



# Claiborne Society Newsletter

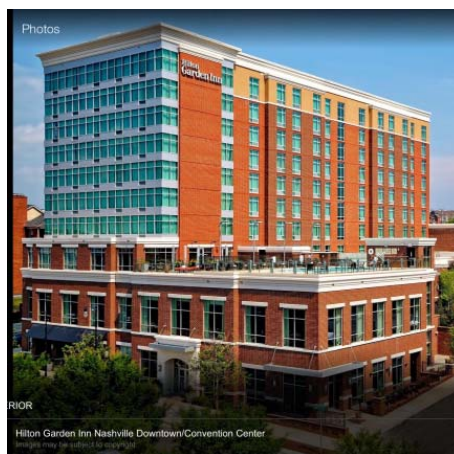
The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Spring 2017

## Message from the Vice President and Reunion Chair: Claiborne Reunion Nashville Tennessee September 28, 29 and 30 2017

The biennial gathering for the Society of Claiborne Family Descendants will be returning to Nashville Tennessee for 2017. We have secured a hotel in the growing SOBRO (South of Broadway) neighborhood. The Hilton Garden Inn has an intimate feel with plenty of incidental gathering space for informal discussions as well as adequate facilities for our full meeting and banquet. It includes two restaurants, a pool and patio with great views of Nashville and is two blocks from the Country Music Hall of Fame, and four blocks from the heart of Nashville's vibrant Broadway scene. A veritable panoply of eating and drinking establishments are a short distance away, yet the location offers some respite from the frantic pace of Lower Broad. Walk out on the pedestrian bridge across the Cumberland River for great photos of the City or visit both riverfront parks.



Hilton Garden Inn  
Nashville Downtown Convention Center

For early arrivers on Thursday evening we hope to reserve a block of tickets for a 7:00 p.m. country music show at the Ryman. Similar to the Grand Ole Opry (which is now produced at the Opry House Theater located in Donelson), this show features a star host and four or five acts in the historic Ryman Theater. We have to commit to tickets about a month out so be sure to reserve early. Or take the evening to explore all Nashville has to offer. We do caution you to avoid the peddle pubs – it's a lot of work and you have to bring your own beer.

(continued on Page 2)

### OFFICERS 2015 - 2017

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Vice President	Bill Bissell
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Treasurer	Clai Bachmann
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Research	Dr. Alex Waldrop
Archives	Vera "Curly" Moore
Publications	Patricia Clayborn
Webmaster	Dan Boylin

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

Ryman Auditorium  
facing Nashville's Fifth Avenue North



On Friday, we will again offer a bus tour of noted Nashville historic sites including Andrew Jackson's Hermitage (suggested reading – "American Lion") as well as the newly expanded Franklin Battlefield Preservation sites including Carnton Mansion (suggested reading "Widow of the South") and the Carter House. William C.C. Claiborne succeeded Andrew Jackson in the Tennessee house and may have competed with him for that Louisiana posting. Franklin is where Major-General Patrick Cleburne was one of four, or six or eight Confederate Generals killed in the battle (depending on your source). Or if you prefer to spend your Friday exploring Nashville there are numerous opportunities for getting around including free circulator buses for the Gulch and the Bicentennial Mall areas.



Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

Saturday's activities begin with our business meeting from 9-12 followed by a buffet lunch and late meeting activities. Then enjoy another free afternoon to immerse yourself in Nashville before our Saturday Night Banquet and speakers.

It has been 12 years since the Reunion was held in Nashville and we have lots of exciting changes to share with you. Nashville has been in quite a building boom, both commercial and residential, and our skyline and riverfront has changed considerably. Along with this growth we are a hot city for new restaurants and both seasoned and up and coming new chefs.

Our new convention center is architecturally stunning, has an eco-roof and a colony of honey bees. The arts community is thriving with a first Saturday art crawl on a section of 5th Ave. N. renamed the Fifth Avenue of the Arts and in the Historic Arcade. A major renovation is ongoing at Centennial Park and Alan LeQuire's 42 foot statue of a gold leafed Athena inside the Parthenon is always breathtaking.

And; Nashville is home to nearly as many Craft Breweries as it has BBQ joints in case you are a little peckish after your exploring.

Sunday is time for final good-by's and an officers board meeting. Or stay an extra night and enjoy more of Music City. It's a great time to be in Tennessee and we would love to have you.

Bill Bissell, Vice President, Claiborne Society

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### **New Member**

We are delighted to welcome the following new member to our Clan:  
Constance Beckwith Howe, Nacogdoches, Texas

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### **2017 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

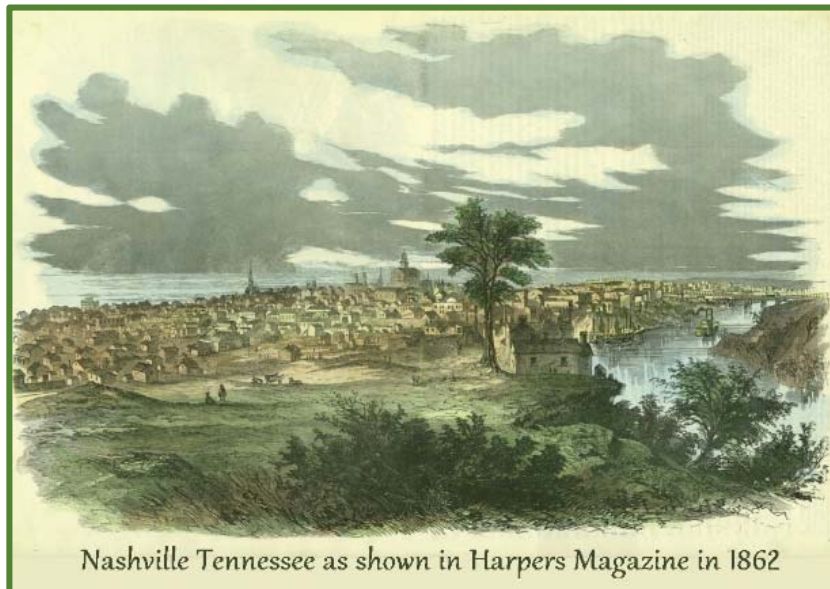
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### **Message from Jill Price**

Our honored member from King's Lynn, Jill Price, sent a note in response to our Fall 2016 Newsletter as follows:

"Congratulations on a very informative newsletter! What a lot of work has gone into it. Good luck with the Tennessee reunion. I have very happy memories of La Follette and dear Sam Claiborne. So sorry to hear about Anne Pierce. Huw and I had a very happy Autumn visit to them in Connecticut one year. Through Pocahontas Anne also had strong links to King's Lynn. She and Roger were indeed some of the first of our visitors. Happy days in Tennessee! Yours Jill"

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Nashville Tennessee as shown in Harpers Magazine in 1862

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## The Claiborne Family of Hickman County, Tennessee - Descendants of William Claiborne Are they related to Leonard Claiborne of South Carolina?

