



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community
July 2013

Patti Cruickshank-Schott, Guest Editor

Barbara Reissert, Clarion Founder and Editor Emeritus

Jim Richardson, President, Claiborne Association Volume 7, Number 7

July Birthdays

July 6 Patti Cruickshank-Schott
July 8 Renny Johnson
July 14 Chris Noyes
July 21 Carol Kabler
July 21 Becky Otter
July 21 Kathy Bosin
July 25 Stella Kabler
July 27 Pete Gregorio

July Events Village Hall

**Second Annual 4th of July
Parade and Ice Cream Social**
2:00 decorating
3:00 parade with ice cream
following

Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 9th 7 PM
All Welcome

Dumpster Day
Saturday, July 13th
First come, first served

Movie Night
Movie Night is taking a summer
hiatus. See you in the fall!

Every Month Martha Hamlyn & Pete Gregorio put in time to help the Clarion get out to you... among many other things they do for the community. Maybe give them a hug next time you see them !!!

ATTENTION ALL PATRIOTIC SPIRITS!

Claiborne will celebrate the 4th of July with an afternoon parade and ice cream social. Materials for decorating bikes, trikes, riding mowers, golf carts, yard carts and pets will be provided at the Hall starting at 2:00. At 3:00, we will parade from the Village Hall, loop down Cedar Street and Bayside Drive, around Miracle House Circle and back to the Hall for ice cream & lots of toppings. Last year's parade was a smashing success. Come see if Carol Kabler will reprise her role of Torch-bearing Lady Liberty on a Motorbike!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How fast time flies! Here it is almost July, and if you are anything like me, projects around the house that should have been finished ages ago, still wait for a beginning. Not so at the Village Hall! There are two summer projects scheduled in which you might want to participate.

Since it's never too late for spring cleaning, the Claiborne Association is offering a unique opportunity to get rid, once and for all, of that old toaster oven that hasn't worked for years and that pile of scrap wood in the backyard. On Saturday, July 13th, a dumpster will be delivered to the front of the Village Hall. The main purpose of the dumpster will be to enable volunteers to clean out the annex building so that we can begin to renovate the space in the fall. However, for a donation, anyone living in Claiborne will be able to throw away personal items on a "first come, first served" basis. So, round up your junk and mark your calendars for Dumpster Day.

More importantly, if you are interested in sharing your building skills, the Claiborne Association is looking for volunteers who can help renovate the annex. The old drywall needs to come out, new wiring needs to be run, insulation needs to be added, and new drywall needs to be installed. Of course, there is always plenty of painting to do. If this project appeals to you, please contact me – 745-5001.

Jess Murphy has offered to build a new brick entrance walk at the Village Hall to replace our old and crumbling concrete walk. The Board has approved his estimate and given him the go ahead. To make this project even better, commemorative bricks will be available for purchase at \$50.00 each. This is an excellent chance to have your name or the name of a loved one added to the walkway. There are no limits as to how many bricks can be purchased. Examples of the commemorative bricks can be seen inside the Hall and profits from the sales will go directly to the Association. Contact me if you are interested in purchasing bricks.

Have a great summer!
Jim Richardson, president

REMEMBRANCES OF MISS LIDA SMITH

Transcribed by Martha Hamlyn in 2012, with original spelling & grammar

Miss Lida Smith, who taught at the Claiborne School, wrote about Claiborne & McDaniel history in the early 1970s. We're excited to be sharing excerpts every month, and hope to flesh out some of the vague parts. If you have knowledge that might help in adding to this endeavor, please contact Martha Hamlyn at 745-5001 or designs@atlanticbb.net.

It is important to remember that this was written 40 years ago, and includes events that occurred upwards of 90 years before that. Miss Smith was born in 1878, and during her lifetime, segregation was still widespread. Language usage has thankfully changed considerably since then. We apologize in advance for offense the words 'colored' and 'negro' may cause and hope it will encourage continuing conversations about language and respect, especially with our children.

