sup> To combat this AI software programs can analyze digital fingerprints to determine authenticity, but it is becoming more difficult.

As an example of how AI can work, I asked Copilot on the Edge browser whether William Claiborne brought any slaves to Kent Island in 1631. It produced, in part, the following answer “William Claiborne sailed for Kent Island in 1631 with indentured servants recruited in London and money for his trading post. However, there is no specific record indicating that he brought enslaved Africans to Kent Island.”<sup>5</sup> Next, I asked Copilot to provide me with a picture of William Claiborne. I received the following ten likenesses from ten sources:



#10 Sold at Auction: Alexander Alaux, †Alexander Alaux (1851-1932, New Orleans),  
"Portrait of Col. William Claiborne of Kent," 19th c., oval oil on canvas, signed center



On the other hand, if I ask the Adobe generative AI program Firefly<sup>6</sup> to produce a likeness of William Claiborne in 1631 I get the following:



How can we tell if something has been generated by AI? Currently, there are numerous software programs that that examine text for AI content. Some are free to use, others come at a cost. For example, Justdone's Turnitin AI Checker<sup>7</sup>, a popular academic plagiarism tool, can detect, correct, and improve writing. It rated this article as containing 86% AI generated text! Copyleaks<sup>8</sup>, an AI detector covering GPT, Gemini, and Claude rated this article as human text. Semrush's AI & Plagiarism Checker<sup>9</sup> stated this content to be unique and written by a human text. As a final check I used AI Detector by Grammarly<sup>10</sup> to check the text of this article and it reported 0% of the text appeared to be AI-generated. Finally, as a question to ponder: can we trust AI to regulate itself? There are already AI Humanizers that can make your AI text undetectable and AI programs to make them undetectable to AI content detectors.

It seems obvious that there are many benefits to using AI, however, there are many questions about how to regulate the industry, so it does no harm. Most experts do not think AI will rewrite history, but it pays to be skeptical. So far, the best use of AI is in labor saving to allow historians to focus on the nuances of history and not get bogged down in the tedium of historical research, but this could rapidly change. Clearly this is an evolving field, and the bottom line is only the future will tell, not the past.

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial\\_intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence)

<sup>2</sup> [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Coined at Dartmouth | Dartmouth](#)

<sup>3</sup> [History of artificial intelligence | Bosch Global](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://cyclux.com/is-ai-going-to-rewrite-history>

<sup>5</sup> Edge Copilot

<sup>6</sup> Adobe Firefly

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.turnitin.com/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://copyleaks.com/ai-content-detector>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.semrush.com/apps/plagiarism-checker/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.grammarly.com/ai-detector>



## Cleborne Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto

By Patricia Clayborn  
Reprinted from Fall 2012

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 the Cleborne 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."

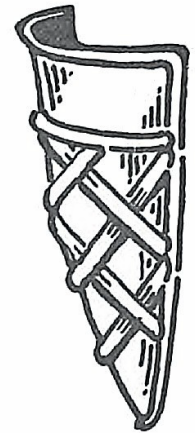
Puns in mottos alluding to the owner's name are fairly common. The entire meaning can then be translated as: "Neither Praise Nor Shame Adheres" which is similar to the sentiments of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who famously said: "I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow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



Cross Braces and Struts of an Ancient Wooden Shield

## 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 was Roger de Morville. There was a large district on the banks of the Lyvennet called Meaburn which Roger de Morville left to his son, Hugh, and his daughter, Maud. Hugh de Morville's portion of the estate was known as Meaburn Regis, or King's Meaburn, after it was forfeited to the crown following his involvement in the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Sir Hugh's forfeited estates later went to his nephew, Robert de Veteripont or Vipont. The portion of Meaburn which was inherited by Hugh's sister Maud became known as Meaburn Matilda, or Maulds Meaburn. 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, and an ancestor of the Clebornes of Cliburn Hall.

## 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 an unofficial, 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:

1. Barron O. The Ancestor: A Quarterly Review of County and Family History, Heraldry and Antiquities. 1903. 7:244-245.
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.

