



# Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Volume 13

October 2008

## Reunion 2009 Takes Shape

By Clai Bachmann, Vice President

Your Reunion Committee met this October at the home of Clai Bachmann to work further on plans for our upcoming reunion. Present were Susan and Frank Rura, Tom and Betty Sale, Elizabeth Guy Richardson, Beverly Davis, Curly Moore and Mary Ann Gilman.

To be held June 18-21, 2009 this reunion promises to include more information on Claibornes and Cliborns, an opportunity to visit Mt. Vernon, home of our first President, and all of the many attractions in our nations capitol.

All of this will be hosted at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel located a few blocks north of The White House. Located next to McPherson Park, all of Washington is easily reached by the metro located less than a block from the hotel. Close by are restaurants of all kinds, shops, and museums in a safe, neighborhood community atmosphere.

Registration will be held on Thursday the 18th and committee members will make you welcome and make you aware of all activities and possibilities available during our Reunion Weekend. Make your reservations early to be sure of locking in for your self and your family the special group rate available.

## Reunion Focus On Revolution Era Has Lessons for Today

By Clai Bachmann, Vice President

The recent economic and political events trumpeted by our news organizations, though dire, pale in terms of what Claiborne and Cliborn ancestors have survived during our long history in this country. During the revolutionary period and just after there were no banks or common currency. Most of the founding fathers lost much or all of their wealth, their health and some, their lives. Some though were able to capitalize on new opportunities so that their families could continue on in the centuries since.

Our ancestors who lived through those uncertain times undoubtedly made sacrifices, but obviously were able to capitalize on the new opportunities as well.

By focusing on the revolution and the period immediately following one can see that our situation today is very survivable. Though our banks are not looking too good at present, they look a lot better now than they did then. There was, in fact, great debate as to whether or not we should even have a National Bank or banking system. Mr. Jefferson was very dubious, and had it not been for Alexander Hamilton we might not have developed the basis upon which our industrial economy, was built and established the new United States as a solvent and responsible nation in the early 19th Century.

Because of our history, we realize that we often

## Officers 2007-2009

William Claiborne.....President  
Clai Bachmann.....Vice President  
Susan Rura.....Secretary  
Charles William Bissell.....Registrar  
Mary Ann Gilman.....Treasurer

## Standing Committees

Clai Bachmann.....Reunion  
Alex Waldrop.....Research  
Curly Moore.....Archivist  
Dan Boylin.....Publications

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

have to make sacrifices to make our selves, our families and our nation better. What better way to bring this to the fore in this challenging time, than to gather to consider the sacrifices made by our families in the American Saga. Bring your children and grandchildren in June so that they may better understand that they are the latest link of a proudly continuing chain.

### **Claibornes and Cliborns in the Revolution**

By Clai Bachmann, Vice President

Get ready for an experience of Claiborne's and Cliborn's in the Revolution at our 2009 Reunion this June in Washington, D.C. What was your ancestor's role during this pivotal period in our country's history? Our families had already been here for over 150 years, but in that time of crisis these forbearers were called upon to sacrifice for freedoms that were threatened.

All sorts of roles were embraced by these patriots, from suppliers to Officers in the struggle. Ed Ayers, Historian with the Jamestown and Yorktown Foundation will lay out the various roles played and based upon our information, identify how and where Claibornes and Cliborns served.

Many of you have kindly sent me the name and some information about your ancestor. If you happen to know their rank or role, where they served, and under whom, and have not provided this information already, please send it to Ed Ayers at 937 Pheasants Run, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

### **Claiborne's to Visit Mt. Vernon**

By Clai Bachmann, Vice President

The Claiborne Reunion's featured tour of Mt. Vernon will provide members a new and revitalized look at this historic plantation. Home of George and Martha Washington from the time of their marriage in 1759 until the time of his death in 1799, Mt. Vernon was expanded from 2,000 to 8,000 acres. The mansion expanded from 6 to 21 rooms.

The Mount Vernon Ladies Association purchased the mansion from the Washington Family in 1858. Members of our Reunion Committee, due to their

acquaintance with the current leader of the Ladies Committee, are making it possible for us to have a special guide and tour of this beautifully restored landmark.