Let us hear from you...

Comments, compliments, additions, corrections, critiques. What do you want more of? Who would you like to see interviewed?

You can use the easy **Comment** button on the website at the top of the Clarion...

You put the books in... Now take the books out...

Barbara Reisert sends a big thank you the folks who heeded the call for children's books. The Hokey Pokey Library now has a nifty assortment of children's books just waiting to be read!

Perhaps some of our readers would like to give a review!

Remembrances Part 4

MINERAL SPRINGS AND A FORGOTTEN TOWN

In my childhood days I remember going with my father to a picnic and political meeting at a place then known as Mineral Springs – a place long since forgotten by the present generation. This spring is located on the road leading to the farm known as Sherwood Forest¹ and then owned by William Wrightson, known as "Long Billy" to distinguish him from my grandfather whose name was William Wrightson also.

A large farm² near Mineral Springs, and on the opposite side of the road, was owned by Joseph Tunis who had extensive interests in lumber mills. Tunis Mills, a village on Miles River received that name because of Mr. Tunis owning a mill (lumber) located there³.

Mr. Tunis built a mansion later known as Claiborne Hall. Here he planned to start a settlement to be known as Bay City⁴. It is now called "old Claiborne." There is a plot⁵ of this town laid off with streets and building lots in the records at the Court house in Easton, the County Seat of Talbot County. Several homes were built, mostly occupied by negroes. A hall was built for their convenience for church service and social gatherings. Land was reserved for a burial ground for their dead. A very pretty chapel was erected for the Episcopal Congregation. It had a picturesque steeple and a beautiful memorial window portraying the Christ with a lamb folded in his arms.

The Tunis family had installed a baptismal font which had been given by the Queen of England. The font and memorial window are now in the Episcopal Church in St. Michaels⁶.

The chapel was later moved near the village of Claiborne, this being a growing settlement. The chapel was finally abandoned. The Methodist congregation bought the building to be used as a hall for suppers and other business meetings. It was also used as a voting place for this election district.

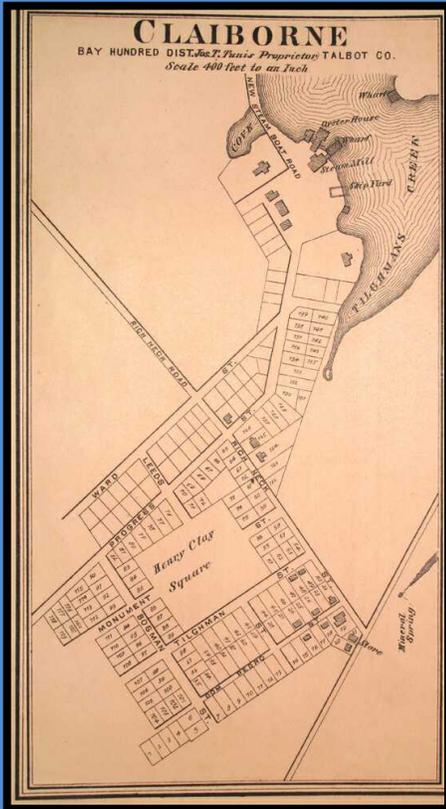
The day after a church supper had been held, trash was collected and burned in the yard back of the hall. Later in the day the hall caught fire and burned to the ground. The lot on which the church once stood was sold to Oslie Warner and the money was used to put lights on the main Street of Claiborne. This project was encouraged by the residents and engineered mainly by Edward Haddaway, son of Clarence Haddaway.

The city that was to have grown never developed. The Tunis family have all passed on⁷. The lovely home, Claiborne Hall, finally owned by Fritz Wallack ([Wallack](#)) caught fire and unfortunately could not be saved. The home is now replaced by a very picturesque cottage.

To be continued....



Claiborne Hall
Photo Courtesy of Molly Bond



Claiborne Plats perhaps...
Courtesy Molly Bond



Michael Glaser
Photo Kathy Bosin

Historians and Memories Don't always Agree....

