



# The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the  
Claiborne Community  
**January 2015**  
Volume 9, Number 1

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

## January Birthdays

**2 Barbara Haddaway**  
**21 Koa Cureton**  
**23 George MacMillan**  
**23 Ciara Ledlum**

## Save the Date

*Claiborne Association  
Board Meeting*  
Tuesday, January 13  
7PM  
Village Hall  
All Welcome!

## Movie Night

(It's Back!)  
Wed, January 7 7PM  
Village Hall

## Save the Date

*Work Party*  
Tuesday, January 6 8AM  
Village Hall

## Christmas in Claiborne (Village Hall in St. Michaels House Tour)

Claiborne outdid itself preparing for the House Tour on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14. The Hall was magnificently decorated with 9 Christmas trees, wreathes, garland and lights. Newly framed pictures anchored a history exhibit. A sketch showed what the completed Annex might look like.

The buses filled with visitors came... and came... and came. It seemed like a thousand people in all. Happy people, intrigued by a village church now used for other village purposes; curious people, some wearing Santa Clause hats and red sweaters. Many had family or Shore connections they wanted to talk about. Some were history buffs, interested in the old pictures, the village history and the railroad and ferry. Nearly all of them were hungry for homemade cookies.

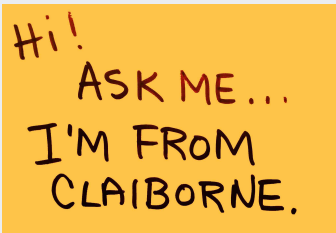




This ornament was designed and made by Shirley Cockey. It's the first (2014) of what we hope will be a holiday tradition!

Thanks, Shirley! These are wonderful!

If you didn't get yours they are still available. Contact Mary or Shirley



Thanks to all Claiborne Village Volunteers!!!

On Sunday evening a catered dinner was held for the entire village. Around 85 people attended, including some folks from the Christmas in St Michaels organization. The sit-down dinner was very jolly with terrific food provided by Peachblossoms Catering. The Association also held its brief December General Meeting.



Claiborne Children's Choir (and Renny)

Many, many people contributed in some way - planning, gathering greens, decorating, buying and preparing Christmas trees, baking cookies and making Claiborne ornaments, moving furniture, creating and framing photos, camouflaging the annex, preparing for the dinner, and cleaning up. Village families purchased the Christmas trees, which were delivered to each house by the Tree Committee.



A special thank you is due a number of people whose generosity and hard work made this event possible. By any measure the event was a fund-raising success. Between the metal drive, the Tour donations, dinner donations and pledges, the Association came close to meeting its goal of raising \$10,000, which will be used to support continued work on the Village Hall.

## Save the Date

*Let's Talk About Aging in  
Claiborne  
Thursday  
January 22  
7PM.  
(see details at right)*



Jane at Rich Neck in 2011

## Aging in Claiborne

Thursday, January 22 at 7pm at the Village Hall

Please join us for our second gathering of Aging in Place/ Community/ Claiborne. You can look back at the December Clarion for our beginning list of possible projects. We hope to expand on those and would love to include your ideas.

One project the group has interest in is offering grocery runs on snowy/ icy winter days and we'll work on the details of that at this meeting.

All ages invited... we are all aging.... and it takes a village... We all need help and we can all offer help.

Questions, contact:

Patti - [awayhome@happynomad.com](mailto:awayhome@happynomad.com) 919-696-6630

or Kirke - [kirke.harper@gmail.com](mailto:kirke.harper@gmail.com) 410-829-6538

## A Life Worth Remembering...

Patti Cruickshank-Schott

The incomparable Lady Jane Nevin Guinness died peacefully on December 11<sup>th</sup> after a short illness. She was 85.

Jane and her husband, Tim, and their sons, Sean and K, had a wonderful house out on the edge of Rich Neck for many years. They had first sailed into Tilghman Creek with small babies. At the end of the creek they met John and Shirley Cockey. John pumped gas for them while Shirley filled their baby bottles. Jane always seemed to forget to bring enough. Jane and Tim also became friends with Ella Burling (they had DC connections), and according to Jane, Ella sold them that point of land because she took pity on Jane 'on that boat with those wild boys'. Jane and Tim cleared acres of bramble by hand and, inspired by the Deck home Carol and Hugh Kabler had built across the creek, they did the same.

