



THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A Newsletter for the
Claiborne Community

January 2026 • Volume 19, Number 1

PAT FLORY, EDITOR* PHOTO BY RENNY JOHNSON* BARBARA REISERT, CLARION FOUNDER AND EDITOR EMERITA *
ROBB TODD, PRESIDENT, CLAIBORNE ASSOCIATION*

Note the Dates:

Tuesday, January 6, 10 AM
De-Decoration Day
Join us at the Village Hall as we
pack up the holiday glitz and
glitter. All welcome!

Thursday, January 8, at 5:00 PM
Shore Rivers: State of our Waters

Wednesday, January 14 – 7 PM
Claiborne Movie Season
Premieres

Thursday, January 15, 7 PM -
Claiborne Association Board
Meeting at the Village Hall.
All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, January 18 - 4 PM
Marty Bollinger "Claiborne Village
Over Time"

January Birthdays

Barbara Haddaway	2
Paul Cooper	4
Judy Cockey	17
Koa Cureton	21
Barbara McCaughey	27

Since When Is Being Two-Faced a Good Thing? Ask Janus

A note from the Claiborne Association President



WOW! Suddenly, it's January. How did that happen? Barely a chance to reflect on the events of the past year, and we're already looking ahead to 2026.

Speaking of reflection, did you know January gets its name from the Roman god Janus? Janus is often depicted with two faces—one looking backward and one looking forward—capturing the essence of this transitional month: honoring the past while embracing new possibilities.

Looking back on 2025, Claiborne has wonderful things to celebrate: the gatherings at the Hall that brought us together, the 100th birthday celebration of Becky Otter, the release of a new book by our own local author, Marty Bollinger, a successful annual appeal that strengthened the association's finances for another year, and the opportunity we found to support those in need with a large donation to a local food pantry from the proceeds of a Chili Cook-Off.

I'm looking forward to 2026 and seeing you all around the village—maybe while walking your dogs (or just out for a stroll), perhaps while ice-sailing on the cove, at a Wednesday night movie, or when the weather warms, working in your yards.

Whatever the occasion, I look forward to being with you in the year ahead.
Happy New Year!

Rob Todd

How's the Water?

On Thursday, January 8th, at 5:00, we'll hear an update on the state of the waters on which we live. Ben Ford, ShoreRivers' Miles-Wye Riverkeeper will share his perspective on the health of those waterways and of Eastern Bay, as well as what's ahead for the organization.

The Dark Months are Movie Months

From January until April-ish, we send out an email notice of Wednesday's feature film of the week to those who are interested. If you have not been on the movie alert list in years past and would like to be, please email Martha at marthahamlyn@gmail.com and she'll make sure you are added.

Annual Holiday Wreath Hanging



Alan, Jamie and Jim - wreath engineers

You Did It Claiborne!



The Annual Appeal Goal Has Been Met!

Phil Sayre, the Claiborne Association Treasurer, gladly reports that as of December 29th, contributions to the Annual Appeal have reached \$12,779—surpassing this year's goal of \$10,000. Thank you to everyone who made this success possible. If you still wish to contribute, simply drop your donation in the box at the Hall.

And ...

Hats off to Jim Richardson, who year after year, keeps us up-to-date on how the contributions to the Annual Appeal are progressing. Like they say, "It takes a village." Here he is changing the contribution amount for what must be the fourth or fifth time.

Jim is also the creative force behind almost all of the promotional posters for events at the Hall. Thank you, Jim!



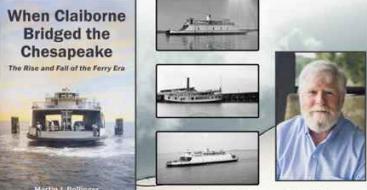
2025 was a busy year at the Village Hall

When our community took the leap to buy and repurpose the Methodist church as a post office and community center, there was no guarantee that it would be used more than occasionally. Well, we sure don't need to worry about that now! In 2025, there were 25 big gatherings for dinners, for music, for fun and for milestone celebrations. Add to that 20 movie screenings, weekly ladies' meet-ups, and twice-weekly yoga classes, and that's about 200 times a year we can be grateful we have such a wonderful building!

**A Date with History Speaker Series
"When Claiborne
Bridged the Chesapeake"**

TALBOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**When Claiborne
Bridged the Chesapeake**
The Rise and Fall of the Ferry Era



with Marty Bollinger

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 1pm
Talbot County Free Library
100 W. Dover St., Easton, MD 21601



A Claiborne Holiday



Claiborne History Presentations

On Sunday, January 18, at 7:00, Marty Bollinger will bring us a special presentation about the evolution of Claiborne village over time. Marty wowed us last year with his research about the ferry and railroad systems that came through and around our fair village. This talk will center on his new book, *When Claiborne Bridged the Chesapeake* and we'll get to see lots of new-to-us historical photographs of the village. A reception will follow, and Marty is happy to sign books.

If you have to miss this talk, Marty will be giving a slightly less Claiborne-centric book talk at the Easton library (Jan. 20, 1:00 - free) and as a dinner presentation at the Miles River Yacht Club (Jan. 29, 5:30 - 8:00. \$40). He's a hot commodity these days!

A Claiborne Holiday

Another great holiday season in Claiborne! December's Holiday Potluck had all the warmth, jollity, beauty and deliciousness of the season in one evening. Thanks goes to all the decorators, the makers and the bakers, and to all who brought their holiday spirit to share.

On New Year's Eve a group of Claibornites braved the cold and gathered at the hall. They watched the movie *Strictly Ballroom* (thank you Paul). Renny's plan to ring 26 times at midnight was terminated after one ring by the bell malfunction.



Good Riddance, But Now What?

By Ogden Nash

Come, children, gather round my knee;
Something is about to be.
Tonight's December thirty-first,
Something is about to burst.
The clock is crouching, dark and small,
Like a time bomb in the hall.
Hark! It's midnight, children dear.
Duck! Here comes another year.

On a more serious note, as we start another year together, let's celebrate the richness of the natural beauty and untold wealth of friends and our Claiborne community.



Photo by Dede Graves