



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CLAIBORNE
COMMUNITY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Hello Claiborne friends and neighbors By Mary Gregorio

I hope you are well and that you are taking good care of yourselves!
As you know, the overarching policy for use of the Village Hall and the Annex during COVID has been to follow CDC guidelines and local recommendations based on the numbers of active COVID cases in Talbot County.

For CDC information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
For Talbot County information:
<https://talbotcovid19.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Talbot-County-COVID-19-Update-5.01.20-1.pdf>

Following those guidelines has resulted in extremely limited use of the facilities during the past 20 months.

As we head into colder weather, we are committed to maintaining a safe space to pick up or drop off mail and for any group that requests to use the Hall. The Board has agreed that at this time small groups will be able to use the Main Hall for meetings or activities (e.g., Ladies' night (Mondays 5:00-7:00ish, Yoga, meetings). Group size will be determined based on the activity.

We ask that anyone attending a small group activity: provide proof of vaccination to group organizer, wear a mask while inside, maintain safe distances.

Information about use of the Hall will be posted in the Annex by the group organizer in advance of the use.

Donations for operational costs are welcome.

Thank you!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Todd	4
Neveah Carter	4
Anne North	5
Jake Flory	7
Janet Friedberg	10
Ella Murphy	11
Bernie Boos	21
Leigh Anne Schaefer	21
Judy Harrald	23
Mimi Holt	24
Rob Todd	29

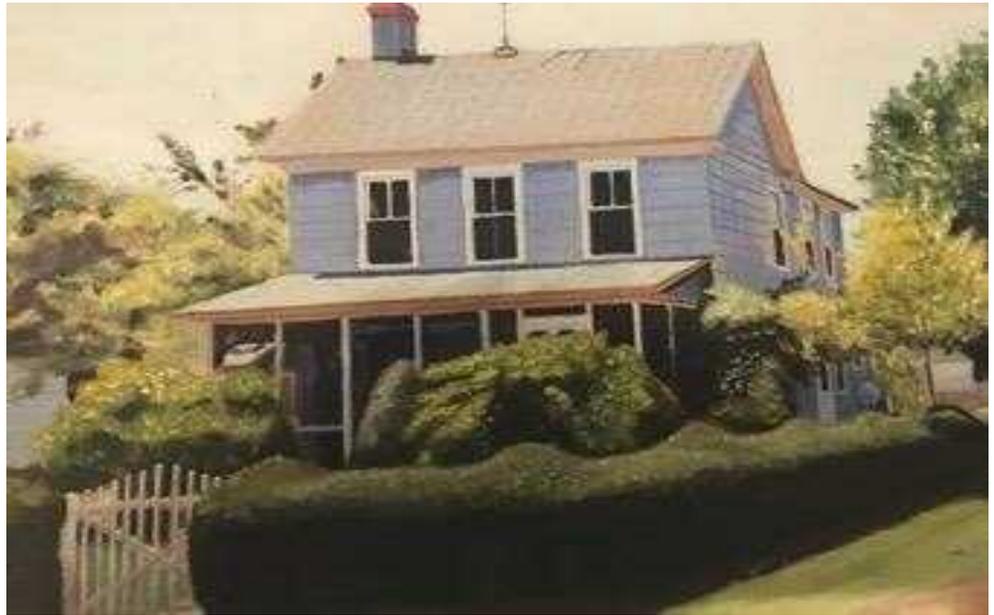
If you'd like to add your
name to the birthday list,
please contact Pat Flory at
patflory@gmail.com

ROOTS IN CLAIBORNE

By Terry Boos-Fellinger

ATTENTION LADIES

The Claiborne Association Board has agreed that the ladies may now meet in the old part of the Claiborne Village Hall on Monday nights, 5:00 as usual. Using this part of the Village Hall will allow residents to pick up their mail. As the CDC recommends, attendees should be vaccinated, wear masks, and socially distance themselves. A small contribution will be asked for in the event the room will need to be heated.



I put this story together from my fond memories of summers in Claiborne during my youth and of stories told by my Great Grandmother and Claiborne resident, Mollie Elizabeth Larrimore Kerper.