---

## The Bellinghams of Levens Hall and the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall Westmorland

From Patricia Clayborn

Grace Bellingham of Levens Hall was a direct ancestor of the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall Westmorland. She married Edmund Cleborne in 1576. She was the daughter of Sir Alan Bellingham (1517-1578) of Levens and Helsington, and his wife, Dorothy Sandford, daughter of Thomas Sandford of Askham, and Grace Crackenthorpe. Thomas Sandford was a cousin of Anne, Countess of Pembroke and Dorset, also known as Lady Anne Clifford, 14th Baroness de Clifford. Levens Hall is 20 miles south of Cliburn Hall.

The History of Parliament has an extensive biography of Sir Alan Bellingham, including the following:

"Bellingham's grandfather, also Alan, a Deputy Warden of the Marches, bought Helsington and other lands in Westmorland, and in 1545 received a royal grant of the fourth part of the barony of Kendal, known as the Lumley Fee. The younger Alan inherited this property on the death of his father, probably early in Edward VI's reign, but he left his mother in possession of Helsington until her death some years later, living himself about 10 miles away on the Fawcett Forest estate which he bought in February 1554 from Sir Edward Hastings. In 1571 he bought a large estate in north Westmorland, including the manor of Strickland, from Sir Simon Musgrave. He also owned considerable house property in Appleby, and the manor of Bellingham, Northumberland...In a part of England where the old religion died hard among the gentry, it was often difficult for the government to find enough Protestants to fill official positions. In 1564 Bellingham was named among the five 'grave, witty men, good in religion as favourers of the policy of the realm now established' whom the bishop of Carlisle consulted about religion in Westmorland; the bishop of Chester also reported favourably upon him. 'Learned in the law' as well as sound in religion, he was appointed to local commissions of various kinds...He died 7 May 1578, and was buried in the chancel of Kendal church, where the monumental inscription is dated 1577. To his wife during her widowhood, 'which I think verily will be during her life by her promises', he left houses and lands, and to each of his daughters £400 at her marriage or 21st birthday."



Levens Hall



Levens Hall

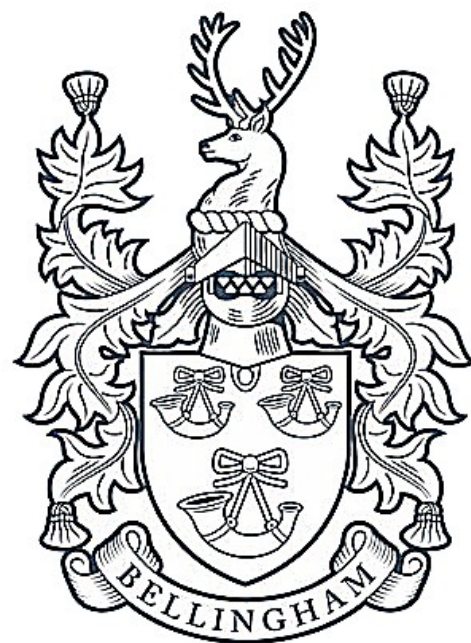


Levens Hall



Levens Hall

Levens Hall, Westmorland, in Cumbria is a magnificent Elizabethan manor that has a world famous topiary garden, and hosts thousands of visitors each year. An additional attraction for Claiborne Clan members is the Cleborne/Cliburn coat of arms displayed in the main entrance hall on the left as you enter. The heraldic frieze is one of dozens circling the walls, made in the same plaster as the ceiling, and then brightly colored. Nearby, over the mantle, is the coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth I. R. S. Boumphrey in his article entitled "The Heraldry at Levens Hall" has described the coat of arms as follows: "Quarterly, 1 & 4, Argent three chevronels interlaced and a chief Sable (Cliburn); 2 & 3, Argent a cross engrailed Azure (Kirkbride); impaling [Bellingham], as 1." This is the same coat of arms carved in stone over the entrance at Cliburn Hall.



Arms of Bellingham: Argent, three bugle horns sable, stringed and garnished or.