In addition to a tour of the mansion house and gardens, we will be able to explore the out buildings and the George Washington Pioneer Farmer site, a four-acre working farm that includes a re-creation of Washington's sixteen sided treading barn.

A new feature at the site is the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center and the Ford Orientation Center. These feature more than 700 artifacts, hands-on exhibits, original movies and a high-tech immersion experience that further illuminate George Washington's life and times.

### **King's Lynn Mini Reunion**

By Beverley Davis

May 16-18, 2008 my husband, Causey, and I went to see Jill Price, the Claiborne Society's great English connection, in King's Lynn, England to learn more about William Claiborne's ancestors. She met us at the Town Hall and showed us the portrait of William Claiborne donated several years ago by the Claiborne Society. She has been a Town Guide for many years, and has the ability to bring history to life, not often done by others when talking about people and places four and five hundred years ago!



*Picture of William Claiborne.*

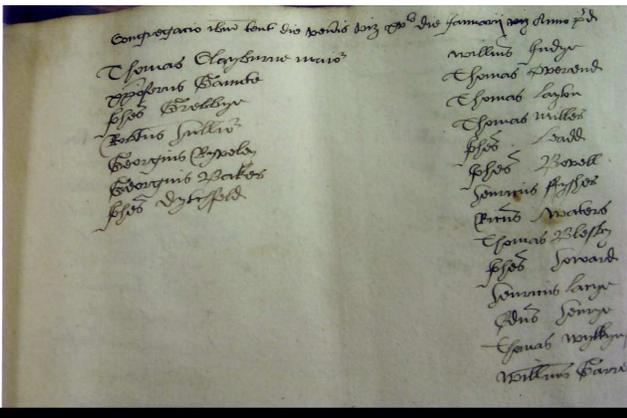
We saw the list of Mayors of King's Lynn, and found the names of Thomas Clabourne in 1573 and Thomas Clabourne in 1592, the father and grandfather of William Claiborne. Jill simply referred

to them as Thomas 1 and Thomas 11.



*Mayors of King's Lynn.*

Susan Maddock, a King's Lynn Archivist, had pulled several ledgers from the Archives containing minutes of the Council meetings when Thomas 1 and Thomas 11 were in office. It was difficult to decipher much of the Clerks' writing, but we could read their names as attending meetings. Their names were spelled Clayborne and Clabourne at different times.



*Picture of William Claiborne's signature.*

Being in that room, with those ancient leather books, and hearing Jill and Susan discussing those men they know so much about, was like being in a time capsule. It was a truly extraordinary experience. Then we were off for a tour of historic King's Lynn. Across the street from the Town Hall is St Margaret's Church, where Thomas 1 and Thomas 11 would have gone many times for special town ceremonies. Thomas 1's house faced the church, but it has been demolished.

For lunch we walked to Marriott's Warehouse on South Quay, built in 1570 by Thomas 1, and used for storage of coal, salt, corn and wine. In 1845 it was owned by a corn merchant named Marriott. Today there is a restaurant, the Green Quay, on the ground floor, and the Wash Discovery Centre on the 1st floor. The Warehouse is located on the River Ouse.



*Marriott's Warehouse.*



*Marriott's Warehouse in King's Lynn.*



*Picture of beams on 1<sup>st</sup> floor in Marriott's Warehouse.*

For those of you who have been on one of Jill's tours, you will remember that she sets a fast pace! I believe she knows every stone in old King's Lynn, and its origin. Along the route we went into the school where she taught French for several years. Our tour ended at the Custom House, built in 1683, on Purfleet Quay.

The next afternoon we went with Jill to All Saints Church for a Celebration Concert for Hanseatic Day in Europe. The Hanseatic League was an urban confederation of German merchants who traded, in part, with eastern English towns. Today King's Lynn is the only English town to be a member of the New Hanseatic League, restarted in 1980.

The Hanseatic Supporters Club of King's Lynn had a dinner at Marriott's Warehouse after the concert. Of course, everyone there knew Jill, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Causey and I were treated "royally" by one and all at this lovely occasion.

The Claiborne Society has been so fortunate to have the ties with King's Lynn connecting us with Jill and Huw Price. I am especially grateful to have experienced the graciousness of this special person, "Lady Jill", a pearl without Price.



