



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne
Community
March 2015
Volume 9, Number 3

John Scott, March Editor
Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder and Editor Emerita
Mary Gregorio, President, Claiborne Association

March Birthdays

1 Elva Gerlach (102!)
9 Ted Jones
9 Suzanne Todd
12 Kevin Garber
13 Mike Kabler
14 Rebecca Cockey Parks
14 Penny Rhine
21 Bea Wharton

March Events

Movie Night
Every Wednesday 7PM;
Cartoons at 6:30

Hall Work Day
Tuesday March 10
8:30 AM
Bring your hammer!

Poetry Night
Friday March 6 at 8 PM

Bring your original work
or a favorite poem to
share. All ages welcome.
As always bring the
beverage of your choice.

The Volunteers of Claiborne

(Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series of stories about how members of the Claiborne Community give of their time and energy to causes in which they believe. The editors of the Clarion invite the community to share stories about volunteer passions. If you would like to share your story please send a note addressed to the Clarion at claibornemd@gmail.com and you will be contacted by a member of the editorial staff. This first story comes from Claiborne resident Elizabeth (Libby) Moose.)

The MRYC Foundation was established in 2010 in order to promote youth-oriented competitive, swimming, and maritime-focused educational activities in the Chesapeake Bay Region. The Foundation not only supports the Miles River Yacht Club's Jr. Sail Program and the Marlins Swim Team, but it also provides grants for scholarships and general support to other non-profit organizations that offer programs that fit its mission. In its first four years of operation, the MRYC Foundation has awarded grants of \$158,594 to 23 non-profit organizations.



Tyler the Champ



By Ella Murphy

Tyler Murphy is a straight A student in Mrs. Nichols 1st grade class. When he is not doing schoolwork he is racing with lucky number 5 the black cheese, his pine wood derby car that he raced at the pine wood derby car race for boy scouts. He placed 1st in tiger cubs and 3rd in the pack championship. Tyler says just keep trying and you will succeed. That is what he did and he did it. Some other things you may want to know about Tyler are he was born August 10th 2008 he has a dog a lizard and some fish. During free time he likes to do sports and to hang out with friends. And he is already starting on next years design.

About Ella Murphy, my interviewer

By Tyler Murphy

Ella is nine years old. Her birthday is 11-11-05. She likes singing and acting and playing guitar. Thank you thank you.

In order for children to learn to sail, row, kayak, work, or participate in just about any activity on or near the water in our area, they must first learn to swim. Realizing there was a lack of opportunity for many members of our community to have access to swimming lessons, the Foundation adopted its SOS Sink or Swim Program in 2013. This program is dedicated to providing every child 15 and under in Talbot County an opportunity to learn to swim.

The Foundation partnered with the St. Michaels Community Center, which graciously administered the program. Over 275 swimming lessons were provided last summer at the Bay Hundred Pool Critchlow Adkins, local churches, the local police department, and the Community Center all participated to make our first season a huge success. The Foundation hopes to be able to provide many more lessons in 2015 at the community pools in St. Michaels and Easton.

The Miles River Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Program provides hands-on sailing instruction in basic seamanship, sportsmanship and water safety for children from 6 to 18 years of age. Members of the club, non-members, and scholarship students are welcome to participate. Last summer, 195 young people attended the sailing camp. Classes are offered that teach the basics of sailing all the way through advanced racing training. Optimist Dinghy's, Lasers, and the 420 class boats are used to teach the young sailors depending on their levels of skill. Students who qualify also have the opportunity to participate in junior regattas around the Bay.



Taylor Penwell is the head instructor for Jr. Sail again this year. If you have children or grandchildren visiting this summer, the Jr. Sail Program is an excellent way for them to learn how to sail and to appreciate why you love our area so much. Please contact Taylor Penwell at tpenwell592@gmail.com or visit www.milesriveryc.org.

It has been an honor for me to serve on the Board of Directors of the MRYC Foundation since 2011 and it has been a special thrill to watch young kids learn to swim. Swimming has always been a passion of mine and with the continued support of all of the wonderful donors in our area, fear of the water may become a thing of the past in Talbot County!