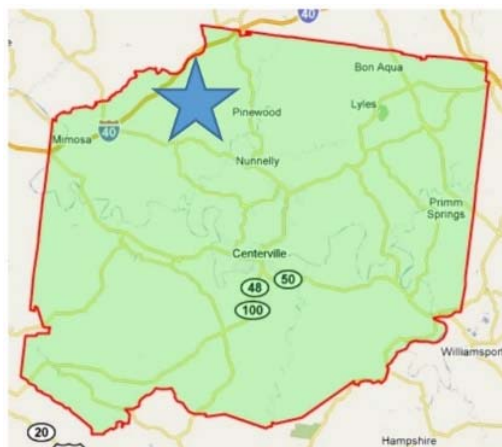
By Linda M. King

George Claiborne was born in 1812 in South Carolina, and is my 3rd Great-Grandfather. I discovered my Claiborne identity in 2011, and established my DNA link to William Claiborne of Virginia. I have been determined to establish the tree, starting with George's father, back to William. It seems my Claiborne line has been lost to time with many of George's great-grandchildren searching for the answers.

Almost all of the information I have on my Claiborne history I've gathered from my Aunt, Neoma Mae Clayborn Damron, cousins that I've connected with since 2011, including Cecil James Warren Jr., Doug Edgmon, and Marion Laster. I have visited Hickman County, Tennessee, and Newton County, Arkansas in my search. A common thread is that there are many more questions remaining to be answered. What I find interesting is that all of my family appear to have the same questions, and the same family tree, including the fact that we can only document our lineage back to George Claiborne, the grandfather of the branch of our family. George does indicate in a census return that his father is from Virginia. Early records that have survived, but have not been published and made widely available for the Carolinas appear to be a consideration for documenting our family. The extensive practice of patronymics by the Claiborne family (use of a name from a father or ancestor), has made it difficult to sort out the various generations. Thomas, Leonard, William, and George have all been used and are sprinkled throughout the various Claiborne lines, including very likely, my direct line.

A common hypotheses that we all have is that we believe George's father is Leonard Claiborne of South Carolina.

Marion L. Laster, author of *The Forrester, Dunaway and Reeves Families of Sugar Creek. Hickman County in the 19th Century* (Laster, 2nd Edition, Expanded 2015), states that his first ancestor known to settle in the Sugar Creek valley is Leonard Claiborne, his 4th Great-Grandfather. Leonard arrived from South Carolina and settled on the middle fork of Sugar Creek in 1809. The star on the map below indicates the location of the Sugar Creek area. Hickman County was established by the Tennessee State legislature in 1807, just two years earlier. Many of Tennessee's early settlers came from Virginia and the Carolinas through the Cumberland Gap, with the Natchez Trace the most common land route to Hickman County from South Carolina. It is assumed that Leonard Claiborne came from the Spartanburg District of South Carolina seeking economic opportunities, including land. Mr. Laster has documented a pioneer cemetery in the area called the Claiborne Cemetery, where many of the family are buried, including possibly Leonard.



Much of Hickman County's records were destroyed in fires in local storage places, including the post office. Property deeds are one of the record sets that have survived. Other than a few earlier indexes, I have yet to find deeds involving George Claiborne. Hickman lags behind many of its neighboring counties in preserving its records. When I visited in 2015, I met the archivist, Sandra Nolen, who was employed in the last few years to begin the project of setting up an archival system.

### **Leonard Claiborne**

The following summary of Leonard is taken from a published document by Cecil Warren "An Overview of Leonard Claiborne":

The earliest date I can place Leonard at a location is the summer of 1777 when he joined at Rutherford County, North Carolina Capt. John Bowie's Independent Company of South Carolina Infantry. On the 11th of June 1780 he was discharged at Whitehall, South Carolina. In 1782 he is enumerated on the State Census of North Carolina. By 1792 he is in Greenville County, South Carolina where he is found on the 1800, 1810, and 1820 Federal Censuses. In 1792 he signed a petition at Greenville and in 1793 he is the constable of Greenville. On 4 November 1818 Leonard filed a revolutionary War Pension Application claiming service in the War. The Pension Application was rejected. He is also found in Greenville County, land records in the following years: 1794, 1799, 1800, 1806, 1826, 1827, and 1828. He sold what appears to be all of his land between 1826 and 1828. In the book "A History of Hickman County Tennessee" by Jerome D. Spence; he writes that in 1809 a Leonard Claiborne came from South Carolina and settled at Sugar Creek and in 1820 Samuel Dunaway came from South Carolina and married Leonard's daughter Marian. (The dates don't agree with census data).

From Census data it is possible he had at least 7 children; 4 sons and 3 daughters. The following is a listing of those I believe to be some of his children but can't prove it.

**Thomas Claiborne** (2 Dec 1794 – aft 1850) Married: 8 July 1821 Caroline (?). Found on the 1840 Federal Census of Greenville County, South Carolina and the 1850 Federal Census of Hickman County, Tenn. His wife and children are found on the 1860 Federal Census of Hickman County, Tennessee. (Note: Thomas Claiborne membership in Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church record indicates date of death as 5 June 1854.)

**Austin (Augustine ?) Claiborne** (1800 – aft 1840) Married: (?). Found on the 1830 Federal Census of Greenville, South Carolina and the 1840 Federal Census of Carroll County, Tennessee. Not found after 1840.

**Elizabeth Claiborne** (abt 1803- ?). Married: Andrew Shumate (Sr. ?). Found on the 1850 federal Census of Hickman County Tennessee living next George R. Claiborne in the household of what must be Andrew Jr.