Molly Tunis Bond has studied the history of her family and how it relates to the history of the town of Claiborne. After reading this section of Miss Lida's remembrance, she offered comments and additional pieces of information summarized below (footnote numbers are included in Miss Lida's piece for easy reference):

- ¹ The Wrightson property was known as Sherwood Manor not Sherwood Forest (which is a property on Rt. 33 between the Bozman road and Martingham).
- ² The large Farm near Mineral Springs was Maple Hall.
- ³ Maple Hall was owned by Joseph Tunis and his brothers, and they also owned and operated lumber operations at many locations including Tilghman Creek and Tunis Mills.
- ⁴ Mr. Tunis planned the *Claiborne* settlement (now Old Claiborne) not *Bay City* (now Claiborne).
- ⁵ [Ed. Note: For me, as a writer, the most quirky and interesting thing was that Molly changed 'plot' to *plat*, a word I had never seen. So I was off on an internet search... You could get lost on journeys like this... there is so much written. My favorite though was this: from a letter published in *The Gentlemen's Magazine*, Volume 72, Part 1, London, 1802 [1]: "... many attorneys ought to be whipt for not knowing how to spell; that *plot* a conspiracy and *plat* a piece of ground were pronounced exactly alike ..." P C-S]
- ⁶ A baptismal font, which had been given by Queen Anne of England for the original Episcopal Church on Kent Island was donated to Claiborne. In 1942 the font was given to a small Episcopal chapel in Arlington, VA. The memorial window and ceremonial silver, which also came from Queen Anne, are in the Episcopal Church in St. Michaels.
- ⁷ The Tunis family has NOT passed on as Lida Smith assumed. The Tunis family sold Maple Hall to John Cockey and his wife, Sarah Catherine Tunis, sister of Joseph. Today there are seven houses located on the old Maple Hall Farm that are owned and occupied by the descendants of the Tunis/Cockey family.

IN CELEBRATION OF POETRY

We had wonderful attendance for our poetry evening in early June with Maryland Poet Laureate, Michael Glaser. Maybe it was the desserts that lured folks there, but the poetry was what captured them. Several people commented later that Michael was a real teacher... It's hard to explain why this is so... but it is so...

Michael was friendly, casual... he simply read poems to us and invited us to jot down words that stood out, thoughts that came to us, random ideas, parts of stories...our stories... These became the material we used to fashion our own poems... And then miraculously, he invited up (actually, inspired us) to stand and say our words out loud... to each other... And many did... movingly so... Here are a few...

Rob Todd was the first person to get up to read his poems. He said it was not at all like him to do such a thing. Suzanne agreed. He said these were ideas he has been thinking about recently.

Life #1

Life is random.
If it's good for you now - enjoy.
If it's not, don't worry - it will get better.

Life #2

The world is a beautiful place.
Is it that way because of mankind
Or in spite of him?
Either way...
Someone has to be present to appreciate it.

Taylor

Suzanne Todd

This is about when Taylor's mom died last week
and how he came to school
and how his family came to see him in our plays
and when he told his friends his mommy died
and what I most want to know is why - she was 25, and the doctor
should have listened to her.

Rules

Suzanne Todd

Too many rules at school,
and I don't mean just for kids.
Don't touch the kids - no hugs -
Are they crazy?

Suzanne retired at the end of this school year. She taught first grade in Frederick County for 24 years. She also wrote a poem about that which she didn't share it that night.

Purpose

This is about my retirement
and how I wonder what's next
and why I should think about it - or maybe I shouldn't
and what do I do now?
I need a purpose
and I'm wondering what's next for me.

We were encouraged to go off in any direction with a word... Jack said he had picked up on an image of 'jeans' in a poem Michael read, but his mind carried him much deeper...