After Tim's sudden death in 2011, Jane's family worked tirelessly to find ways for her to remain at home – in Claiborne and in Blue Hill, Maine. Though she had suffered with dementia for decades, they couldn't imagine her vibrant spirit shackled by life in a nursing facility. They were successful, and she was at home within sight of her beloved Falls Bridge and able to play the piano until the last week of her life. A group of wonderful women cared for Jane in Maine, and she was also tended gently in the small and lovely Blue Hill Hospital during her last days.

There are no words to express what an amazing woman Jane was throughout her life, or how much she was loved, especially during the last years of her life. What a wonderful privilege it was to care for and live with Jane during the first year I came to Claiborne... I am forever changed by that time with Jane...

One of the first things I learned as Jane's caregiver was that it would be horribly unkind to tell her Tim had died when she asked for him each day. In fact, one morning, right after she asked for him, she looked me in the eye and said, 'Don't tell me he is dead.' So we told her whenever she asked that Tim was off sailing somewhere with friends. I can only imagine that now Jane and her Tim are sailing away together... at long last...

## How The Heck Did We Get Here? (An occasional series)

### A “Thing” for Water

By Mike Kuperberg

My wife Jeanne and I have had long-time “things” for water. I was born in Naples, Florida where my parents ran a water ski school. I spent my formative years in Naples, exploring the Rookery Bay estuary. My “thing” for water followed me to Tallahassee where I worked on the Apalachicola Bay estuary in my undergraduate and masters studies. Though born in New Jersey, Jeanne grew up living on the water in New Port Richey, Florida. She recalls boating, fishing and scalloping in the nearby Gulf coastal waters. Jeanne and I met as students at Florida State University. We were both members of the Marching Chiefs (FSU’s marching band) – Jeanne played alto sax and I played the sousaphone. In one formation, Jeanne’s line had to pass through the sousaphone section’s line. During a performance, a friend and I closed up Jeanne’s space, leaving her with no way to get through the line. The rest was kismet – we married in 1986.



The Kuperbergs at Claiborne Beach – Jessica, Jeanne, Sparky, Jordan, Ben and Mike

One of the first things we bought together was an old Boston Whaler, which we used to explore the lakes, rivers and coasts of north Florida. Following my parent’s early interests, we also took up water skiing. My cousin invited us to central Florida to take barefoot skiing lessons (no, neither of us developed a penchant for barefooting). Our instructor was selling his demo boat – a beautiful Mastercraft ski boat with a 225 hp outboard (yes, an outboard ski boat). It was a Ferrari compared to our Whaler and before we knew it, we had a new boat. We spent a lot of time skiing on the lakes and coastal rivers of north Florida, bringing our daughters (Jessica & Jordan) along as soon as they were big enough to wear a life preserver. We eventually bought a piece of riverfront property south of Tallahassee with dreams of waterfront living.

As things happen, fate had other plans. I was offered, and accepted, a chance to come to the DC metro area on loan to the Department of Energy in 2003. Jeanne agreed and we moved, bringing the family, but leaving our boat and our riverfront property behind. That temporary position became permanent and we became Marylanders. The girls grew up and our focus turned to college and tuition. When both girls graduated we revisited our dreams of water and waterfront.

We spent over a year exploring the Chesapeake and its tributaries. We began, pragmatically, on the western shore (Calvert and St Mary's counties). Eventually, Jeanne convinced me to cross the bridge and explore Talbot County. We spent a weekend in Oxford and, on a whim, wandered into a real estate office on a Sunday morning. The realtor on duty, Ray Stevens, sat down with us to talk about what we wanted and how Talbot County might fill that bill. Ray is exactly what one would hope for in a realtor – a friend to help you find a place that suits your needs and desires. Between Jeanne's voracious research skills and Ray's local knowledge and experience, we identified two interesting properties, one in Oxford and one on Claiborne Landing Road. We struggled to find a place that met our needs, looking at many other properties in the process. Ultimately, we became the proud, new stewards of Nancy Clark's house.