*Jill and Bev on tour.*

## **DNA Study and Research News**

By Alex Waldrop, Research Chairman

The last part of September and the first few days of October 2008 were a busy time for me because of some unexpected developments. Duain Claiborne was contacted by someone who had obtained a Claiborne Family Bible. It had been in the family of Nathaniel Charles Claiborne (NCC) of Virginia and Missouri. [Millie Johnson, one of the founders of the Claiborne Society, is a descendant of NCC.] Duain sent me the bible. On the last Saturday of September Duain contacted me about a query he had received from a person who was a descendant of Adeline Claiborne of St. Louis, MO, born in 1879. After checking my usual reference sources, I had not found any record of her. I did find some clues that led me to check the NCC bible. Addie's birth was recorded there and the information was confirmed by checking the **Claiborne Family Journal** of Christopher J. Cleborne that members of this Society transcribed. This was a good reason for me to transcribe the genealogy pages in the NCC bible.

As I was finishing that, I received an e-mail from one of the DNA Study donors who is a descendant of William Claiborne. He had been notified by a Mr. Kocher who had had a Y-chromosome 12 marker test done at Family Tree DNA and matched him 12 for 12. According to Bennett Greenspan, the founder and head of FT DNA: "This signature is found in less than .01 of 1% of our database." By signature he is referring to the 12 marker haplotype. Because this haplotype is very rare, it is likely that this is a true match. Mr. Kocher's family came to this country in 1891 from Alsace-Lorraine and has lived in central New York since then. I added Mr. Kocher to the Claiborne DNA Project and he has ordered the upgrade to 37 markers. If he is still a close match to the donors who are descendants of William Claiborne, then he is a true "genetic" Claiborne and there are important implications for the origin of his family and the Claiborne family that has been traced back to King's Lynn in Norfolk, England. It appears unlikely to me that a non-paternity event (NPE) took place in his family in the

western hemisphere since 1891.

That leaves only a few possibilities to explain the match.

1) A non-paternity event occurred in Europe and a Claiborne was the biological father of a son who had or later acquired the Kocher surname. Several Claibornes before the Revolution were international merchants and could have fathered a son in Europe. William's father and grandfather were also international merchants and could be responsible. I know of several Claibornes from America who spent some time in Europe after the Revolution and could have fathered a son who acquired the Kocher surname. 2) A Claiborne who was NOT a descendant of William fathered a son who acquired the Kocher surname. If we can determine approximately when that occurred we may be able to link to other Claiborne families in England or Europe who are related to William and maybe identify a living male of that family to test. 3) A Kocher fathered William or one of his male ancestors. Because this would have happened before 1600, this one is going to be hard to prove. I consider it unlikely, but I could be wrong. [I am not aware of any Kochers in Virginia in the 17th century, so a NPE in Virginia is extremely unlikely.] 4) The Kocher family and the Claiborne family have a common direct male line ancestor before surnames became "fixed". We have examples of this in the Westmorland Group where Adam le Franceys is believed to be the ancestor for at least four or five surnames: Cliburn (and its multiple variants), French, Vernon, Stanley, and Marple. If this appears likely, we should look for locations in Europe or England where both families had a presence. There may be other surnames, not yet known to us, that have this rare haplotype and they could figure into any of the above scenarios, but until we know about them, or have reason to suspect such an explanation, it is premature to strongly consider such a possibility.

If you are one of the William Claiborne descendants in the DNA study and have not gone to 37 or more markers, please contact me at 207-773-6450. This is IMPORTANT!

While working on all of the above, I also wrote another article for this newsletter. At the end of that article I referred to a website with information on a Eugene F. Clibourn. Since completing that article, I have found preliminary evidence that suggests that his family is a branch of the John of Dale Parish family. I will report on that later. I had originally planned to write about the new results we have had in the DNA study since the last newsletter. Several donors have gone to 37 or 67 markers but those results will have to be discussed in the next newsletter where I will also let you know the results of the Kocher upgrade. It has been a busy, interesting fortnight or so for me.

