



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter For The Claiborne
Community

February 2023
Volume 16, Number 2

Pat Flory, February Editor
Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder/Editor Emerita
Jim Richardson, President Claiborne Association

Note the Dates

Saturday, Feb. 11, 7 PM -
Bingo at the Village Hall.

Wednesday, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22,
7 PM - Claiborne Wednesday
Night Movie

Friday, Feb 14 -
Valentine's Day

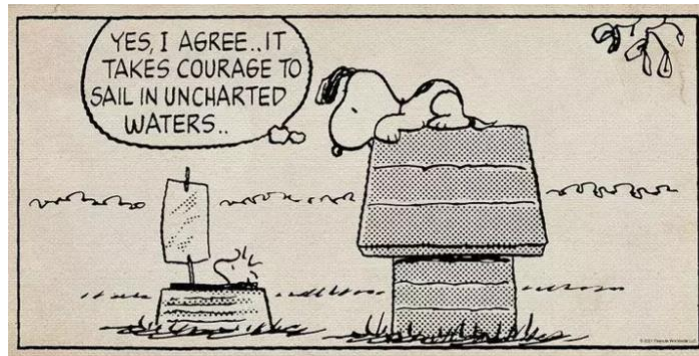
Friday, Feb 24, 7:30 PM -
Concert at the Village Hall

February Birthdays

James Vatne	6
Beja Marshall	11
Anna Kabler	13
Kim Titus	14
Susan Cornish	14
Terry Boos	24

If you wish to add your name to the birthday list or if you have a picture or story idea you want to submit, please contact Pat Flory at 443- 472-6800 or patflory@gmail.com

Claiborne Community News



Change is not always easy. Many of us, especially when confronted with big changes in our lives, initially find it disturbing or even threatening. Who hasn't replied, when a friend suggests doing something differently, "Well, we've never done it that way." But change is not necessarily bad - it can be good, especially when it moves us in a direction that improves our lives.

Claiborne Association's Strategic Planning Task Force has been busy imagining what our organization might look like in the future. For me, it is exciting to think how our association might grow. Questions like... How can we find creative ways to make our financial situation self-sustaining? Should we expand our programming? And how can we sustain our membership and find enough leaders to keep things going?

When their work is finished, a full report will be shared in full with the community. In the meantime, take the time to think about what *you* think the Claiborne Association's future might hold. Write your suggestions down and place them in the donation box just inside the mailroom door. They would welcome your ideas.

— Jim

St. Michaels Library Event

Lunch & Learn at St. Michaels Library Monday, February 6th at Noon

Jeff McGuiness, author and photographer, will talk about his book *Bear Me Into Freedom, the Talbot County of Frederick Douglass*. Thousands of words have been written by Douglass and others documenting his time in Talbot County. "Bear Me Into Freedom", for the first time, tells Douglass' Talbot story using his own moving, words illustrated by stunning photography taken in the same places and seasons Douglass describes.

Program Committee

Fundraising Fun in February

We don't know if the Claiborne Methodist Church ever hosted a Bingo Night in order to make money, but we thought it sounded like a fun-in-February kind of thing. Your lucky night will be Saturday, Feb. 11. At a dollar per card, it's a bargain night out! There will be fabulous (well, fabulous-ish) prizes for winners, & some salty snacks to go with the beverage you will have thoughtfully brought for yourself, along with your lucky rabbit's foot.

Bingo starts at 7:00; who knows when it will end?

Claiborne Concert Series is Back!

We are very pleased to announce the return of the Claiborne Concert Series in partnership with the Talbot Arts Council and Busy Graham's Carpe Diem Arts. Please join us Friday, February 24 at 7:30 at the Village Hall for Mama's Broke, a duo from Nova Scotia. They will visit Claiborne in conjunction with their NPR Tiny Desk appearance. It should be a fabulous concert: follow the link to get a taste.



<http://www.mamasbroke.ca>

As always, please pay what you can but a suggested \$10 - \$25 per adult contribution is appreciated.

Claiborne Water Companies

One of Claiborne's distinctive features, and historical accidents, is that we are served by two water supply companies. The first one began after the railroad ceased operations in Claiborne in 1928. Taking advantage of the railroad's abandoned well across from Sarah and Phil Sayre's house, residents banded together and laid their own pipes to a manifold they put together. That company, Claiborne Water Supply, has been operated for the past 40 years by Renny Johnson.

The second company, Bay View Water Company, serving the Miracle House Circle area, resulted from a disagreement. A group of residents decided to drill their own well and create a second water company. That company is now operated by Will Murdoch.

Sherwood Seminar Series

Looking for a special event to help chase away those winter blues?

Join our Sherwood Seminar outing on Tuesday, February 14, 11 AM, for a visit to the Academy Art Museum in Easton where we will enjoy a private, curated tour. We will learn about the history of this important institution and the many outreach programs that are sponsored for all age groups.

The curated tour of the Museum's impressive collection will be highlighted by their new exhibition of one of the greatest American artists in history; Mary Cassatt.

We will gather at 11:00 AM at the Museum located at 106 South Street Easton. Following the hour-long tour, you are welcome to linger then perhaps join others (including your special Valentine) for lunch in one of the many restaurants nearby.

To reserve your space please respond to Billie Jane Marton prior to February 12th.
billiejane@atlanticbb.net

Bay View Water has had a backup generator for several years. Claiborne Water Supply, which provides water to Claiborne Hall, is preparing to purchase and install a backup generator to ensure the Hall (and residents) are supplied during power outages.

The Mystery House

Last month we published 2 pictures of a mystery house and asked if anyone recognized it or had any information about it. No responses, but this may be that all knowledge of the house falls into the category of "time out of mind".