**Marian Claiborne** (1805 – aft 1870). Married: Thomas Dunaway. Found on the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Federal Censuses of Hickman County, Tennessee. Another clue to Marian's father or grandfather is that one of her sons is named Leonard Claiborne Dunaway.

**John C. Claiborne** (ca1806 – aft 1860) Married: Providence (?). Found on the 1830 Federal Census of Hickman County, Tenn. and the 1850 Federal Census of Carroll County, Tenn. He purchased 40 acres in Scott County, Missouri in 1841. His wife and family are found on the 1870 Federal Census of Perry County, Tennessee.

**George R. Claiborne** (15 Oct 1812 – ca 1898) Married: 2 January 1838 Elizabeth Phillips. Found on the 1840 and 1850 Census of Hickman County, Tennessee and the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 Censuses of Newton County, Arkansas.

There are two other Claiborne females from South Carolina living near George R. in Newton County, Arkansas but their ages don't fit Census data for Leonard's children.

**Susana Claiborne** (1784 - ) Married: Davis Henderson born 1787 North Carolina. Found on the 1850 Census of Newton County, Arkansas.

**Sarah Claiborne** (27 June 1813 - ?) Married: Isaiah Hale Sparks, born 1809 Tenn. Found on the 1850 Federal Census Hickman County Tenn. and later in Newton County, Arkansas.

When researching Leonard's pension application, I noted that John Bowie's Independent Company had participated in the Siege of Savannah as well as protection of the early frontier at Ft. Independence, located in Abbeville County, South Carolina. The British incited the Cherokee against the American settlers on the frontier and it was the duty of the company to protect the settlers. Leonard Claybourne is one of those documented as a part of John Bowie's company. With the company's location in Georgia periodically during the war, this also leads me to think this may be the Leonard who went to Georgia that many know nothing of, as mentioned in many Claiborne publications.

Another interesting fact when researching Leonard's service during the Revolution, was in a transcript of the pension application by Will Graves (Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters, 10/11/10). In a letter from Samuel Earle (S21174), a documented Lieutenant of John Bowie's Company, found in a file of John Brownlow (R1358), was a letter relating to Claybourne and his service. He recalled enlisting Claybourne in service and said of him:

"As to this particular man Clayborne I know nothing of his circumstances but this I know I enlisted him when I did so I promised him all the Continental Soldiers received agreeable to my recruiting orders, these things he did receive until the end of the war, this I also know that for the three years he served there was not in the American Army a more obedient soldier."

### **George Claiborne**

George was a farmer a Baptist minister and moved with his parents to Hickman County around 1820. Members of the Clayborn family that settled in middle Tennessee are said to have migrated

from Virginia to North Carolina to South Carolina to Hickman County, Tennessee, and eventually to Newton County, Arkansas in the mid 1850s.<sup>1</sup> As was common, the Claiborne family migrated with others, namely the Forresters, Turners, Dunaway and Sparks. Both Doug Edgmon and Cecil Warren have copies of deeds showing exchange of property between these families in the Spartanburg, Greenville area of South Carolina.

The Homestead Act of 1862 opened up western land to small farmers like George who desired to move west for new opportunities. His homestead was in Newton County, Arkansas.

The time that George lived in Hickman, the name was spelled "Claiborne," until his time in Arkansas, it was modified to Clayborn.

George Clayborn & Elizabeth Phillips



I was intrigued about George's service as a minister in Newton County, Arkansas, as he performed many marriages in the early marriage book. When I was in Nashville researching at the archives, I was not able to locate any record of George serving as a Baptist minister in Tennessee. It is my assumption that George may have adapted to the Baptist denomination on the frontier in Newton County, Arkansas, after leaving Tennessee. This will need to be an area of further research, especially church records that may exist, but have yet to be discovered.

An original record from Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church records documents George's date of birth and marriage date. The records also indicate the George is an Elder.

These church records were transcribed in Laster's book and originals were provided to Cecil Warren from Cumberland Presbyterian Church records in the hands of a private owner.

George was born 15 October 1812 in South Carolina and married Elizabeth Louise Phillips in South Carolina on 2 January 1838. Their children are:

**Martha Ann Clayborn**- Born 20 November 1838, Hickman County, TN, married Thomas Campbell Bethel 31 Aug 1857, Greenwood, Sebastian, AR, died 31 March 1918, Arkansas.

**John William Clayborn** – Born 18 November 1840, Hickman County, TN, married Martha J. Hyatt in 1861. Served in the Union Army, Fifth Calvary, Arkansas, died 10 April 1907, Newton County, Arkansas.

**James N Clayborn** – Born February 1843, Scott County, MO, married Julia Gladden (1845-1880) in 1866 and Arminia Woodward 3 July 1881 in Newton County, AR, Served in the Union Army, Company C, Arkansas 1st Infantry Regiment, died 15 March 1913, Newton County, Arkansas.

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<sup>1</sup> Newton County Family History, Vol. II, 1999. Warren, Cecil James Jr. Story, p.4.

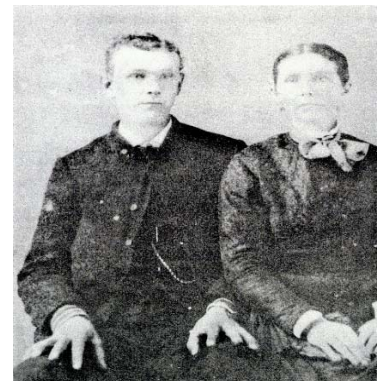
**Benjahmine Clayborn** – Born 1847, Hickman County, TN, died in June 1860 in Newton County, Arkansas from inflammation of the brain per the 1860 mortality schedule.

**Frederick Clayborn** – Born 1850, Hickman County, TN, married Nancy Barber, and died in 1878 from unknown cause. (Chancery court entry for Nancy to assume his estate found in Newton County, AR record book). A theory is that he died somewhere else, as he was not on the mortality schedule.

**Sarah Carolina Clayborn** – Born 1 January 1852, Tennessee, married John Newton Davis in 1870 in Newton County, AR, died 11 October 1928, Newton County, AR

**Isaac Ravenscroft Clayborn** – Born 1853, Newton County, AR, married Martha Ellen Dotson in 1874, died 28 February 1905, Newton County, AR.

