



Photo courtesy Pete Gregorio

The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the
Claiborne Community
February 2015
Volume 9, Number 2

P. Cruickshank-Schott, February Editor
Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder and Editor Emerita

February Events At the Village Hall

Work Day

Tuesday, Feb 3 8:00
am
Bring a Hammer!

Valentines Party

Sunday, 2/09 2-5 PM
Come & Create!!

Claiborne Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, 2/ 10 - 7:00
PM
All Welcome

Living & Aging in Claiborne

Thursday, 2/26 6:30-
8:00
All Welcome.

Movie Night

Wednesdays 7 PM
Cartoons 6:45 PM
Join Us!!

Coming Soon!!

**Mid-Day Coffee and
Such** at the Village

Valentine-Making Party!

Sunday, February 8th 2:00-5:00 PM

Come to:

Impress the heck out of your friends and family with your thoughtfulness and talent... glue stuff together ... cut up bits of ribbon, paper & shiny stuff ... get glitter under your fingernails ... make a valentine like only you can make it ... get all of your classmates' valentines done in one afternoon (with cookies!) ... take home a heart that will win a heart...

Sweets and water will be provided. There will even be heart-shaped cookies to decorate! Bring any other beverage you'd like, as well as any bits of valentine-ish stuff you'd like to add to the craft collection.

Questions or suggestions? Call Martha at [745-5001](tel:745-5001).

Living & Aging in Claiborne

We all need help and we can all offer help.

Thursday, February 26, 6:30-8:00 pm at the Village Hall

The 3rd meeting of the "Living and Aging in Place" group will be held on Thursday, February 26. Brainstorming ideas from the first two meetings are posted in the Hall and will be on the Claibornemd.org website under "Claiborne Living and Aging in Place". We will begin to seek consensus in the community for which ideas, beyond the things we are already doing, merit further work. The most popular idea so far is to provide newspapers, coffee, tea, heat and activities at the Hall on some days each week. The meeting on February 26 will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 PM (new time) at the Hall. See you there.

Questions, contact: Kirke - kirke.harper@gmail.com 410-829-6538.

Or Patti - awayhome@happynomad.com 919-696-6630.

Here are a trio of Ideas that have been generated by The Living and Aging in Claiborne Group. These are all in the beginning research phases, and we hope to learn who might be interested in participating. No obligation for sharing your name now!! Read on...

Hall... Look for friends gathering there!!

February Birthdays

Holden & Avery Walker
2/09
Anna
Kabler 2/13
Kim Titus
2/14
Susan Cornish
2/14
Marie
Deck 2/16
Campbell Walker
2/18
Terry Boos
2/24
Curt Connelly
2/27

NEW AGING IN PLACE TAB!! Pete Gregorio has done a great job of creating a page for Aging in Place Links with all sorts of resources to explore. It now includes a Claiborne Aging in Place welcome letter and a long brainstorming list from that group. PLEASE check it out by clicking the button on the top of this Clarion or by clicking on the Claiborne Living and Aging in Place tab on the top left of the webpage.

Thanks, Pete!!

What Would You be Willing to Share or Teach?

There are so many talents among us in Claiborne, and we're thinking that we might try to share more. For example, Barbara Reisert would be willing to lead a writing/sharing group. Les Burdett has a great collection of photos and stories from his time in the United Arab Emirates that he'd be willing to share one evening. How about you?? Would you like to teach astronomy, have a running group, talk about your model boat collection, walk the beach and share about the waterfront, teach painting, demonstrate how to make beaten biscuits... The sky's the limit here! You could do a one-time presentation or run a multi week class. Contact Patti with your ideas and interests. awayhome@happynomad.com or 919-696-6630.

What Are Your Fix-it Skills?

Do you know how to rewire a lamp, can you fix a broken windowpane, repair a squeaky hinge, replace a screen, do simple plumbing repairs? We'd love to compile a Claiborne list of people who are handy and would be willing to be called upon for advice and help. You might be willing to volunteer, to barter, or to charge a nominal fee for your services. It might be you look at a job and know it needs to be referred to someone else. That's just fine; it always helps to know when to call in the professionals. Contact Martha with your skills at designs@atlanticbb.net or 410-745-5001. We'll talk more about details once we gather a list of folks who might be interested in participating.

Medical Equipment List

We're compiling a list of equipment that already exists in Claiborne and could be lent out to someone with a temporary need. Do you have crutches, a wheelchair, a walker, a shower seat, or other things you are not currently using that could be part of a community pool? Let us know please!! Contact Patti at awayhome@happynomad.com or 919-696-6630.