### I. Entrance Hall.

*Plaster Frieze, beginning at window bay.*

1. Quarterly, 1 & 4, Argent three buglehorns Sable stringed and garnished Or (Bellingham); 2 & 3, Argent three bendlets Gules on a canton of the second a lion rampant of the field (Burneshead).
2. As 1; impaling, Argent in front of a tree Proper a boar passant Sable (Gilpin).
3. As 1; impaling, Quarterly, 1, Per chevron Sable and Ermine in chief two boars' heads coupé Or (Sandford); 2, Sable three lions rampant Argent (English, or Lengleys); 3, Or on a chevron between three mullets pierced Sable a fleur-de-lys of the field (Cracken-thorpe); 4, Argent two bars and on a canton Gules a lion passant guardant of the field (Lancaster).
4. As 1; impaling, Quarterly, 1 & 4, Argent a fret Gules a chief Azure (Curwen); 2 & 3, Azure a lion rampant Argent gutté de sang (le Brun).
5. Quarterly, 1 & 4, Argent three chevrons interlaced and a chief Sable (Cliburn); 2 & 3, Argent a cross engrailed Azure (Kirkbride); impaling, as 1.
6. Quarterly, 1 & 4, Azure a saltire Gules; 2 & 3, Azure a saltire between four quatrefoils Gules; impaling, as 1.
7. Argent a saltire engrailed Sable a crescent Gules for difference; impaling, as 1.
8. Dexter, blank; impaling, as 1.
9. Dexter, blank; impaling, as 1.
10. Dexter, blank; impaling, as 1.
11. As 1.
12. The *Arms* of Queen Elizabeth I: Quarterly, 1 & 4, Azure three fleurs-de-lys Or (France); 2 & 3, Gules three lions passant guardant in pale Or (England). *Supporters*. Dexter, A lion rampant guardant Or; Sinister, A dragon rampant Or winged Gules; Surmounted by a crown and the letters ER. *Mottoes*. Honi soit qui mal y pense; and, Dieu et mon droit.



**Kendal  
Helsington**

**Levens Hall**



**Levens Hall Dining Room  
as it appeared at the time of the Bellinghams**



**Levens Hall Great Room  
as it appeared at the time of the Bellinghams**

Like Cliburn Hall, Levens began life as a simple peel tower...a desperate "last ditch" refuge for men and livestock from enemy border raids. Miniature Norman castles, the towers were enclosed by moats and walls, and held provisions on the first floor. The family lived on the second story during the day, slept on the third floor at night, and fought the enemy from the crenellated roof. Cattle were driven within the wall during raids. The original peel tower at Levens Hall was probably built around 1350. Then, around 1570, the Bellingham family made the tower their home and began adding to it to create the exquisite Levens Hall we see today.

The Bellinghams were very proud of the knightly families into which they married, and the Cleburne family was one of those. Grace Bellingham, daughter of Sir Alan Bellingham and Dorothy Sandford Bellingham, married as her first husband Edmund Cleburne of Cliburn Hall on September 1, 1576. After Edmund died in 1590, she married as her second husband Sir Gerard Lowther, son of the Sir Richard Lowther who escorted Mary Queen of Scots. Many of the other Westmorland families celebrated at Levens Hall also intermarried with the Cliburn family. Beginning in 1300 when the Border Wars began in earnest, solidarity and support among the land owning gentry Border families became essential for survival, and marriages between them strengthened these ties. These families shared a love for unabashed ostentation and an unashamed enthusiasm for heraldry that we can enjoy as a guilty pleasure today.

John F. Curwen, in his book "Historical Description of Levens Hall" wrote:

"For three hundred years the Redemans held unbroken possession, until the year 1489, when the property was sold to Alan, eighth son of Sir Robert Bellingham, of Burneside. This Alan, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Gilpin of Kentmere, was Treasurer of Berwick and Deputy Warden of the Marches. He further acquired numerous other estates in Westmorland, to wit:—Helsington, Gathorne, Fawcett Forest, and other estates in Lancashire and Northumberland, receiving in 1546 from Henry VIII, the Lumley fee, which constituted a fourth part of the Barony of Kendal. He appears to have been celebrated, not only for his social, but also for his martial disposition, and was aptly described in the following lines:

"Amicus Amico Alanus,  
Belliger Belligero Bellinghamus."

