

# Claiborne Clippings

National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Reunion – Charleston, South Carolina 2015

**15<sup>TH</sup> Reunion**  
**November 5- 8, 2015**  
**The Mills House Hotel**  
**Charleston, South Carolina**  
**Reunion Theme: Antebellum Charleston**  
From Corinne Middleton, Secretary

**Thursday, November 5, 2015**

We gathered in the Best Friends Parlor to welcome the arriving members. Each member and guest was presented with a booklet showing the schedule of events, a name tag, and a gift bag. The gift bags contained a unique laminated “ornament” of a family tree (crafted by Susan), a bag of rice grown in South Carolina, a small bag of tea grown in Charleston, a map of the city, and other small goodies. Delicious hors-d’oeuvres were served. The evening was free to explore the great restaurants of the city.

**Friday, November 6, 2015**

We boarded two vans for a “Charleston Tea Party Private Tour” Our guides were Mrs. Laura Hipp and June McKnight. Beautifully attired in lovely dresses and garden hats, they set the stage for a truly memorable tour. We began at the Palmer Home on the East Battery, where a lovely buffet “southern” breakfast was served. There were great views of the harbor. The Palmer House was built in 1848 by John Ravenel, and currently operates as a bed & breakfast. Laura’s knowledge and love of her city soon became apparent. Through quotes from John C. Calhoun to R.F.W. Alston to Mary Boykin Chestnut, she told the story of Charleston and the spirit and resilience of its inhabitants.

We toured the gardens of the Heyward-Washington House on Church Street. This Georgian-style home was built in

1772. It was the town home of Thomas Heyward, Jr., one of the four South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence. In May, 1791, the home hosted George Washington when he visited South Carolina. We then went to a restored 18th Century home on Church Street.

We admired the Greek Revival style First Baptist Church. This church was organized in 1682 in Kittery, Maine. Late in 1696, Pastor William Screven and 28 members of his congregation arrived in Charleston. Completed in 1833, the present sanctuary was constructed in the Greek Revival style by the first American-born architect, Robert Mills. The missionary efforts of Pastor Oliver Hart and later Pastor Robert Furman culminated in 1826 with the founding of Furman University. We next visited a “restoration in progress” of a home on Church Street.

One of the highlights of the tour was the visit to Dr. Wilson’s house on Limehouse Street. Dr. Wilson had delivered our tour guide, Laura, and he was a personal friend who shared her passion for history. The home was built in the 1850’s on an extra-large lot in the “late” Greek Revival style. There was an interesting structure on the property that was once a boathouse. It has now been converted to a rental apartment.

Inside the home, we admired the intricate “circle” moldings and the exquisite “better than museum-quality” furnishings. A Charleston long case clock, bookcases, and Thomas Sully painting were just a few items of the interior furnishings that were truly spectacular. There were three lovely very large chandeliers in the home. Laura explained that Dr. Wilson had found the “lights” (the individual crystals) in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, and had assembled these grand fixtures himself!

Then it was on to Laura’s personal home for lunch and tea. Everything was served on her beautiful collection of Canton china with her beautiful silver. The okra soup from an old family recipe, served over rice grown in South Carolina, followed by tea sandwiches and a meringue raspberry and blueberry cream dessert made for quite a delicious lunch. As per Laura, no iPhones were allowed on the table. We were then returned to the hotel, and the afternoon was free to explore (or nap).

On a personal note, it was really an honor to have gone on this tour. Laura and June made us feel like family. Their enthusiasm for the city of Charleston is very real, and is the spirit of the city itself. There were rave reviews from everyone about this experience.

An optional excursion was a visit to the New Exchange and Customs House. This building is located at the end of Broad Street on the Battery. It was built 1768-1771 by the British Colonial Government. It is a striking example of Georgian Palladian architecture. It was built to house the office of the King’s Customs collector as well as for public meetings and