Since closing in mid November, we have discovered something that didn't show up in any of our research – the community of Claiborne. In a few short weeks, we have danced with you, dined with you, toasted with you, watched amazing sunsets and met many wonderful new friends. We have discovered neighbors who are near-neighbors in Bethesda; we have found long-term locals who have welcomed us warmly to the neighborhood and we have already come to love the beautiful community of Claiborne. We look forward to many weekends (and ultimately more than weekends) here in Claiborne.

### **Dare to Care Vascular Screenings**

by Terry Babb

Happy New Year everyone. Here are a couple TIPS that I wanted to pass along -- Did you know there are ABSOLUTELY FREE vascular screenings with a program called Dare To Care ([www.daretocare.us](http://www.daretocare.us)) through collaboration with the Heart Health Foundation? And there are screening locations on Kent Island and Annapolis! You can make an appointment at either location by calling 410-573-9483 X 201.

The process includes a blood pressure check and a non-invasive ultrasound examination of the carotid arteries, abdominal aorta, and evaluation of the circulation in the lower extremities. The painless, non-invasive screening is completed in approximately 20 minutes.

Results are forwarded to the individual and their primary care physician for further recommendations of care.

The Dare to C.A.R.E. program screens for four common vascular diseases:  
Carotid Artery Duplex (primary cause of preventable strokes)  
Abdominal Aortic Ultrasound  
Renal Artery Ultrasound  
Extremity Artery Evaluation





Also, have you heard about this website ([www.goodrx.com](http://www.goodrx.com))? It's been very helpful for us since we need prescription medications for our dog Blue who has epilepsy. You can go to the website and enter the name of the drug and a zip code and it will tell you the cost and offer coupons for discounts at different locations – and believe me there are huge differences. So if you have meds not covered by insurance or need something for a pet, like we do, you'll want to check this out!

### **Renny's Call**

*Come,*

*Witness our attempt to extend the shortest day into the darkest of nights...for there is no moon tonight, a rare and solemn occasion on the Solstice.... a long and black night! .....It is fitting and proper that merriment should meet this occasion...6:30 pm the torch is thrown*



(It was dark...)

### **A Poem for Solstice**

by Susan Cooper, and read by Phil Sayre at Renny's Solstice event

“And so the Shortest Day came and the year died  
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world  
Came people singing, dancing,  
To drive the dark away.  
They lighted candles in the winter trees;  
They hung their homes with evergreen;  
They burned beseeching fires all night long  
To keep the year alive.  
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake  
They shouted, reveling.  
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them  
Echoing behind us - listen!  
All the long echoes, sing the same delight,  
This Shortest Day,  
As promise wakens in the sleeping land:  
They carol, feast, give thanks,  
And dearly love their friends,  
And hope for peace.  
And now so do we, here, now,  
This year and every year.”

## ***A Chesapeake Journal***

Check out Kathy Bosin's award-winning blog, *A Chesapeake Journal* at: <https://chesapeakejournal.wordpress.com/2014/12/20/claiborne-form-1500-ft/> Kathy (and her husband Kevin) is a former *physical* and forever *spiritual* resident of Claiborne. Kathy refers to us in her blog as "Mayberry" and we show up often, such is in recent posts where you'll see her aerial photographs of our village. While visiting her site, sign up to regularly receive Kathy's award-winning posts.

## ***Flag Pole Made in Claiborne***

Claiborne's own Jake Flory and Mike Kabler were sought out to construct a flagpole for the U.S. Navy Yard in Annapolis. It was constructed by Jake and Mike in Claiborne, in Mike's shop, and was built of Douglas Fir boards in 5 layers to a 60 foot square 7" x 7", after which a square taper was cut into the top 18'. Then the entire pole was cut into an Octagon. From there it was shaped to round using Stanley #7 long planes. These incredible tools made fast work of it. From there it was sanded and painted. (Editors note: As you might suspect, there's quite a bit more to the story than reported...ask Jake or Mike for the full story)