He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who owned the estates in 1549, and next by his grandson Alan, a Bachelor of the Inner Temple, one of the King's Council at York, and M.P. for Westmorland, in 1571. He married for his first wife Catherine, daughter of Anthony Duckett, and for his second Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Sandford, and died, as appears from his monument in the Parish Church, in May 1577. He was succeeded by his second son James, who married Agnes, second daughter of Sir Henry Curwen, and was knighted by James I at Durham, in 1603. With Thomas Strickland, Sir James, in the year 1593, gave answer to Lord Scrope, Warden of the Western Marches, upon several points about which he asked their advice, viz.:—amongst others, "What courses were most meet to be taken for good order among the surname of the Grames," who appear to have rendered themselves very obnoxious by their lawless proceedings. These gentlemen advised that they ought to be held obedient to his lordship, or be summarily dealt with in default. It transpired, however, that notwithstanding promises to the contrary, the Grames still continued to give trouble, for in 1603, a proclamation was issued by James I, decreeing the transplantation of these Grames elsewhere, to the intent that their lands might be inhabited by others of good and honest conversation. This was followed in 1614, by another proclamation for apprehending those who had returned from transportation. I mention this because it is somewhat curious to find one of the clan, in later years, holding the office of Privy Purse to the second James, and actually in possession of the same estates owned by the Sir James Bellingham, who had taken part some eighty years before in the family's disgrace. Sir James died in 1641, and was succeeded by his second son, Sir Henry, who was Knight of the Shire for Westmorland in every Parliament summoned during the reign of King Charles I. Sir Henry, had seven daughters by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Francis Boynton, but having no male heir to succeed him, his brother Alan Bellingham, Esq., by paying £3,000 to Sir Henry's daughters, entered as heir in tail. This Alan was M.P. for Westmorland in 1661, and died in 1672. He was succeeded by his son James, who died in 1680, and next by his grandson Alan, who was M.P. from 1681 to 1685, and died in 1690. As so often happens, however, these fine estates, gathered together during long years with so much thrift and zeal, were for the sake of pleasure, dissipated away by this "ingenious but unhappy young man." Tradition alone is our authority for saying that he gambled his property bit by bit, whilst playing repeated games of chance, with his friend Colonel Grahme, the wily courtier of Charles II and James II. Levens thus passed in 1689, by game or purchase, to Colonel James Grahme, a younger brother of Sir Richard Grahme, of Netherby. The arms of Bellingham were:—Argent, 3 bugles Sable garnished and furnished Or; and for Crest, a buck's head couped Or."

The Clebornes of Cliburn Hall Westmorland were also taxed on account of the Grahams. John O'Hart wrote:

"Thomas Cleborne, eldest son of Edmund Cleborne of Killerby, born 1580, died 16th Feb., 1640, was the 14th Lord of the manor of Cliburn. He was of an indolent nature and melancholy disposition, shy, silent, and reserved, and by no

means fitted to deal with the stirring events of the time. He found his estates very much encumbered and himself so impoverished that he was forced to mortgage his lands, and to borrow money from Sir Timothy Hutton, of Marske. He was (among others) assessed for the transplantation of the Graemes or Grahams who were shipped at Workington for Ireland (Hist. West. I., cxviii.) "The whole sept [clan] of the Graemes, under their chief Walter the gude man of Netherby, being troublesome on the Scottish border, were transplanted from Cumberland to Roscommon; and in the schedule to the articles affecting this transfer, it appears that the Sept consisted of 124 persons, all bearing the surname of Graeme or Graham." (State Papers, James. I., 1603-6, page 554.) This restored quiet to the Borders; and Thomas lived a retired life at Cliburne and at Killerby, cultivating and improving his lands. He took but little interest in affairs of State, and lived happily with his loving wife Frances, daughter of Sir Richard Lowther, the Sheriff of Cumberland (to whom, in 1568, was committed the custody of Mary Queen of Scots, after her flight from Langside), and grand-daughter of Sir Hugh Lowther, who married Dorothy, sole daughter and heir of Henry, 10th Lord Clifford, the "Shepherd Lord" of Wordsworth's beautiful poem. Thomas was married at Lowther Church, 10th March, 1594 (being then but 14 years old, and his wife 16; she having been born 15th Aug., 1578), and had issue three sons and four daughters."

Sir Richard Lowther was a fascinating character: In 1560, while still in his twenties, he was appointed Deputy to Lord Henry Scrope, Warden on the British side of the border of England and Scotland. His principal duty as a Deputy Warden was to lead posse raids into the Scottish territory. Richard was knighted in 1565 at the age of 33 and was given the post of Sheriff of Cumberland. After escorting Mary, Queen of Scots, he became involved with his brother Gerard Lowther in clandestine attempts to release her from captivity and took part in the attempt to place Mary at the head of the "Rising of the North." Richard Lowther married Frances, daughter of John Middleton of Middleton, Westmorland and Ann Tunstall, daughter of Bryan Tunstall of Thurland Castle. Sir Bryan Tunstall was a heroic soldier who died at the Battle of Flodden in 1513 and was called "The Stainless Knight of Flodden" by King Henry VII.