Genes

Jack Harrauld

My brother and I talk
about the legacy of our fathers genes,
the heart rhythm problems (me),
the artery issues (him).
We talk of the dark depression
that has claimed many in my mother's family,
including me,
and now my grandchild.
It is easy to slip into thoughts of inevitability,
forgetting that we
are the designers and builders of our lives,
using all the genetic bricks we have.
good and bad.

Sarah Sayre shared this poem...

I can't look after her any more, said Bob,
my mother's boyfriend, 93, deaf and lame
I just want a good home for Checkers,
16, deaf and lame
The young SPCA attendant tried to explain
the word surrender
My sister said, I'll take her
Bob said, You look after her
and I will look after your mother

Sarah, along with her husband, Phil, is looking after Checkers this summer here in Claiborne.

I was struck by a line Michael read from Self Portrait by David Whyte: 'I want to know if you belong or feel abandoned.' I used several other phrases from that poem as well...

And the award goes to....

And thanks so much to Adine Kelley for opening her pool to the Claiborne Ladies Unsynchronized Swimming Team on a recent Monday evening in lieu of gathering at the Hall.

A special appreciation goes out to Pat Flory for her nice retrieval of the evening's featured performer, "Bubbles Reisert". You had to see it to believe it!!! There were definitely bubbles!!

What story is rising up...

Patti Cruickshank-Schott

What story is rising up...
like the heat tonight...
What sticks
what lingers
attaching itself to my heart...

It occurs to me
That I could belong...finally (now)
that I want to...
join 'the fierce heat
of living'

Hoping for a baptism (*it was a church once*)
willing to walk on hot coals even
in this place
where I stand reading
words of my heart...

I remember...

my husband's story -
of arriving at the lake as a boy
and kissing the ground
before rising up
to run to the water....

I doubted that then...
but now
I too am willing to be
that grateful,
that attached to a place...

To linger
'in that fierce embrace'...
of this story,
this village,
this life...

Tim McHugh was also inspired by Self Portrait. He has been writing for a long time, but he hasn't felt comfortable to read aloud...yet. 'Next time...' he says.

Self Portrait Too

By Tim McHugh

The **Mosaic** on the Wall

Shows Sun & Sign

Peace and Water

Reason and Rhyme

The Poet Laureate seems soft, Kind

His voice comforts my Soul, my Mind

We are all mentally challenged, is the moral to his lines

But not all so easily well defined.

His poetry makes me wonder and it so reminds

me of a certain character that follows, it seems so sublime.

Who is this shadowy image that follows me from the dawn's first shine?

And every day as the Sun goes down it greets me right on time,

First from the front and then again from behind.

A poem about self portrait, this the thought that today is in my mind,

This image, reminds me, of more reason, and then more rhyme,

Just like that Mosaic I too am a one of a kind

New poets stand up and phrase after phrase their words all ring so very true

And by hearing their lovely poetic versions I know now what it is I need to do.

My loyal shadow leads the way home and in just a very few,

I can take a fresh glance in the mirror to make sure my own Mosaic is still here
with me too.



The Mosaic on the Wall..

Photo P. Cruickshank-Schott

Add Your Voice

If you have an item for the Clarion – a story, a poem, or an event you would like to publicize, please let Jim or Patti know. Guest Editors are also welcome. You could edit just once or 2 or 3 times per year.



**Marie Deck & Her Family
On her 90th birthday**
Photo Kim Deck



Charles and Marie
Photo courtesy Deck Archives

Jim had many poems to share during the evening... this is the one he wrote that night...

Martha's Garden

Jim Richardson

It's the first job of the day after my morning coffee.
I stand under the trellis watering Martha's plants,
A job that's not really a job but more a pleasure
And a chance to meditate.

I watch the spray as it nourishes
The potted plants and think about
Her falling in the garden.
She hurt her already bad shoulder
And slept fitfully last night.

I think of the adventure before us,
Watering her flowers,
And helping her do her hair.

I just loved the place from the very beginning...

An Interview with Marie Deck

We had heard from Kim Deck that Marie celebrated her 90th birthday recently and that she really enjoyed reading the Clarion. So I called Marie in June to talk about her memories of living in Claiborne. My questions are in italics. The rest are Marie's words.

