

# Claiborne Clippings

National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Reunion – Williamsburg, Virginia 2019

## 17<sup>TH</sup> Reunion July 27 through July 30, 2019 Williamsburg, Virginia

### Message from the President

From Susan W.H. Rura

I want to give an overview of the State of the Claiborne Society. We have been meeting from 1988-2019 every two years for the last 31 years. We have been doing something well as we are not failing and have acquired many new members. I am the only one here today who was at the first Reunion. We could just be grateful, or say we are lucky, and carry on. But not me, I analyze. What is our strategy, with our money, with information, and with our people, the membership?

As a college student studying math, the required Fine Arts course I chose was Survey of Music, which has given me great pleasure. Even in marriage, a purchase of season tickets to the Baltimore Symphony, guaranteed a "date night" once a month. This has continued since 1986 until last month when the musicians were locked out of the Hall. They are first rate musicians who were negotiating a contract. Now the doors of the Symphony may close after 103 years. Why has this happened?

There is a problem. They are running out of money. They have debts, want to borrow from the endowment to cover costs as a short-term fix. But this indebtedness didn't just happen. Although it was a surprise for many, it was caused by a lack of transparency. Can this be turned around? They are not bankrupt yet, so it might be.

This had me thinking about our own organization. How do we operate? We collect \$10 dues per year. If 100 pay, we have \$1000. To print and mail a newsletter costs \$335, so

we can produce 3 newsletters a year, maybe less on non-reunion years. For a Reunion, most costs are covered in the Registration fee which covers a bus, food of 2-3 meals, a speaker, and printed materials. We usually cover costs fairly well. Our only problem is last minute cancellations. We do have a buffer, money in the bank. Call it our endowment. [For the Baltimore Symphony, their endowment is the only thing keeping them from declaring bankruptcy while they solve the problem.]

We can always improve, but we are just a club with volunteers who have enjoyed being together. We can raise cost of dues, do an in-house audit, accept donations and gifts, but only while keeping transparency. We do often publish the Treasurer's Report.

What information do we produce? At the beginning, a handful of Claibornes "passed the hat" and collected \$500, to begin research in England by hiring a genealogist. In 2001 we began our DNA studies using the FAMILY TREE Y-chromosome test. We produce newsletters with articles, written by members, about family genealogy or their historical research. There are two requirements. The articles must be signed by the author; and the author must give attribution to their sources of information. We document our Reunions with a day-by-day scribe recording events, officer reports, and any significant data. There are individual independent efforts to tell about the Claiborne family: the Dorman book, the Cleborne Journal, and Gene Williamson's books. What is new is a "trial balloon" effort to publish some of the archives, a chance to put early history of our Society into a manual, useful to new members.

What provided the thrust for us to come so far and do so much was the Quest. This was the search to prove once and for all that William Claiborne of Kings Lynn, Norfolk was indeed descended from the ancient family at Cliburn in Westmorland, now Cumbria, England. Although the quest has been completed by the first seekers, it still exists for another group who can yet pursue noble initiatives as they go.

Susan W. H. Rura  
President, Claiborne Society

### OFFICERS 2019 - 2021

President	Deb Peabody
Vice President	Elizabeth Richardson
Secretary	Linda M. King
Treasurer	Charles E. Claiborne
Registrar	Frank Rura
Standing	Committees
Reunion	Elizabeth Richardson
Research	Dr. Alex Waldrop
Archives	Susan W.H. Rura
Publications	Patricia Clayborn
Webmaster	Dan Boylin

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



Jamestown Ships: Godspeed, Discovery, and Susan Constant

**Painting of  
William Claiborne  
currently in storage at the  
Muscarelle Museum**



This painting was given to the William and Mary Library in 1904 by Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne of Richmond, who made a \$1,000.00 donation to the college as the nucleus of a fund for a library of books about Virginia. After the unveiling of the portrait, the Richmond Times Dispatch stated: "Miss May Burnet Claiborne, daughter of Dr. James W. Claiborne of Petersburg, VA, unveiled yesterday, a portrait of William Claiborne, first secretary of the Virginia Colony, at the College of William and Mary. The portrait's donor was present at the portrait's unveiling ceremony. The presentation address was made by the Hon. James Alston Cabell, Mrs. Claiborne's brother."

**Keynote Speaker  
Historian  
Martha W. McCartney**

On July 29th, historian and author Martha W. McCartney will discuss William Claiborne's life in Virginia. Based on her research in primary sources, she will address such basic issues as where he lived, his role and achievements as the colony's official surveyor, Secretary of the Colony, and Indian trader.

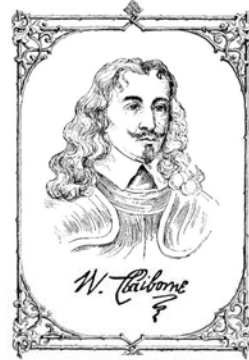
Other topics to be explored will be his unique and important perspective on the 1644 Indian attack, his support of England's Commonwealth government, and the trading post he established on Kent Island.



**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
CLAIBORNE FAMILY  
DESCENDANTS  
REUNION  
PROGRAM**

July 27 through July 30, 2019

*Colonel William Claiborne: Mover and Shaker at the  
Epicenter of the New World*



Colonel William Claiborne

Williamsburg Lodge  
310 South England Street  
Williamsburg, Virginia

**PROGRAM**

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
CLAIBORNE FAMILY  
DESCENDANTS  
REUNION**

**Saturday, July 27**

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Registration and Hospitality at the Williamsburg Lodge. Dinner and evening on your own with Claiborne and Cliborn relatives and friends.

**Sunday, July 28**

9:00 am: Meet in the Williamsburg Lodge Lobby for transportation to Historic Jamestown. Guided tour of Jamestown Fort, Church with memorial to William Claiborne, Archaearium Museum of artifacts, archeological digs, walking tour of New Towne area with interpreter, visit to Ambler Mansion ruins.

12:00 Noon: Lunch: Box lunches will be available.

1:00 pm: Board bus for Jamestown Settlement, exhibits, Indian village, ships, and gardens.

4:00 pm: Return to Williamsburg Lodge. Dinner and evening on your own.

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

**PROGRAM**

**Monday, July 29**

9:00 am: Meet in Williamsburg Lodge Lobby for transportation to Muscarelle Museum on College of William & Mary campus, to view painting of William Claiborne. Contributing to the costs of the restoration of this painting has been proposed as a project for our Society.

10:00 am: Visit the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg, with galleries of 17th and 18th century decorative arts including paintings of Thomas and Sara Claiborne of Tennessee. Visit nearby Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.

12:00 Noon: Lunch at the Museum cafeteria. Return to galleries on your own.