Mollie was born in Bozman in 1897 and married my Great Grandfather, Charles Rueben Kerper in 1911. (Yep, at age 14). In 1912 Mollie and Charles built the blue farmhouse at the corner of Claiborne Rd and Cedar Ave. Photo of the tax receipt from 1913 shows its value at \$600 and its taxes at \$7.10 that included interest of \$0.44 for late payment! Photo of the house, above, is CERCA 1950.



My Grandfather, Charles Eugene Kerper (my Mom's Dad), was born in the newly built home on August 25, 1912. Mollie had typhoid fever at the time and said my Grandfather would have died if it were not for a farm hand at Maple Hall who regularly brought milk by the house.

Mollie was a strong, proud woman of German descent. We called her Mom Mom. While my Great Grandfather (Pop) worked on the train and ferry, she would do laundry for hire and soft crab out in the cove. She used this extra money to buy a car. I don't remember the make and model, but it gave her freedom to travel.

GET INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED

Lots of things are happening for the Claiborne Association and you are always invited to hear first-hand what is being planned and to express your ideas. All are welcome when the Association Board meets; usually on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. **Association Board minutes are available at www.claibornemd.org/clai-board.php.**



UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN ST. MICHAELS

For over 168 years, this church has supported the community it is a part of through the Community Center, Jeannie's Community Café, St. Michaels Housing Authority, the St. Michaels Youth and Law Enforcement Program (S.M.Y.L.E.), and providing assistance for rent, utilities, and food to those in need. Members of the church have not been able to use the church or the educational building for about two years because of a severe mold problem. But thanks to community support, half of the projected \$150,000 needed for repairs has been raised. The drainage problem has been fixed, new duct work for the HVAC system has been installed, and the pipe organ is being disassembled, removed, cleaned, and stored until it can be reassembled. If you would like to make a donation to help fund what work still needs to be done, donations can be mailed to: Union United Methodist Church, Attn: Andrea Wyman, PO Box 978, St. Michaels, MD 21663. Checks should be made payable to Union United Methodist Church and indicate the donation is for the Capital Improvement Fund.

Mollie said she had a wooden rowboat that she pulled along flats when soft crabbing. This was because of the snakes. She was terrified of snakes and would jump in the boat if she saw one. She told me they were water moccasins and to be wary of them. Alice Sewell has since pointed out to me that our water snakes are not poisonous water moccasins. I googled and she is correct.

Anyhow, at some point before my time, Mollie bought a small outboard motor from Sears and Roebucks. She was not pleased with its performance. When she took it back, they ran it in a barrel of water and said it worked fine. Her response was "I don't need it to run in a barrel, I need it to push the boat." So, the outboard was returned to Sears.

Mollie had a younger sister, Aunt Reba (Mary Rebecca Larrimore Warner Ewing). In the 1920's Aunt Reba owned and operated the restaurant at the ferry wharf. She also stayed at the blue farmhouse for a short time. She wore out her welcome because she was also a bootlegger. One day Mollie returned home to discover "all of Claiborne smelled like whiskey." She confronted Aunt Reba who quickly took care of the problem. She started burning bread. Then the village of Claiborne smelled of burnt toast instead of whisky. I was told the law never showed up.

I have many fond memories of Aunt Reba too. She settled on a farm in Easton, but often visited Claiborne when I was here in the summers. In the 1970's she was a feisty, skinny old lady that loved her whisky and would go crabbing with me out on the flats. She would dial up on the party line that Mollie shared with Mr. Walter Jarzynski (the house that now belongs to Laura and Glenn Madere) and tell me she would be here at low tide and bring the "Coke Cola." That is two coke bottles - one of whisky and one of coke cola. Mollie did not approve but always loved and welcomed Aunt Reba.

I still enjoy crabbing out on the flats and am wary of the snakes. Now days I prefer a glass of fine wine over Coke Cola.

Cheers!

CLAIBORNE BEES By Tim Frock

I have always had an interest in bees and was always in search of a local raw honey to sweeten my daily beverage.

My brother-n-law had started an Apiary several years ago with moderate success. I had expressed an interest in learning the business, but he seemed reluctant to share as he had offered consistent negative feedback about losses, expense and the time involved.