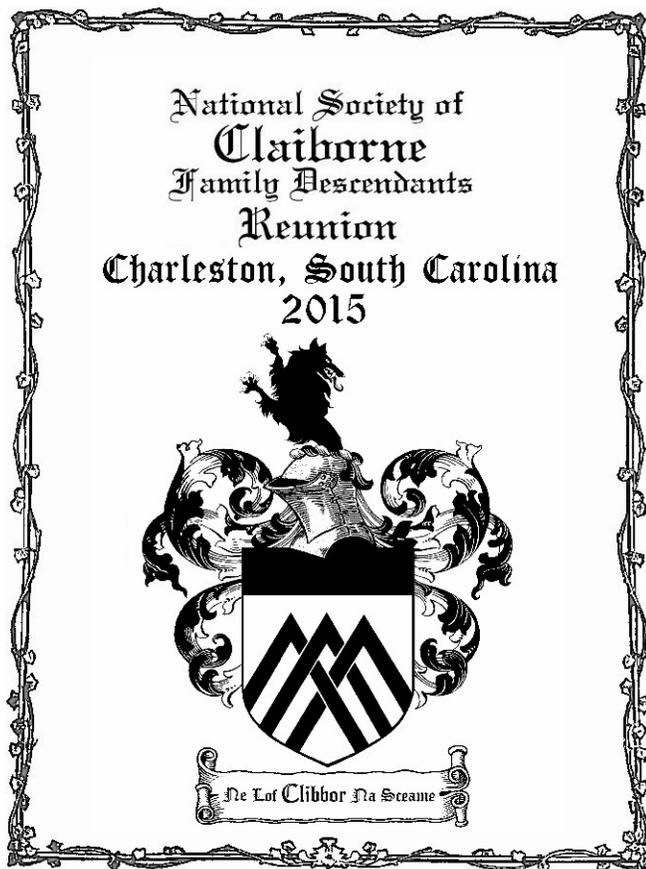
**OFFICERS 2015 - 2017**

President	Susan W.H. Rura
Vice President	Bill Bissell
Secretary	Beverly Davis
Treasurer	Clai Bachmann
Registrar	Frank Rura
	<b>Standing Committees</b>
Reunion	Bill Bissell
Research	Dr. Alex Waldrop
Archives	Vera “Curly” Moore
Publications	Patricia Clayborn
Webmaster	Dan Boylin

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

entertainment. Of special interest was the guided tour of the "dungeon," downstairs in the cellar. It was mostly used to store goods waiting to be shipped or delivered (once the required tariffs were paid).

During the Revolutionary War, when Charleston fell to the British in 1780, American patriots were arrested and placed there, awaiting transport far away from Charleston. Arthur Middleton and John Rutledge, both signers of the declaration of Independence, were detained there before being shipped to St. Augustine. The dungeon also housed pirates. After the Revolutionary War, Charleston honored George Washington there with a grand ball in 1791. The main halls today houses collections from the DAR and Colonial Dames. Friday evening was free to discover and enjoy the fine Charleston restaurants.



## **Saturday, November 7, 2015/ Lynch Room**

### **Business Meeting.**

Officers present: Will Claiborne, Past President, Susan Rura, Vice-President and Reunion Chair, Diane "Dede" Clements, Treasurer, Corinne Middleton, Secretary.

Susan welcomed the group and Will Claiborne, acting President, called the meeting to order. A short invocation was followed by the minutes of the 2013 Richmond Reunion, which were submitted and approved. Dede submitted the Treasurer's report. As of September 30, the account has \$15,600. There are two CD's valued at \$16,000 each. Dede

expects that the account will have about \$9,000 after Reunion expenses. Archives report was given by Susan Rura for Curly Moore, who was absent. She stated that Curly wonderfully organized the Archives into notebooks/ scrapbooks according to Reunion date and location. Two notebooks were on display.

The next order of business, presided over by Will, was the location of the 2017 Reunion. Sites discussed were: Nashville, Virginia (Chesapeake Bay area), New Orleans, and Chicago. It was recognized that every 4 years we usually return to Virginia, but a strong officer candidate was willing to sponsor the next Reunion. By unanimous approval, Nashville, Tennessee will be the location of the 2017 Claiborne Reunion. There was a short break.

The next order of business was nomination of officers for 2015-2017. Nominated were: Susan Rura, President, Bill Bissell, Vice-President and 2017 Reunion Chair, Beverly Davis, Secretary, Clai Bachmann, Treasurer. The above were elected by acclamation. Further officers: Registrar will be Frank Rura. It is hoped that Curly Moore will be persuaded to continue to serve as Archives Chairman.

