



Claiborne Society Newsletter

The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Spring 2023

Message from the Publications Chairman

Patricia Clayborn

We need to affirm that the success of our reunion last year was due to the amazing organizational and hosting skills of our Claiborne Society Reunion Chair, Elizabeth Richardson, as well to the support she received from our President Deborah Peabody, and from Frank and Susan Rura, Deborah Lugone, Pam Meiring, Fritz Ely and Clai Bachmann Eley. This acknowledges that their act will be tough to follow!

In this issue we hope to carry on the thrill of the hunt for hidden ancestors, as we act as private detectives in our own grand mystery history story.

- We have received a letter from our new Claiborne Society Secretary, Nicholas J. Lilly-Cline, and we wish to respond to him with appreciation and welcome.
- And we are happy to have received an article from our new Claiborne Society Research Chairman, Johnathan J. Clayborn, MS. He also serves as our DNA Project Administrator for the Claiborne-Clyburn DNA Project by Family Tree DNA.
- Finally, I was inspired by the recent coronation to question whether any of the ancestors of the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall Westmorland were "liege men." I was very surprised to find that eight members of the le Franceys family signed the "Ragman Roll." All the prominent Scottish landowners, churchmen and burgesses were summoned to swear allegiance to King Edward I "Longshanks," sign the rolled parchment made from linen rags and affix their wax armorial seals, many of which had ribbons attached. In addition to such prominent people as Robert Bruce, 6th Lord of Annandale, the 2nd Earl of Carrick and William Wallace's uncle, Sir Reginald de Crauford, 2,000 signatures were inscribed, making it a most valuable document for future researchers.

We are hoping that you and your dear ones are having the best year ever.

Thank you for your continuing membership and for contributing to our Society!

Sincerely, Patricia Clayborn

NEW MEMBERS:

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Clan:

Edward Claiborne Irby III and Bevin Lawson Irby
Atlanta, Georgia

OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

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Vice President	Linda M. King
Secretary	Nicholas J. Lilly-Cline
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www.claibornesociety.org

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Letter from the Secretary

By Nicholas J. Lilly-Cline

To my kinsfolk,

I have had the distinct privilege since our reunion in Annapolis of being able to style myself as Secretary of our Society. I am reverent in my status as a descendant of William Claiborne, finding it to be a mark of both distinction and ancient American foundation. I assume the same of all of us, and that is kinship enough.

Claiborne was a man who was among the very first to exhibit the indomitable American spirit. His thwarted efforts to preserve his stake on Kent Island and in the Chesapeake against Lord Baltimore were prophetic: a forerunner to the defiance which would be exhibited during the Revolution. Sadly, it is a story which is little thought of today outside of the vicinities we visited in November.

Further south on the Chesapeake, in 1637, my other ancestor John Lilly IV landed on what is to this day called "Lilly's Neck" near Mathews, Virginia in a ship called Elizabeth. Coincidentally Leonard Calvert, brother of Lord Baltimore, was with him. Lilly's wife was named Mary (née Maulson), a woman of ardent Quaker beliefs. She would slip out of her home, bringing two slaves along with her, into the woods to hold meetings of worship in secret. The Anglican officials of Gloucester County forbade this, caught her in the act, and brought a formal complaint to her husband's attention.

John and Mary Lilly's granddaughter, also named Mary Lilly in her honor, would turn out to be the grandmother of William Nelson, acting colonial Governor of the Virginia Colony and the father of Thomas Nelson, a Signer of the Declaration. Descending from them also the pharmacist Col. Eli Lilly, whose legacy in medicine has improved the lives of millions across this nation and others.

As many may swear to, it is blood which carries most tenaciously the qualities we as a people cherish. I need not speak of the veracity of this through the accomplishments of those who have carried the Claiborne name before us.

It is in this tradition of individuality and strength which this country, society, and I feel my own reputation stems from. We mustn't lose sight of the integral part both we and our ancestors played upon the stage of this continent, and the favor we do them all in preserving their memory through our work and, most importantly, our camaraderie.

In that vein I wish to profusely thank all of you, as a cousin and friend, for nominating and electing me to this office.