## **Some Descendants of George Cliborn**

By Alex Waldrop, Research Chairman

Members of the Claiborne Society who are descendants of John Cliborn of Dale Parish (abt 1712-1764/5) are likely familiar with **Cliborn-Claiborne Records** by Lolita Hannah Bissell. Lolita was a descendant of John of Dale Parish through his son John Cliborn, Jr. (abt 1735-1782). One of the people who helped her collect information on the Cliborns of Old Henrico County and their descendants was Faye (Hooks) Claiborne (1928-2001) who was married to Jerry David Claiborne (1928-2000). Jerry was a descendant of John Cliborn, Jr.'s brother George Cliborn (abt 1742-1811). Lolita referred to Jerry as "the most visible Claiborne of his generation". Jerry was head coach at three universities: VPI, Maryland and Kentucky. I am a lifelong fan of University of Virginia teams, so I rarely rooted for Jerry's teams until he became coach at Kentucky, but had wondered whether we were related. I now know that we are not related through our Claiborne ancestries. For those interested in more detail about Jerry's coaching career, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry\\_Claiborne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Claiborne) . A summary of his ancestry back to George Cliborn follows.

Jerry David Claiborne was born 26 Aug. 1928 in Christian County, Kentucky and died 24 September 2000 He married 30 June 1951 Anna Faye Hooks;

born 15 June 1928, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Father: James Johnson Claiborne (born 4 October 1886 died 3 March 1968) married 8 July 1912 in Springfield, Ohio Katherine Ursula Trimmer (born 21 October 1887 Springfield Ohio, died 31 August 1949 Hopkinsville, Kentucky)

Grandfather: Joseph Edward Cliborn (born 12 October 1854, died ??) married 22 September 1880 in Christian Co. Kentucky Malissa Ann (Johnson) Anderson. She was the widow of William H. Anderson

Great-grandfather: Edward B. Cliborn (born ca. 1820, died bet. 1885 and 1890 in Christian Co., Ky.) married as his second wife Jan. 21, 1851 in Chesterfield Co., Va. Mary Jane Jones.

Great-great-grandfather: Augustus "Austin" Cliborne (born between 1780/1790, died in 1843) married Nancy Bevell. They lived in Nottoway Co., Va.

Great-great-great-grandfather: George Cliborn (born in 1742 in Chesterfield Co., Va., died ca. Aug. 1811 in Nottoway Co., Va.) married Jemima Cashoon about 1764.

For his earlier Cliborn ancestry see the article by Sue Forbes:

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

I recently found the following website with a photo of George William Clibourne, Jr.

<http://23rdva.netfirms.com/images.htm> . [Note: Some sources have his middle name as Washington; also on this page is a photo of Thomas Garland Waldrop, my great-great-grandfather.]

Father: George W. Cliborne, Sr. (born March 25, 1807 in Amelia Co., Va., died Aug. 19, 1876 in Prince Edward Co., Va) married Frances W. King on March 21, 1837 in Prince Edward Co., Va.

Grandfather: John Cliborne (born ca. 1765, died ca. Oct. 1815 in Nottoway Co., Va) married Elizabeth Cousins on Nov. 24, 1808 in Amelia Co., Va.

Great-grandfather: George Cliborn (born in 1742 in Chesterfield Co., Va., died ca. Aug. 1811 in Nottoway Co., Va.) married Jemima Cashoon about 1764.

[Note: The genealogical information here was from the work of Lolita Bissell and Anne Overcash.]

While researching this article I stumbled upon this website:

[http://www.colecohistsoc.org/bios/bio\\_c.html](http://www.colecohistsoc.org/bios/bio_c.html) It has a biography of a Eugene F. Clibourn of Cole County, MO. I may have more on this family in a later newsletter.

## In Memoriam

Andrew G. Bachmann, 68, husband of Jane "Clai" Bachmann, died Sept. 15 in Newport News, Va., following a stroke. He was the founder and Chairman of Dymax Corporation. Andy's inventions and successful marketing led to the creation and development of products used in the manufacture of medical, electronic, automotive, aerospace and consumer products.

Honors he has received include being named "Executive of the Year" by the Commercial Development Association and receiving the Family Business Award from the University of Connecticut for the outstanding Connecticut company for 2006. He holds over 30 patents.

Andy is survived, in addition to his wife, by two sons, A. Gregory and Brian O'Neal; four grandchildren; his father, Andrew John Bachmann; and two brothers. A native of Newport News, he received a B.S. and M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Richmond, and pursued further graduate studies at the Medical College of Virginia in Medical Chemistry. He also received an M.B.A. from the University of Hartford. He retired as CEO of Dymax in 2006. He and Clai divided their time between their homes in Williamsburg and Litchfield, Conn.