Susan Rura, newly elected president, gave remarks. She declared her focus will be on digitization of the Claiborne archives, which represent the history of our present Claiborne Society. Additionally she will seek to determine the feasibility of publishing Anne Overcash's genealogical work. There followed an open discussion of projects and the issue of communication with each other. Dede suggested making the web site more attractive to young people. Will Claiborne has just created a Facebook Page and encourages everyone who wishes to join. He feels that this will bring the group more profile. Do we want to spend money to update the website? Privacy issues were discussed. The new officers will take this input under advisement at the Board meeting tomorrow.

There was a short break while our upcoming speaker set up her computer and projector. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments were served. Katie Gray, a certified Archivist from the Charleston County Public Library, gave a very interesting presentation on how to digitize and preserve photos, including how to prepare the materials, scanning terminology, choosing scanner settings, scanning and saving, and editing images. She then discussed how to preserve the digital materials and the physical photos. She also gave helpful tips on how best to label the photos and store them once scanned.

Susan Rura hoped Katie Gray's lecture on digitization and preserving photos would provide insight into the digitization process the Society will be undertaking. She also wants to spur each of us to pull an old family photo from the shoebox with a family story and submit it to the Newsletter.

Next on the agenda was "Know your Cousin" where Susan called upon each member to give an account of how they came to be a member of the Claiborne Society:

Dede: "I learned about the Claiborne Society from my mother, Rosalind Claiborne Clements (b. Knoxville, TN). She helped Lolita Bissell with some of her research, and always thought we were descendants of Wm. Claiborne (King's

Lynn). However, my cousin, Charles Edward Claiborne, III had his DNA tested, and we are descended from Family2, John of Dale Parish & Westmoreland I ancestry. I joined in 2011, and travelled with my cousins to Cliburn in Cumbria."

Clai: "I was an only child and was always interested in genealogy. I found my ancestor to be John of Dale Parish."

Deb Peabody: "I was investigating my great grandmother, Anna Claiborne's college records from Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute. The records were stored at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. I was given the telephone number of Ed Ayers as a "cousin." Ed, Alan, and I met at a coffee shop. On our next trip, Ed introduced us to Curly Moore and Clai Bachmann. We went to our first reunion in Washington, DC. New relatives are fun to meet!"

Susan: "Frank and I were living and working in England in 1982, had a few days off, and were driving to Scotland. On the way, we went to Cliburn, Cumbria, seeing Cliburn Hall and signing the parish register at St. Cuthbert's Church. A few years later, I was contacted and attended the first Claiborne Reunion in 1988. I have attended every stateside Reunion since."

Deb Lugone: "I lived in England with my parents. Whenever I had a break from school studies, we would roam around the English countryside visiting quaint villages, Roman ruins, and medieval churches. I remember we traveled to the small village of Cliburn, Cumbria, visited the local church, and my mother and I signed our names in the church guest registry. As I grow older, I am more interested in family history. The November 2015 Reunion was my first Claiborne Society event. It was a wonderful experience, meeting cousins, learning about William Claiborne, Charleston history, genealogical research and preservation techniques. I am looking forward to meeting again in Nashville."

Alex: "I had an 1810 Bible from Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne with invaluable records, which sparked my interest in further researching my genealogy. I was an early customer of Family Tree DNA."

Linda: "I was searching for my ancestors because no one would talk about a "non-paternal" event. This led me to discover my ancestor, William Claiborne through DNA. I have also discovered my Aunt, Neoma "Mae" Damron, who is also present at this meeting. I had a wonderful time in Charleston. I learned about the society from my aunt, Mae Clayborn Damron. That is how I found out about the DNA project, etc., which led to the proof that my brother and I are part of Family 1. Now, to find my way back from George Claiborne to William! I was thankful to find my cousin, Doug. It's great to have another help in the search back from Arkansas and Tennessee to the Carolinas and Virginia!"

Doug: "I heard about the Claiborne Society online. I came to this reunion from Oregon & discovered that Linda, Mae, and I are very close cousins through the migration of my family to Arkansas, (from VA through TN). I have been a member of the association for about ten years. This is the first opportunity I have had to attend a reunion during that span. It has been my great pleasure to meet not only so many new cousins, but also so many people with a common purpose. The association's DNA project has enabled me to graft my

little twig onto the Claiborne Family Tree. I am looking forward to more discoveries."