Humbly and obligingly,

Nicholas J. Lilly Cline
Secretary, National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants



Family Connections

By Johnathan J. Clayborn, MS

Many years ago, there was a hypothesis that all Claibornes, regardless of spelling, were related. Different research was undertaken in an attempt to prove or disprove this hypothesis, initially undertaken by Dr. Alex Waldrop III and subsequently continued by this author. The DNA findings have definitively shown that there are multiple genetic profiles, and collectively the research community often refers to everyone of a different DNA profile as "the other family".

In doing the research over the last few years, and examining my own history and situation, this author believes that this approach is wholly incorrect. Collectively, we have been hyper focused on the DNA and using that as evidence as the sole focus of research efforts.

An example of what is meant can be found in Edward Cleiborne of Henrico, VA. Because known descendants of Edward have been DNA tested and match the Cliborns of Westmorland, the research immediately shifted directly to Westmorland and an attempt to plug Edward directly into that part of the tree. Thanks to efforts by researcher Joshua Isom this author has confirmed that Edward came from North London, in a suburb called Waltham Cross, as did his father before him – not directly from Westmorland as so many records and online trees erroneously claim.

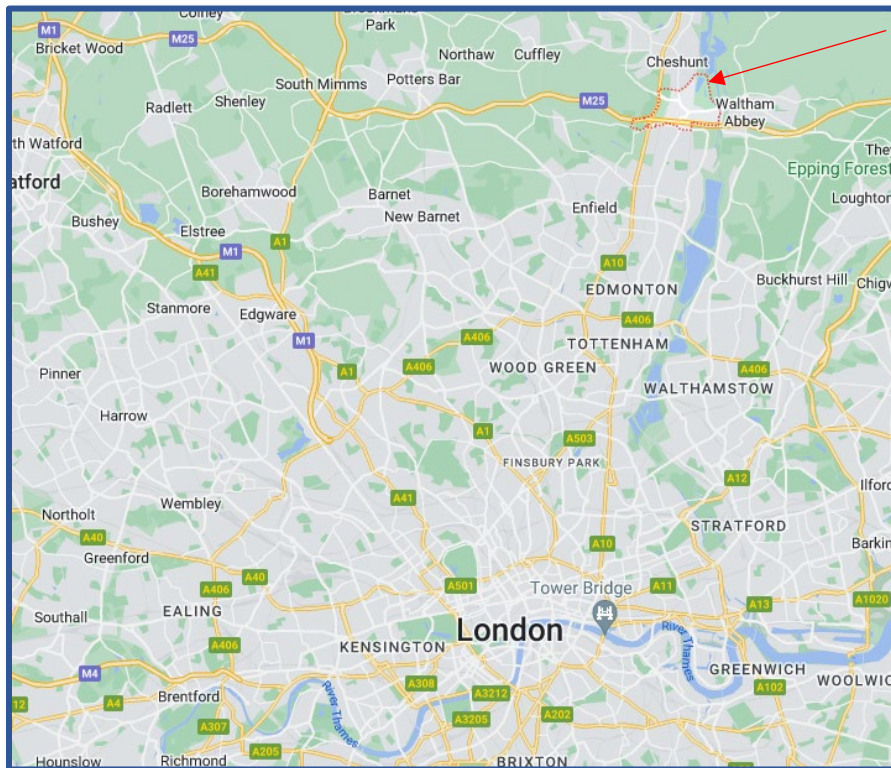


Figure 1 Waltham Cross (in red at the top of the map) in relation to London.

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In that example, following the DNA evidence to the exclusion of all else has led to years spent looking in the wrong place. This author cannot help but wonder what else we are overlooking.

It has been said that Col. William Claiborne and his descendants are a wholly different family than the descendants of Edward Cleiborn because the two groups have a different DNA profile. This author does not believe this to be true. Evidence for the idea that Col. William is not connected to the Westmorland branch are as follows:

1. The Richmond Herald said that there was no record of Col. William having a grant of arms and that he lived on the opposite side of the country from the grantee, the implication is that he usurped the arms.

This author posits that he displayed a coat of arms that he was hereditarily entitled to but did not take steps to properly register them. This is supported by the fact that many younger generations of the Westmorland branch bore the same arms but also failed to register them and as such there is no record of their grant of arms either. While children did inherit the arms of their armigerous ancestors, the process was not automatic and some onus was placed on the armiger to complete the process. In the case of younger children, a new petition would have to have been filed with the College of Arms in order to grant a new version of the arms with the proper marks of cadency applied. If the younger children did not do this, it would create no record trail and lead to genealogical confusion.