The house was located on the northwest side of Claiborne Landing road. If you look carefully, you can see the remains of an old driveway. It was occupied at one time by the Shores family. Captain Neil (Cornelius) Shores, who lived from 1933 to the early 2000s, said he was born and raised in that house. At one point in his life Cap't Shores was a caretaker at the hunting lodge on Poplar Island. Later, he and his wife Mildred lived at 10431 Claiborne Road, where Suzanne and Rob Todd now live.



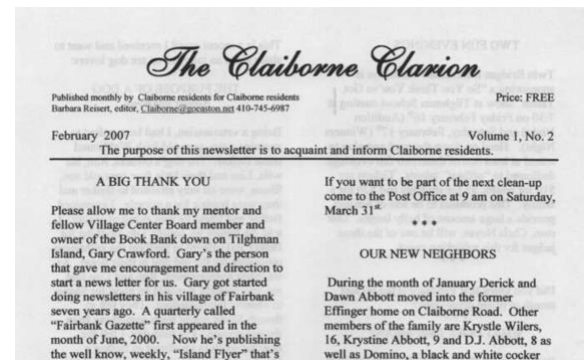
Captain Shores was a waterman, one of a few who made

Claiborne their home. Claiborne was primarily a village of people who worked on and supported the Ferry and its passengers. He loved to tell stories about the "old days". He told Kirke Harper that when he began working on the water he was paid \$5.00 for a barrel of crabs. Think about how many crabs it would take to fill a barrel.

Thoughts about the Clarion, COVID and our Community - Kirke Harper

When Barbara Reisert first began the Clarion 16 years ago it was a newsy little sheet that reflected Barbara's personality and made us laugh and smile. She called it "light and fluffy". Barbara gathered little snippets of life in our village, typed them up, and volunteers printed off the copies and put them in the Hall.

The second issue, in February 2007, listed just one birthday, and Barbara lightly scolded us for not contributing. Barbara was inspired by Gary Crawford, a wonderful man, now gone, who published



Guess Who?



Last month's answer:

Linda and Kirke Harper

Please send your guesses and/or a picture of yourself and we'll see if anyone recognizes you.

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a newsletter for Tilghman's Island. They met at meetings of the Village Center Board; a County sponsored forum created to add a village perspective to the revision of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Over the years the Clarion has gone through a number of changes. It grew and began to list all of the birthdays. After seven years as Editor, in October 2012, Barbara passed the baton to a series of guest editors. The September 2012 issue, edited by John Scott, was the first online, color version. Peter Gregorio was responsible for the transition to modern ways.

In 2014, John Scott and Patti Cruickshank-Schott rotated as editors, creating a lively exchange with more pictures. 2015 had several editors. In February 2016, Anna and Stella Kabler, then 12 and 7 ½ were the editors (with the help of Kathy Bosin). [Clarion February 2016 - "The Love Issue"](#) Many others have edited over the years, none more than our current editor, Pat Flory.

The Clarion is now an online publication, with readers across the country and overseas. Not quite as newsy (We're a bit more careful with personal information, as we all must be these days.) But, somehow, despite technical challenges, frustration with Microsoft Word templates, and different personalities and approaches, we have managed to gather all of the birthdays, and never miss a month for 16 years!

The village has changed of course, as communities do. But still a sense of place, a community, bonds of friendship and all that continue to exist. We don't see each other as often as before, primarily because of COVID. COVID has made many of us reluctant to attend large gatherings, masked or unmasked. And while the effects of getting COVID appear to be muted by the vaccines, the specter of long COVID still haunts many of us.

The days of sweaty dances are long gone for many of us. New wonderful folks have replaced Dan and Jean Higgins, Buddy and Bea Wharton, Ralph and Mary Steinberg, Nancy Clark, and those are just the tip of the iceberg. But we're still the best organized, most envied former ferry landing and railroad terminus on the Eastern Shore. And that's saying something!

A Voice From Claiborne

In his research on the history of Claiborne ferries, Marty Bollinger stumbled across two poems, written by William A. Jones, Sr. in 1923. One is a poem about life in Claiborne. Mr. Jones was an oyster waterman who lived in Neavitt. He was born in 1859 and died in 1937.

The poems came to Marty by way of the Higgins family. Thank you, Marty, for sharing.

A Voice from Claiborne
by William A. Jones, Sr. (1923)

I've read of several little towns
Along old Talbot's shore.
And so I thought it only fair
To write of just one more.

This little town of which I speak
Goes by the name of Claiborne.
And to every family living there
Is to the other neighbor.

Two churches stand right near at hand,
And when those bells do ring,
Come in and help to swell the band
While praise to God we sing.

And Company is just Pa and son,
And, of course Pa has his way.
And when he is a mind to yell
He can be heard to Eastern Bay.

Of stores you will find but two,
But both are up to date.
And if you haven't got the cash
They mark you on the slate.

Most every night the men come out
And sit around these stores.
Some will tell you of the catch the made
And some of the crops they've grown.

Some will talk of the Volstead Act,
While some will speak of the tariff.
There's one can drive the blues away
I speak of a one-time sheriff.

The bake shop is of modern style.
And when you come to town
Just try some of his cakes and pies,
That's known the country round.

The postmistress is very nice
In handling all mail matter.
She's at her post from 8 A.M.
Until 9 P.M. and after.

Three mails a day, I'm glad to say,
That gives us news aplenty.
We read what happens every day
In nineteen three and twenty.

In the coming spring the Motor Inn
Expects a greater number
Of motorists and traveling men
Than any spring or summer.

I forgot to tell of the new hotel
That's built right on the Bay.
And when the summer boarders come
Right there I'm sure they'll stay.