1:45 pm: Return to Williamsburg Lodge.

2:00 pm: Business meeting: Call to Order, Invocation, Minutes, Treasurer's and Registrar's Reports.

2:30 pm: Nominating Committee Recommendations, Election, New Business (discussion of proposed restoration project), Presentations.

4:00 pm: Genealogical Research Update, Discussion of next Reunion, Benediction, Adjournment.

5:00 pm: Break  
6:00 pm: Banquet

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

**PROGRAM**

**Monday, July 29** (continued)

7:30 pm: Dr. Claiborne Smith Award, Installation of new Officers, Remarks by new President.

8:00 pm: Keynote Speaker Ms. Martha McCartney.

9:00 pm: Closing Remarks, New Officers meet.

**Tuesday, July 30**

Reunion over; check out on your own. For those choosing to attend the American Evolution Event 1619-2019 at Historic Jamestown in the early morning, check out timing will need to be early as well.

**400th Anniversary Commemorative  
Ceremony of the First Representative  
Legislative Assembly**

July 30, 2019

Venue: Historic Jamestowne and  
Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg  
1368 Colonial Parkway, Jamestown

American Evolution commemorates the first representative assembly, which was held in Jamestown's church in the summer of 1619. Members of the Virginia General Assembly, Congress and state legislatures nationwide convene for this special commemorative event. Join us for public programs that will take place at both Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement.

<https://www.americanevolution2019.com/>

## **Reunion Recollections**

From Linda M. King, Secretary

### **Reunion Theme: Colonel William Claiborne: Mover & Shaker at the Epicenter of a New World**

#### **Saturday, July 27, 2019**

Several of the Claiborne Society gathered in the lobby of the Williamsburg Lodge to welcome arriving members. Each member and guest was presented with a folder with the schedule of events, a name tag and a gift bag. The bag contained an oyster shell gift with a reunion label, a Colonial Williamsburg map & guide, a folder with a 5-generation family tree and notepad, a map of Jamestown and a list of tours, programs, and special events for Historic Jamestowne for the 400th anniversary, a copy of a Washington Post Article on the Jamestown excavations, and an article by Clai Bachmann on the Tennessee Claibornes with photos of the portraits of Thomas Claiborne Jr. and his wife Sarah Lewis King. At 6 p.m. our group gathered at the historic LIGHTFOOT house for wine and hors-d'oeuvres and to enjoy each other's company. Afterward we dispersed, free to explore the Williamsburg restaurants or hear the musical performance at Bruton Parish Church.

#### **Sunday, July 28, 2019**

We boarded a charter bus for our morning tour of Historic Jamestown. Beginning at the Visitor Center, we split into two groups, with guides Myra Carl and Bob Skelly, and crossed the bridge onto Jamestown Island. We took a guided tour of Jamestown Fort, which has been reassembled much as it was expected to have appeared in 1607, one of the first structures excavated. Our guide told us that no fresh water was to be found on the island and that the settlers drank "sweet water" or river water mixed with rum. They were instructed to hide the number of English sick and dead from the Indians, to minimize their vulnerability. A large burial ground was found within the walls of the fort. Several archeological digs were open and active, including the remains of a fireplace hearth. The Archaearium Museum contained many artifacts as well as many displays of the archeological digs, human remains, and stories surrounding the research derived from the discoveries. The displays were exceptional, giving us: the names of the 1607 colonists and their places of origin; details of the "starving time" and its impact; and a map of Chief Powhatan's land. A walking tour of the New Town area was special as we know this as the area that William Claiborne surveyed. It included a visit to the Ambler Mansion ruins, from later in Jamestown's history. Many of us posed for pictures with the Pocahontas statue.

After a box lunch at the Dale House Café, we visited the Jamestown Church which had several memorials, including one to William Claiborne. The church was recently excavated and is in the process of being modified to resemble the original design and appearance of 1607. We were honored by a brief historic overview by Dr. James Horn, President of Jamestowne Rediscovery, a joint project of Preservation Virginia and the National Parks Service. I was taken with how beautiful the windows were, and that the sun seemed to sparkle through the antique windows. Sitting in its pews, one wondered about the lives of those people so long ago, when attending church was a requirement, not an option. It was a special moment for me to experience being in that place.

In the afternoon, we boarded the bus to visit the Jamestown Settlement, a recreation which includes an Indian village, a fort with structures and gardens, and the three ships. Many of us learned things about the Powhatan tribe that we had never heard before, including how the women were the leaders of their society. Women ran the families and created the homes, and enjoyed freedoms and prominence in their society that rivaled modern-day America. We learned about the nets they weaved that were used to create nets and baskets for everyday tasks. The Jamestown Settlement had displays of tobacco drying and in the afternoon had demonstrations of musket firings. The Susan Constant and the Godspeed were impressive ships, which allowed us to experience how the early settlers traveled to Virginia. One ship was locally made and crafted while the other was made in Maine. One interesting demonstration was how they used anchors and weights to determine the depth of the water. The Museum Hall had on special loan, for this 400th anniversary of the Virginia colony, one of the original documents from the first legislative assembly in Virginia. It is on loan from the British Archives, a part of the Virginia Company of London collection.

In the evening, some of us dined on Duke of Gloucester Street at the King's Arms Tavern, which opened in 1772. We were treated to servers in colonial costume, with food offerings similar to those enjoyed by early citizens of Williamsburg. This included their famous "peanut soupe". Many of us enjoyed cocktails and ales reminiscent of the 18th century. Southern Pecan Pie with Bourbon was my personal favorite.

#### **Monday, July 29, 2019**

We paired off in private vehicles in the morning to visit the Muscarelle Museum on College of William & Mary campus to enjoy a special viewing of a portrait of William Claiborne. We learned about the history of the painting, which was obviously in need of repair. Elizabeth Richardson gave a fascinating lecture on the history of the painting and its alleged provenance, including other examples of portraits of William Claiborne that were in earlier publications, but without

sourced. Next we visited the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg. Our guide did a wonderful job explaining the details of the collection of southern furniture. The various styles of regional craftsmanship were interesting and beautiful, each with its own function. The distinct differences were apparent when explained by our expert. In the portrait gallery we enjoyed viewing many portraits of patriots and Presidents, as well as the paintings of Thomas and Sara Claiborne of Tennessee. The museum also has one of the largest collections of British ceramics outside of England. In our spare time, many of us explored the Abby Aldrich Folk Art wing of the museum.