How was your birthday?

It was a lovely birthday party... and a complete surprise...I don't know how Kim did it. It was at a hall... near our house.... The whole thing was very special with family and friends. Some I had not seen in many years. Most of our family is close by, but my son in San Diego and his family had a long way to come.

So tell me about coming to Claiborne...

We retired in 1978 and moved to St. Michaels where we lived for 18 years. When my husband, Charles, passed I was left with the care of an old house and 9 acres. I stayed for an additional 5 years, yet when we had that huge ice storm in 1996, I was convinced it was time to leave. We started looking in the area and found just what we had in mind in Claiborne. I loved the place from the very beginning. And I knew we had made the right choice when Norman Haddaway called to say, "If you have any problems, just let me know."

The house was warm and friendly and easy to manage. I couldn't help but notice the little church across the way, so forlorn and in need of help. Nancy Clark worked in the Post Office and when I went in there I told her my feelings about the little church. She just looked at me and said "Oh, so you want to change things!" That was my first association with Nancy! We became very close after I got to know her... it took a while though. One year I got her a Christmas present—a miniature white house ornament I had gotten in DC... When I asked her if she liked it, she said, "I threw it in the trash!" My mouth popped open! I thought she would really appreciate it. "I wouldn't put anything like that on my tree." But we had never discussed politics... That was that. To each her own.... I think of Nancy often and miss her

Barbara Reisert told me you three were buddies...

Oh, we were! 'The Old Broads...' Not Barbara so much. She was young! But Nancy and I were.... We goofed around and laughed a lot....

When I heard you were going to call me I wondered why. I wish I'd been more informed as to the history of the town. Every now and then I'd get Dan Higgins to relate a story.... I lived next to Dan and Jean for 13 years... where Terry Boos lives now. I'm not sure I really knew them that well....

In September of 2008, I moved to Springfield, Virginia with my daughter, Kim. I thought I'd spend the rest of my life in Claiborne, but my health was getting bad. Another change in plans.



One of the marvelous sunsets...
Photo Marie Deck

LOOKING AHEAD...

August Birthdays

August 1	John Scott
August 4	Jim Richardson
August 4	Jean Higgins
August 8	Sally Cockey
August 14	Bill Sewell
August 18	Jack Harrald
August 27	Kirke Harper

Save the Date
Claiborne Annual Picnic
August 24th

At Shirley Cockey's
On beautiful Cockeys' Landing

What were some of your favorite things about Claiborne...

It just had a warm feeling... like it was home for me. Maybe a lot of that had to do with the fact that I had travelled a good bit in my life... Like St. Michaels, it was such a comfortable place to live in. I have heard said eastern shore folks are a little hesitant to accept new people. And it took a little while... I think they wanted to be sure you weren't coming in there to change everything.... It is so laid back. We had a boat... water, the sunsets... the people... It all went together... I lived alone in the house but and someone was here almost every weekend... It was great for children and grandchildren especially with the pool... We were "happy campers" and that's what it was to me... I just loved it... I have very, very fond memories of the place still...

In Claiborne the post office was the biggie ...the big meeting place ... You'd see neighbors and make plans to get together. In St. Michaels the drug store was the place. There were the same people there every morning.... Sounds like the hall is that now. And I think the village hall idea is lovely.... Given the condition of the hall early on, almost anything would have been an improvement. A lot of love as well as money and hard work went into that... .. You now have all the age groups involved ... I think the interaction just started about the time I was leaving... I could be wrong, but I think they were working with a pastor to gain permission to complete the paperwork.

Kim told me you are thinking of coming to the Claiborne summer picnic... Yes, we are talking about coming. *How far away do you live?* Gee I don't know... about an hour and a half.... I would guess... depending which son is driving.... I couldn't remember when the picnic was and I realized I didn't get the June Clarion – so I went online to read it.... I read about DeDe and Tom moving... That was a lot of house...There are so many new people.; I don't know half of them! It seems there are new things going on all the time too, which is good...