**Nancy Emmaline Clayborn** – Born in 1857, Newton County, AR, married William Adams, 21 August 1873, died after 1920.



Frederick Clayborn & Nancy Barber

Another clue, at least a rumor, is that George's family was Cherokee. One of the granddaughters of Isaac Clayborn told me her granny always said that George was full-blooded Cherokee. I've always found that these family stories are just that, a story, some are true and others only partially true. Since my brother's Y-DNA matches the family of William Claiborne, this could mean that George's mother was Cherokee. With Leonard being from the Rutherford County, NC/Spartanburg, SC area, this is plausible as the land was the last to be settled as the Cherokee were moved westward. Further research is needed to see if there is any truth to this statement.

### Migration to Kansas

Although many of George's offspring stayed in Arkansas, my line did not. My great-grandfather is William (Billy Clayborn) and he was born after his father, Frederick died. Billy was murdered in 1923, leaving the family destitute. This death lead to increased pressure for my Great-Grandmother, Martha Hylton Clayborn and her sons to move where there was work. A growing area during this time where most went for work was Kansas City. It was very common for folks from this area of Northern Arkansas to go to Kansas City for work, but most did not stay. By 1935, Martha and her sons, Efton, Earl, Thurston, Clarence, Cecil and Lethel had settled in the Kansas City, Kansas area.



Thurston Clayborn



According to family first-hand accounts, my Uncle, William Earl and my dad, James Thurston (picture on the left), were born out-of-wedlock to Pansy Nadine Hubbell and Thurston Clayborn. My grandmother was 19 when she became pregnant with my dad, and returned home to have him. According to family, she got back together with Thurston and had my uncle two years later, in 1942. She married much later in life to William King, and he adopted my dad and uncle in 1957, giving them his surname.

While I may never know the details of how my grandparents met or why they never married, I am determined to learn more about George and Leonard, as well as connect the line between George Clayborn and our family patriarch, William Claiborne.



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## In Search of Family – My Nashville Claiborne's

By Clai Bachmann Ely

Our upcoming Claiborne reunion in Nashville this year raises hopes among our members of finding relatives local to this wonderful city who might attend our event, and enjoy the sharing of information on our common relatives and ancestors in the area.

I for one have an interest in learning more about the family that my great grandmother left behind when she, with her husband, son, and baby daughter left Nashville to settle in Richmond, Virginia.

This Claiborne family arrived in Nashville in 1859 on the eve of the Civil War and remained there throughout the war and for years after. Each of the five daughters of John Tanner and Sarah Anne Bransford Claiborne married shortly after the war. All settled and lived together in the residence of E.B. Stahlman at 118 Vauxall Place – except the family of the oldest sister, Eliza Claiborne and her husband John W. Otley. Following the birth of their baby daughter, Sarah (Sally) Louise Otley, the family returned to Virginia.



Sarah Ann Bransford Claiborne

Great affection and interest remained between the families who remained in Nashville, and the Eliza Claiborne Otley family that had settled in Richmond. Letters and information passed on by my grandmother, Sally Louise Otley Koiner, reflected bonds that formed amongst the sisters and their families. The common experiences of immigration, war, parental loss, and the beginnings of their young adulthood in Nashville created an incredible and lasting closeness.



Eliza Frances (Fanny) Claiborne Otley

These sisters, the children of the John Tanner and Sarah Ann Claiborne were Eliza Frances (Fanny), b. 1834, Laura Virginia, b. 1836, Martha Emma, b. 1846, Mary Tanner (Molly), b. 1849, and Sarah Hill (Sally), b. 1851. Eliza Frances and Laura Virginia received higher education at the Buckingham Female Academy, one of the first Woman's Colleges in the South. Their father, John Tanner Claiborne, taught there and assisted in Administration at the College. In the early 1850's he left the Female Academy to start a school for boys. Due to competition by various institutions including the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA and Hampton Sidney and Longwood in nearby Farmville, neither the Buckingham Female Academy nor John Claiborne's school at Gold Hill survived.

Sarah Ann Claiborne's half-brother Robert Bransford knew of the growth and opportunity exploding in Nashville by the 1840's and 1850's. I suspect that this motivated the family decision to immigrate in 1859. The family apparently sold all of their assets in Buckingham and invested the proceeds in the new family business, a boarding house, located in Nashville. They apparently had brought one or more slaves with them as listed in the slave census. The 1860 Nashville census places them in Davidson district, listing the family members and their ages along with their 10 boarders including the brother, Robert Bransford.

Shortly the trauma of war intervened in their lives. In a previous issue I have described the perilous trip made by my great grandmother to Richmond to deliver "a message to President Jefferson David" late in 1864. This resulted in her accidental wounding. Here she met her future husband, John W. Otley, in the parlor of her cousin, John Claiborne Tanner, Chief Clerk at the Tredegar Iron Works.

The other daughters married shortly after the war. These matches included: Laura Virginia married to James M. Reed, August 9, 1872, Martha Emma married to Benjamin F. Champe in 1868, Mary Tanner (Mollie) married to Edward B. Stahlman in 1866, and Sarah Hill married to Marcus Breckinridge Tony in 1871.



Mary Tanner (Mollie) Claiborne Stahlman

These couples and their families remained unusually close, living together in the Stahlman residence. Here at 118 Vauxhall Place the funerals were held. To quote the obituary of Mollie Claiborne Stahlman, which appeared in the Nashville Banner, "By the entire connection (family) Mrs. Stahlman was so deeply loved as to have become the hub around which the affections of a large family revolved. She was one of four sisters – Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Champe and Mrs. Tony who did not remove from the parental roof when their marriages occurred, but continued to live together, and reared their children from birth to maturity in the same homestead being bound to each other by ties of love to which the passing of the years gave constant strength. The family never separated until the marriages of the second generation and the founding of new homes."

But their oldest sister, Eliza Claiborne Otley, had left. At 36 years of age she married John W. Otley. They lived for a few years in East Nashville moving to Richmond after my Grandmother was born in 1878.

