



# A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CLAIBORNE COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2021 •  
VOLUME 14, NUMBER 12

PAT FLORY, DECEMBER EDITOR, PHOTO BY MARTHA HAMLYN  
BARBARA REISERT, CLARION FOUNDER AND EDITOR EMERITA \* MARY GREGORIO, PRESIDENT, CLAIBORNE ASSOCIATION

## December Birthdays

Liz Fellingner .....	6
Lida Klunk.....	8
Jess Murphy.....	9
Danielle Murphy .....	11
Cecelia Boos.....	17
Edward Schaffer.....	22
Norm Haddaway .....	26
Owen Bond .....	28
Devin Lednum.....	29
Page Lansdale .....	30

Contact Pat Flory at  
[patflory@gmail.com](mailto:patflory@gmail.com) to add your name  
to the birthday list.



*Best Wishes for Happy and  
Peaceful Holidays*

## December in Claiborne – by *Mary Gregorio*

In January 2007, Barbara Reisert had the idea (and the will) to create a neighborhood newsletter. Its purpose was to “acquaint and inform Claiborne residents”. Thanks to the many volunteer writers, contributors, editors and publishers it has been a regular event every month since then. This morning I took a look back at what was going on in those early issues:

In the December 2007 issue and at Dan Higgins’ suggestion, the first Holiday potluck was announced and a call for volunteer decorators and clean-up crews went out. We also learned about who had just returned from vacation, who needed some get well wishes, and an invitation to see Dede Ritner’s shoe museum!

December 2008 brought news of themed story-telling sessions, a recipe for a cinnamon and applesauce room freshener (did anyone try this?), an idea for a “barter corner.” We also learned the very sad news of Hugh Kabler’s passing.

December 2009 reminded us to watch for two full moons and to join in the “Claiborne Winter” Progressive Pot Luck Dinner.” Claibornites were encouraged to leave their porch lights on if they wanted to be serenaded by a “band of semi-wonderful singers!” Ciara Lednum contributed news about her school activities, and now... well, congratulations Ciara and Blake on your engagement!

In December 2010 we got a detailed update on building renovations and costs, tips from Dede about saving your dryer lint for the birds, news of the holiday potluck and an invitation from Barbara to join her on Christmas day.

## Claiborne Association News...

### Strategic Planning for the Claiborne Association

- At its most recent meeting the Board voted to begin a community-wide process to gather ideas about what we want the Association to accomplish over the next 3 to 5 years. Kristin Lycett will represent the Board and Kirke Harper volunteered to coordinate the first steps. If you are interested in contributing ideas please contact Kristin or Kirke.

Kirke will prepare a background paper on the Association's origins as a starting point. He's looking for photos of early meetings and construction projects. Please send any you want to contribute to

[claibornemd@gmail.com](mailto:claibornemd@gmail.com).

### Operating Fund Contributions

- Thank you to everyone who contributed toward operating costs this past year. Several families have made monthly or annual donations. The Board decided in 2019 to keep track of operating fund donations separately from programmatic funds and to put 10% of all donations into the Endowment Fund. That means we need to raise \$7,700 to cover expected operating expenses for 2022.

The easiest way to contribute is to have your bank make a monthly transfer or send a check to the Association. Monthly contributions of \$30, \$50 or \$100 will help us reach our goal.

November 2012 saw the first color edition of the Clarion! Koa Cureton (Cub reporter) offered up some thoughts on being a kid in Claiborne and, thanks to Adam Grant, we learned who those guys were who were kite surfing in the cove.

While our ability to spend time together has been limited over the last two years, the spirit of Claiborne and its residents persists: imperfectly human, sometimes crabby, mostly compassionate, often joyous, and always grateful to be here.

Every month, for 15 years, we've shared a bit of news about the goings on, the new neighbors and the passing of old friends. If, like me, you're feeling a bit nostalgic about life in Claiborne or if you're new in town and are interested in some history, you'll find every edition on the website:

[claibornemd.org](http://claibornemd.org)

## Congratulations Ciara and Blake!



Ciara Lednum and Blake Meyers are planning an October wedding at Dawn & Mimi's.

Blake is a professional underwater welder and works on the Western Shore.

Ciara recently graduated and is working as a Radiology Tech at the University of MD.

## The Great Tromboncino!



Last summer Kirke Harper grew a very large *cucurbita moscata* squash with seeds from Italy. The squash grows up to 3 feet in length and can be eaten like zucchini when young or winter squash if kept and stored.

The Harper family had a light-hearted celebration at

Thanksgiving to give thanks for the tromboncino. They made cardboard replicas of the giant squash for a short parade around the neighborhood.

## Donations for the St. Michaels Community Center

The St. Michaels Community Center is asking for household, food, and personal hygiene items. Here's the list – detergent, paper towels, cleaning products, sponges, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bath soap, and shampoo. Food items include canned chicken, tuna, pasta, ravioli, stew, rice, soup, peanut butter, crackers, and fruit cups. They are also collecting new toys.