Anything else, Marie....

The most marvelous thing was the sunset from my front room. What was so ironic was that in St. Michaels, I never saw a sunset... But we saw sunrises... In Claiborne I saw one almost every evening, especially in winter... I couldn't resist taking photographs...one was more beautiful than the next... Here in Virginia we have one of those automatic digital picture frames in the den, and some of my favorite sunset photos are there....

I'm still in love with the place... I miss it so much....

Marie Deck can be reached at mldeck@verizon.net

Village Hall Progress Report

Jim Richardson and Kirke Harper

You may be wondering about the Village Hall renovation project. We announced a fund drive in December 2012 and raised approximately \$25,000 for continuation of the siding & annex renovation projects. You haven't seen any progress so far and may be curious about how we're using your donations. Here's what's going on:

In partnership with Talbot County's Emergency Management Director, Clay Stamp, Jack Harrald prepared a grant application for funds to make the hall and village more sustainable after extreme weather events and disasters. The request is still being worked through the Maryland State government. We decided to wait a bit to give that grant process time to work. If we received a grant it would pay for a number of things, including generators at the hall and at the Claiborne Water Supply pump house, a bathroom and kitchen, heating and air conditioning, and possibly disabled access.

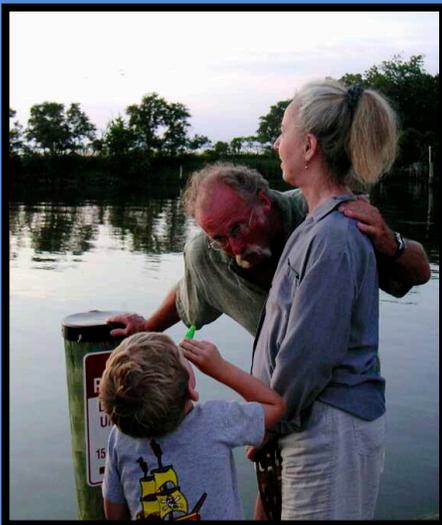
Meanwhile our able construction committee (Will, Jake and Jim) advised the Board that, before the siding job can be completed, we need to make a number of related decisions. We need to decide where the bathroom, kitchen, disabled entrance and utilities will be located and how those decisions will affect the windows and exterior. The Board is reviewing a draft plan and is currently considering ramp designs and locations and how a ramp compares with an external wheelchair lift. Once those decisions are made we will know how to proceed with the siding replacement.



Ce-Ce Boos and Mr. Boosie are ready!
Photo Brian Boos



The sun is low in the sky...
Photo Patti Cruickshank-Schott



Will Murdoch shares a moment with his neighbor, Tyler Murphy, while Lida enjoys the sunset.
Photo Brian Boos

The wet weather has held back progress on several things. The Health Department is conducting a soil test on the property to make a determination about a septic system. Wayne Sutphin is coordinating that project for us. He will also connect the village water supply to the building when things finally dry up. Meanwhile the Board has decided to replace the broken and dangerous front sidewalk with a new brick sidewalk. That project should be completed in July, depending on the weather.

This summer we will get estimates for other phases of the construction project: siding replacement, a new heating and air conditioning system, a ventilation system, wheelchair lift, generators and the septic system.

There should be visible progress in July on the sidewalk and more activity as we resolve some of these other issues. Thanks for your patience, understanding and support.

A New Claiborne Event... THE SUMMER SOLSTICE PARADE



Let The Parade Begin....

Photo Kathy Bosin

The Program Committee is full of great ideas and this sure was one of them... It was a beautiful evening and a colorful event. Brian Boos took a lot of photos, and Kathy Bosin posted about it on her wonderful Chesapeake Journal. You can read that here:

<http://chesapeakejournal.wordpress.com/2013/06/27/summer-solstice-king-tides-supermoon/>



The Entourage at the Landing

Photo Brian Boos