

# The Claiborne Clarion

Published monthly by Claiborne residents for Claiborne residents

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Editor  
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Priceless!!  
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The purpose of this newsletter is to acquaint and inform Claiborne residents.

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## Commentary from Kirke:

At our community meeting on May 1 and in the voting at the Post Office, members of the Claiborne Association voted 70 to 2 in favor of acquiring the village church, either by gift or purchase. An oral request for a gift of the property was turned down and we have since learned that United Methodist Church rules now require local Trustees to realize “full market value” when disposing of inactive properties. On May 13 we submitted a formal offer to purchase the church and a few days later we learned that Neavitt Trustees had rejected the offer. On May 22 Jim Richardson and Kirke Harper met with Reverend Moore who explained that the calculation of “value” can include the proposed use of the property. A value will be placed on our proposal to use the property as a community meeting place which may enable us to purchase the property at less than the appraised value. We gave Reverend Moore a revised offer and on May 28 we were waiting a response.

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I think Kirke should have the title  
” Mr. Welcome Wagon”

since he’s the resident responsible for greeting most of our new neighbors. Such as: Keith and Christine Heldenbrand who moved into the “Lednum House” (between the Smiths and the Harpers.) They are relocating from North Yarmouth, Maine and are searching for a property large enough for their horses and sheep. The horses and sheep are currently boarding at Nancy Ashway’s. Keith and Christina have lived in the area before and were married in the chapel on Rich Neck!

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On Saturday, May 15th Sarah and Phil Sayre hosted a fabulous wedding for their daughter out on the Jetty. It was a spectacular day, good people, great weather and much fun. Pete Gregorio, assisted by his lovely wife, Mary, was the photographer. The village of Claiborne wishes the happy couple, Hannah and Martin, much happiness!

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## Elizabeth Moose

wants to remind the readers of the Clarion that the Maryland League of Conservation Voters will be meeting at her house, 23175 Maple Hall Road, on Wednesday evening, June 30th. The league has very generously offered to let any Claiborne village residents attend for only \$25. Everyone is welcome.

Elizabeth is hoping that Congressman Kratovil will be able to attend. He said that he will certainly try to be here if there is no vote on the House floor that night. A poster regarding the event is in the Post Office. RSVP’s would be appreciated: 410-916-0473.

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# HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL YOU DADDYS!

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Response to question in May edition of the "Clarion" from Dan Higgins

The Claiborne school house was located at the corner of Rich Neck Road and Miracle House Road on property now owned by the Burdetts. The teacher, Mrs. Lyda Smith taught all the grades; one to five. There were never more than ten to fifteen students enrolled. At any one time there were four Higgins' of the seven enrolled. Later when my brother, Clyde and cousin Jack went to St. Michaels there were still four: cousins Betsy and Nancy, my sister Charlotte and I. By the time cousin Helen came of age the school had been closed and all Claiborne students went to St Michaels. Other students who attended the Claiborne school were children of the Black, Bullen, Nixdorf, Sherman, Jones, Sinclair and other families.

All students had chores. Girls erased the blackboard and swept the floors. Boys kept the wood stove going, cut the grass and took care of the privy. During the summers fathers did general maintenance of grounds and building. Mothers gave the school a good general cleaning.

Claiborne had two grocery stores and an ice cream parlor owner by the Jones', Yerby's and Bergman's. One of the daily main attractions was the arrival and departure of the ferries owned by the Claiborne Annapolis Ferry Company. During the summer cars were parked along route 33 waiting for the next ferry. Then the road coming into Claiborne was #33. The trip from Claiborne to Annapolis was about an hour and a half.

Such was life in Claiborne during the 1930's and 1940's.

Congratulations to Linda Seymour who just graduated from St Michaels High School and was Valedictorian. She is the grand daughter of Betsy and Jeff Des Jardins. Linda, your grandma loved you so and would have been so proud of your accomplishments!

\* \* \*

Have you met my new neighbors? Mike Mullally and Kathleen Ernst and their son, Michael who moved into the house between me and Ted Jones?

Welcome to the neighborhood!

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Pretty soon we have to start thinking about where the Summer Picnic will be held. Does anyone want to volunteer their property? If so, please let Jim and Martha know.

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While sitting on my porch last Saturday a car passed by, so of course, I waved. They went down around Miracle House Circle, to the dock and then down Bayside Road and back to my house and parked in the driveway. At first I thought I had guests for the evening. When they got out of the car I invited them up on the porch and found out that they were mother and son and live in Virginia Beach. Elva told me that she use to live in Claiborne when she was a little girl and moved away 85 years ago at the tender age of 12 – you do the math! This lady was a joy and we sat and talked for over an hour before they had to be on their way. I called Barb Haddaway

over (she was working in her garden) so she could meet Elva because it was her house that she had lived in all those years ago. She also told us that they had lived in Kirke and Linda's home too. She told me who lived in each of our houses way back then and had sweet little stories to share.

I love my porch, it's a magical place!