A funeral was conducted Sept. 19 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newport News, followed on Sept. 25 with a memorial service at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Litchfield. Contributions may be made to the Connecticut Junior Republic, 550 Goshen Rd., Litchfield CT 06759.

## Memorial Stone

**General Charles Harrison  
First Continental Artillery**

By Nellie Harwell Richardson



*Headstone of General Charles Harrison.*

General Charles Harrison, C.O. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Artillery for eight years during the American Revolution, was my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather.

Charles Harrison was born at Berkely Plantation in 1742. He married Mary Claiborne in 1760<sup>1</sup>. His life was a tragedy from early beginning until the end.

After the Revolution Charles had lost his fortune. Then in 1793 he was murdered at Osborne's Tavern. His body was placed on a wagon driven by a servant to be taken for burial. Somewhere in the Virginia wilderness the body vanished and was never found. Charles Harrison had no grave and no memorial.

I have just placed a memorial tombstone for my

grandfather Harrison in the 300-year-old family cemetery at Hunting Quarter, Sussex County, Virginia. This stone is much like that of a young soldier just killed in Bagdad. Like my Harrison ancestors, I feel that we are all equal in the sight of God and do not need a pretentious memorial.

I wish to thank Curly Moore, Billy Delk of Pembroke Granite Works, Circuit Court Clerk of Sussex County and most of all, Mr. William Ellis, the present owner of the cemetery for their help. God bless you, every one.

(1) Claiborne of Virginia compiled by John Frederick Dorman, p.572.

## Pocahontas and her son Thomas

By Curly Moore



*Picture of Pocahontas.*

When Jill and Huw Price attended the first Claiborne Society meeting in Williamsburg Millie and Joe

Johnson took them to Jamestown. A display in the new visitors center exhibited a large painting of Pocahontas and her son Thomas, with a caption explaining that it was a copy of a painting in the Museum in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. (Their being town guides, they knew this was not true.)

On their return to King's Lynn they made various inquiries and found that several Rolfe paintings had been handed over to Mrs. Sylvia Stevenson "on loan for life". She was the daughter of a well known Lynn citizen. After various inquiries to the Borough Council Officials information emerged that the Pocahontas portrait is the property of the King's Lynn Council and now appropriately hangs in the Town Hall where Thomas Cleybourn served as Mayor in 1573.

So perhaps we may again see the portrait when visiting King's Lynn.

### **Treasurer's Report**

By Mary Ann Gilman

April 1, 2008-June 30, 2008

Balance April, 2008-----\$10,884.41

Balance on June 30, 2008-----\$10,766.76

#### **RECEIPTS**

Dues----- \$ 10.00

Life Membership----- 400.00

Interest----- 4.28

Total Receipts----- 414.28

#### **DISBURSEMENTS**

Reunion Refund-----\$ 410.00

April Newsletter----- 121.93

Total Disbursements----- 531.93

BALANCE-----\$10,766.76

Note: Receipts since June 30, 2008 total \$1,385 for dues and \$2.77 interest, resulting in a balance of \$12,154.53 as of Sept 10, 2008.

### **Membership**

By Bill Bissell, Registrar

Our membership currently stands at 135 active members which includes 12 Life members. We received 114 responses to our membership information inquiry and plan to begin printing our directory in the near future. This leaves 37 members who have not renewed their memberships. These will be put on an in-active roll.

### **Publications**

By Dan Boylin

This is the first newsletter for the society that is going out not only in print, but also digitally. Some members signed up to receive the newsletter via email in PDF format. This helps the society save money on printing and is also a way for the society to Go Green by not using ink and paper.

If you are interested in helping out with the website we have several areas that need a leader:

- Bulletin board
- Online family tree
- Google Earth family locations and details

If you are interested in any of these please or have another idea for the website please contact me at dan@boylin.com.

If you have any articles you would like to see in the Newsletter please send them to me for inclusion in an upcoming edition.

At the last reunion there was discussion of starting a list of items available between members as an "inter-society loan". If you have any items for the list please send details.