2. Col. William's family lived in Southern England, the opposite end of the country from Westmorland, so they cannot be related.

This assumption is false. It predisposes that none of the Clebornes of old ever left the family home and that the only place they ever lived was Cliburn. But we know this to be wrong. We know that at least two different branches went to Ireland during the 1600s.

This author has also been working closely with Mr. Isom. Our new research shows that by the year 1600 the Clebornes had settled in several pockets throughout England, including: Yorkshire, Cumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Hertfordshire, London, Essex, Kent, and Norwich. This information shows that the family was far more widespread than originally thought. Now the idea that "they were on the other side of the country" is wholly disproved because known, verified, DNA matching Westmorland descendants were also living in Southern England, a mere 16 miles from where Col. William was born. If you have two people with the same name and they live 16 miles away from each other, this is no longer in the realm of distance being an exclusionary factor.

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Figure 2 A map showing known pockets of Cleborne family members verified by records up to the year 1600.

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3. Because the DNA profiles are different, they are not the same family.

This is where it gets tricky. Different DNA means they are descended from a different biological ancestor. But does that mean that they are not the same family? What is family? How do you define it? This author would argue that there is more to family than just DNA.

Here's an example; my ancestor, Lemuel Croy, was adopted by William Clyborn of Giles County, VA circa 1850. We have been Clayborns for 7 generations. William Clyborn, a descendant of the Westmorland family, loved my ancestor enough to adopt him as his own son. Does that not make him family? Does that not make me a Clayborn? My DNA does not match either Westmorland or Col. William.

Continuing that line of reasoning, I am in the process of adopting my own stepson. Would that not make him family? What about his children? Are they not Clayborns? Their DNA will be different still even from mine. And yet, there is a relationship there. I love that boy enough to claim him as my own. The DNA does not show this, it cannot. But he and I are family nonetheless.

A third example I will leave you with; I have been running down the family history of a coworker of mine, Jasmine Claborn. Her 5th Great Grandfather was born out of wedlock. There is no record of his father, his mother, Lucy B. Claborn, gave the child her last name. They are descended directly from Alfred Lafayette Claborn of Weakly County, TN, but if her brother does the Y-DNA test, the results will not match known groups. Are they still family?

This author would argue that all of these examples are examples of family – of personal relationships, even if the DNA doesn't match. This author would further urge caution in not following the DNA to the point of ignoring all else. There is some new evidence that is being vetted that suggests that Col. William's grandfather may have either been a Cleborne of Westmorland or else adopted by them, thus suggesting a familial connection after all. If true, this would prove that we are all one family after all, just not strictly genetically.

The technology that is available to us today is wonderful. But the old-fashioned human element is equally crucial. These are some things to consider while conducting research.

Happy researching!

~ Johnathan J. Clayborn, MS



Liege Man of Life and Limb

By Patricia Clayborn

On May 6th Prince William knelt before his father, King Charles III, to pledge his loyalty as follows: “I William, Prince of Wales, pledge my loyalty to you, and faith and truth I will bear unto you, as your liege man of life and limb, so help me God.” Traditionally in the past, other royals, as well as bishops and lords, would all kneel before their new monarch and pay homage with the same words. Usually, the monarch or overlord also promised to provide for the liege man in some form, either through the granting of a fief or by some other manner of support.

Some of the ancestors of the Cleburnes of Cliburn Hall, Westmorland were liege men who swore loyalty to an assortment of kings, lords and hereditary peers over the course of 400 years:

In 1243, liege man and Baron of the Exchequer John le Franceys, son of Hugh le Franceys and Johanna de Veteripont/Vipont, was given the whole Manor of Maud’s Meaburn, by Ivo Veteripont/Vipont, Lord of Alston Moore and son of Maud and William de Veteripont/Vipont. Maud was a sister of Sir Hugh de Morville, Constable of Scotland, Lord of Westmorland and a principal participant in the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

On September 30, 1251, Robert son of Ivo de Veteripont granted the service of John le Franceys to Lord John de Balliol for the moiety of the manor of Sorbie, Wigton in exchange for “Florliswroth” in the county of Leicester. John de Balliol was a trusted supporter of King Henry III and fought alongside him at the Battle of Lewes during the Baron’s Revolt. John’s son – also named John de Balliol - was crowned King of Scots in 1292 and swore loyalty to King Edward I “Longshanks” - which was his undoing. In August 1296, leading Scottish nobles and burgesses were forced to swear a personal oath to Edward by signing the Ragman Roll. Eight Le Franceys family members signed the Roll as follows, medieval spelling included:

- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) de Beneston, Johan (del counte de Edeneburgh)
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) de Longneuton, Johan (del counte de Rokesburgh)
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) Aleyn (del counte de Rokesburgh)
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) Symund (del counte de Rokesburgh)
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) Dominus Willelmus (miles [soldier/knight])
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) William Fraunceys, (chivalier [knight])
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) William le (del counte de Edeneburgh)
- Fraunceis (Fraunceys) William (del counte de Fyf)



A Parchment Page from the Ragman Roll

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John de Balliol was the last Scottish king crowned in Scone on the royal coronation chair the Stone of Scone. Edward invaded Scotland in 1296, unseated John, and moved the stone, the Scottish Crown Jewels and other Scottish regalia to Westminster in London. In 1996 Prime Minister John Major returned the stone to Scotland, where it has been housed in Edinburgh Castle. It was temporarily transported from Edinburgh to London for King Charles's May 6th coronation.

On August 18, 1268, Gilbert le Franceys and his comrade in arms Richard le Fleming, who are described as "belted knights" (*gladio cinctos*), joined other liegemen of King Henry III for an inquisition taken at Inglewood Forest. Gilbert was the grandson of the Hugh le Franceys who had been given Maud's Meaburn and the nephew of John le Franceys the Baron Exchequer. Gilbert married Hawys de Vernon and their son Richard changed his last name to Vernon in adulthood when he became the ancestor of the Vernons of Haddon Hall.



The Stone of Scone in the English Coronation Chair

Records of 1293 state: "Release by Roger, son of William le Franceys, to Sir Robert de Brus, Lord of Annandale, of lands which he held of him in Annandale towards Weremundebye in exchange for lands which William le Franceys his brother held of the same Robert in Moffat, Dumfries." This Roger le Franceys was the liege man of Sir Robert de Brus (1243-1304) 6th Lord of Annandale and father of Robert the Bruce, the future King of Scotland.

The Cleburnes were liege men of the Cliffords. While the Cleburnes were extremely minor landowners, the Cliffords were a power to be reckoned with in the north of England. Roger Clifford became a "household" knight of Edward I in 1257 when Edward was still just a prince and had expanded his retinue to deal with the threat from Wales. Clifford was the holder of half of the hereditary sheriffdom of Westmorland, which had previously been held by Robert Veteripont/Vipont. Robert died of wounds received in rebellion against King Henry III during the Battle of Lewes, leaving two daughters: Isabella and Idonea. In 1265 Roger Clifford and his comrade in arms Roger Leyburn were granted the marriage of Vipont's heirs: Isabella married Clifford's son, and Idonia married Leyburn's son. On the death of Idonea the hereditary shrievalty passed via Isabella to the Cliffords. Roger Clifford was summoned to take part during the second campaign of Edward I against Wales in 1282 where he was killed in battle. Roger Clifford's son Robert became the 1st Baron Clifford.

Sir Robert Cleburne (1360-1396) was a person of some distinction. He was Lord of the Manor of Cliburn-Hervey, and was Knight of the Shire of Westmoreland from 1384 to 1387. In addition, in right of his wife Margaret de Cundale, he held the lands and was Lord of the Manors of Bampton of Cundale, Bampton Patryke and Knipe Patric in Westmoreland. He was formally retained by Roger Clifford 5th Baron Clifford.

The 9th Lord Clifford died the day before the Battle of Towton, Easter 1461, during the Wars of the Roses. His young son and heir went into hiding. During this time the Clifford properties were held by Richard Neville, the Earl of Warwick. Once Henry Tudor defeated Richard III, Henry Clifford – 10th Baron Clifford, the "Shepherd Lord" of Wordsworth's poem - came out of hiding and the Cliffords regained their estates.

George Clifford, the 13th Baron Clifford, was a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I. He wore her glove in his hat, as can be seen in his portrait. He commanded the Elizabeth Bonaventure in the naval battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588, was made Queen's Champion in 1590, and was admitted to the Most Noble Order of the Garter in 1592.