### **Banquet with Keynote Speaker, Ms. Martha McCartney**

Mrs. Susan Rura greeted everyone and opened with the Reunion Prayer that was first delivered at the Claiborne Family Reunion at the Jamestown Exposition on June 18, 1907 by Reverend Daniel Gregory Claiborne Butts of Richmond, Virginia. After our meal Susan stepped forward to name the recipient of the Claiborne T. Smith Jr. Award. The purpose of the Award is to give a special thank you to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Claiborne Society. It is a chance to publicly praise this individual's work to the Society members. The Award is given to Vera W. "Curly" Moore, planner of the first reunion, whose agenda design has been copied in each successive reunion.

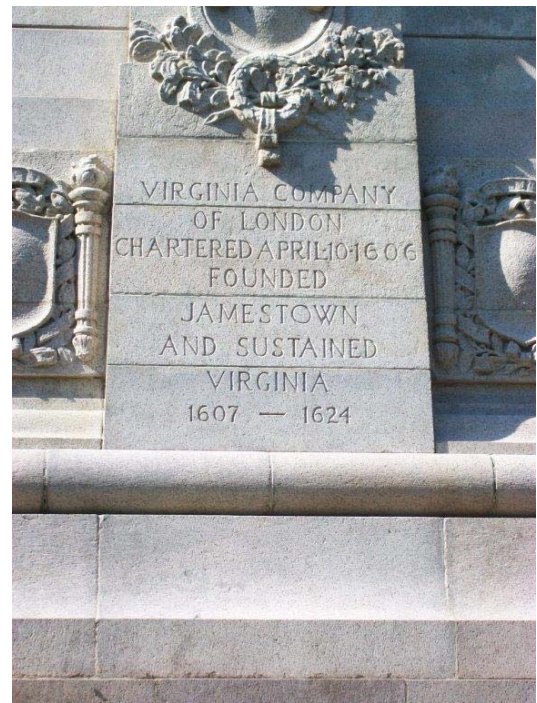
Edward Ayres then introduced our speaker Ms. Martha McCartney. Ms. McCartney is an award-winning research historian, author of several books, and a graduate of William & Mary College. Ms. McCartney is an expert in early land records in Virginia and provided a detailed history of William Claiborne's job as early surveyor and his land holdings in Elizabeth City, Hampton, and in the current area of Newport News. She also discussed the land holding records he created and said there was no record of him ever obtaining the "Secretary's land", 600 acres he was entitled to claim near Jamestown as part of his appointment to Secretary of State in 1625. She also went into detail about his interest in trade, especially with the local Indian tribes. He traded extensively with several tribes and his opinion was highly valued during the 1644 Indian attack. He was known to have traded in his later years in the countryside to the south and west. During his final service as Secretary of State from 1652 to 1660, he patented vast tracts of land on the colony's frontier in the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Pamunkey Neck, amassing more than 16,000 acres. We enjoyed her talk immensely, learning many fascinating details about William Claiborne's career and property holdings.



**Waiting to cross to Jamestown Island: L to R: Guest of LaRae Park, Phyllis Best, Sara James, Charles Shaeffer, Will McElfresh, Anne Streeter, Mr. Janeway, Jane Boylin, Mary Ann Gilman, Beth Redd**



**Historic Lightfoot House: Clai Bachmann Eley,  
Elizabeth Richardson**



**Monumental obelisk to the  
“Virginia Company of London”**



**At the Monument. L to R: Doug Edgmon, Ed Ayres, Mary Ann Gilman, Jane Boylin,  
LaRae Park, Susan Rura, Beth Redd, Harry Redd, Anne Streeter, guide, David Claiborne**



**Jamestown Island: Church & Gate**



**John Smith statue on the James River at the embankment: L to R: Ed Ayres, Mr. Janeway, Mary Ann Gilman, Jane Boylin**



**Site of the 1608 first Church: Crosses mark site of graves, buried in the chancel, which have been excavated and identified**



**The church and an active excavation. L to R: Fritz Eley, Mr. Janeway, Elaine Janeway, guide, guest of LaRae Park, Beth Redd, Jane Boylin, Pam Mering, Deb Peabody, Anne Streeter, Will McElfresh, Doug Edgmon, guest, Sara James, Charles Shaeffer**



**The bronze statue of Pocahontas. Martelia Cunningham and guest**



**Bronze map showing the layout of the original fort. L to R:  
Elizabeth Richardson, Bev Davis, Jennie Howe, Causey Davis, guide, guest, Jennene Norman-Vacha**



**Another marker along the James River. L to R:  
Linda King, guide, Berkeley Claiborne, Jennie Howe, Ms.  
McCarthy, Deb Lugone, Jennene Norman-Vacha, Elizabeth  
Richardson, Cary Claiborne**



**Lunch on the porch of the Dale House Café:  
Elizabeth Richardson, Linda King,  
Doug Edgmon**



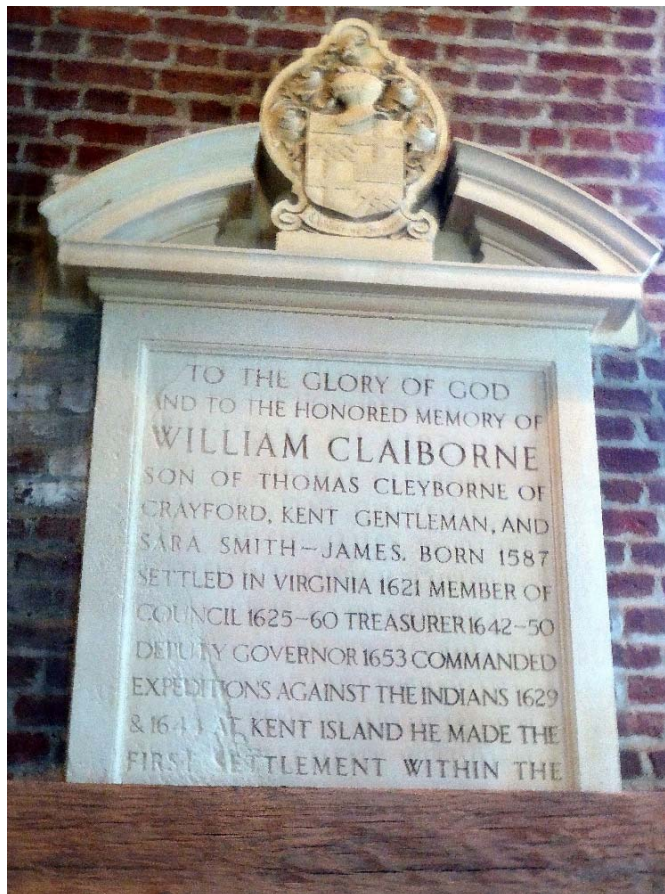
**Lunch on the porch overlooking the James River**