I don't think my great grandmother ever forgave him for leaving. From Richmond they later moved to Farmville. When she was very ill, in 1904, my great grandmother left for Nashville to spend the last weeks of her life with the sisters at the Stahlman home. John Otley remained in Farmville. Eliza Claiborne Otley died at 118 Vauxhall Place December 15, 1904 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.



The Stahlman home at 118 Vauxhall Place. Around the mid 1880's a developer in Nashville decided to make the area from Broad St. at 8th Ave out past Clark Place a park and upscale neighborhood. He named the area after the London park, Vauxhall Gardens. The street in the center between 8th and the Union Station (9th Ave) was known as Vauxhall and it kept this name until the early 1900's.



Sarah "Sally" Louise Otley Koiner  
Daughter of Eliza Frances (Fanny)  
Claiborne Otley and John W. Otley

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## Edward Bushrod Stahlman and the Stahlman Building

Collected by Patricia Clayborn



Stahlman Building, Nashville, Tenn.

The Stahlman Building opened in Nashville, Tennessee on June 22, 1907, on the southeast corner of Third Avenue North and Union Street, at a cost of \$1 million. The building was the largest at the time, the city's second skyscraper, and the first to have modern elevators. It was built by newspaper publisher Edward B. Stahlman, husband of the Mary Tanner (Mollie) Claiborne Stahlman mentioned in the previous article.

The building originally housed the Fourth National Bank, whose vault is still in the basement. In 1966 radio station W K D F moved into a 12<sup>th</sup> floor studio and mounted its call letters on the roof. In 1971 the Stahlman Building was sold to the Nashville Metro Government which used it for offices and courtrooms until 2003. Metro Mayor Beverly Briley praised the building as "one of the real downtown landmarks." Today it has been transformed into an apartment building.

Edward Stahlman was born in Streilitz, Mecklenberg, Germany but immigrated to the United States as a child with his family. He rose through the ranks of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad from a railway construction worker to vice president before purchasing the *Nashville Banner*, the city's most prominent newspaper. He remained an influential force in Nashville public life for over 50 years. He published the *Banner* for 37 years and then his grandson James Geddes Stahlman succeeded him as publisher for another 42 years.

The historic Stahlman Building, Nashville, named for Edward Bushrod Stahlman, owner of the Nashville newspaper "The Nashville Banner"



Stahlman Building today, with radio station call letters W K D F on the roof

## Vestrymen of St. John's Church in West Point: Claiborne, Fox and West

By Sally Prosch James and Patricia Clayborn

Sally Prosch James wrote to us following publication of the Fall 2016 Claiborne Society Newsletter as follows: "Oh, my goodness you have made my weekend. What a joy to read this newsletter after a full day working the 'Valle Fair' in Valle Crucis, NC. Exhausting but for a wonderful cause. My church, Holy Cross Episcopal has an annual fair and gives away all proceeds to the needy in our area....was lovely to read about our ancestors and all of their achievements. Did you know that in the early Church of England in America the vestry was a lifetime appointment? Thought three years was taxing, but, my ancestor (and that of many members) Henry Fox was a member of the vestry of St. John's, King William County from 1704 until his death. Many Claiborne family members were members as well as Fox and West. Best to you. ~Sally Prosch James."

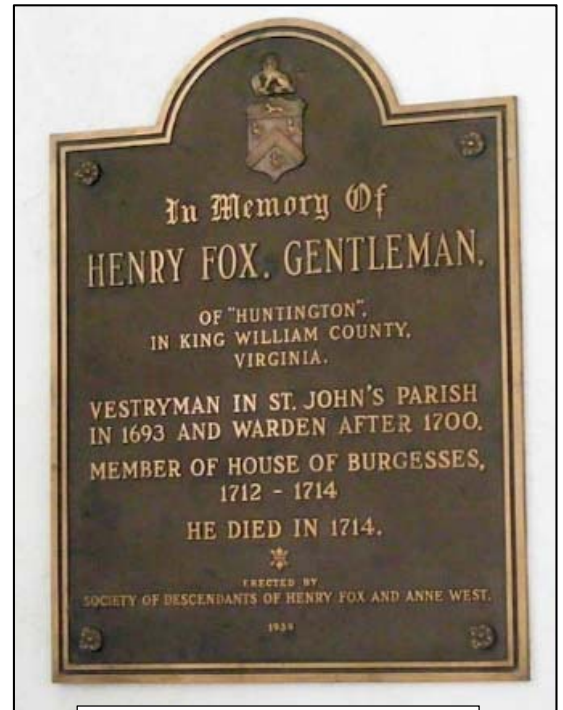
This note caused us to wish to know more about the **Claiborne** family members who were vestrymen with Fox and West at St. John's in West Point, so we asked Sally to help us by providing some background:

Four West brothers came to the New World and three served as Governor. Thomas West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Delaware, arrived as Governor in 1610, just in the nick of time to save the colonists from starving to death. The remaining few were sailing out the James River toward the Chesapeake Bay heading for Newfoundland, when they encountered Governor West sailing up the river with a year's worth of supplies. This caused the colonists to turn around and follow. Captain Francis West was Governor from 1627-1629, and Captain John West from 1635 to 1637.

Henry Fox married Anne West, daughter of Colonel John West (1632-1689). Colonel West was the son of Governor John West (1590-1659), after whom West Point was named. Governor West was the son of Sir Thomas West (1556-1601) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Delaware and his wife Anne Knollys, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys (1514-1596). Sir Francis Knollys was Treasurer of the Royal Household to Queen Elizabeth I. His wife, Catherine Carey Knollys, was first cousin to Queen Elizabeth and Chief Lady of the Bedchamber.

Catherine was the daughter of Sir William Carey and Mary Boleyn – and Mary was the sister of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. Before Mary Boleyn married Sir William, she was mistress to King Henry, and it has been rumored that there is a possibility that Catherine was born during the time that her mother Mary and Henry VIII were having the affair. Apparently Elizabeth thought that there was a possibility that Catherine could be her half-sister as well as first cousin. Catherine Carey Knollys nursed Elizabeth through smallpox and afterward came down with the disease herself and died at Hampton Court. Elizabeth gave her relative a state funeral at Westminster Abbey and she is entombed very near where Elizabeth is in repose. Catherine Carey Knollys was the mother of Lettice Knollys, Countess of Essex, and a Lady In Waiting to Queen Elizabeth. Lettice was first married to Walter Devereux, the Earl of Essex, and, after his death, her second husband was Robert Dudley, said to be Elizabeth's lover. What a tight web was woven in Elizabeth's court! Lettice's son from her first marriage, Robert Devereux, became the favorite of the aging Queen in her later years before he led a rebellion against her government and was executed in 1601.