Aware that Will Murdock had hives in Claiborne, I asked him about his success. Unfortunately, it was just two days after he experienced a loss of his hives. So, perhaps, my brother n law was right. However, my interest in the bees continued and Will and I continued to share information. One day Will called and said he was getting more bees and asked if I wanted any. I said yes but quickly realized I need a quick education in beekeeping and turned to YouTube. I quickly learned all the details and was soon on my way to my own successful Apiary.



Will Murdoch, mentioned in Tim's bee story, also keeps bees. Tim, in his first year, produced some good tasting stuff. Will, too, jars some sweet nectar under the name "Bee Nice Honey"



My granddaughter, Olivia, was very interested as well and we purchased a bee suit for her. She loves to come over and help me tend the hives. My grandson, Bennett, has decided that he wants to be a Bee Doctor.

SWINE? HOW SAFE ARE CLAIBORNE'S BAY WATERS?

(This editor received a copy of the October 2021 "ShoreRivers Swimmable ShoreRivers Bacteria Monitoring Program 2021 Miles-Wye River Report". It doesn't look good for Claiborne.)

A recently released ShoreRivers report of Bay water quality at 6 sites (Matapeake Beach, Claiborne Beach and Broad Cove in Claiborne, the Miles River Yacht Club, the bridge at Tunis Mills Landing, and the beach on Drum Point at the end of the Wye Ferry Trail on Wye Island) States: "Most monitoring sites saw an increase in failing samples in the 2021 season when compared to 2020, with the exception of the site at Drum Point on the Wye River. All sites saw high failing results on the last sample of the season, which was collected during tropical storm Ida. The report below will discuss the tide and rainfall conditions observed during failing samples. About 70% of all failing samples in 2021 in this watershed were collected after a rain event during a low tide."

Again, taking from the report, Claiborne's "Broad Cove failed more than any of the other sites in 2021, failing 67% of the time. The highest reading collected on 9/2 was collected during tropical storm Ida and heavy rainfall 24 hours prior to sampling. The failing samples collected on 5/27 and 7/1 had storm events within the previous 24 hours and were taken during a high tide. Failing samples on 6/25, 7/22, 8/12, 8/19, and 8/26 had storm events within the previous 48 hours and were taken during a low tide. The failing sample on 7/8 had no previous rainfall in the previous 48 hours and was taken during a low tide. The failing sample on 7/29 was taken during a slack tide with no rainfall in the prior 48 hours.

This location was tested for eDNA using test kits from Jonah Ventures. The samples, collected at the same time and location as the ShoreRivers samples collected on 8/5 and 8/12 were analyzed for human, cattle, canine, and poultry

FROM THE TREASURER
Megan McCoy

Hi all, just a friendly reminder that it is time to pay your yearly dues of \$10.00 per person. There are several easy ways to pay! We now have a PayPal account to make paying your dues and making donations even easier. There is a QR code attached here that you can scan with your phone, and there is a Donate button on the Claiborne Association website. It is also helpful if you choose to add to your donation/dues to offset the cost of the processing fees. PayPal will guide you through that. Or you can drop your payment off in the Donation Box in the hall. It is still in the old hall but be on the lookout for the new location (coming soon) in the annex. Your payment can also be mailed to Claiborne Association at 10403 Claiborne Rd, Claiborne MD 21624. Another fun option is to flag me down when I am out walking Lucy! As always, any donation is much appreciated!



DNA. The following table shows the average number of copies detected for each target organism in each sample.”

Sample	Bovine	Dog	Human	Poultry	Sheep	Swine
8/12/21	0	29	300	4	0	39171
8/5/21	0	0	650	0	0	0

Claiborne’s other site, “Claiborne Beach passed 67% of the time in 2021. Similar to the other stations, the highest result on 9/2 was taken during tropical storm Ida during heavy rains. The high result on 5/27 was taken after a storm event during a high tide. The high results on 6/10 and 7/22 were also taken after a rain event, but during a low tide. The high result on 7/8 had no rain in previous 48 hours and was taken on a low tide.”

For the full study, check out:

https://00445153849077353320.googlegroups.com/attach/6980870dd2d40/2021%20Miles%20Wye%20Bacteria%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf?part=0.1&view=1&vt=ANaJVrGF9zEiwo1nrptRCecPjzzvfu7XPHATaF8ZUqG_70PEHdZ7aLa9vvueWMIRXvBuW5k9SQif5qWdstWs93g7yHHyBKH1o7xgDolXjuVzZbZGOS0-98

ALSO ROOTED IN CLAIBORNE (maybe a little bit of a stretch)
By Dave Wheelan



(Editor’s note: Many Claiborneites subscribe to the Star Democrat as our local paper. Many might not be aware that there is another source of local news, The Talbot Spy - <https://talbotspy.org/> -, and it had its roots in Claiborne. The Clarion editor asked Dave Wheelan, The Talbot Spy’s Publisher and Executive Editor, to tell the story.)

In many ways, Claiborne was the real beginnings of the Talbot Spy. While its publisher (that would be me) had been phoning it in from Chestertown since 2011, with the help of various surrogate editors, it was only in late 2013 that I realized that the Spy project would fail unless I actually lived in Talbot County.

And thanks to the kindness of Martha and Jim Richardson, who had decided to go on a major six-month sailing trip, I was able to establish their Claiborne home as the base for my idea of what the Talbot Spy should be. And in many ways, living there had a dramatic impact on what that would be.

While the roots of modern Claiborne were born with the migration of several artists and other creatives that left Annapolis in the early 1970s to find a more affordable place to raise their families while pursuing their crafts, the fact of the matter was that Claiborne was still a real place, with different cultural roots and political outlooks that could have led to a very toxic environment. But the reality

YOGA AT CLAIBORNE

Michael Keene has been conducting yoga sessions at the Claiborne dock and through zoom for over a year. The Claiborne Assn. Board has decided the old part of the Village Hall can be used for yoga this year. The practices are on Tues. & Thurs. mornings from 9:00 - 10:15. An evening session is available Thursdays at 6:00, starting this Thurs., November 4. Bring a yoga mat and water. A small contribution will be asked if the room needs to be heated. CDC recommends attendees be vaccinated and distance themselves. Therefore, only 10 participants. Contact Mike: mjkeene@atlanticbb.net if you're interested.

(From Mike: "As for cost: give what you want, no specific cost. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Village Hall of Claiborne.")

was that this tiny hamlet of the Bay One Hundred not only to accept but respect different points of view and lifestyles.

And nothing brought that more to light than when a tragic house [fire](#) was discovered in the late hours of a freezing February evening in 2014, where the entire town gathered to comfort the owner and help with volunteer firefighters.

It was perhaps at that moment when I decided that Talbot County was where I wanted to live. And while I ultimately decided to move to Easton, so I could be closer to Chestertown as I continued as the executive editor for both online newspapers, this powerful sense of citizenship, from a house fire in the middle of the night to the development of one of the most remarkable community centers in the country, it was in Claiborne that I truly reconnected to the glue that holds much of the Eastern Shore together, and whose foundation remains so dependent on the Biblical notion of loving thy neighbor.

Ironically, but somehow so fitting, it was only last year that I discovered as the family historian that a great grandfather (x10) turned out to be the chief lieutenant and loyal friend of William Claiborne in the early 17th century. Go figure.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS



Last month a new mural was unveiled in Easton. The mural was painted by Michael Rosato whose work also includes the Harriet Tubman mural, *Take My Hand* in Cambridge (424 Race Street in Cambridge). Rosato said of his work, "The mural depicts the things that made him who he was and the things that he influenced after he became that man."

The mural, 27' X 9' and located on the Rails-to-Trails at 505 South Street, is part of Operation Frederick Douglass on the Hill Project.

The Hill Community is one of the oldest free African American-founded communities still in existence, established in 1788. Douglass was born in Talbot County more than 200 years ago.

For more about the mural and Michael Rosato, see:

<https://talbotspy.org/first-harriet-and-now-frederick-douglass-gets-the-mural-treatment-by-val-cavalheri/>

OH. AND BY-THE-WAY – IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED



Looking forward to the coming of Beth and Gary Fuhrman, Claiborne's newest.





PARTING SHOT: NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Best times to clean? After a storm and before guests arrive.