**Inside the Church: L to R: A tourist,  
Elizabeth Richardson,  
Clai Bachmann Eley, Deborah Lugone**



**Inside old Jamestown church with Claiborne plaque left of window. Scaffolding shows how interior of church may have appeared when first built.**



**Plaque on wall of church in memory of William Claiborne with mistaken birth date, which so far Preservation Va. has refused to let us correct. (Unfortunately, bottom of plaque is covered with board of scaffolding)**





**Muscarella Museum: Docent showing the William Claiborne painting**



**Members of the Claiborne Society walk to the DeWitt Wallace Museum. R to L: Berkeley Claiborne, Ms. McCarthy, Causey Davis, Bev Davis, Jane Boylin, Ed Ayres, and others**



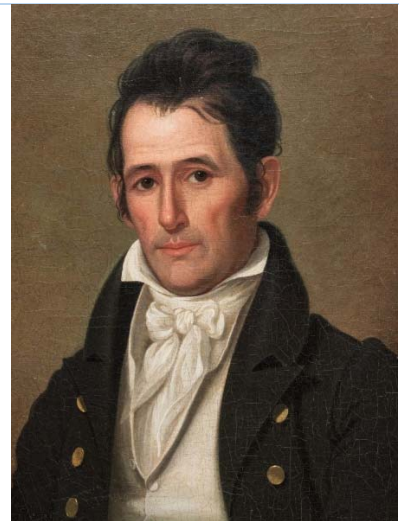
**DeWitt Wallace Museum: Portraits of Thomas & Sarah Claiborne of Tennessee**



**TENNESSEE LAWYER**

**T**homas Claiborne, Jr. and Sarah Martin Lewis King Claiborne had their portraits painted by Ralph E. W. Earl around 1825. Thomas, a noted Tennessee lawyer and politician, served on General Andrew Jackson's staff during the Creek War in 1813-1814. Born in Virginia, Thomas moved to Tennessee in 1807. Sarah's parents were also from Virginia, but moved west the year she was born. By their 1812 marriage, the couple were well-respected members of Nashville society. Of his many accomplishments, Thomas is most noted as being the first Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

SARAH MARTIN LEWIS KING CLAIBORNE  
AND THOMAS CLAIBORNE, JR.  
Ralph E. W. Earl, Artist  
Nashville, Tennessee, ca. 1825



**Information about Thomas & Sarah Claiborne of Tennessee**

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## Minutes of the Claiborne Society Business Meeting

Monday, July 29, 2019

Williamsburg Lodge, Alleghany Room

From Linda M. King, Secretary

Officers Present: Susan Rura, President, Clai Bachmann Eley, Vice President and Reunion Chair, Charles E. Claiborne III, Treasurer, Frank Rura, Registrar and Linda M. King, Secretary

Clai Bachmann Eley welcomed everyone and Susan called the meeting to order. A short invocation was followed by reading of the minutes of the last meeting by Linda King. A motion was made by Deborah Lugone, and seconded by Frank Rura to accept the minutes. Jane Boylin noted that the minutes appeared to be of the Board meeting, not the business meeting. Linda agreed to correct from business to board meeting. Motion passed unanimously to accept with modification.

Charles Claiborne reviewed the financial report prepared as of July 28, 2019. Motion made by Mary Ann Gilman and second by Deborah Lugone to approve the report. Discussion included information about two certificates of deposit, one in SunTrust (Atlanta). The two certificates are \$10,000 and \$5,000 each. Mary Ann clarified that one is a quarterly term and one is annual with the purpose that one may be accessed more frequently if needed. Motion passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report. Frank Rura reported that membership had increased by 68 members, which was remarkable. Total membership is 256, in 34 states and England. Members that missed dues would be moved to the inactive list. It is a challenge keeping with the membership rolls, as members move and cell numbers replace home telephone numbers. He thanked Charles Claiborne and Patricia Clayborn for their help over the past 2 years and was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Susan Rura delivered the President's report by stating that she appreciated all the outstanding articles submitted for the Society newsletter and that the newsletters are posted on the society's website and are widely read, even as far as Australia. She thanked Clai Bachmann Eley and her committee for all of their hard work planning this reunion.

The Nominating Committee led by Mary Ann Gilman presented the slate of officers for the next two years: Deborah Peabody, President, Elizabeth Richardson, Vice President, Frank Rura, Registrar, Charles Claiborne, Treasurer and Linda M. King, Secretary. Mary Ann thanked Jane Boylin and others for their help with Committee recommendations. Clai Bachmann Eley made a motion to accept the slate of officers and a second followed, with unanimous approval by the membership.

Clai Bachmann Eley gave a report on the painting of William Claiborne currently in storage at the Muscarelle Museum, that the membership saw this morning at the museum. The painting was given to the William and Mary Library in 1905 by Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne of Richmond, who the year before had made a \$1,000 donation to the college as the nucleus of a fund for a library of books about Virginia. After the unveiling of the portrait, the Richmond Times Dispatch stated: "Miss May Burnet Claiborne, daughter of Dr. James W. Claiborne of Petersburg, VA unveiled yesterday, a portrait of William Claiborne, first secretary of the Virginia Colony, at the College of William and Mary. The portrait's donor was present at the portrait's unveiling ceremony. The presentation address was made by the Hon. James Alston Cabell, Mrs. Claiborne's brother."

The painting is in poor condition and is in need of restoration. Discussion revolved around cost and if the portrait was worth restoring and where and how the portrait would hang if our Society was to restore the painting. Deborah Peabody stated that a conservator that a local museum recommends and can get advice on cost for restoration. The museum said the cost would be upwards of \$10,000. Elizabeth Richardson, whose Great-Grandmother was the one who donated it to the Library, said that she didn't think the Society should fund restoration unless some place would first agree to display it. It was determined that the Board would research the viability of the project and bring back to the membership.

In the past, another candidate for restoration was a large painting of William Claiborne exhibited at the 1907 Jamestown Exposition, a 1907 celebration marking the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony by settlers from England. In this painting William Claiborne holds an official document in one hand and a book in the other in this oil painting. The face of this work by artist Mary Gilmer is a reproduction of an earlier portrait, while the clothes and accessories were chosen by her as authentic to the period. After the celebration, this painting was given to the state of Virginia, and was displayed in state offices for a number of years until it was placed in storage at the Library of Virginia. After investigating, Curly Moore determined that this portrait was in too poor condition and too large for the Society to fund restoration.

There was also some discussion about supporting the work of Dr. James Horn, archeologist and historian working on the Jamestown excavations and updates to the history of the settlement based on those same excavations. The new board will discuss and report back to the membership.

There was considerable discussion around the Claiborne T. Smith Award. It was clear on who had voted on the decision to award to Vera "Curly" Moore for her work on the archives project.

