

Claiborne Clippings

Fall 2011

National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Reunion 2011 – New Orleans



Claiborne Clan Reunion 2011 New Orleans

Susan Rura, Diane Matthews, Corinne Middleton, Charles Matthews, Vera “Curly” Moore, Susan Rose Penfold, Carol Flannery, Jan Goff, Will Claiborne, Jane Boylin, Paul Kocher, Richard Rose, Ann Starr, Lennie Middleton, Duain Claiborne, Patricia Clayborn, John Janeway, Elaine Janeway, Ruth Claiborne Rose, Diane Claiborne Clements, Ross Claiborne, Mary Ann Gilman, Catherine Cate, Ann Claiborne Case, Steve Cate, Phyllis Phelan, Jeanie Perrilliat, Alex Waldrop, Claiborne Perrilliat, Jean Paul Perrilliat

The Claiborne Society reunion in New Orleans proved to be both fun and interesting. We held our meetings at the Hotel Monteleone, an exquisite setting in the midst of the best antique shops and restaurants, and some highlights from our time there follow. Our theme for the reunion was “The Western Migration” and we focused on the remarkable life of William C.C. Claiborne. We met for the first time on the afternoon of Thursday, September 29, 2011, and then spent that evening in small groups exploring the city. The next morning, we met for an hour to formally introduce ourselves to each other and provide a little background on our interests. Then we assembled in the lobby to board a bus for a tour of the city, visiting sites special to the Claiborne Family, including St. Louis Cemetery, the Claiborne Mansion, built for W.C.C. Claiborne II, who was Governor Claiborne’s son, and Claiborne Cottage, built for Sophronie Claiborne Marigny, who was Governor Claiborne’s daughter. Claiborne Clan member John Humphreys was our host for a wonderful luncheon at the Southern Yacht Club, where we had distant views out over Lake Pontchartrain.

In the afternoon, most of us walked to the Williams Research Center, where we were given a private viewing of Claiborne-related paintings, drawings and documents, such as Governor Claiborne’s original appointment as Governor signed by Thomas Jefferson. We spent Friday evening getting better acquainted and wandering the French Quarter.

Our business meeting the next morning included an update by Alex Waldrop, PhD, on his ongoing Claiborne Family DNA research, which will be published on our website. At noon, the hotel staff opened doors onto the adjoining ballroom, where a buffet lunch was waiting for us. In the afternoon, we walked to the Historic New Orleans Collection to view a special exhibit entitled “The Eighteenth Star: Treasures from

200 Years of Louisiana Statehood,” and were led on a private tour of the displays in the interconnected buildings that make up the museum.

Saturday evening we met in the famous Carousel Bar for cocktails, then assembled in the Iberville Ballroom for our reunion banquet. Our keynote speaker, Tulane University Professor Richard Campanella, not only shared his enthusiasm for the history of New Orleans and the colorful lives of its pioneers, but he also showed us graphically how the land has changed. Our time together was over too soon, but we look forward to our next reunion in 2013. A list of reunion attendees follows:

2011 New Orleans Reunion Attendees

1. Will Claiborne, Savannah, GA, Ancestor: William Claiborne
2. Jennifer Claiborne, Savannah, GA, Guest of Will Claiborne
3. Patricia Clayborn, Windsor, CA, Ancestor: John of Dale Parish
4. Vera “Curly” Moore, Hopewell, VA, Ancestor: John Cliborn
5. Mary Ann Gilman, Port Haywood, VA, Ancestor: William Claiborne
6. Susan Rura, Ellicott City, Maryland, Ancestor: John of Dale Parish
7. Frank Rura, Ellicott City, Maryland, Guest of Susan Rura
8. Jane Boylin, Huntington, WV, Ancestor: William Claiborne
9. Ann Claiborne Case, Rehoboth Beach, DE, Ancestor: William Claiborne
10. Alex Waldrop, South Portland, ME, Ancestor: William Claiborne
11. Phyllis Phelan, South Portland, ME, Guest of Alex Waldrop
12. Duain Claiborne, Wilmette, IL, Ancestor: John of Dale Parish
13. Irma Claiborne, Wilmette, IL, Guest of Duain Claiborne
14. Ross Claiborne, New York, NY, Ancestor: William Claiborne
15. Corinne Middleton, Jefferson, SC, Ancestor: Thomas Claiborne
16. Lennie Middleton, Jefferson, SC, Guest of Corinne Middleton
17. Ann Starr, Houston, TX, Ancestor: William Claiborne
19. Steve Cate, Santa Ana, CA, Guest of Catherine Cate
20. Diane Claiborne Clements, Nashville, TN, Ancestor: Charles E. Claiborne
21. Reverend Jan Goff, Biloxi, MS, Ancestor: William Claiborne
22. Elaine Janeway, Murray, UT, Ancestor: William Claiborne
23. John Janeway, Murray, UT, Guest of Elaine Janeway
24. Paul Kocher, Syracuse, NY, Match with William Claiborne Line
25. Elizabeth Lonczak, Syracuse, NY, Guest of Paul Kocher
26. Charles Matthews, River Ridge, LA, Ancestor: William C.C. Claiborne
27. Diane Matthews, River Ridge, LA, Guest of Charles Matthews
28. Claiborne Perrilliat, Jr., New Orleans, LA, Ancestor: William C.C. Claiborne
29. Jeanie Perrilliat, New Orleans, LA, Guest of Claiborne Perrilliat
30. Jean Paul Perrilliat, New Orleans, LA, Ancestor: William C.C. Claiborne
31. Richard Rose, Houston, TX, Ancestor: William Claiborne
32. Susan Rose Penfold, Houston, TX, Guest of Richard Rose
33. Ruth Claiborne Rose, Loudon, TN, Ancestor: William Claiborne
34. Marcia Ryniker Baird, New Orleans, LA, Ancestor: William Claiborne
35. Carol Flannery, New Orleans, LA, Ancestor: William Claiborne

Additional photos of the reunion are posted on the Claiborne website <http://www.claibornesociety.org/>

**Claiborne Clan Business Meeting: October 1, 2011, Saturday morning
Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana**

I. CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION.

1. ATTENDEES. Those officers in attendance at the Business meeting were: Will Claiborne, President; Patricia Clayborn, Reunion 2011 chair; Susan W. H. Rura, Secretary; Mary Ann Gilman, Treasurer; Curly Moore, Archivist; Alex Waldrop, Research; Past-President Jane Boylin; Past-President Duain Claiborne.

2. AGENDA. Will Claiborne called the meeting to order. The prayer used by Rev. Daniel Gregory Claiborne Butts on June 18, 1907, at the 300 year Jamestown gathering of descendants, was read by Jane Boylin, a descendant of the Reverend.

The agenda was Old Business to include past projects; New Business to include the Upcoming Reunion 2013, possible mini-Reunion, and Election of Officers; and a DNA research report by Alex Waldrop.



II. OLD & ONGOING BUSINESS.

1. SARAH FENN TOMBSTONE. The tombstone of Sarah Fenn Claiborne Bray lies on the ground at the edge of a farmer's field. The owner and now the son will not allow it to be permanently removed from the site. The Claiborne society, with the help of member Elizabeth Guy Richardson, has paid to erect a new tombstone with genealogical information. It has been placed at St. Peter's churchyard, Sarah's parish church, located near West Point, Va.

2. DORMAN BOOK. The Claiborne society has acquired excess books from the Virginia Genealogical Society of the Dr. Smith and Dorman book *CLAIBORNE OF VIRGINIA, DESCENDANTS OF COLONEL WILLIAM CLAIBORNE*. F. Claiborne Johnston assisted in the purchase of the books. Ann Case and Curly Moore helped.

3. CLEBORNE FAMILY "JOURNAL". Copies of *THE CLAIBORNE FAMILY JOURNAL* are for sale. The hardbound book is \$40, paperback is \$30, or one can acquire the "Journal" on a CD-ROM.

The Journal has an interesting history. The original manuscript was found inside a secretary desk bought at an estate sale in Savannah, Georgia. The buyer passed the manuscript to Bishop Randolph Royal Claiborne [Will Claiborne's relative] until discovered much later in the family estate by a daughter who donated it to the Atlanta Historical Society, where the original still resides.