The ancient Manor House of Helsington is just immediately southwest of Kendal and can be seen clearly from the road travelling north into Kendal. The manor of Helsington Laithes and the house have, in their long history, been home to local families the Helsingtons, the Stricklands, the de Thwengs and the Bellinghams....all land-owning families in the surrounding areas. Plasterwork bearing the initials AB, and the date 1538, probably record the Bellingham family, who leased Helsington Laithes from Lord Lumley in 1517. A lease of 1540 describes it as having been 'late in the tenure of Thomas Bellingham' and four years later, in 1544, Alan Bellingham purchased the manor of Helsington from the crown for £137. Because the Bellinghams later resided at Levens Hall, the manor house at Helsington Laithes was leased out to William Curwen, a member of a cadet branch of the Curwens of Workington. The manor house was the "Helsington Hall" Machell described in 1692 as having been recently re-built by the then lord of the manor, Colonel Grahme.



Helsington Manor

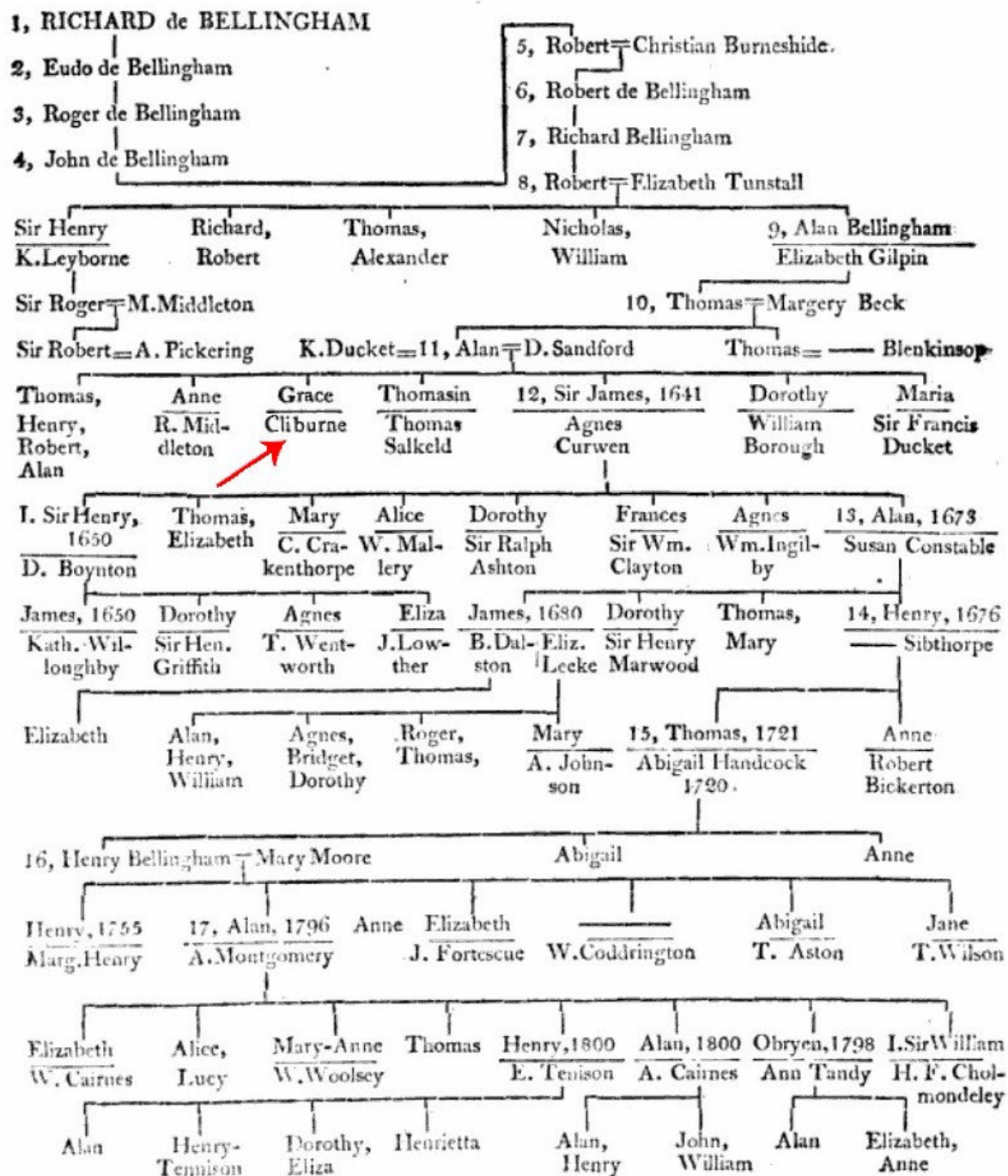


Helsington Manor



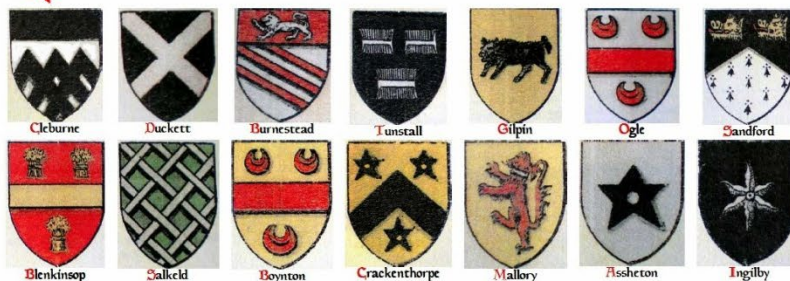
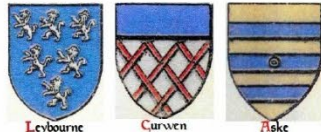
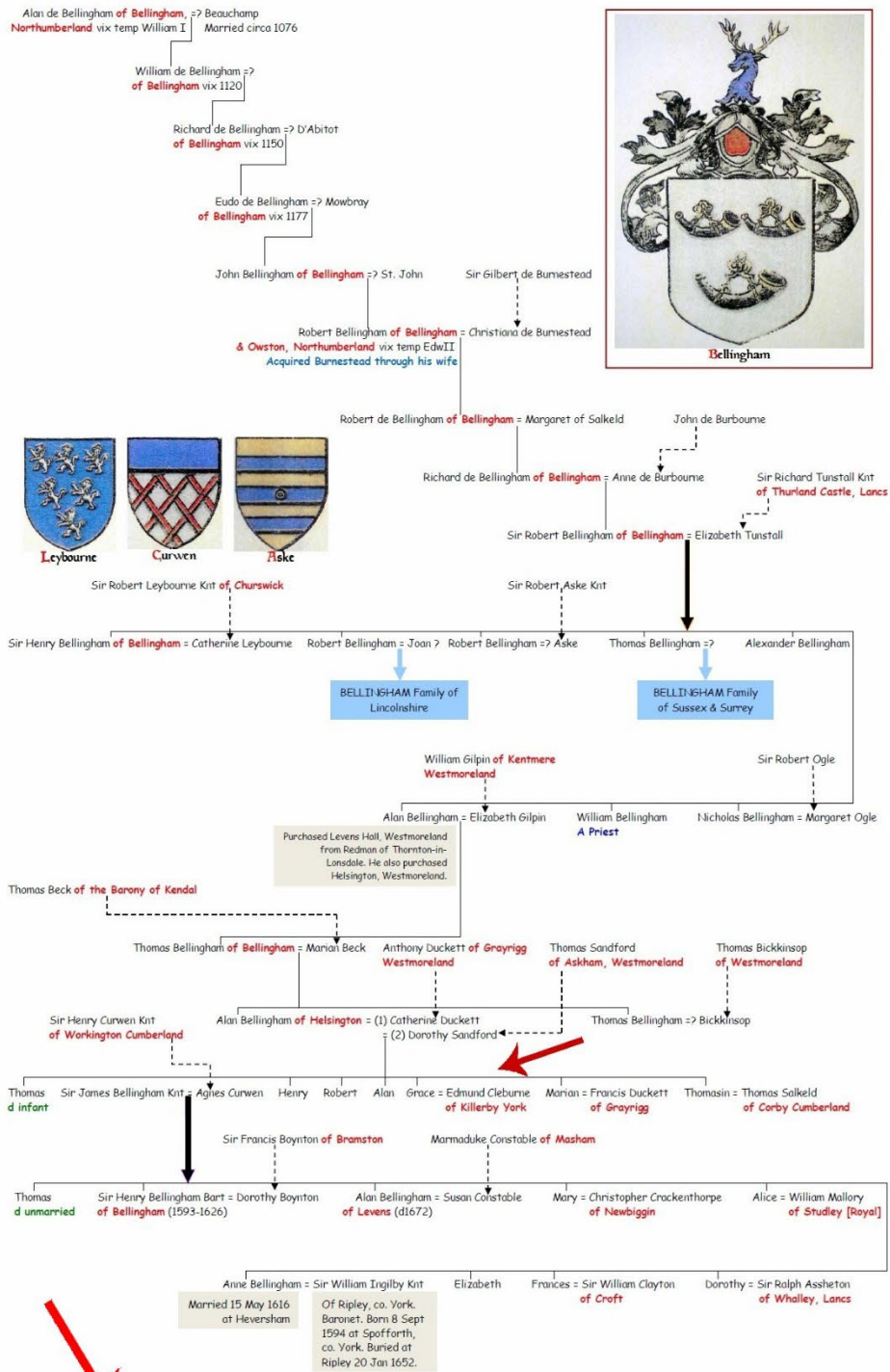
Helsington Manor