The location of the next reunion was discussed. East Tennessee was a recommendation from Charles Claiborne, and since the reunion had just been in Nashville, this location was tabled. Baltimore and Washington DC were suggested. The last reunion in DC was in 2009 and Baltimore was in 2003. Elizabeth Richardson offered that we typically focus on areas of Claiborne or Cliborn history, switching between lines and that Kent Island may be an area to revisit. Mary Ann Gillman noted that there are two books that give credit to William Claiborne for settling Kent Island, which represents a shift in the early history writings. It was determined that for the next reunion, the Kent Island area of Maryland would be investigated, among others. Debbie Lugone volunteered to help since she lives nearby in the area of the reunion. Ed Ayres offered to help with finding a speaker. A second choice would be in the Knoxville, Tennessee or Greenville, South Carolina area.

Since Alex Waldrop was not able to attend the reunion, there was not a DNA Project Update. There was discussion, as many new members are drawn to the society to figure out how they fit into the family. The Board will review options for the DNA project as to next steps, etc. and bring back to the membership.

Susan Rura reported that Claiborne Irby's family, after his recent passing, had donated some of his book collection to the Society, including 3 copies of the Dorman book. Other than 2 on the internet, there are no other copies available. In addition, several copies of a book compiled by Susan Rura of the Society's old newsletters (Volume I), covering the dates of February 1989 - October 2009, were available for sale for \$20 each. This compilation is highly recommended for members who would like to know more about the earlier history of the Claiborne Society.

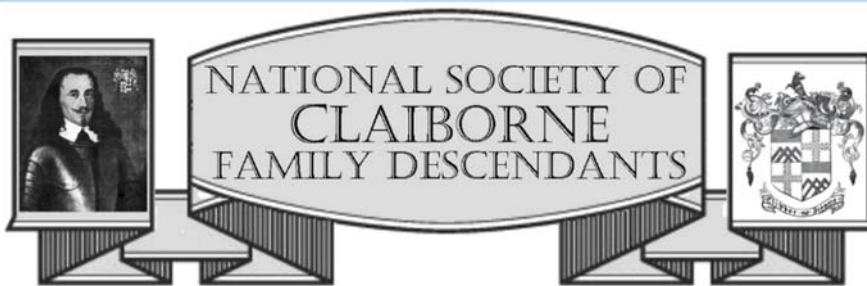
Elizabeth Richardson reported that she and Clai Bachmann will be attending the 2019 celebration of the first Democratically-seated Legislative Assembly in the Northern Hemisphere at Jamestown on August 30, the day our reunion ends. Legacy societies, including the Claiborne Society, were invited to the wreath-laying ceremony beforehand. Sheila Cunningham suggested an idea to create permanent name tags for the society to use during the reunions. The Board will discuss and bring back a recommendation.

There being no further business, after a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda M. King, Secretary



**A Reunion display of Claiborne Society memorabilia and related publications**



**17<sup>TH</sup> Reunion Banquet  
July 29, 2019  
Williamsburg, Virginia**



**After the banquet at the Williamsburg Lodge**

**L to R:**

**Mary Ann Gilman, Elizabeth Richardson, LaRae Park, Douglas Edgmon, Elaine Janeway, Mr. Janeway, Linda King, Bev Davis, David K. Claiborne, Jane Boylin, Edward Ayres, Suzanne Hollyfield, Charles Claiborne, Clai Bachman Eley, Fritz Eley, Harry Redd, Beth Redd, Pam Mering, Susan Rura, Deb Peabody, Martelia Cunningham, Deb Lugone, Anne Streeter, Frank Rura, Will McElfresh, Doris McElfresh, Jennie Howe**

400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Representative Assembly  
Memorial Church Historic Jamestowne at Jamestown Island  
Tuesday, July 30, 2019 7:30 am to 9:00 am  
From Elizabeth Richardson

Elizabeth Richardson is a granddaughter of Herbert Augustine Claiborne, and a long-time member of the Claiborne Society. She and Clai Bachmann Eley kindly volunteered to represent our Society at the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony and offer a memorial wreath as our contribution. What follows are photos of the occasion, as well as the transcript of Elizabeth's speech and a copy of the sign attached to the wreath.

**The National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants**

**William Claiborne arrived at Jamestown as the Colony's official surveyor just two years after the 1619 meeting of the hemisphere's first democratically-elected government assembly, which anniversary we are celebrating today. Serving at various times as a member of the Council, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Deputy Governor, he would have worked closely with the Virginia Legislature. Later he was elected to this body.**

**The Claiborne Society welcomes those descended from Claibornes regardless of how their ancestors spelled their name. DNA testing has been done to sort out the various lines. The Society endeavors to cultivate ties of friendship between all these Claiborne families.**

**The Society also researches and documents Claiborne-related history and genealogy, shares this information with members, visits related sites, and holds a reunion at least every two years.**

**This Society thinks it appropriate to place a wreath here in the old church where already displayed is a memorial plaque recognizing William Claiborne's service to the early Colony of Virginia.**

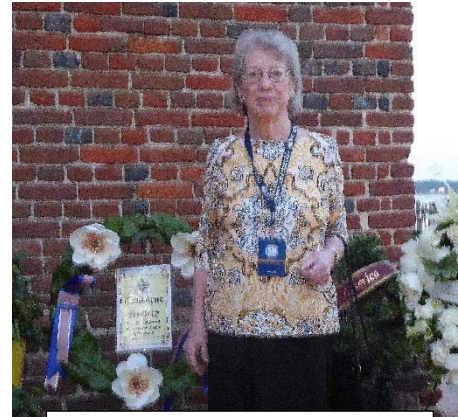
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Elizabeth Richardson reading about our Society and why we were presenting the wreath.