But, returning to Virginia, Governor John West established his first home at "Bellfield" on the York River, which was later the seat of the Digges family. His son John, who became Colonel John West, was born at Bellfield Plantation and was the first child of a colonist born on the York River. Colonel John West later was granted the large tract in the forks between the Mattaponi and Pamunkey at the head of York River. This tract became his West Point Plantation. The Historical Society of West Point has written: "The first settlement on the site of what is now called West Point was the Indian village of Cinquoteck used by the Powhatan Confederation. The area was called 'Pamunkey' by Captain John Smith and later called 'Pamunkey Neck.' This village was ruled by the Indian Chief Opechancanough and was used as a staging ground for the 1622 uprising at Jamestown by the Powhatan Indians. On March 6, 1653 John West was granted 3000 acres including the Indian village of Cinquoteck at the present location of West Point. John West received the land

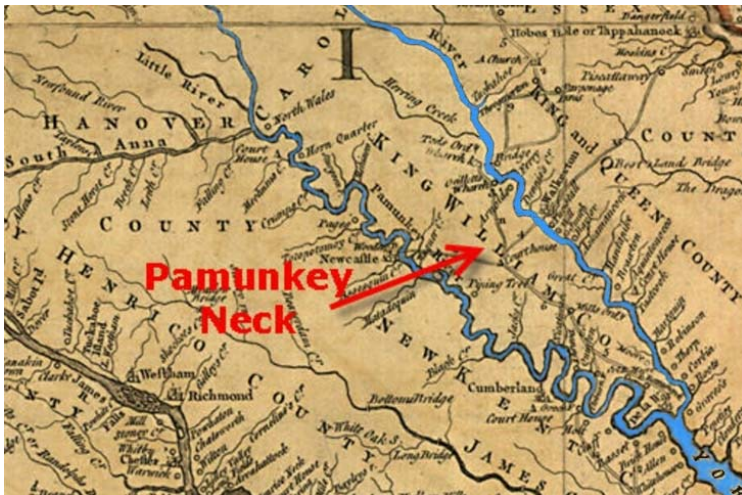


Plaque in St. John's Church

in appreciation of his services to the colony of Virginia as Governor from 1635 to 1638. The area was called West Point Plantation, deriving its name from John West."

Along with other large land grants, Henry Fox owned Huntington Plantation (also sometimes called "Fox's") on Pamunkey Neck. The original site was on the road from Chelsea to Fox's Ferry on the Mattaponi River near Custis Mill Pond. Henry Fox donated a house and land to be used as the original King William County courthouse, and the present building built on that site is now the oldest courthouse in the United States still in continuous use.

The Fox and Claiborne plantations were very near each other in King William County and it seems reasonable that the children should have gotten together. One example of a Fox-Claiborne marriage is that of Thomas Claiborne II (16 Dec 1680- 16 Aug 1732) and Anne Fox (20 May 1684- 4 May 1733) daughter of Henry Fox and Anne Knollys West. Thomas and Anne were married circa 1703 and Anne was his third wife. It is said that they had many children including: Leonard, William, Martha "Peggy", Sarah, Thomas, Daniel, Nathaniel, and Augustine.



Along with other large land grants, Henry Fox owned Huntington Plantation (also sometimes called "Fox's") on Pamunkey Neck. The original site was on the road from Chelsea to Fox's Ferry on the Mattaponi River near Custis Mill Pond.

Henry Fox Jr., son of Henry Fox and Anne West - and brother of Anne Fox - married 2nd Mary Claiborne, daughter of William Claiborne Jr. and Elizabeth Ludman in about 1722.

Henry Fox's grandson, Thomas Fox, married Philadelphia Claiborne, daughter of the Captain William Claiborne of Romancoke who died in 1746.

Another example of marriages between these families is that of Ursula Claiborne, who married William Gooch and four generations later their descendant Sarah Carroll married William Fox in South Carolina. By the way, William and Mary University has in the University archives a communion chalice, pitcher and bowl which were given to the church at middle peninsular by William Gooch's mother after William died. They were at one time in the possession of Bruton Parish Church but Bruton Parish gave them to W&M several years ago.

Genealogies of Virginia Families states: "Henry Fox was a vestryman and warden in St. John's Parish for

many years. He is first mentioned as a member of the vestry in 1695 when certain differences related to Mr. John Monro, Minister of St. John's Parish, were in contention. These church troubles extended over a period of years until in 1705 Henry Fox, **Captain Thomas Claiborne** and Captain John West, vestrymen in St. John's Parish, made a protest to Governor Francis Nicholson and the Council to intercede. Their petition said in part: 'We have no personal prejudice against Reverend Mr. John Munro, our present minister, upon account of his being of the Scottish Nation, though we must confess an Englishman would be more acceptable'."

This made us want to know more about the church and the "church troubles." There is nothing left of the original church that served the colonists, but the building that remains was built in 1734 and is located at 103 St. John's Church Lane, West Point, on Route #30 south of King William Courthouse, 10 miles north of West Point, and is now an interdenominational chapel. Its subsequent modern namesake, built in 1882, stands at 916 Main Street in downtown West Point.

The Church Web Site History describes the disagreement as follows: "The first rector of St. John's on record was the Reverend John Monro Jr., a Scot who came to the parish in 1693. Monro's tenure fell during a period of stormy relations between church and state in Virginia. He was a brother-in-law of the Reverend James Blair, commissary of the church, who strongly opposed the administration of Governor Francis Nicholson...Politically powerful vestrymen like **Thomas Claiborne**, Henry Fox, and John West supported Governor Nicholson, and Monro took the part of Blair. Reverend Monro was accused of slandering the royal governor. The minister, in reply, denounced the vestry for failing to make provision for his living and for having "nay'd and lock'd" the



St. John's Church

chapel door to keep him from preaching. The vestry denied this, and also denied any prejudice against Mr. Monro because of his Scottish birth, but did admit they believed an Englishman 'would be more acceptable' in the pulpit. The quarrel was eventually patched up, and Mr. Monro remained rector until his death about 1723."