With much effort and petitioning, a xeroxed copy was made available to the Claiborne Clan from which dedicated individuals transcribed the contents and published it, in further pursuit of our research. It was eventually determined that the author of the Journal was Dr. Christopher J. Clebourne.

4. CEREMONY AT HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY. An invitation has been extended by the Virginia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America to attend a grave marking ceremony for Thomas Claiborne at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond. The invitation comes from Taylor Cowardin, governor of the organization, for late Saturday afternoon October 29, 2011 with dinner at the 2300 Club. It is open to those of our Society wishing to attend. [Thomas Claiborne is Lt. Col. Thomas Claiborne, born 1647, died 1683, who is the son of William, the emigrant.]

5. TREASURER'S REPORT. Mary Ann Gilman, Treasurer, presented her report, stating that reunion expenses are trending favorably on the lunch, but bus expenses may be adjusted. At the 1999 New Orleans reunion, an oversubscription and the generosity of several members generated a surplus treasury.

III. NEW BUSINESS.

1. MINI-REUNION IN ENGLAND. With the prospect of continuing connections with Kings Lynn in Norfolk, England, a mini-reunion is being proposed for Fall 2012. A video of Kings Lynn photos, taken by Mary Ann Gilman, was displayed by Patricia Clayborn. Kings Lynn is the only English town as part of the modern [1980] Hanseatic League.

Will Claiborne recalled his visit in the summer of 2003: went to St. Margaret's Church; the altar scrim was given by Thomas II's wife. Records in Cambridge reference William Claiborne being given a dispensation to eat off-campus. The Claiborne burial site today is probably under the road which runs next to the church.

The continuing lackluster U.S. economy may prevent too large a group traveling abroad, but there is interest to go, especially from Clan members in Tennessee. Diane Claiborne Clements [Nashville], whose mother Rosalind Claiborne Clements was at the 1995 Reunion, wants to go.

The point-person for the Kings Lynn 2012 reunion is: Susan R. Penfold, 815 Honeyhill Lane, Tyron NC 28782. [**Her e-mail is srpenfold@aol.com .**]

2. 2013 REUNION. Sites for our next reunion were considered. Where should we go? What are the merits and defects? Generally, every 4 years, the Claiborne Society returns to Virginia. 2013 will be our 25th year of continuing viability of our organization.

Possible locations in Virginia are: the Williamsburg/Jamestown area; Hampton/Tidewater region; or Richmond. A proposal for the future was Salt Lake City, Utah which has the Mormon Library.

There was no discussion as all knew they wanted to return to Richmond. [Last reunion was October 2001]. Mary Ann Gilman made the motion, seconded by Duain Claiborne, and all acclaimed.

3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. President Will Claiborne stated he could continue as President, but as New Orleans Reunion 2011 organizer, Patricia Clayborn could claim the right to be President. She did. Susan Rura earlier volunteered to help with the Richmond reunion and was persuaded to chair the next reunion. With the Secretary position now vacated, Corinne Middleton of South Carolina accepted the post.

All positions were filled. The new officers are: PRESIDENT, Patricia Clayborn; VICE PRESIDENT, Susan W. H. Rura; SECRETARY, Corinne Middleton; TREASURER, Diane Claiborne Clements; REGISTRAR, Anne Richardson Starr; DNA RESEARCH, Dr. Alex Waldrop; ARCHIVES, Duain Claiborne; and PUBLICATIONS, Anne Claiborne Case.

The officers will serve for the next 2 years, until our next reunion.

IV. RESEARCH REPORT.

1. DNA BASICS. Dr. Alex Waldrop presented the DNA report, reviewing relevant terminology: “short tandem repeats”, the ACGT [adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine] genetic coding of DNA, SNPs [“snips”], and haplotype.

The DNA test involves a swab inside the mouth and 8 hours later, a 2nd swab. A.R. Starr queried why the wait of 8 hours before taking a 2nd swab.

2. CLAIBORNE DNA PROJECT. The Claiborne DNA project has 43 donors, with these results presented on charts in 2009. [In the October 2007 report, there were 38 donors, 33 with 25-markers and 5 with 67-markers.] Since 2009, tests done include extensions of markers only. The DNA test can be a 12, 25, 37, or 67-marker test and now a 111-marker, newly introduced, test.

Anne Starr asked how many mismatches can occur before one can say “not related”? “It’s hard to say; it depends on the number of markers”.

3. DONORS. Where did we find donor samples? Donor samples came from our group, a person in Cork, and 2 donors for Richard Claiborne. Alex would like donor samples from a person whose descent line includes Gilbert Green Claiborne and another whose descent line includes William Dandridge Claiborne.

Our society’s DNA tests are correlated with genealogy research. Useful terminology is “a HENRY number”, which is a shorthand notation giving relationships or a common family tree. For example, HENRY # 1517 signifies the fifth child of #1, the first child of #5, and the seventh child of #1.

4. RARE HAPLOTYPE. The William Claiborne haplotype is very rare. Alex Waldrop states that he is the 11th generation from William Claiborne.

An interesting occurrence is noted. The Kocher donor, with a 37-marker test, is a match for the rare Claiborne haplotype, but otherwise has no known Claiborne connection. Residing in New York state, the donor’s family emigrated to the U.S. in 1891 from the Alsace-Lorraine region between France and Germany. It may be speculated that the best theory for this result is through a Rhine River-Hanseatic League [ancient] association.

5. CLIBORN DNA. Dr. C. J. Cleborne is Generation 25 in descent from Adam le Franceys [circa 1200]. The DNA from this line is a match to the John of Dale Parish line, also called “Family 3” in terminology established at the beginning of the Claiborne society’s testing. There are good matches between the two lines at 25-markers and even up to 37-markers.

John of Dale Parish had sons Jonas, John, George, and Thomas. Alex would like to find a donor descendant of Thomas. Are there donors of Clyburns who were in North Carolina in the 1700s?

A French DNA study group from Adam le Franceys with a public donor sample shows few mismatches even to 67-markers with John of Dale Parish line. Likewise, the Marple, Stanley, and maybe Vernon families match closely. How can this be? Surnames didn't become common until the 1400s-1500s. It may be that genetically close persons chose different surnames.

6. DNA PROTOCOL. The Claiborne society DNA results are kept private. Other families may put their results on the Internet, but not us. Our private results may be tested by Dr. Waldrop to their public sample. We began DNA testing in 2001, were early participants, and within the first 2000 persons who gave samples to FAMILY TREE DNA. At that time the cost for 37-markers was \$140.

V. ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Williams Harrod Rura
Secretary, The Claiborne Clan

SATURDAY'S OTHER EVENTS:

1. THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION. At 2 p.m. we walked from the MONTELEONE hotel a short distance to 533 Royal Street to the museum. The featured exhibit had memorabilia and artifacts from the territorial period of Louisiana's history, the period between the Purchase and Statehood, 1803-1812.

It was an exquisite building with hidden courtyard as we were led upstairs to see the early maps, portraits, and special objects set amid the high-ceilinged architecture of a fine home. Downstairs the gift shop had innumerable books, fiction and non-fiction, about New Orleans and Louisiana.

2. BANQUET. We gathered in the Iberville Ballroom for a buffet of beautiful food, salads, meats, seafood St. Jacques, followed by whimsical desserts. This was fine New Orleans cuisine.



3. CLAIBORNE T. SMITH AWARD. This special award was presented by President Will Claiborne to Mary Ann Gilman. Mary Ann has done an unbelievable job as Treasurer of the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants since 2003. No organization can succeed with its purpose without the financial diligence, trust, and integrity of its chief financial officer. Our organization continues to prosper in no small measure to Mary Ann's efforts. Thanks from all of us.

4. PROGRAM. The program was exceptional. Our keynote speaker was Tulane University Professor Richard Campanella, the author of six books on the geography of New Orleans as well as numerous prizes and awards. His titled lecture was TRANS-APPALACHIAN SETTLEMENT AND NEW ORLEANS FROM 1790 TO 1815.

The speaker gave an exciting and not unblemished view of the life confronting William Charles Cole Claiborne as he assumed governing powers within this land. The cultural mix of French, Spanish, and African was soon expanded to include Anglo as the colonists spread into the new territory. For the economy to prosper, it was necessary to meet the transportation challenges with keelboats or steamboats. And in New Orleans and environs, the geography overshadowed everything. As swampland was drained for development, the land sank lower than the sea, setting the scene for hazards in the future.

Grave Marking Ceremony Honoring Thomas Claiborne (1647-1683)

The Virginia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) held a grave marking ceremony for Lt. Col. Thomas Claiborne at his tablet monument in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia on October 29, 2011. Thomas Claiborne was the son of Colonel William Claiborne (1600-1677). Taylor Cowardin, the Governor of the Virginia Society of the Order, invited Claiborne Clan members and other descendants of Thomas Claiborne to attend the ceremony and a dinner afterwards at the 2300 Club in Richmond. Claiborne Clan members in attendance were Walt Sheffield, Vera "Curly" Moore, Mary Ann Gilman, Corinne Middleton and her husband Lennie Middleton. They reported that it was the coldest October 29th on record for Richmond, especially since the Hollywood Cemetery sits on top of a windy hill overlooking the James River.



The VSOPFA had added a "Founder" marker to the grave, which is a small granite block denoting Thomas Claiborne's residence in Virginia before 1657. The Order has placed these markers at close to a half dozen graves, including ones in Yorktown, at Shirley plantation, and at Warner Hall Plantation. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, Richmond Chapter, and the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, who also marked the nearby graves of Revolutionary War Patriot Nathan Bell and John Randolph of Roanoke.

The ceremony began at the Claiborne plot with opening remarks by Governor Cowardin, an invocation, the Presentation of Colors, and the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the life of Lt. Col. Thomas Claiborne was given, and then Mary Ann Gilman had the honor of unveiling the marker and placing a wreath on the grave, followed by a Musket Salute, the playing of Taps, a Benediction, and the Retiring of Colors.

The group then proceeded to the 2300 Club for a social hour and dinner, where they were warmly recognized by the VSOPFA. They were happily surprised to encounter respected author John Frederick Dorman, who, along with Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr., wrote the book *Claiborne of Virginia, Colonel William Claiborne and His Descendants, The First Eight Generations*. Mr. Dorman was in attendance as the guest of Claiborne Clan member Mr. Walt Sheffield from Fredericksburg. We now have copies of this book available on our Society web site at the tab entitled "Publications."

The Order of Founders and Patriots was established in 1896 and is active in twenty five states. It is made up of members who trace their ancestry back to the first colonists, and who have forefathers in the same male ancestral line who served in the American Revolution. The Virginia Society of the Order is dedicated to promoting educational historical programs, and bringing together those who share a common heritage.

Lt. Col. Thomas Claiborne was originally buried at Romancoke, the family seat near West Point on the York River, which was part of the grant given to his father in 1624 by the Virginia Assembly in recognition of his father's military service. The book *History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia* by Charles Campbell states that Thomas was "killed by an Indian arrow." What must it have been like to be the son of the first surveyor in the New World, and to have been raised by such a famous father in such an amazingly pristine but dangerous landscape? Perhaps we can learn more about Thomas in future research.

Shown in the picture above are Mary Ann Gilman, Corinne Middleton, Curly Moore and Lennie Middleton standing at the grave of Thomas Claiborne.

CLAIBORNE OF VIRGINIA, Colonel William Claiborne and His Descendants,
The First Eight Generations

We have recently come into possession of a number of copies of this definitive source of Claiborne family history and have them available for purchase. Originally, this book sold for \$70.00 but we were able to secure a number of them at a much reduced cost. All proceeds go to the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants. Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr., a retired psychiatrist from Philadelphia, co-authored a book with John Frederick Dorman that won the Best Book in Genealogy Award in 1996. The book is 836 pages with an extensive name index.

As a result, the cost of the book is **\$10 to Society members** in good standing and **\$20 to all others**. In addition, there is a charge for postage & handling of \$5 per book. Payment must be cash or check payable to Ann Case. Include the address(s) where you wish the book(s) mailed.

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The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants
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