Mae Clayborn Damron: "I was looking for information on Frederick Clayborn, my great grandfather. I typed his name on the internet, and of course several Clayborn sites came up. One was the Claiborne Society web site. I opened it, and the rest is history. I enjoyed the reunion. Hope I will be able to attend the one in Tennessee."

Corinne: "I had traveled with a friend to Jamestown in 2007 for a seminar on the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the colony. I was standing in the church on the island in front of the monument to William Claiborne, and met a member of the Claiborne Society. I thought that I was destined to join!"

### **DNA Research Overview Presented by Alex Waldrop, PhD.**

Alex stated that there have been 51 donors so far with 14 family groups (from the original 4). The last donor was in 2013. There has been no information ie: donor from the line of William (the oldest son of the emigrant) to find where the family of Richard Claiborne (1755-1819) and his descendants fit. Alex suggests using Family Tree DNA and recommends a test for 67 markers, should anyone want to participate in the study. All donors are welcome.

Alex also announced that copies of Dr. Clebourne's transcribed Claiborne Family Journal are available.

There being no further business, after a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinne Middleton, Secretary

### **Saturday Evening, November 7, 2015 The Planters Suite**

We gathered in the Planters Suite for drinks and a group photo. When we were seated a delicious dinner was served. Susan Rura, President, welcomed everyone. The prayer used by Rev. Daniel Gregory Claiborne Butts on June 18, 1907 at the 300 year Jamestown reunion was read by Ruth Claiborne. (There were 3 generations of this family present at this reunion: Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Claiborne, Jr. from Atlanta, their son, William R. Claiborne, from Savannah, GA, and two of Will's four children, Thomas, age 8, and Sterling, age 6.)

Susan Rura presented the Claiborne T. Smith Award to Ms. Elizabeth Guy Richardson in recognition of her efforts in erecting the Sarah Fenn tombstone. It has been placed at St. Peter's Churchyard, West Point, VA. The award was accepted by Beverly Davis on behalf of Ms. Richardson.

The speaker for the evening was Nic (Nicolas) Butler, PhD, Historian at Charleston County Public Library. The topic of his presentation was the History of Charleston 1680-1860. For more details, he suggested visiting his web site: [CharlestonTimeMachine.org](http://CharlestonTimeMachine.org).

Charleston had a street plan in 1672. The city began at the

end of the peninsula and ended at Broad St. In 1711 the first map was printed. From 1704-1734, it was known as a "walled city" of 62 acres. The Battery was fortified in 1757 as a defense against the Spanish.

The crops of rice and indigo caused the residents of the city to become very prosperous. It quickly became a magnet for trade because of the natural harbor. Charleston quickly became a very important cultural and artistic city. It was known for its music and bustling social scene. The St. Cecilia Society was founded in 1766 as a private concert subscription society, and still sponsors a debutante ball.

In 1780, the city fell to the British, and was occupied for 2 years. Prosperity returned quickly after the Revolutionary War, even though the British no longer subsidized the indigo crop. The port of Charleston handled goods from inland as well as the rice which of course was grown on the coast.

There were periods of "boom" and "depression" from 1788-1802. "The Neck" (the area north of Calhoun Street) was annexed. Market Street (once Daniel Creek) was filled in after the Revolutionary War. At times, Market Street returns to its original creek form. Charleston became known for its buzzards, which were called "Charleston eagles."

In 1790, the invention of the cotton gin revolutionized the growing of the crop. From 1792-1807, prosperity reigned with the ratification of the US Constitution. In 1807, the embargo on British goods caused an economic depression, leading up to the War of 1812. Of course, the issue of slavery was always present. At times, the slave trade was permitted, and at other times, it was halted. In 1819, there was a panic as the price of agricultural goods plummeted.

Thus began the start of dissension which led to the War Between the States. There was (according to the South), unfair tariffs on agricultural products. Then there was the issue of States Rights vs. the Federal Government. In 1828, South Carolina threatened to secede when the "Nullification Act" was passed. There was a compromise, but it was only an unsatisfactory delay.

In 1833, Charleston had a railway to North Augusta. The railroad stopped at the city limits. The US Customs House was begun in 1853, but was not finished until 1879. There was a great fire in 1861 (before "the War"). The population of Charleston: before Revolutionary War: 14,000, 1790 census showed a population of 18,000. In 1820: 23,000, in 1860: 40,000.

After Mr. Butler's presentation, we reluctantly had to bring the evening to a close. We were left with the impression that Charleston is truly one of the most unique cities in America. We were truly impressed with the beauty of its architecture and natural setting. People actually live in this city, which has seen adversity and devastation both natural and man-made. After these events, the spirit of the Charlestonians and their love of freedom and liberty always seem to prevail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinne Middleton, Secretary

## 2015 Reunion Attendees:

1. Charles Edward Claiborne, III-Woodstock, GA
2. Diane "Dede" Clements-Nashville, TN
3. Deb Peabody-Greenville, SC
4. Dr. Alan Peabody-Greenville, SC
5. "Clai" Bachmann Ely-Williamsburg, VA
6. F. J. Ely-Williamsburg, VA
7. Susan Rura-Ellicott City, MD
8. Frank Rura-Ellicott City, MD
9. Deborah Harrod Lugone-Elkton, MD
10. Susan Penfold-Tryon, NC
11. Dr. Thomas S. Claiborne, Jr.-Atlanta, GA
12. Ruth Claiborne-Atlanta, GA
13. Douglas Edgmon-Waldport, OR
14. William R. Claiborne-Savannah, GA
15. Thomas Claiborne (age 8)-Savannah, GA
16. Sterling Claiborne (age 6)-Savannah, GA
17. Beverly Davis-Richmond, VA
18. J. E. "Causey" Davis-Richmond, VA
19. Neoma "Mae" Damron-Kansas City, KN
20. Linda King-Stuart, FL
21. Corinne Middleton-Jefferson, SC
22. Lennie Middleton-Jefferson, SC
23. Elizabeth Glazebrook-Columbia, SC
24. Gerald Maloney-Jacksonville, FL
25. Dr. Alex Waldrop-South Portland, ME

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### CONTRIBUTIONS:

Many thanks go to Corinne Middleton, and Susan and Frank Rura for their help and contributions to this edition of the Clippings. Photos were compliments of Susan and Frank Rura, Will Claibone and Tom Claiborne.

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### MESSAGE FROM JILL PRICE

Prior to the Reuion, we were delighted to receive the following good wishes from our "Pearl of Great Price," Jill Price:

From: Jill Price Sent: Tue, Oct 27, 2015  
Subject: National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants

Thank you so much for sending me the details of the Reunion. HOW I wish I could be there! The tour of Charleston sounds like a dream tour.

Talking of which, when you have your meeting to discuss future plans how about King's Lynn? I shall be still be around next year, (my 85th.). (D V)! and, hopefully, in form for a visit, assisted by the Town Guides, .....? A lot of work has been done in the town since your last visit.

Do please give everyone my very best wishes for a very happy Reunion. Long may the family thrive!!

Love to all, Jill

# Reunion Program



*The National Society of  
Claiborne Family Descendants*

**Reunion  
"Antebellum Charleston"**

*November 5-8, 2015*

*The Mills House Hotel  
115 Meeting Street  
Charleston, South Carolina*

**Reunion Committee**  
Susan Rura  
Curly Moore  
Patricia Clayborn  
Corinne Middleton  
Dede Clements  
Elizabeth Glazebrook  
Frank Rura

**Claiborne Society Officers  
2013-2015**  
President Patricia Clayborn  
Vice President Susan Williams Harrod Rura  
Secretary Corinne Middleton  
Treasurer Diane Claiborne Clements  
Registrar Ann Richardson Starr  
Archivist Vera "Curly" Moore  
Research Dr. Alex W. Waldrop  
Publications Patricia Clayborn



**Thursday, November 5th, 2015**

**3:00 pm to 6:00 pm Best Friend Parlor**  
(front door, room at right)  
Arrival, Check-in, & Registration.  
Pick up booklet, gift bag, and name tag.  
Archives on exhibit.

**Hospitality:**  
*Vegetable Crudités with Ranch Dipping Sauce*  
*Chilled Canapes:*  
*Low Country Crab Crostini*  
*Smoked Salmon Cornucopia*  
*Beef Tenderloin Crostini*  
*With Onion Confit & Bleu Cheese*

**6:00 pm Dinner on your own.** Opportunity to renew friendships at a superb Charleston restaurant.

**7-10 pm Best Friend Parlor.**  
Gather for socializing and exchange of family news and genealogy information.

**Friday, November 6th, 2015**

**8:45 am Meet at front door of Mills House to board vans.** Guides: Mrs. Laura W. Hipp & June McKnight.

**9:00 am - 1:30 pm "Charleston Tea Party Private Tour"**  
B&B on East Battery - a southern breakfast buffet on the upper balcony.  
Heywood-Washington house on Church Street  
Restored 18th century home on Church Street  
Dr. Wilson's Limehouse home - inspired Historic Charleston reproduction furniture  
A garden on lower King Street

**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Tea/Light lunch on Tradd Street.**

**2:30 pm Board Van.** Return to Mills House hotel. Or continue to optional tour of Old Exchange Building.



**2:45 pm Old Exchange Building & Provost Dungeon,**  
East Bay & Broad Streets.

- + last structure built (1771) by British in Charleston
- + built on original seawall fort (1698)
- + George Washington ate and danced here
- + one of three most historic colonial buildings in U.S.
- + site of Constitution ratification
- + owned by Daughters of the American Revolution

**3:45 pm Return by walking to Mills House (5 blocks).**  
Or linger on East Bay Street at a fine restaurant.

**Dinner on your own . . .**



Charleston in 1760  
Attributed to South Carolina Historical Society



Charleston in 1855 was a prosperous city of 43,000 noted for its people's "refinement, intelligence and hospitality" and the "airy, Oriental appearance" of its houses. Behind the park is South Battery, at right toward the wharves in East Battery.

**Saturday, November 7th, 2015**

**9:00 am Business meeting Lynch Room**  
Call to Order by former President Will Claiborne  
Invocation  
Welcome by VP Susan Rura  
Reports  
Minutes of last Reunion by Sec. Corinne Middleton  
Treasurer's report by Diane Claiborne Clements  
Archives' report by Curly Moore

**Officer Nominations**  
Committee recommendations & discussion by former President Will Claiborne  
Election & Remarks by new President  
New Business & next Reunion Location

**Presentations**  
+ Genealogical Research, DNA by Dr. Alex Waldrop  
+ "Digitizing and Preserving Photos" by Katie Gray, Archivist, Charleston County Public Library  
+ "Know your Cousin", members speak  
+ Open Forum....questions, genealogy, other

**Benediction  
Adjournment**

**11 a.m. Hors d'oeuvres.**

**The Mills House Hotel, the Lynch room.**  
*Citrus Dill Shrimp Crostini*  
*Lobster Salad with spicy Mango Chutney*  
*Thin-sliced Sirloin & Pimento Cheese Sandwiches*

**1:30-4:30 pm Afternoon free.**  
Explore Charleston. Engage in genealogy. Share family history with cousins.

**Saturday evening, November 7th, 2015**



Nicholas Butler  
Banquet Speaker

- Historian, *Charleston Time Machine*, Charleston County Public Library
- Former Archivist at South Carolina Historical Society.
- Head of mayor's Walled City Task Force.
- Author, **VOTARIES OF APOLLO**, about the history of music in Charleston
- U of South Carolina, music major
- Indiana University Ph.D.

**Saturday evening, November 7th, 2015**

**6:00 pm to 9:00 pm The Planters Suite**  
Drinks, Banquet, & Speaker

**6:30 pm Group Photo**

**Welcome Invocation**

**7 pm Dinner at The Mills House**  
*Mills House Garden Salad*  
*Artisan mixed greens, Cherry tomatoes, Olives, Cucumbers, Parmesan, Cheddar, with Balsamic Vinaigrette*  
*Beef & Crab Cake*  
*Petit filet of Beef with Merlot demi-glace paired with a seared Crab Cake topped with Citrus Beurre Blanc*  
*Dessert*  
*Raspberry Crème Brûlée*

**Presentation Claiborne T. Smith Award**  
by Susan W. H. Rura

**Introduction of Speaker** by Susan W.H. Rura

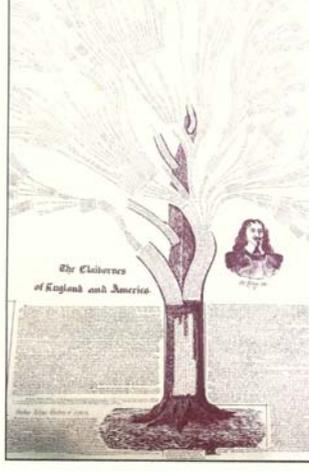
**Speaker** **Nicholas Butler Ph. D.**  
Historian, Charleston Archive  
Charleston County Public Library  
**"Antebellum Charleston"**



THOMAS CURDNER, OF ELDON HALL, WESTMORELAND, AND KILLBUCK, YORK

From a portrait by J. M. W. Turner, 1804. Original held by the British government, the Earl of Leicester.

From the book "William Claiborne of Virginia, With Some Account of His Pedigree" By John Herbert Claiborne, III, FACS, 1917



**The Claibornes  
of England and America**

**Friday, November 6, 2015**

*Charleston Tea Party Private Tour*



**On East Battery Street**

Left to right: Dede Clements, June (tour guide), Elizabeth Glazebrook, Linda King, Deb Peabody, Susan Rura, two tourists



**Palmer Home, East Battery**

Left to right: Neoma Mae Damron, Deb Lugone, Corinne Middleton, Lennie Middleton, Gerry Maloney, Alex Waldrop, Frank Rura, Clai Bachmann Ely



**Palmer Home, East Battery**

Left to right: Laura (tour guide), Alex Waldrop, June (tour guide), Deb Peabody



**Palmer Home, East Battery**

Left to right: Lennie Middleton, Corinne Middleton, Deb Lugone, Linda King, Frank Rura, Charles E. Claiborne, Neoma Mae Damron, Susan Penfold, Causey Davis



**Palmer Home, East Battery**

Left to right: Deb Peabody, Susan Penfold



**Garden near East Battery**

Left to right: Corinne Middleton, Lennie Middleton, Gerry Maloney, Causey Davis, June (tour guide)



**Garden Restoration**

Left to right: Causey Davis, Gerry Maloney, Lennie Middleton, Corinne Middleton, Susan Penfold, Laura (tour guide), Deb Lugone



**Visiting a Garden**

Left to right: Bev Davis, Linda King, Dede Clements, Clai Bachmann Ely, Deb Penfold, June (tour guide), Charles E. Claiborne, Susan Penfold, Causey Davis



**Garden Restoration**

Left to right: A worker, Causey Davis, Linda King, Lennie Middleton, Corinne Middleton, Gerry Maloney, Susan Rura, Charles E. Claiborne, Susan Penfold, Bev Davis, Laura (tour guide), Elizabeth Glazebrook, Deb Lugone, Clai Bachmann Ely, Alex Waldrop.



**First Baptist Church, Church Street**

Left to right: Clai Bachmann Ely, Frank Rura, Bev Davis, Gerry Maloney, Alex Waldrop, Elizabeth Glazebrook, Corinne Middleton, Charles E. Claiborne



**The Doctor's House**



**In the Parlor**

Left to right: Charles E. Claiborne, Causey Davis, Lennie Middleton, Laura (tour guide), June (tour guide), Susan Penfold, Deb Lugone, Elizabeth Glazebrook



**The Garden**

Left to right: Causey Davis, Gerry Maloney, Charles E. Claiborne, Dede Clements, Corinne Middleton, Clai Bachmann Ely, Deb Peabody, Linda King, Neoma Mae Damron, F.J. Ely



**On the Veranda**

Left to right: Susan Penfold, Deb Peabody, Linda King, Gerry Maloney, Frank Rura, Corinne Middleton, Lennie Middleton, Laura (tour guide), Bev Davis



**On the Veranda**

Left to right: Charles E. Claiborne, Dr. Alan Peabody



**Period Furniture**



**Tea-Time in Charleston on Tradd Street**

**Saturday, November 7, 2015 Lynch Room**

*Business Meeting*



**Business Meeting**  
Causey & Bev Davis



**Business Meeting**  
Left to right: Susan Penfold, Charles E. Claiborne, Dede Clements



**Business Meeting**  
Left to right: Corinne & Lennie Middleton, Doug Edgmon



**Business Meeting**  
Susan Rura, president

**Saturday Evening, November 7, 2015**

*The Planters Suite*



**The Mills House Hotel, Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina**

Left to right: Doug Edgmon, Clai Bachmann Ely, Alex Waldrop, Causey Davis, Dede Clements, F.J. Ely, Deb Peabody, Susan Pengold, Susan Rura, Gerry Maloney, Corinne Middleton, Lennie Middleton, Thomas Claiborne, Deb Lugone, Charles E. Claiborne, Linda King, Sterling Claiborne, Neoma Mae Damron, Elizabeth Glazebrook, Bev Davis, Will Claiborne, Dr. Tom Claiborne, Ruth Claiborne

## Claiborne T. Smith Award

Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr. was a beloved member of our Claiborne Clan who collaborated with John Fredrick Dorman to publish the book Claiborne of Virginia: Colonel William Claiborne and His Descendants, The First Eight Generations. The Clan has honored his memory by naming its award after him, and presenting the award at each reunion. Elizabeth Guy Richardson is the recipient of the 2015 Claiborne T. Smith Award. What follows is the text of the presentation speech by Susan Rura at the Reunion:

The Claiborne Society  
November 7, 2015  
Charleston, South Carolina

The Claiborne Society was confronted with a challenge. The tombstone of Sarah Fenn, wife of Thomas Claiborne, son of William Claiborne, the first to Virginia, lay on the ground in a farmer's field. The farmer and then his son would not allow it to be moved. A touchstone with genealogical documentation was thus made unavailable to those Claibornes who wanted to more fully know their ancestry in the New World.

The Claiborne Society decided to erect a new tombstone with full documentation and place it in a visible and appropriate location. Elizabeth Richardson, spearheaded this project. Money was raised. Discussions were held to choose an appropriate stone and the words that would convey as much accurate genealogical information as possible.

Elizabeth, acting as liaison for the Claiborne Society, completed the procurement and implemented the erection of the Sarah Fenn tombstone, at St. Peter's Episcopal church in New Kent County, Virginia. It reads as:

IN MEMORY OF  
LT COL THOMAS CLAIBORNE  
AUGUST 17 1647 TO OCTOBER 7 1683  
SON OF IMMIGRANT WILLIAM CLAIBORNE  
BURIED ROMANCOKE  
KING WILLIAM COUNTY  
MOVED TO HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY  
RICHMOND 1926  
AND  
SARAH FENN  
MARCH 22 1660 TO OCTOBER 18 1716  
WIFE OF LT COL THOMAS CLAIBORNE  
BURIED BRICKHOUSE NEW KENT COUNTY  
MARRIED 2<sup>ND</sup> TO CAPT THOMAS BRAY

ERECTED BY  
THE CLAIBORNE SOCIETY 2009

For undertaking and completing this project, the Claiborne Society gratefully presents the Claiborne Smith Special Recognition Award to Elizabeth Guy Richardson.

SWAR

CLAIBORNE CLAN FACEBOOK PAGE

Thanks to Will Claiborne for creation of our Claiborne Clan Facebook page. You may view the page at the following site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/165839180432914/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/165839180432914/>

National Society Of Claiborne Family Descendents



National Society Of Claiborne Fam..  
Public Group

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MEMBERS 22 Members



DESCRIPTION  
The purpose of the society is to provide leadership in assemblin... See More

GROUP TYPE  
Family

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PINNED POST

**William Claiborne** updated the description. November 7, 2015

Official group for the Claiborne Family. Since 1988, the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants has held biennial reunions.

1 Comment

Like

RECENT ACTIVITY

**William Claiborne** November 7, 2015

Nic Butler of the Charleston Public Library lecturing on the history of Charleston, SC.



Like Share

3 people like this. Seen by 10



**Business Meeting**  
Dr. Alex Waldrop

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**2016 ANNUAL DUES**

Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. The Annual Dues for the Claiborne Society are \$10. In addition, a lifetime membership is available for \$200 for current members. Plans are under way for our 2017 Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. To continue to receive newsletters and reunion mailings, please send your check in the amount of \$10 payable to The Claiborne Society to our Treasurer:

Clai Bachmann  
137 William Richmond  
Williamsburg, VA, 23185

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**MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please send updated contact information to our Registrar:

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

Registrar  
3052 Rogers Ave.  
Ellicott City, MD, 21043