The same church web site describes another disagreement 70 years later in 1775 (so the **Thomas Claiborne** named here cannot possibly be the same one named above in 1705): "The vestry was the cockpit of a sharp rivalry between two members, Carter Braxton and **Thomas Claiborne**, who were bitter political opponents in King William County. They vied for power in the church as well as in politics. Their disagreement was carried to the House of Burgesses, which ordered the vestry to be dissolved and new members to be chosen. The **Claiborne**-Braxton disputes seemed to foreshadow the deep divergence that developed in the parish during the struggle with Great Britain. **Claiborne** became an outspoken Tory, while Braxton took the part of the colonies as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Tory raiders burned Braxton's home in 1780, while he was attending a session of the Continental Congress. St. John's suffered more than many other Anglican churches from the effects of the Revolution. Many of its members either went away to war and never returned or, like Col. John West, owner of the West Point tract and a descendant of the third Lord Delaware, they fled the New World."

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## Hoard of Roman Coins

By Patricia Clayborn

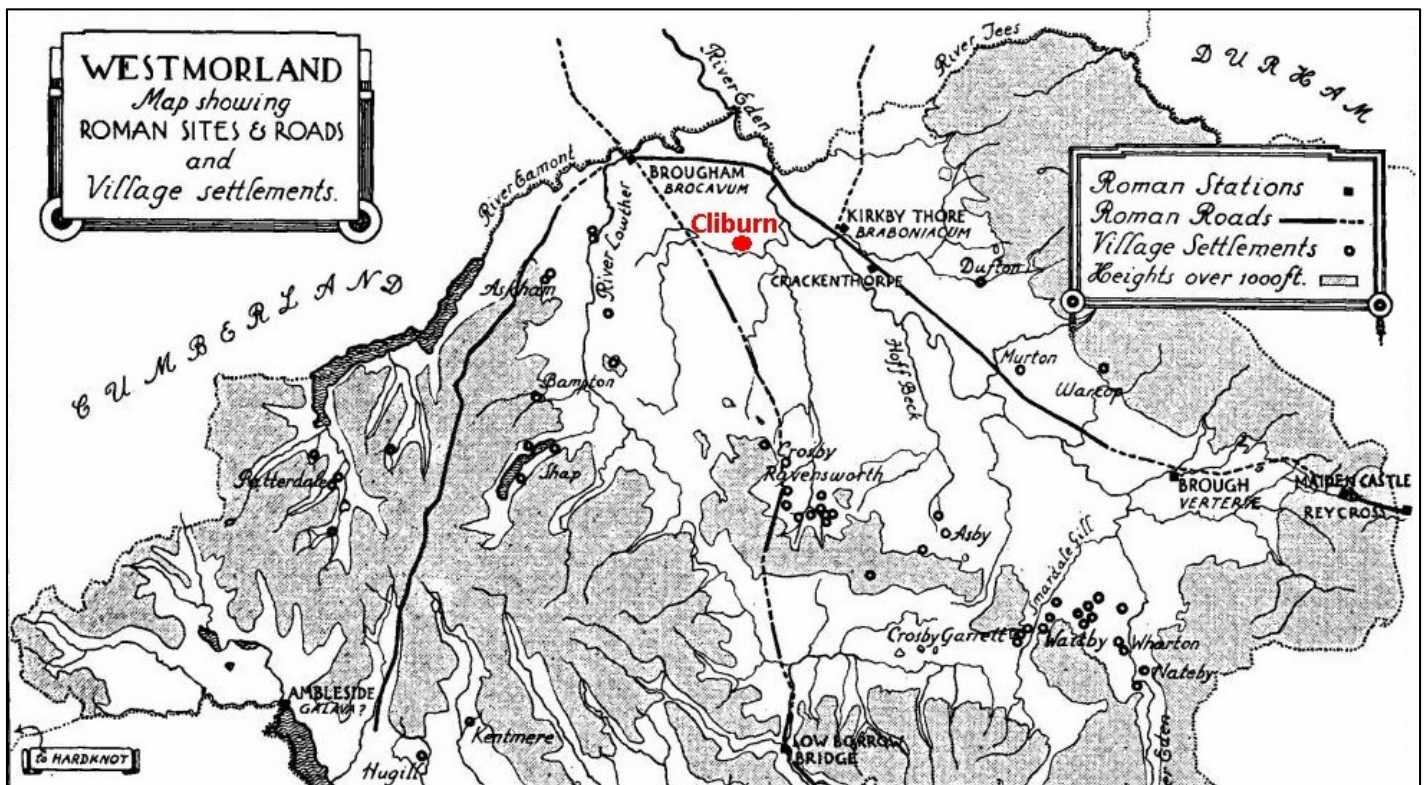
Archaeologists found a buried hoard of Roman coins in the village of Cliburn in Cumbria in 1984. The find might help to demonstrate that Cliburn was a site with importance not only in the Middle Ages, but also during and after the Roman occupation. The coins were found within the broken pieces of a clay pot, which had been used to contain them, but there was nothing to tell who buried them, when or why. The style of the pot was common in Westmorland kitchens from 350 AD to 400 AD, and the dates on the coins ranged from 294 AD to 313 AD.

We know that the death of Constantine in 337 started a period of upheaval across the entire empire, when the descendants of the dead emperor jockeyed for position. In Britain, Roman troops were gradually withdrawn from the years 383 to 410, and, as a result, raids by Anglo-Saxons in the south east, Irish in the west, and Picts in the north increased instability. Eventually, army pay in the form of Roman coins ceased to arrive and barter replaced money. Then began the long period of general decline with the gradual abandonment and deterioration of forts and villas.

The Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall were descended from the Le Franceys family, who did not come to Westmorland until after the Norman Conquest. Therefore none of this applies to them. However, the earliest footings of the peele tower at Cliburn Hall and St. Cuthbert's Church could possibly have more ancient origins, and the presence of the Roman coins might serve to support such a theory. As mentioned in the Spring 2014 edition of this newsletter, Cliburn Hall is near the crossing of two major Roman roads. It is also halfway between the Roman fort of Brocavum (modern day Brougham) and the Roman fort Braboniacum (modern day Kirkby Thore). There is no evidence of a military fort at Cliburn, but it certainly would have made the perfect spot for a civilian villa, at a comfortable spot right in the heart of all the bustling Roman activity.