TABLE.



Taken from: Betham W. The Baronetage of England or, The History of the English Baronets: Genealogical Tables and Engravings of Their Armorial Bearings. Vol. IV. 1804. London. Printed by Warde and Betham, Furnival's Inn Court, Holborn.

# PEDIGREE OF BELLINGHAM OF LEVENS AND HELSINGTON



### Descendants of William de Bellingham

1 William de Bellingham born circa 1260 in Northumberland. Sheriff of Tynedale in 1279 and Forester to ....King Alexander **III** (1241-86) of Scotland.

Married [unknown spouse]

...2 Richard de Bellingham

Married Margaret de Burnside, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert de Burnside

.....3 Robert Bellingham

Married Anne Barburne, daughter of John De Barbourne

.....4 Robert Bellingham born in Kendal, Westmorland, died 12 Mar 1476

Married Elizabeth Tunstall, daughter of Sir Richard Tunstall of Thurland Castle, Lancashire

.....5 Alan Bellingham

Married Elizabeth Gilpin, daughter of William Gilpin of Kentmere

.....6 Thomas Bellingham born circa 1477 in Levens Hall, Westmorland

Married Marion Beck, daughter of Thomas Beck of Holbrink

.....7 Alan Bellingham born 1517. Buried in the chancel of Kendal Church.

Married Dorothy Sandford, daughter of Thomas Sandford of Askham

.....8 **Grace Bellingham born 1558 in Levens Hall, Westmorland, died 1594 and was buried in Catterick, Church of St. Anne, where she is commemorated by a memorial brass.**

**In 1576 married Edmund Cleborne, born circa 1558 in Cliburn Hall, Cliburn, Westmorland,**

**died circa 1590 in Killerby, Yorkshire.** After Edmund died, Grace married Sir Gerard Lowther of Lowtherstown, Fermanagh County, Ireland, brother of Frances Lowther and son of

Sir Richard Lowther, Sheriff of Cumberland, Commissioner between England and Scotland, and Custodian in 1568 of Mary, Queen of Scots. Gerard was one of the Justices of the Court of

Common Pleas in Ireland, who became Lord Chief Justice and then Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

.....9 Thomas Cleborne born 1580 in Cliburn Hall, Cliburn, Westmorland, died 16 Feb 1640.

Married in 1594 Frances Lowther, daughter of Sir Richard Lowther.