The Adventurous Progeny of Claiborne (Or "How did I get Here and How do I get Back?") By Hannah Richardson

Sometimes there are things we do in life that have no distinguishable rhyme, reason, purpose, outcome or greater good. We do them because the idea touches us in such a way that makes our cells dance. While I have always been an adventurer by blood, I also constantly try to balance these things with logic and purpose. It wasn't until at the end of this past summer when I made the decision to leave my position of six years as camp director at YMCA Camp Woodstock that the opportunity for adventure opened its doors again. Upon hearing about my departure from the world of camping, my friend Dot proposed bicycling trip from San Diego, CA to Saint Augustine, FL. Having never ridden a road bike in my life I was a little skeptical about the feasibility of a two month self-supported bike trip through some of the most rural country in the U.S..... but I'm also not one to turn down a challenge.



So here I am, over 1,500 miles into a 3,100-mile trip and half way across Texas. We have certainly had our fair share of challenges along the way including numerous 100 mile days, cold headwinds, rain, huge mountain climbs, gear malfunctions, dog chases and one broken collar bone. The broken collarbone has thus far been the biggest hiccup in our trip, which happened when Dot took a spill trying to out-bike a (albeit friendly) pit bull in southern New Mexico. Unable to then bike, she is now on an orange scooter so that we can continue on!

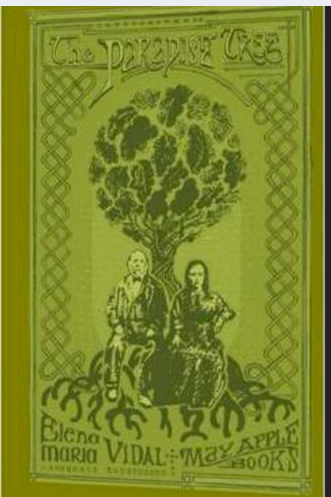
While the challenges have certainly caused us to take pause, the positive experiences we have had have well surpassed our expectations. This includes biking through the beauty of untouched desert, experiencing warm sun in winter, trying a variety of delicious food and, most importantly, enjoying the kindness of strangers. Even though we have prepared to camp or stay in hotels, in the last month we have only done this six times. Through an online network of individuals who host cyclist and other travelers in their homes for free we have spent the vast majority of our trip staying in the homes of "strangers". Staying in the homes of others all across the country has perhaps been the highlight of our trip. We have broken bread with folks from across the economic spectrum (often times receiving more from those who have seemingly less) and have made some "forever friends". The depth and breadth of kindness we have received from complete strangers is, at times, overwhelming.

The Ferry Cafe



Now moored at the Hall
on weekdays
from 1:00 to 3:00
Coffee, tea, hardtack
and chit chat.

We'll pipe you aboard!



As we roll into the second (and flatter) half of our trip, I find myself thinking a lot about one of my favorite quotes by Herbert Otto, which is "Change and growth take place when a person has risked himself and dares to become involved with experimenting with his own life." This is a great reminder that trips such as this that seemingly have no rhyme, reason or greater good ARE, in fact, incredible building blocks. Much like the experiences I observed our campers and young adults having at summer camp, I strongly believe that the best way for continued growth is by taking risks in the presence of a supportive and caring community. To this end I am also using this trip to raise money to send one child to summer camp for two weeks.

If you are interested in knowing a bit more about who's adventure, you can follow my blog: hannahgoesbiking.blogspot.com. Similarly, if you are so inclined to financially support growth in children, you can donate to help send a child to camp. This can be found at: <http://PROJECT139.kintera.org>. On this page you will have to "search for your YMCA campaigner" under the Visitors section and then type in my name. Thank you in advance. Be well and I look forward seeing you in late March!



Claiborne Author gets Kudos from prestigious Kirkus Reviews

(Editor's Note. This notice is a follow up to a posting in the September 2014 Clarion. Congratulations to Mary-Eileen Russell!)

Claiborne resident Mary-Eileen Russell will be signing copies of her critically acclaimed novel *The Paradise Tree*, written under her pen name Elena Maria Vidal, at the News Center in Easton, on Saturday March 14 from 10am-2pm. The historical novel tells the story of an Irish immigrant family and their hardships and triumphs in 19th century Canada. Kirkus Reviews listed it among the top 100 best books of 2014.