The Cliburn Hall peele tower is thought to have been built in 1387 by Robert de Cliburn. St. Cuthbert's Church is thought to be a twelfth century Norman structure with a new south aisle added in 1886. Broken pieces of Roman era third century building stones were discovered under the floor of the church during the 1886 renovation, and are made of the same local red sandstone used in Cliburn Hall and elsewhere in the village. Red sandstone is the bedrock of the area, left near the surface in some places after the last glacier scraped everything else along during the final ice age.





Remnants of a Roman Road near Cliburn



Cliburn Hall in background and red sandstone outcropping in foreground

The ancient stones were incorporated into the plaster wall of the new south porch of St. Cuthbert's Church in order to make them easily available for viewing, and can still be seen there today. One of the stones has text in Latin that describes the rebuilding and re-dedication of an older Roman era bath house (*balneum*) that may have stood on the site or nearby. It states: "balneum [...] [...] veteri op[er]e exusto in rui[n]n(am) dilabsum [...] [p]illis per <T> cella[s] omnes renovatis [can]alibus et f[ist]ulis [...] [...]s[...]."

Translation of the partial text reads: "This bath-building [for ... styled ...] which after the old work had been burnt had fallen into ruin ... by renewing the pillars in all the rooms and by ... the channels and pipes ... ."

Celts (also known as "Britons") would have made up the majority of the native population in the area around Cliburn both before and after the Roman invasion. Then the area was settled by Anglo-Saxons around 650 and by Vikings circa 920, who sailed into the Solway Firth on the west coast and down the Eden River. St. Cuthbert's in Cliburn is recorded as one of the churches built in honor of St. Cuthbert at places along the route taken in 875 by the monks who carried his remains from Lindisfarne when they were forced to run away from the Viking King Halfdan Ragnarsson, a son of Ragnar Lothbrok. This means that the church building may originally have been built as much as 150 years before the Conquest, or possibly even earlier if it served some other purpose before it was dedicated as a church.



Inscribed Roman stones found under the old original floor of St. Cuthbert's Church, Cliburn



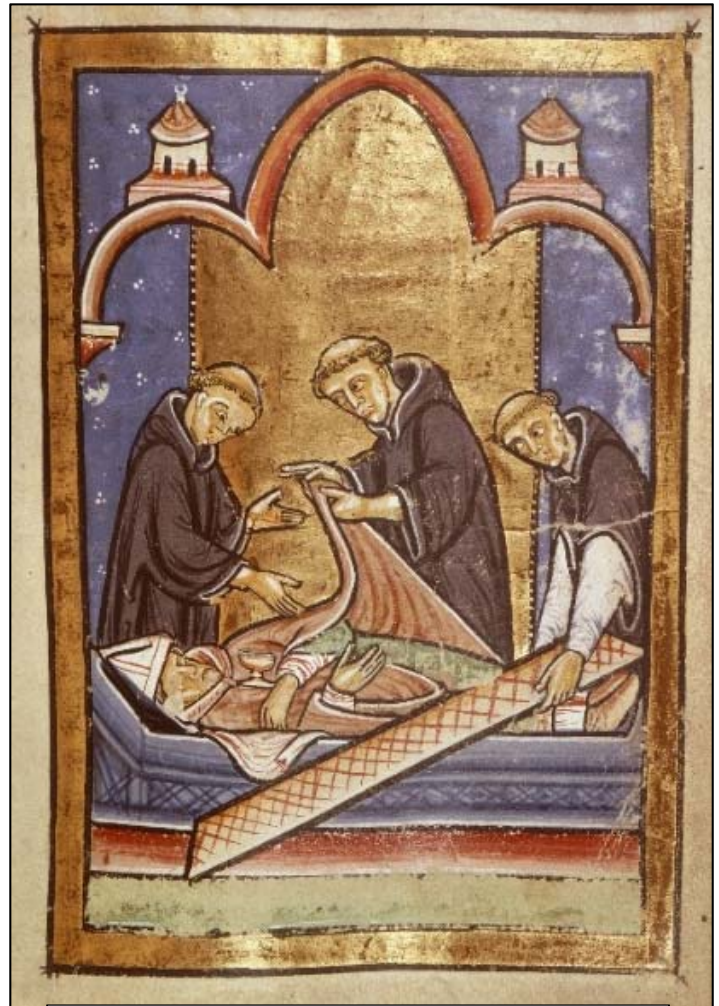
Inscribed Roman stone  
porch of St Cuthbert's Church, Cliburn

The book "Bygone Cumberland and Westmorland" by Daniel Scott describes how the design of some Westmorland churches might reveal a defensive use as opposed to a religious one, as follows: "Further away from the Border, into Mid Westmorland, the searcher may still meet with evidence of old-time church builders having a much keener eye for the defensive qualities of their structures than for architectural beauty. Solidity was the first consideration, and ...their enclosures would very generally offer the best position for defense. Among the Westmorland churches, those of Crosby Garrett and Ormside, though small, and not structurally fortified, seem unmistakably posted as citadels. At Brough, the church, a massive and easily defensible building, is situated upon the precipitous bank of the Hellebeck, and forms a sort of outwork of the Castle. The church at Kirkby Stephen certainly occupies a position which would give its occupants a strong hold on the Upper Eden Valley. **The old church at Cliburn, on the banks of the Leath, was also probably placed there with some regard to defense.** It is believed that the fine old church at Barton was used for a like purpose, and the vicar some time ago pointed out to the writer existing evidences of a large moat having probably been formed in case of necessity, the river Eamont being near enough to ensure an easy means of water supply."

Although there is no real proof that Cliburn has ever been anything but a remote and isolated backwater, it is interesting to consider the significant events that occurred close all around it during the last two millennia, and recall them when we visit.

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St. Cuthbert's in Cliburn is recorded as one of the churches built in honor of St. Cuthbert at places along the route taken in 875 AD by the monks who carried his remains from Lindisfarne.



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