Please drop off any items at the Community Center, 103 Railroad Ave. The hours are Mondays 3-5:00; Wednesdays 1-3:00; and Fridays 11-3:00. At their annual Thanksgiving dinner, staff and volunteers packaged 173 meals and numerous boxes of fresh produce and pantry items for delivery and pick up. Ava's Pizzeria provided the roasted turkeys and Awful Arthur's provided the side dishes.

The Community Center's mission is to serve, empower, and connect people throughout the Bay Hundred area. They certainly fulfill their mission. Please consider helping them to continue their good work by donating some items or with a monetary contribution.

## Program Committee News

We find ourselves again unable to celebrate the season our traditional way, with a happy crowd sharing festive food in a decorated Hall. So our decorating efforts will show up on the outside of the building and we'll hope to pass on some seasonal cheer that way.

Mike Keene continues to offer yoga appropriate to all levels in the large room on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. The room is warm and the distance between participants wide. Email Mike to be put on his weekly scheduling list or to get a link to join in the comfort of your own home by zoom. He is at [mjkeene7@icloud.com](mailto:mjkeene7@icloud.com)

One more way to get in the spirit...

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Renny Johnson, movie czar, will share the very first film version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. We can be masked, distanced, and you are invited to bring your own libation. If you've been on the movie night email list in the past, you will get a reminder a few days before. If you are not, reply to the Claiborne Association and we'll make sure you are added.



## Clarion Guest Editors

We are in search of a few people interested in serving as guest editor of the Clarion for one or two issues in 2022. If you are not interested in serving as editor, please feel free to send ideas, articles, and photographs to for the newsletter. Either way, please contact Pat Flory at [patflory@gmail.com](mailto:patflory@gmail.com).

## Claiborne History

Claiborne residents Maura and Marty Bollinger are fascinated by local history and have started delving into it. This month starts a series of articles about the Claiborne Ferry. Enjoy!

## Second Coming of the Ferry? More Like the Sixth!

The Claiborne community takes pride in the heritage of our village, including its role as a transportation hub across the Chesapeake. However, if the Claiborne ferry does return, technically it would not be the second such operation but, in fact, the sixth.

Two previous ferry operations are well known: the ferry from Baltimore to Claiborne run by the Baltimore & Eastern Shore Railroad Company (later the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic Railroad Company) and the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry Company, which carried passengers and cars between Claiborne and Annapolis from 1919 to 1938, and between Claiborne and Romancoke from 1938 to 1952.

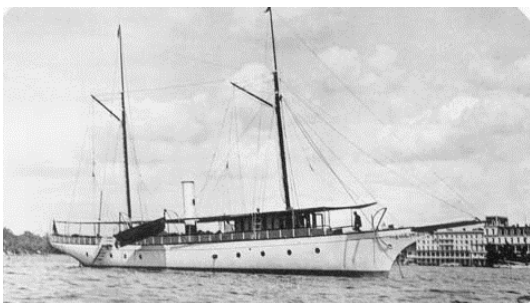
But, in fact, there were three others, less well known. One of those is the subject of this column today. (Others will follow in subsequent *Clarions*.)

In this article we will discuss the first ferry from Annapolis to Claiborne, operated not by the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry Company but by the Eastern Shore Development Steamship Company (ESDSC). Though it lasted only from 1912 to 1916, ESDSC is actually the entity responsible for building the surviving ferry wharf at Claiborne, adjacent to the now defunct B&ES / BC&A rail-ferry wharf.

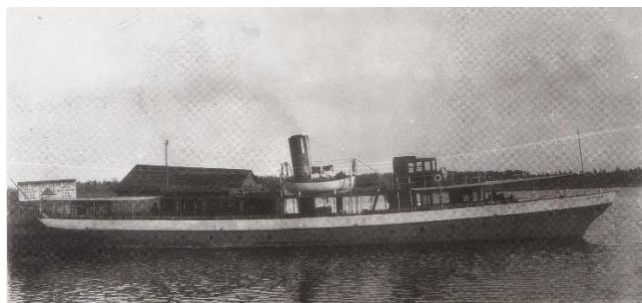
This new operation was financed by Edward H.R. Green, using the financial resources of his mother, Henrietta “Hetty” Green. Known as the “Witch of Wall Street,” Hetty Green was a sophisticated investor and made a fortune on Wall Street in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was also eccentric, refusing to spend any of her wealth. For example, she wore the same (and her only) dress every day.

Her son, Edward, *was* willing to spend money. He invested in a new ferry line to Claiborne (and Cambridge) from Annapolis, competing with the existing line from Baltimore. Between 1910 and 1912 the plans came together - quietly. Waterfront land (the current ferry wharf) was acquired. Steamers were purchased and reconfigured in Baltimore. Then, in 1912, the Eastern Shore Development Steamship Company launched into operation, in competition with the BC&A ferry.