(continued) **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Representative Assembly**  
**Memorial Church Historic Jamestowne at Jamestown Island**



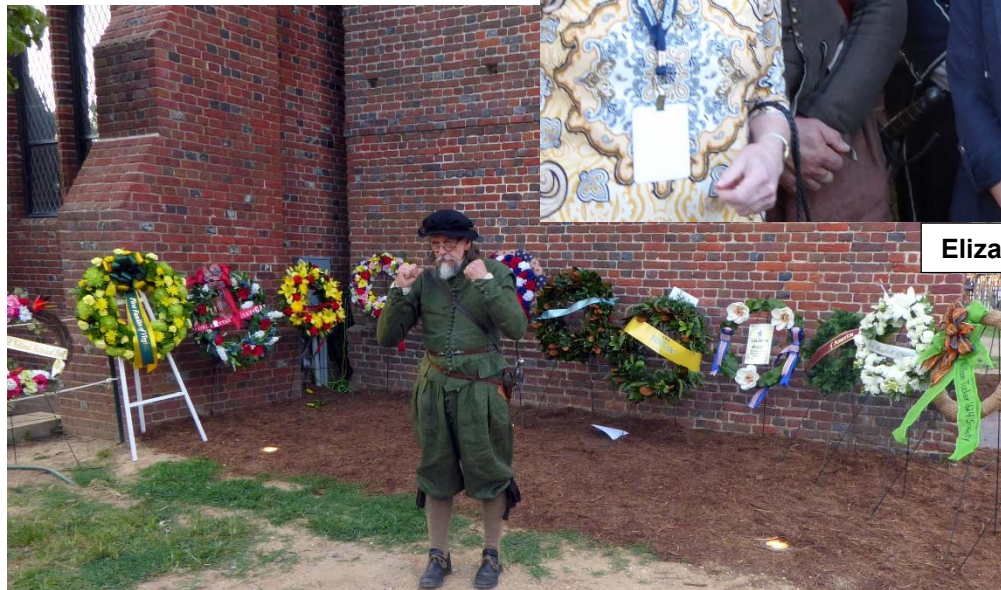
**Elizabeth Guy Richardson with wreath**



**Clai Bachmann Eley with wreath**



**Elizabeth and Clai with re-enactors**



**Willie Balderson, re-enactor and Director of Education and Interpretation for Preservation Virginia's Jamestowne Rediscovery organization**

(continued) **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Representative Assembly**  
**Memorial Church Historic Jamestowne at Jamestown Island**

**Jason Flood, Chief Ranger, Colonial National Historic Park, who helped to arrange the wreath-laying ceremony**



**Program for the Commemoration:**

**2019 Commemoration, American Evolution**

American Evolution commemorates the 400th anniversary of key historical events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Along with notable Virginia institutions across the Commonwealth and national partners, American Evolution has launched a series of educational programs, signature events, and legacy projects of national and international significance to build awareness of Virginia's role in the creation of the United States and to reinforce Virginia's leadership in education, tourism, and economic development. American Evolution commemorates the ongoing journey toward the key ideals of democracy, diversity, and opportunity. For more information about American Evolution or for a full listing of events, visit [AmericanEvolution2019.com](http://AmericanEvolution2019.com)

The 2019 Commemoration is a legacy of the Jamestown 400 Foundation, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2019 Commemoration, American Evolution presents

**400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of America's  
**First Representative**  
**Legislative Assembly**

Memorial Church  
Historic Jamestowne at Jamestown Island  
Tuesday, July 30, 2019 | 7:30 am - 9:00 am

**Lineage Society Representatives**

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| <p>J. Shane Newcombe<br/><i>Governor General</i><br/><i>American Descendants of the House of Burgesses 1619-1699</i></p> <p>Mrs. Peter I. C. Knowles II<br/><i>President General</i><br/><i>The Colonial Dames of America</i></p> <p>Jocelyn Lance<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>The Colonial Dames of America Chapter XXIII-Virginia</i></p> <p>Franklin West<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>George Wythe Society</i><br/><i>Children of the American Revolution</i></p> <p>The Reverend Dr. Roy Martin<br/><i>Governor</i><br/><i>Jamestowne Society</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Guy Richardson<br/><i>The National Society of the Claiborne Family Descendants</i></p> <p>Anna F. Duff<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America</i></p> <p>Nancy Reed<br/><i>President of the Virginia Society</i><br/><i>The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia</i></p> <p>Dr. Cheryl Brown Davis<br/><i>Past Regent</i><br/><i>National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Cobbs Hall Chapter</i></p> | <p>Celia Adolphi<br/><i>Regent</i><br/><i>National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Williamsburg Chapter</i></p> <p>Betty Ann Guidry<br/><i>North Carolina Branch Governor</i><br/><i>National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims</i></p> <p>Dr. Evelyn McDowell<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage</i></p> <p>Henry Lynn Sharpe, Jr.<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>Order of the First Families of Virginia 1607-1624/5</i></p> <p>Randy Pace<br/><i>Vice President</i><br/><i>Pace Society of America</i></p> <p>Jo Ann Fickling<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>United States Daughters of 1812, Rappahannock Chapter</i></p> <p>Vincent A. Tucker<br/><i>President</i><br/><i>William Tucker 1624 Society</i></p> <p>Ratcliffe Wingfield Harris<br/><i>Past Board Member</i><br/><i>Wingfield Family Society</i></p> |
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400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Representative Legislative Assembly · July 30, 2019

**400th Anniversary of the First Representative Legislative Assembly**  
**Matinee Session at Historic Jamestowne at Jamestown Island**  
**7:30 am - 9:00 am**

|                                    |                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Processional to Church</i>      | Virginia Capitol Police                                                                                 |
| <i>Welcome</i>                     | Elizabeth S. Kowley<br><i>CEO of Preservation Virginia</i>                                              |
| <i>Invocation</i>                  | G. Anne Richardson<br><i>Chief of the Rappahannock Indian Tribe</i>                                     |
| <i>2019 Commemoration Greeting</i> | The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.<br><i>Majority Leader of the Senate of Virginia</i>                |
| <i>Special Remarks</i>             | Sir David Nalder KCD<br><i>Clerk of the British House of Commons of the United Kingdom, 2014 - 2019</i> |
| <i>Introduction</i>                | The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.<br><i>Majority Leader of the Senate of Virginia</i>                |
| <i>Address</i>                     | The Honorable Ralph S. Northam<br><i>Governor of Virginia</i>                                           |
| <i>Reflections</i>                 | Representatives from the Original Boroughs                                                              |
| <i>Closing Prayer</i>              | The Reverend Christopher L. Epperson<br><i>Rector, Brason Parish Episcopal Church</i>                   |
| <i>Recessional</i>                 |                                                                                                         |

**Wreath Laying by Lineage Societies**  
*Colonial National Historical Park*  
*Jamestowne Birthplace*  
*8:15 am*

400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Representative Legislative Assembly · July 30, 2019

# Jamestown Suburbs

Orchard Run marks the eastern end of New Towne, the portion of Jamestown surveyed in the early 1620s. From here the townsite extends over half a mile to the west along the James River.

Prominent Virginians, such as Deputy Governor Sir Francis Wyatt, lived in New Towne as it developed in the 1620s. Sir Francis's neighbors included Physician General John Potts, said to be "well practiced in surgery and physics," and Ralph Hamor, the colony's secretary. Sea captain and future governor John Harvey owned a riverfront lot at Orchard Run.

In the decades to follow, colonists moved farther into Jamestown's hinterlands. Traces of roads connecting Backstreete in New Towne to the 17th-century Kingsmill and Travis estates still remain.

Jamestown gentry, mid-17th century  
Tilley King, ca. 1917



*Mr. William Clayborne, a surveyor, sent to survey the planters lands, and make a map of the country . . . .*  
*Virginia Company Instructions to Sir Francis Wyatt, 1621*

By the 1620s Jamestown had expanded from a small palisaded fort to a rapidly growing town. The colony's surveyor, William Claiborne, laid out small plots of land and streets east of the fort in an area named "New Towne." Warehouses, tradesmen's shops, and taverns lined the waterfront, and prominent planters and merchants built houses on the high ground off Back Street.

Scores of ships arrived annually from England, the Netherlands, and New England to carry Tobacco back to England. Shipped from London and Bristol, goods from all over the world were traded on Jamestown's busy wharves.

Interpretative sign on loop road around eastern end of Jamestown Island, crediting William Claiborne for surveying New Town on the Island



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**IMAGES OF COLONEL WILLIAM CLAIBORNE**  
**Research on Portrait**

**Request presented at the Claiborne Society Reunion Monday, July 29, 2019**  
**From Elizabeth Richardson**

Elizabeth Richardson is helping our Society try to research the sources, authenticity, and location of the many images that have appeared of Colonel William Claiborne I of Virginia. What follows is a request from her going out to all members:

Dear Claiborne Descendants,

The Claiborne Society is trying to locate the attached painting, said to be of William Claiborne I of Virginia, and to find out more info regarding it.

It appeared in a 1917 book William Claiborne of Virginia, by John Herbert Claiborne, where it was noted that the portrait was in the possession of Maj. W.C.C. Claiborne of New Orleans. (I assume this was W.C.C. Claiborne III, grandson of Gov. W.C.C. Claiborne, and father-in-law of the author.)

The author stated that this portrait was said to be a copy of a woodcut done of a miniature in London, but didn't say where either of the latter were located. (A drawing also said to be of William Claiborne, illustrating an 1883 magazine article, was supposedly copied from an India ink drawing of an oil portrait, but again no mention of where either the drawing or oil portrait were located.)



Do you know:

1. Where the attached painting is now?
2. What it was copied from, and where this source is/was located?
3. When it was painted and by whom?
4. Whether the coat-of-arms was on the original source, or added in when this copy was made?

If you don't know anything about the portrait but have relatives who might, we'd love to have their contact info. We greatly appreciate any help or info you can give us!

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Richardson

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## Claiborne T. Smith, Jr. Award

Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr. was a beloved member of our Claiborne Clan who collaborated with John Fredrick Dorman to publish the book Claiborne of Virginia: Colonel William Claiborne and His Descendants, The First Eight Generations. The Clan has honored his memory by naming its award after him, and presenting the award at each reunion. What follows is the presentation in honor of Vera "Curly" Moore:

### Claiborne T. Smith, Jr. Award

Presented to:

*Vera "Curly" Moore*

Claiborne Society Williamsburg Reunion 2019

July 29, 2019

Presented by: Susan W.H. Rura

It's always hardest for the first. Out of nothing, something must be created.

How did it all come together...the forming of the Claiborne Society. It was a group of friends, delving into history, and a search to find historic places. Before officers, dues, newsletters, it was good times with NEW friends.

But yet, someone needed to know the facts, the story, the truth. Like Scheherazade of the 1001 Arabian Nights, it was possible to spin that story into an adventure to be remembered...and to be repeated.

So here we are back where it all began...in Williamsburg. Then, it was the Cedars Guest House. Now it is the Williamsburg LODGE. It was a fast-paced, fun-filled 3-4 days. First was the welcoming buffet of food. Back then it was dinner for 20 at 9 p.m. at the King's Arms Colonial restaurant. Now it is dinner at the KING'S ARMS at 7:30 p.m. for 14. Next event was a day-long trip to historic places. Back then, it was a trip to West Point, Virginia to tour SWEET HALL, ROMANCOKE, Old St. John's Church, and the King William Courthouse. Yesterday it was Jamestown, Island and the Settlement, followed today with the Muscarelle Museum and the Abby Aldrich & DeWitt Wallace Museum.

Our gathering continued with historical reports, family stories, and the business meeting, where the business was. . . Should we do this again? Where?

And 31 years later, here we are. Yes, here we are, not at the end, but at the middle of this great exciting, informative adventure, with still the same formula in use.

But the person with the story, who led us, gave us the game plan is the one who gets the Claiborne T. Smith Award. It is our own Vera W. Moore. We call her "Curly".

*Susan W. H. Rura*

President, Claiborne Society

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## Reunion Announcement: New Book and Directory Available: National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Newsletters and Claiborne Society Membership Directory

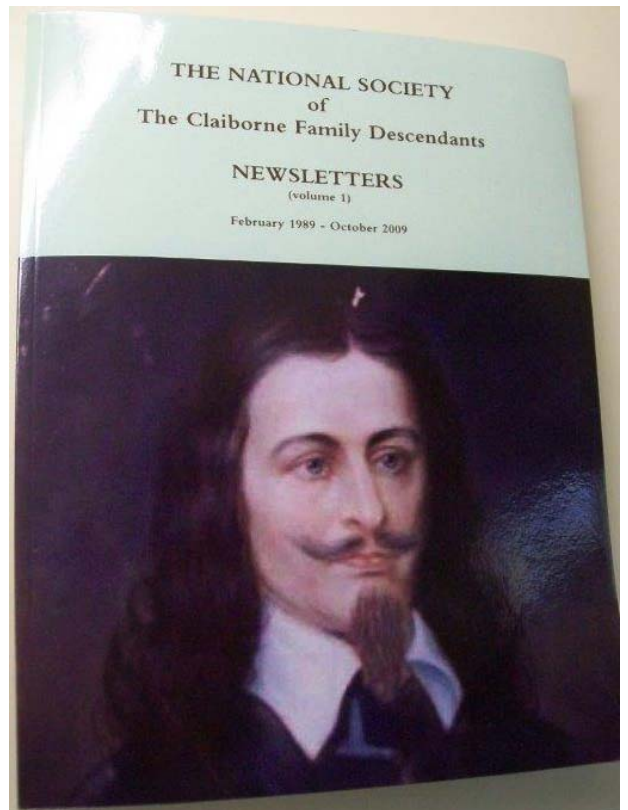
From Frank Rura, Registrar and Membership Chairman

### Book Available: National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Newsletters:

Order form: <https://www.claibornesociety.org/publications/>

As the first product of our Society's project to digitize our archives, the National Society of The Claiborne Family Descendants NEWSLETTERS publication was produced and offered for sale at our 2019 Reunion in Williamsburg, VA. I am happy to now announce that additional copies are available to all current Claiborne Society members, those holding up-to-date paid memberships. The cost per copy is \$20.00, including shipping. Those interested in purchasing this book can contact our Registrar, Frank Rura, at frank9111@verizon.net. Payment requested is by personal check, drawn to "The Claiborne Society."

This 300-plus page collection of early Newsletters encompasses the first 20 years of our history (October 1988 through October 2009), beginning with our first reunion 31 years ago. Readers will discover members' original research papers that guided the foundation of our Society. Other elements of our organization - meeting minutes, reunion plans and reports, early membership rosters, letters, photos, projects, and DNA findings - further contribute to the richness of this book. Long-time members of the Society will enjoy recollections of early events; recent members will likely discover clues that further their own research. Future leaders of the Claiborne Society will find blueprint information that can be useful when planning their own Society events.

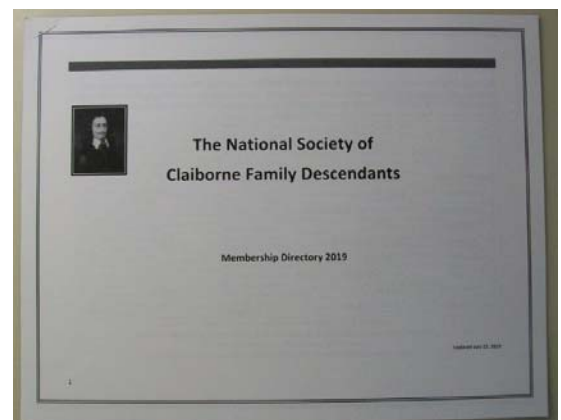


### Claiborne Society Membership Directory:

Copies of the 2019 Claiborne Society Membership Directory are now available to dues-paying members. Please contact Frank Rura if you wish to receive your copy. frank9111@verizon.net

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who used the annual renewal form when paying this year's dues. The time you've taken to fill out the form really helps us verify our roster - always a challenging task, with so many in our members "on the move"!

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Rura, Registrar



## A Look Back at Past Reunions:

From Mary Ann Gilman

### Invitation to the First Claiborne Clan Reunion in 1907

1621-1907

"Claiborne Family Reunion Day"  
Jamestown Exposition  
June 18, 1907

DANVILLE, VA., APRIL 2, 1907

DEAR KINSMAN:  
AT THE SUGGESTION OF SEVERAL OF THE MORE  
PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, I, AS CHAIRMAN  
OF THE SECRETARY CLAIBORNE PORTRAIT COMMIT-  
TEE", HAVE TAKEN UP WITH THE EXPOSITION AUTHORI-  
TIES THE MATTER OF A "CLAIBORNE FAMILY REUNION  
DAY" DURING THE EXPOSITION. THE DATE SELECTED  
BY THE EXPOSITION AUTHORITIES FOR THIS EVENT  
IS TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1907.

THIS NOTICE IS SENT TO INFORM YOU OF THE DATE,  
AND TO URGE YOU TO ATTEND, IF POSSIBLE. THE  
EXPOSITION AUTHORITIES HAVE TENDERED THE USE,  
FOR THAT DATE, OF A HALL FOR ANY EXERCISES WE  
MAY WISH TO HOLD, AND HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE  
TO AID US IN ANY WAY THEY CAN FOR OUR PLEASURE  
ON THIS OCCASION.

TO US WHOSE ANCESTOR, SEC'Y WILLIAM CLAIBORNE,  
PLAYED SO CONSPICUOUS A PART IN THE COUNTRY'S  
COLONIAL HISTORY, IT IS MOST FITTING THAT WE  
ATTEND IN AS LARGE NUMBERS AS POSSIBLE.

THE PORTRAIT OF SEC'Y WILLIAM CLAIBORNE  
WHICH WE HAVE HAD PAINTED WILL BE EXHIBITED IN  
THE "HALL OF HISTORY".

BESIDE THE MUTUAL PLEASURE AND PROFIT TO  
BE DERIVED FROM THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF OUR  
CLAN, THIS EXPOSITION CELEBRATES PERHAPS THE  
GREATEST EVENT IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE, AND ALL  
WHO CAN SHOULD SEE IT.

I SHALL BE GLAD IF YOU WILL NOTIFY ME AT  
YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE OF YOUR INTENTION TO  
ATTEND.

I BEG TO REMAIN  
VERY RESPECTFULLY YOURS  
W. C. CLAIBORNE

### IN MEMORIAM: COKIE ROBERTS

We have fond memories of newswoman Cokie Roberts, who passed away on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. While not a current member of the Claiborne Society, she was a descendant and spoke at our 2009 Washington D.C. Reunion. Her middle name was Claiborne and she was the daughter of Lindy Claiborne Boggs and Hale Boggs. Both Cokie and her mother attended the Reunion banquet and Cokie spoke on the roles of Claibornes in the Revolution and Congress. In her more than fifty years in broadcasting, she won countless awards, including three Emmys. She wrote six New York Times bestsellers, most dealing with the roles of women in U.S. history. In 2008, the Library of Congress recognized her as a "Living Legend." She is survived by her husband and co-author Steve Roberts, also a journalist and professor; as well as two children and 6 grandchildren.



Cokie Roberts lecturing at the 2009 National  
Society of Claiborne Family Descendants Reunion

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## CONTRIBUTIONS:

Many thanks to our 2019 Reunion Committee: Clai Bachmann Eley, who led the planning so brilliantly, along with Elizabeth Richardson, Pam Meiring, Sara "Sally" Prosch James, Mary Ann Gilman, Ed Ayres, Alex Waldrop, Beverly Davis, and Jennie Howe. We are grateful to Elizabeth Richardson and Susan and Frank Rura for their help and photographic contributions to this edition of the Clippings.

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## 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 already under way for our 2021 Reunion. To continue to receive newsletters and reunion e-mails, please send your check in the amount of \$10 payable to The Claiborne Society to our Treasurer:

Charles Claiborne  
508 Penny Lane  
Woodstock, GA, 30188

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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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## New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Clan:  
Reta Karol Clyburn Brand and Dennis Brand of Whitehouse, Texas  
Alison and James Roswell Poplar of Quicksburg, Virginia



## The life of Governor William Charles Cole Claiborne (1775-1817): Call for Articles for the Spring 2020 Society Newsletter

The life of Governor Claiborne will be a subject of our upcoming Spring 2020 Claiborne Society Newsletter. Please send us your own thoughts about the life and accomplishments of Governor Claiborne. We wish to hear about your personal outlook on the many aspects of his remarkable career.

Registrar  
3052 Rogers Ave.  
Ellicott City, MD, 21043