Village Hall Update

By Kirke Harper



The Association Board voted to select Accent Heating and Air (Tim Green) to install a new and efficient heating and air conditioning system in the main room of the Hall. We have also applied for a matching grant from Choptank Trust for partial funding of the work. The overall funding for the heating system was donated by Libby Moose. Tim will apply for a permit and begin work as soon as he can. The new system will be more efficient than the electric baseboard heat and will also air condition the space. We will leave the baseboard heating in place.

We continue to make progress on our repairs to the Annex. The work crew coordinated by Jake Flory and Jim Richardson installed recycled oak flooring in the old kitchen section of the annex. Take a look. Improvements to the Annex so far include repairing damaged joists, installing a beam and widening the opening to the old kitchen, raising the floor and installing new flooring and installing a donated French door. Next will be repairing the structure under the larger Annex room.

As soon as we have a plan for the kitchen and bathroom we will know how to place the replacement windows in the old kitchen area. After the new windows are installed we can proceed to replace the old siding. When that's done the building will have all new siding. The goal is to finish this Spring and Summer.

Meanwhile, we are working with the Health Department to get the best decision about a septic system. We hope to get permission to install a holding tank with a pump-out contract. The limited use we anticipate for the building can be accommodated by a holding tank. The goal for that decision is also the Summer.



Remember: Only you can prevent chimney fires!

Fireplace Safety (Redux): When was the last time you checked your chimney?

Chimney Safety Institute of America

(Editor's Note: Because this has been such a severe cold weather winter, and many houses in Claiborne are augmenting their heat with wood fires, we dug into the Clarion Archives to find this article. Readers take heed.)

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood-fueled fires, while providing heat for a home. The chimneys that serve them have the job of expelling the by-products of combustion – the substances given off when wood burns.

As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote. Creosote is black or brown in appearance. It can be crusty and flaky ... tar-like, drippy and sticky ... or shiny and hardened. Often, all forms will occur in one chimney system.

Whatever form it takes, creosote is highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities – and catches fire inside the chimney flue – the result will be a chimney fire. Although any amount of creosote can burn, sweeps are concerned when creosote builds up in sufficient quantities to sustain a long, hot, destructive chimney fire.

Certain conditions encourage the buildup of creosote, restricted air supply, unseasoned wood and cooler-than-normal chimney temperatures are all factors that can accelerate the buildup of creosote on chimney flue walls.

Air supply: The air supply on fireplaces may be restricted by closed glass doors or by failure to open the damper wide enough to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly (the longer the smoke's "residence time" in the flue, the more likely is it that creosote will form). A wood stove's air supply can be limited by closing down the stove damper or air inlets too soon and too much, and by improperly using the stovepipe damper to restrict air movement.

Burning unseasoned firewood: Because so much energy is used initially just to drive off the water trapped in the cells of the logs – burning green wood keeps the resulting smoke cooler, as it moves through the system, than if dried, seasoned wood is used.

Cool flue temperatures: In case of wood stoves, fully-packed loads of wood (that give large cool fires and eight or 10 hour burn times) contribute to creosote buildup. Condensation of the unburned by-products of combustion also occurs more rapidly in an exterior chimney, for example, than in a chimney that runs through the center of a house and exposes only the upper reaches of the flue to the elements.

(Editor's note: Thanks to the Chimney Safety Institute of America for this information. There are several chimney sweeps in our area. To avoid advertising they are not listed here. Anyone interested might want to get in touch with Tom Beaver who has one he recommends)

A Story Linking Two Coasts: The Tale of How the *O'Connor* became the *Rhododendron*

By Mike Kuperberg, with special thanks to Yvonne Kuperberg

This is a follow-on to a January article in the *Clarion* about the Kuperberg's discovery of Claiborne and illustrates the concept that no more than six degrees of separation connect any two people – or in this case, communities.

Many of you have explained to us that our new home was once the ticket booth for the car ferry and it's clear that we live next door to a former ferry landing. This makes for a great story and we were really pleased by our connection to this part of Claiborne's history. However, during the Christmas open house celebration, we learned that there was more to this history. We were admiring the historic photographs on display and talking about the "coolness" of our living in a house that had such a rich history. While discussing the history of the landing, John Scott began to talk about the history of the Chesapeake Bay ferries that had once serviced Claiborne. John told us that, when the bridge was opened, the ferries were no longer needed and were sold to the State of Washington. We thought that was interesting because Mike's mother lives in Washington. John went on to explain that the Gov. Herbert R. O'Connor had ended up servicing an island in Puget Sound. We thought that was really interesting because Mike's mother lives on an island in Puget Sound. Then he said that the *O'Connor* had been renamed the *Rhododendron* and made the run from Tacoma (Point Defiance) to the south end of Vashon Island (Tahlequah). At this point, we were stunned. Mike's mother lives on Vashon Island and the Kuperbergs have made numerous trips from Vashon to Tacoma aboard the *Rhody*. In fact, when Mike's parents moved to Vashon, their first trip to the island was on this southern ferry route. This connection links the Maryland and Washington State Kuperbergs across thousands of miles and decades of years.



The Governor Herbert O'Connor 1946
Maryland Historical Society



The Rhody - 2010
Matt Masouka

When Mike related this story to his mother (Yvonne Kuperberg), she sent him a history of the *Rhody* written by Vashon Island historian, Bruce Haulman, on the occasion of its retirement from the Washington State ferry fleet in 2012 (*Editors Note: Clarion readers can read Bruce's story in the April issue and will note that he had a similar, reverse cross-continental connection to the Rhody*).

Since retirement (and subsequent to Bruce's history), the *Rhody* has become the floating workstation for a scallop farming operation in British Columbia <http://www.vashonbeachcomer.com/news/195398971.html#>.

Vashon WA and Claiborne are similar communities and we have commented that Yvonne would enjoy the people and places here on the Eastern Shore. Vashon shares the diverse, progressive, laid-back feel of Claiborne. Both are remote enough to have a small town feel, while being close enough to the “big city” to have an important dose of sophistication. Both are water-oriented places, and we understand that Claiborne Landing can become an island if we get enough rain! Now that you know the connection between Vashon and Claiborne, we hope that you will add your sister city to your bucket list, should your travels take you to the Great Northwest.

Before you were born, where were you?

By *Thích Nhất Hạnh, No Death, No Fear*

If you ask a cloud, "How old are you?" you can listen deeply, and you may hear a reply. You can imagine the cloud being born. Before being born it was the water on the ocean's surface. Or it was in the river, and then it became vapor.

It was also the sun because the sun makes the vapor. The wind is there too, helping the water to become a cloud.

The cloud does not come from nothing; there has been only a change in form. It is not a birth of something out of nothing.

Sooner or later, the cloud will change into rain or snow or ice.

So look deeply into the rain, you can see the cloud.

The cloud is not lost; it is transformed into rain, and the rain is transformed into grass and the grass into cows... and then... to milk and then into the ice cream you eat.

And you can give yourself time to look at the ice cream and say, and say:

"Hello, cloud! I recognize you."



Patti out for a walk, photo by Christine Guinness

Wanderings Closer to the Edge

By Patti Cruickshank-Schott

So now I live on miracle house drive.... In a miracle house.... And it feels like the night Jane Guinness came to Christmas Eve at Judy and Jack's....

And it feels like that very single day.....

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you...

Cartoon By Renny Johnson

Again this month we are fortunate to have a piece by Renny Johnson, Claiborne Clarion cartoonist. It depicts a story and, it may come as no surprise to astute Clarion readers, there is, as Paul Harvey would say, a "rest of the story." For the "rest" of the story behind this clever cartoon readers are encouraged to check with Jim Richardson.



Perhaps the safer spot for an ice boat



Claiborne Clarion Editors Needed

The Claiborne Clarion is looking for a few good editors. Patti Cruickshank-Schott's last issue was last month's and this issue, March, will be John Scott's last as editor. If the Clarion could get 4 people to work as a team, each person would only edit 4 times a year. The job involves soliciting items and photos, writing as much or as little as you choose, doing some editing magic and putting the items into a format Patti and Pete Gregorio developed. Fun. Easy. Creative. Please call Mary Gregorio if you are interested in giving it a try. People will help you get started.