### Descendants of Adam le Franceys

1. Adam le Franceys

...2 Hugh Franceys Married Johanna de Veteripont / Vipont

.....3 Adam le Franceys

.....4 Gilbert le Franceys, of Foremark, Derbyshire Married Hawys de Vernon

.....5 Richard le Franceys Took his mother's de Vernon surname and married Isabel de Harcla

.....3 Robert le Franceys de Cliburn Married in 1235 Elizabeth De Tailbois

.....4 John le Franceys de Cliburn

.....5 Robert le Frances de Cliburn Married Alice de Quitlaw (aka Whitley)

.....6 John le Franceys de Cliburn Married in 1317 Beatrice le Boteler

.....7 Robert Le Franceys de Cliburn

.....8 John le Franceys de Cliburn Married Margaret de Bolton

.....9 Robert de Cliburn Married in 1362 Margaret de Cundale

.....10 John de Cleburne Married in 1392 Margaret de Salkeld

.....11 Roland Cleburne Married Katherine Lancaster of Howgill Castle

.....12 John Cleburne Married in 1468 Elizabeth Curwen of Workington Hall

.....13 Thomas Cliburne Married Joan Johanna Sandford of Askham

.....14 Robert Cleburne Married in 1505 Emma Kirkbride

.....15 Edmund Cleburne Married circa 1525 Elinor Layton of Dalmain

.....16 Richard Cleburne Married Eleanor Lancaster of Sockbridge and Barton

.....17 **Edmund Cleburne Married Grace Bellingham of Levens and Helsington**

.....17 Gerald Cleburne

.....17 Jane Cleburne

.....17 Agnes Cleburne Married Humphry Wharton of Gilling, Yorkshire

.....17 Eleanor Cleburne Married William Warkman

.....17 Barbara Cleburne Married Thomas Banks of Whixley, Yorkshire.

.....17 Ann Cleburne

.....17 Emma Cleburne

Alan Bellingham's tomb in the Bellingham Chapel in Holy Trinity Church, Kendal has the epitaph:

"Here lyeth the bodye of Alan Bellingh'm, Esquire, who married Catheryan, daughter of Anthonye Ducket, Esquier by whome he had no Children after whose decease he married Dorotheie daughter of Thomas Sanford Esquier of whom he had six sonnes & eight daughters, of which 5 sonnes & 7 daughters with ye said Dorotheie are yet living. He was three score & one year of age and died the 7th of May, 1577."



The carved Bellingham coat of arms shown here can be found in Holy Trinity Church, Kendal, in the Bellingham Chapel, at the north east end of the church.

#### References:

- The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1558-1603: "Bellingham, Alan (c.1517-78), of Helsington, Westmorland." Editor: P.W. Hasler. 1981. <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bellingham-alan-1517-78>
- Curwen JF. Historical Description of Levens Hall. Being a Paper Prepared for the Visit of the Royal Archaeological Society of Great Britian and Ireland, on the Twenty-First Day of July 1898. Kendal. 1898. Printed and Published by T. Wilson, 28, Highgate.
- O'Hart, J. "Irish Pedigrees or, The Origin and Stem of The Irish Nation: Cleborne." Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1892. Dublin.
- Kingsley N. Landed Families of Britain and Ireland: Bellingham of Levens and Castle Bellingham, Baronets. 2023.
- Betham W. The Baronetage of England or, The History of the English Baronets: Genealogical Tables and Engravings of Their Armorial Bearings. Vol. IV. 1804. London. Printed by Warde and Betham, Furnival's Inn Court, Holborn.
- Boumphrey RS and Bagot A. The Heraldry at Levens Hall Westmorland. Transactions of Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. 1972. Series 2 Volume 72: 205-215.
- Weston GF. Levens Hall Westmorland. The Archaeological Journal. The Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. The Early and Middle Ages. Volume XXVI. 1754. London.
- Forbes, Sue Cliborn. "Ancestral Lines of Cliburn Westmorland". 2007.
- Bissell, Lolita Hannah. "Cliborn-Claiborne Records." 1986. Nashville.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send updated contact information to our Registrar Douglas Edgmon, or include it with your dues payment:

Douglas L. Edgmon  
P.O. Box 905 Waldport, OR 97394  
dledgmon@peak.org

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. To continue to receive newsletters, please send your check payable to "The Claiborne Society" to our Treasurer:

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

Name .....

(Optional) Claiborne Line/Ancestor.....

Street Address.....

City ..... State ..... Zipcode .....

Telephone .....

E-Mail: .....

Check one:	Cost	AMOUNT ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> 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  
P.O. Box 905  
Waldport, OR 97394



## *Claiborne Society Newsletter*

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants