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George's daughter Lady Anne Clifford (1590-1676) inherited her father's ancient barony and became 14th Baroness Clifford as well as High Sheriff of Westmorland. She was friends with Elizabeth Hutton Cleburne, widow of Edmund Cleburne (1605-1648), and mentioned Elizabeth several times in her diary. Elizabeth Hutton Cleburne was the daughter of Sir Timothy Hutton, 1st Lord of Marske and High Sheriff of Yorkshire, and his wife Elizabeth Bowes. Elizabeth Bowes was the daughter of Sir George Bowes, Marshal of Berwick, of Streatlam Castle, Durham. Sir George Bowes was an ancestor of the late Queen Mother Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

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- Parker FHM. Inglewood Forest. Part II. Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Volume VI New Series. 1906. Editor WG Collingwood, MA, FSA. Article IX. Pages 162, 163.
- Ragg Frederick W. The Feoffees [*a Feoffee is a trustee who holds a fief*] of the Cliffords from 1283 to 1482. Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Volume VIII New Series. 1908. Editor W.G. Collingwood, MA, FSA. Article XVIII. Page 283.

Descendants of Adam le Franceys

First 10 generations. Number denotes generation. Early dates are approximate.

- 1 Adam le Franceys 1170 - 1210
- 2 Thomas le Franceys 1185 -
- 3 Adam le Franceys 1200 -
- 4 Matilda le Franceys 1230 -
- 3 Robert le Franceys 1205 -
- 2 Hugh le Franceys 1190 -
- +Johanna de Veteripont / Vipont 1190 - (Johanna was given Mauds Meaburn by her father Ivo. Ivo also held the manors of Great and Little Soureby from the Lords of Galloway.)
- 3 Adam le Franceys 1215 -
- 4 Gilbert le Franceys 1235 - 1278 (Held the manors of Castle Sowerby and Newland, with pasture, and the manors of Rothcliffe and Caldbeck, among others.)
- +Hawys de Vernon 1235 -
- 5 Richard (de Vernon) le Franceys 1265 - 1330
- +Isabel de Harcla 1265 - 1342
- 6 Richard de Vernon 1285 -
- +Maud de Camville 1290 -
- 7 William de Vernon 1320 -
- 3 John le Franceys 1217 - Baron of the Exchequer.
(Held the manors of Mauds Meaburn in Westmorland and Soureby in Galloway, Scotland, among many others.)
- 3 Robert le Franceys 1219 - 1270
- +Elizabeth De Tailbois 1219 -
- 4 John (de Cliburn) le Franceys 1240 - 1310
- 5 Robert (de Cliburn) le Franceys 1260 - 1335
- +Alice de Quitlawe (aka Whitley) 1260 -
- 6 Robert le Franceys 1295 -
- 6 John le Franceys 1297 -
- +Beatrice le Boteler 1300 -
- 7 Robert (de Cliburn) le Franceys 1320 -
- 8 John (de Cliburn) le Franceys 1340 -
- +Margaret de Bolton 1340 -
- 9 Robert Cleburne 1360 - 1396
- +Margaret de Cundale 1360 -
- 10 John Cleburne 1375 - 1440
- +Margaret Salkeld 1375 -
- 6 Richard le Franceys 1299 -
- 6 Thomas le Franceys 1300 -
- 5 Adam (de Cliburn) le Franceys 1265 -
- 4 Grimbald le Franceys 1245 -



MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send updated contact information to our Registrar Frank Rura, or include it with your dues payment:

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

ANNUAL DUES

Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. The Annual Dues for the Claiborne Society are \$10. As an alternative, a lifetime membership is available for \$200 for current members. To continue to receive newsletters, please send your check payable to "The Claiborne Society" to our Treasurer:

**NATIONAL SOCIETY CLAIBORNE FAMILY DESCENDANTS
ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT FORM**

Name

(Optional) Claiborne Line/Anccestor.....

Street Address.....

City State Zipcode

Telephone

E-Mail:

Check one:	Cost	AMOUNT ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues:	\$10	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership:	\$200	\$ _____

Send this form and your check payable to **The Claiborne Society** to our Treasurer:

**Charles Claiborne
508 Penny Lane
Woodstock, GA 30188**

Registrar
3052 Rogers Ave.
Ellicott City, MD 21043



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