People's State of the Union Stories, January 25th

Transcribed by Patti Cruickshank-Schott

Welcome to the People's State of the Union. Kathy Bosin passed this idea along from St. Louis, MO. It was a national initiative for gathering stories from people, about the places where they live or what they are thinking about their community or nation at this time of year.

Some people brought written statements, and others spoke more extemporaneously. Everyone had a chance to review and edit their contributions before publication.

Nine people chose to share their thoughts in print, and, as such, this is only a very narrow section of the Claiborne population contributing. We had hoped for and expected a much wider philosophical cross-section of the community to weigh in. And we tried to create an atmosphere where all views were entirely welcome. As stated at the beginning of the session, this was a time to listen, and learn, about our neighbors' opinions, rather than to respond, disagree, or debate. Each of the original stories was shared without comment, but with a pause for silence between each... Nine of the ten participants agreed to share their stories here...

Some have chosen to summarize or edit their original contributions.

Hopefully we can encourage more voices to join the conversation next time. All voices and opinions truly are invited and welcomed. If you'd like to contribute an additional piece, having read what was offered, PLEASE



Picture to the right:
Suzanne, Kathy, Kirke,
Pat, and Mo.
Photo P. Cruickshank-
Schott

do. Otherwise, do feel welcome to join us in the future, and have your voice join with ours. The only true picture of Claiborne emerges when we all participate....

Now, without further ado.... Here are nine Claiborne voices, sharing what they were feeling, on one particular day...

Welcome Home...

Two words that meant so much to me recently when Rob and I came by to see our house when it was almost finished. Kirke said, "Welcome home." Two words that meant so much when we left our home of 38 years and said hello to our home here in this caring community called Claiborne. Thanks for the welcome.

Suzanne Todd

Suzanne shared this part of her prepared statement after the break: On a national level, I'm concerned about the power of special interest groups, especially the NRA. I cannot understand how the interests and rights of gun owners should be protected above the safety of the public, especially children.

Kirke Harper loves living in Claiborne and would choose to locate here again. He also expressed a wish that race relations in Talbot County were better. He recognizes the history of the county and understands the economic situation. He also recognizes that he is probably more liberal than most people. But he is troubled because a number of situations he has encountered in the county have made him uncomfortable. He expressed a desire to see conditions improve and to be able to have more open conversations about the issue.

On a global level, my concern is climate change and that it is rapidly approaching the point where it will be too late to reverse the effects it is having on the planet. I hope that the U.N. or some other world organization takes immediate action (not more discussion) to correct the behaviors, that if left unchanged, will lead to the eventual destruction of our planet.

It was recently stated that the so-called "Doomsday Clock" was advanced two minutes towards midnight, due in part to climate change.

On a national level, my concern is the ineffectiveness of our politicians due to the influence of big money, extreme political views, and unwillingness to compromise. I suggest that there is a need for campaign reform including elimination of PACs as well as the gerrymandering of election districts. I also suggest it would help to implement term limits on members of congress (too much time in office seems to lead to too much power in congress).

Also, at a national level but applied locally, is my concern that law enforcement is becoming too militarized instead of more community based. I hope for a national discussion among police organizations, with citizen input, to review the policies, culture and practices of policing to determine if there is opportunity for changing departments across the nation to a more community based policy to be more present, more involved, less threatening. This doesn't go without recognizing that it is a terribly difficult job that comes with risks most of us don't have to face. Thank you to law enforcement for their service.

I'm thankful for our country that enables us to live with individual rights, freedoms and liberty in relative safety and allows us to voice our opinions without fear of reprisal.

One last thing that I forgot to write down was an experience that we had when we moved to Claiborne in working with the county. We had a problem with storm water management in front of our house that we contacted the County to get help fixing it. It was a three-year ordeal, and in the end they did fix it. We're very thankful and we like living here, but we did find that exercise a little frustrating. We'd like the county to look for a way to be more systematic, more responsive, more communicative.... in how they respond to citizen inquiries. It may not be the same for others, but at least that was our experience...

Robert (Rob) Todd

I didn't prepare anything because I couldn't seem to make my brain work at all today. But I have to say, if we are meant to concentrate on what... made the biggest impression on us in the last year, I must say that the most separated that I've maybe ever felt (or felt in a long, long time) from my countrymen is when I have seen the ugly responses to the Ferguson demonstrations. Maybe it's because I looked harder for them, because I don't usually delve into that world... But I was astounded and felt just totally violated by the total awfulness of the ugly things said.

Martha Hamlyn

I came to Claiborne in 2011 to be a companion for Jane Guinness out on Rich Neck, and though Jane moved back to Maine, I remained. The caring and friendship that people here shared with Jane, and with me, has been wonderful, to say the least.

And this is but one small example of the many ways Claiborne grows and supports its citizens:

Here I've learned that someone with dementia does not have to be hidden away.

Here I've learned that a new person can be a welcome addition, even in a close-knit community.

Here I've learned that a church community is not the only avenue for belonging.

Here I've learned that a place with old traditions can welcome new ideas and activities.

Here, I've learned that we can grow and change and still fit in!

The **State of the Union** of the village of Claiborne is small, diverse, protective, AND healthy. And it is open to change. The United States could learn so much from places like this, from the less modern, less industrial parts of the country, from what a **truly** modern, traditional community has to offer...

And that is... PEOPLE caring about people.

P. Cruickshank-Schott

Before my husband and I moved to Claiborne, we were living in the very patriotic, military town of Norfolk, VA, and we had no idea the kind of people we would meet and the patriotism we would feel living outside of this military town where everyone thought we were on a witness relocation program. I mean who would move to Norfolk, VA and not be associated with the military? We had no idea what to expect when we picked Claiborne, and certainly it has been nothing but pluses and bonuses.... We are sort of in an interesting niche - we have probably...semi liberal values and views, but my husband hunts so you might think we're pro-gun, which we're not. But we are certainly pro food—the real organic food of goose and deer and so forth. The community was such a pleasant surprise and, it seems like, despite political opposition, that everyone comes together and cares for each other regardless of affiliation or religion (or not religion).

And then to actually leave the community and move a few miles out of town and still be welcomed back and accepted has been exceptional. And to have family members come from out of town and have my brother perform here in the Claiborne Village Hall ... And to have people celebrate that has also been fantastic! I have nothing but high hopes for Claiborne

in the future and the general St. Michaels area. I would say that the only thing that has really bothered me has been the lack of support, not in this community, but in Talbot County in general, for the homeless shelter in Easton...But yet I saw the community come together for the fundraiser that turned into a huge... labor of love, which, while difficult, it felt so good doing and I did feel connected to the community... On a larger scale, there are still people fighting against it. So it's an everyday battle. I just want to thank everyone for their friendship and hope we continue on in our Claiborne ways of accepting and enjoying each others' company.

Maureen 'Mo' McHugh

I, like Martha, had a hard time thinking about what to say today... This year, for the first time in many years, I have felt less a member of the larger state of Maryland. I felt it when we were at a



**Martha, Pete (hidden),
Rob, Suzanne, Kathy,
Kirke**
photo P. Cruickshank-Schott



**Kirke, Jim, Pat, and
Mo**

photo P. Cruickshank-
Schott

local open house and met a young African American woman candidate for statewide office. I was so very excited about it, but as she spoke, I realized there really was no chance that she was going to win... And I walked away feeling very sad about that. I did not do anything to support her other than to write a check, and I felt sad about that too. Then I remember driving in my car, and I heard there was a Republican governor of Maryland, and I just remember feeling stunned... because it happened in Maryland too. Again, I have not done much work in the state of Maryland. Then, this week, I read about the first three things the new governor had done and they are very upsetting to me... The phosphorus, the protections being removed from the LGBT community, and education cuts. And today, as I thought about this, I thought – okay. You live in a great, safe place and you can stay in this great safe place... or you can get involved again. And I have a feeling that I'm leaning towards it being time to get involved in the greater community. I can no longer sit and talk about things I do not agree with and not do something about it. It's time... **Pat Flory**

Let's start with our little village. I couldn't be happier with this small community of friends. It's welcoming; it reaches out to newcomers but at the same time is genuinely concerned with our older members. I believe Claiborne is a very healthy community.

As for Talbot County, I'm not as pleased. It is certainly not as progressive as I'd like. Still, overall, it seems to be slowly improving. For example, I think Talbot County schools, while not ideal, did a good job of educating my children.

On a national level, I'm less satisfied. Politically and culturally, this country is pretty much divided down the middle. We need strong leadership and not until the process of electing our leaders is radically improved, will we see any real progress in the general welfare. At the same time, I'm still hopeful. Somehow we manage to move ahead, however slowly, despite our differences.

What really worries me is the welfare of our planet. It seems to take forever to reach lasting agreements between nations. Despite strong scientific evidence, many of the world's larger players, including our own, are not grasping the real problems of climate change. The warming of the planet may not affect me in my lifetime, but it may seriously affect the lives of my children and certainly my grandchildren. Science may not be able to save us from ourselves every time.

Jim Richardson

While testing a piece of document content analysis software, I used a years worth of Claiborne Clarion issues and the recently published Talbot County Comprehensive Plan. The most used words in the Claiborne Clarion were "We" and "Us," whereas the County Plan was weighted heavily with the words – Development, zoning, rules and laws.

Upon further investigation, I found that the County Comprehensive Plan, a document of over 45000 words, contained less than 10 references to the words "person" and "citizen" and none at all to "Us and We".

Pete Gregorio

We broke at this point, when everyone had had a chance to share. There had been no cross talk. Everyone had some of the delicious snacks people had brought and chatted... Then we came back for almost another hour of in depth conversation about some of the issues that had been raised. Just 10 people, but what a wealth of heartfelt values were shared, and what an opportunity to get to know our neighbors better... and deeper... And all this, without the pressure to just jump right in with our own comments. It was a gift.

For more stories from around the country go to:
<http://peoplesstateoftheunion.usdac.us/stories/>

After a long delay we continue the Lida Smith Series...
REMEMBRANCES OF MISS LIDA SMITH

*Transcribed by Martha Hamlyn in 2012, with original spelling & grammar.
Martha's comments in blue.*

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, 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.

Part 8

[See the February 2014 **Clarion** for installment 7.]

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

The through route from Baltimore to Ocean City and summer excursions made the little village of Claiborne a busy place. Boarding houses were filled to capacity and visitors from the city spent days in the homes of their friends who had made permanent residence here.

During excursion period, which lasted from June until late September, the Cambridge made two trips from Baltimore to Claiborne on weekends. On some Sundays, the Tred Avon was sent out to help with carrying the crowds back to the City. An excursion ticket could be purchased for 50 cents round-trip. Some travelers not going back to the City would sell their tickets for 25 cents to anyone wishing to get to Baltimore the easy way. The Company tried to stop this racket by building a high fence around the boat entrance and the entrance to the train. This scheme proved unsatisfactory and the fence was soon removed.

To add to the attraction of the bay trip was a delicious dinner served in the dining room by John Ashburne. The doors were thrown open at 4 o'clock giving passengers time to enjoy their repast. Mr. _ (Slemons?)_ assisted by Mr. White, pursers, sold and collected tickets.

On the lower deck Mr. Risinger sold soft drinks and ice cream cones. There were two trains to Ocean City carrying hundreds of city folk to the seashore and stations along the way. One train known as the flier, stopped only at important stations such as Easton and Salisbury. The local train left the pier after the flier, stopping at smaller localities such as McDaniel which now had a building with waiting room and ticket office instead of the sheep shed. Even this, including St. Michaels and many others along the way, were abandoned even before the railroad ceased to exist.

When the train - the flier - came into the terminal at Claiborne at 7 p.m., the passengers would rush from the train to the boat as if they feared being left or perhaps to enjoy the cool air of the Bay. Many who may have ridden with car windows open for air were so black with dust and soot from the engine it was difficult to tell to which race they belonged. Nevertheless this excursion trip from the city to the ocean playground lasted for quite a long time.

One event that caused some excitement in the Claiborne community was the sinking of the little steamer, Gratitude, which had been put on the route to help with freight. As the Cambridge came in to land passengers, she ran into the Gratitude, making a hole in her hull. The boat sank a short distance from the pier. Many of us went out in row boats to see the stricken vessel. Divers below the water could be heard mending the hole in the hull. The little Gratitude was soon pumped out and after she floated, returned to Baltimore.

To Be Continued...



Photo courtesy of
**Cockey Family
Archive**



Ferry approaching
Claiborne Landing
Photo courtesy of
**Cockey Family
Archive**

Still Koa's Favorite Toy!!

Interview transcribed by Patti Cruickshank-Schott



Koa mid-interview
Photo Abby West
Cureton



**Koa Skiing in
Montana**
Photo Abby West
Cureton

Koa West Cureton contributed the very first **Why I Like Being a Kid in Claiborne** article way back in November of 2012 when he was 18 months old (with Abby's help). Koa turned 4 last week, and I thought it would be fun to check back in with him to see what he's thinking now...

Koa's words in regular font. *Me* in *Italics*. [Asides and additions in brackets.]

We started with me reading the original article to him and that, of course, inspired some conversation about Kingston, the big black dog.

I think when I was little Kinger, really liked you, Patti. *Well, he did drag me around the yard some.* He liked to lick you, and he liked to lick and bite my toys... Some of my blocks have been chewed on by Kinger. [Abby explains that when she was a girl there was a dog in her neighborhood named 'Kinger', so when Tim named their dog Kingston, she was happy to be able to call him 'Kinger.]]

I like to play with my trucks out in the backyard, and I like to play in my sandbox, and I really like to play with my toys behind the shed. *In the summer, that's Mom's garden.* But now I have my trucks there.

Do you still see Ralph? Yes. We usually give him lots of hugs and high-fives.

I loved balls when I was little. I got a new soccer ball for Christmas. I do love to play soccer. I can run faster now because I'm four.

Tell me about the street. When... A long time ago... I used to cross the street to get the ball. I could run faster, so no car would 'squished' me.... [Abby is aghast at this story.] But really I have to cross with a person, and look both ways. And I still remember you saying I could get 'squished like a pancake.' [Abby says, 'He still remembers you told him that, Patti.]]

I see you riding your bike so fast, with your mother trailing behind. And sometimes she catches up to me... [gets ahead of me'...] and then I say, 'Wait up!' But she doesn't hear me and keeps moving and moving till I catch up to her!

At Dada's house [in Easton] I have a new bike with pedals [from Christmas], and I ride it around his house. *Inside?* It's too hard to pedal outside. [Abby adds, there are great wood floors to ride on inside.] And I love the bumps between the rooms.

I play with some kids in Claiborne.... Tyler... and Anna and Stella. Anna and Stella, they're girls, but they still love me. I like some girls, but not all girls.

You go to school now. What do you think? Good. Two of the children [names redacted here for the sake of friendliness] are not nice to me. Sometimes they hit me or do something like that. They just don't understand... because they don't know their manners yet... But they're learning. I like to play to play with Lane and with Keely. She's also a girl, but she loves me, and she likes to play with me too. We're best friends.

I can run really fast! And I know what to do. I know what to learn, and I know... how to figure out something...

I'm almost out of energy... [Meaning: Hasn't this interview gone on long enough??]

Yesterday I rock climbed at the Y. It was good. I had a harness on so I didn't fall. So I could rock climb. Momma climbed really high.

In Montana [this winter] I went skiing and I said, 'I want to go faster!' on the bunny slope. And we went sledding and hung out with my grandmother, Mimi. [Abby explained that if something was tough or frustrating in Montana, Koa would say he missed Claiborne.] When I was in Montana, I was a little... homesick... I missed my home.

What did you miss most? My monster trucks... I like playing with my monster trucks.

'Big trucks' seemed to have evolved in to 'monster trucks'... but they are still trucks!!!

LOOKING AHEAD

Do you have an idea for a Claiborne event???

Please contact the program committee with suggestions for a community event! Members are: Shirley Cockey, Pat Flory, Martha Hamlyn, Linda Harper, Mo McHugh, Suzanne Todd.

**Upcoming
Sherwood Seminars**
Sherwood Church Hall
7 pm
Come at 6:30 for coffee

March 17
Immigration & Local
Challenges

April 21
Oyster Restoration
Project

March Birthdays
Elva Gerlach(102)3/01
Ted Jones 3/09
Suzanne Todd 3/09
Kevin Garber 3/12
Mike Kabler 3/13
Rebecca Cockey Parks
3/14
Penny Rhine 3/14
Bea Wharton 3/21

Book Exchange Returns

Linda Harper

In March, our fantastic book exchange will reopen! Our favorite reading treasures will once again be available for sharing. We are, however, asking that people only leave one or two books that are very current... none of Granny's fifty-year-old cookery books or Junior's algebra texts, please! Goodwill or the library have a recycling capability that is really unfair to impose on our Claiborne volunteers. We so hope that the exchange will be a success!

Please come and enjoy it! Thank you all.

Sherwood Seminars

February 17

This month at the Tilghman fire house, not the Sherwood church hall.

6:30 pm coffee and conversation **7:00 pm** presentation

This meeting will be on home fire protection with special attention on coverage and fire department response times in our of being aware and being prepared. We've invited the assistant chief of the Tilghman Volunteer Fire Department to be with us and have also asked a leading independent insurance agent to come and talk about the challenges of providing coverage in remote areas and what we can do about it. This should be another very important event and we hope you'll save the date: February 17th at the Sherwood Church Hall.

And, In Closing...

I value living in Claiborne, and I've loved the chance to offer activities for the community at large. Being able to edit the Clarion every other month for the last 2 years has been a real pleasure, and I hope what we've offered has been of service to the village at large. We are a group with wide ranging views on many things, and I hope people of differing opinions find ways for their thinking to be heard.

It's time for me to step down from the post of co-editor and allow other voices to take the lead. Thanks for letting me steer this little monthly paper, along with the ever-skillful John Scott, in some new directions. I look forward to seeing where else we all will continue to travel.

All the Best,

Patti Cruickshank-Schott

co-editor, The **Claiborne Clarion**, December 2011 - February 2015, standing down.