These operations centered on a steam yacht *Texas*, a relatively fast screw steamer (as opposed to old-fashioned paddlewheel steamers on the BC&A line) built by Herreshoff in Bristol, RI in 1889, with the original name *Augusta*. The luxury steam yacht had a long history operating from Bristol (as *Vivienne*), Boston (as *Toinette*), and New York (as *Laurita* and *Crescent*). This yacht was acquired by Edward Green in 1911, converted into a passenger ferry by the Booz Brothers shipyard in Baltimore, and given the name *Texas*. It was the fastest ferry on the Bay.



Steam yacht *Vivienne* (ex. *Augusta*), before conversion into the ferry *Texas*



*Texas*, reconfigured as a Claiborne ferry, at the Claiborne wharf in 1914

Operations were supplemented by steam-screw ferries *City of Milford* (built in Milford, DE in 1906), *Atlantic* (built as *Ruth* in Rockland, ME in 1894).



Steamer *City of Milford*



Ferry *Ruth* at Mt. Desert, ME before its purchase and reconfiguration as the ferry *Atlantic*.

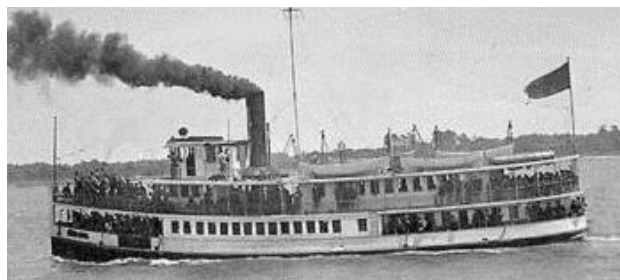
The steamer *York River* (built as *Corsair* in East Providence, RI in 1888) may also have been involved though it seems to have operated only temporarily on the Cambridge line. The small steam yacht *Mermaid* served as an office and personal yacht for ESDSC owners and a new gasoline-motor yacht *A.J. McIntosh* served the company owners though it may have also carried mail and other cargo.

Not surprisingly, this competing operation to BC&A led to confrontation. There were price wars and other efforts by BC&A to undermine ESDSC, for example, by altering its railroad schedule to make it difficult for the ESDSC ferries to connect with the railroad.

Moreover, ESDSC itself had operational difficulties. *Atlantic* ran aground off Bay Ridge on December 5, 1912. It was again stranded off Bloody Point the following night and passengers had to be rescued (with difficulty) by *Texas*. *Texas* itself suffered a broken rudder on May 6, 1915 and was left adrift in the Bay until the crew could make repairs. Passengers aboard a disabled *York River* had to be rescued by the BC&A steamer *Cambridge* on September 22, 1915. Earlier that year, on March 5, *York River* had collided with a schooner *Richmond* in the Patapsco River.

After just four years, the service was terminated and the Eastern Shore Development Steamship Company went bankrupt. The steamers were sold at auction by the U.S. Marshals on November 11, 1916. The steamers themselves had further lives:

*Texas* spent its subsequent years operating out of Elizabeth City, NC. It was converted to a harbor barge in 1929 and at that point it disappears from the records. *City of Milford* was converted to the steam tug *San Juan* in 1918 and was operated by Bluefields Fruit Company in Nicaragua, supporting its fleet of banana ships. It was sold to Nicaraguan owners in 1921. *Atlantic* became a U.S. Navy transport in 1918. It sank at its mooring in 1920 and the wreck was sold. Later repaired, it saw periodic service until 1925 when it foundered at its pier in Cooper River, SC.



Steamer USS *Atlantic*, the former Claiborne ferry *Atlantic*, with a load of US Marines

*York River* sank at the Baltimore Drydock and Shipbuilding Company in November 1919 and the wreck was dismantled afterwards. *A.J. McIntosh* was destroyed by fire in Annapolis on October 3, 1914 – just two years after it was built., and *Mermaid* was reclassified as a yacht in 1925, owned by George L. Shearer of New York. It was reported as abandoned in 1932.

In the end, the first effort to run a ferry between Annapolis and Claiborne had failed. On the other hand, the Eastern Shore Development Steamship Company had illustrated the potential for a Claiborne-Annapolis connection, which generated interest and led to the follow-on and better-known Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry just a few years later.

*Next month: the efforts to use a rail-transfer ferry to move entire railcars from Bay Ridge to Claiborne*

Marty Bollinger

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Photograph Acknowledgements:

*Augusta*: Henry Augustus Mott, *Yachts and Yachtsmen of America* (New York, 1894).

*Texas*: William G. Walker, as reproduced by C. John Sullivan, *Old Ocean City: The Journal and Photographs of Robert Craighead Walker, 1904-1916* (Baltimore, 2001)

*City of Milford*: Hagley Museum & Library Digital Archives, Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation Cost Book Photographs.

*Ruth*: Southwest Harbor Public Library Digital Archive, Eleanor R. Mayo Collection.

*USS Atlantic*: US Naval History and Heritage Command, catalog NH 103917.

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