

Conversations With My Grandfather

by Wink Dameron Blair

This book recounts first-hand stories of Louisiana Statesman, Civil War Veteran and District Judge Louis Bingaman "L.B." Claiborne, of New Roads, Louisiana (1842-1934) as told to his granddaughter, Claiborne Clan member Wink Dameron Blair. Judge Claiborne's father was Col. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne II, of Adams County, Mississippi, and his grandfather was Col. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne I, of Sussex County, VA., who was the brother of Gov. William Charles Cole Claiborne, first Governor of the State of Louisiana.

L.B Claiborne attended Georgetown University and was present at the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. He joined the Coupee Artillery, CSA, and was taken prisoner at Vicksburg, MS and again at Selma, AL, in April 1865. He was admitted to the bar in 1867 and was elected Parish Attorney of Pointe Coupee Parish in 1869, where he served for 19 years. He later became Judge of the 21st Judicial District Circuit Court of Louisiana.

As Wink states, this is a "memoir" - the actual words of her 89 year old grandfather, who had a photographic memory - relating personal stories of his college days and several visits to the White House as guest of the President (due to his father's friendship with the President). The book includes many other fascinating episodes of his life, including his later service as a State Legislator, District Judge, School Superintendent, Founder and Publisher of a local newspaper, head of Louisiana Civil War Veterans, and much more. It illustrates why he was such a tremendous influence on his descendants. A "thumbnail" Claiborne genealogy section is included in the book. Judge Claiborne dictated the stories to Wink when she was an 8 year-old girl living in her grandparents New Roads, Louisiana home during the Great Depression.

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