



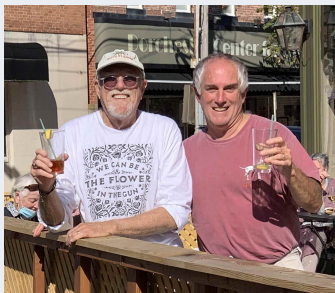
# THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CLAIBORNE  
COMMUNITY  
DECEMBER 2024  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 12

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Claiborne Association  
President and this  
month's Clarion editor

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Liz Fellingner	6
Lida Klunk	8
Jess Murphy	9
Danielle Murphy	16
Cecelia Boos	17
Edward Schaefer	22
Norm Haddaway	26
Owen Bond	28
Devin Lednum	29
Page Lansdale	30
Susan Cooper	30

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Mike Kuperberg*

We are nearing the end of leaf fall – and with it, your final opportunity to experience the bliss of raking leaves at the Landing. The geese have arrived and are happily honking in the cove. Also, with the lifting of the burn ban, you should see Jeanne and me out on the patio at sundown. Please stop by and chat.

Your Officers and Committee Chairs (i.e., the Executive Board) met on November 21. Given the holidays and traveling plans, the Board will not meet in December.

*Remember - our standing meeting date is 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month, unless we reschedule. The next Board meeting will be January 16. Please join us!*

During the November meeting, the Board discussed the annual budget, the status of the endowment, and the current policy regarding the use of the endowment. The endowment policy will be a topic of discussion in future Board meetings. We also heard updates of progress on the three Strategic Plan pillars.

- The Ensure Financial and Organizational Stability team has finalized a fund-raising request to the community (look for it in your mail soon). Thank you to Libby Moose, Jennifer Shea, James Galicki, and Jeanne Kuperberg for their work.
- The Increase Engagement and Community Building pillar is working on multiple activities. The History Project held their first

## CLAIBORNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2, 2:00 Hall  
Decorating for the  
season

December 7, 6:00  
Holiday Potluck and  
General Meeting

December 31, New  
Years Eve Gathering

## 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 Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

For more about Claiborne and the Association, check out:

<https://www.claibornemem d.org/>

meeting this month and is planning multiple efforts to capture and display the history of Claiborne. For more information on the History project, please reach out to Suzanne Todd.

- The Strengthen Connections between the Association and the Greater Claiborne Community pillar hosted a fabulous concert by the *High and Wides* on November 24, followed by an amazing dessert feast. That group is hard at work planning for our next community events. For more information on Claiborne programming, contact Martha Hamlin.

*We continue to solicit your input to Board discussions. Please share your suggestions and goals by contacting any of your Board members or drop in on the next meeting – January 16.*

Wishing everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving and hopes for an enjoyable and rewarding holiday season. We hope that you all have time with family and loved ones.

## CLAIBORNE CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING

*Chris Noyes*

When John Scott asked me to write a “Thanksgiving paragraph” I immediately thought of my Dad. Thanksgiving was his day to shine in the kitchen. I suspect he was motivated to make his German grandmother proud, preparing mashed rutabagas, creamed onions, and lumpless mashed potatoes. Each year brought accolades of “best mashed potatoes ever (obligatory).” He insisted on making his version of hollandaise sauce for the broccoli and cauliflower, and it always separated at the last minute. It was years before I discovered hollandaise was actually an emulsion. He and my mother would get testy with each other. Her job was turkey and stuffing. Dad was in charge of everything else, including the pies. He would start early in the morning, and we kids would awaken to the smell of simmering onions. We would polish the silver and rinse the Currier and Ives china, while watching the Macy’s parade on the TV. He would use a vessel to prepare each vegetable, a different vessel to cook them, and finally another vessel for presentation. It was pandemonium. Dinner was always late, and full of loud, raucous laughter and everyone competing to crack each other up. There was never enough butter. Luckily the corner liquor store was open on the holiday, and someone would rush out to buy another pound before they closed.

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. It’s a warm, cozy, fragrant indulgence of family time without the stress and anticipation of Christmas. Audrey and Avery have followed suit, treasuring the sacred family time. Sacred indeed, as our Oliver died on Thanksgiving Day in 2011, just as we paused our vigil to consume our lovingly donated food. It was so “Oliver.” It makes this day softer with our grief and more open with our gratitude.



Is your house all decked out for the season, yet you wander restlessly looking for things that don't yet have bows on them? Got a great idea for making the Hall look exceptionally festive? Bring all those skills and urges to the Hall on December 2nd, at 2:00. We'll pull out all our boxes of decor and see how seasonally cheery we can make the place look. Feel free to bring any excess bits and bobs that you have!

The Claiborne Association general meeting and Holiday Potluck is early this year, so don't let it slip by you! Next Saturday, December 7, we will gather for our usual short & sweet meeting followed by the sumptuous groaning board that is our tradition! Fa La La La La !

This year, we bring to the table all of our precious memories and sit together to honor the collective- each one at the table in person and in spirit. Our memories inform our present experience. It's awe-inspiring to ponder that our ancestors experienced the same connection. The dynamics are different this year, for sure, yet we joyfully feast in that

sacred family time, and we all deeply understand the meaning of gratitude. And we will continue competing to crack each other up. It's so much fun!

*Alice Sewell*

Thanksgiving dinner at the Sewell house ain't what it used to be.

I know, I know, but I actually used to cook.

For some years now our son, son in law, and grandsons have all hunted deer on Thanksgiving Day. Ok, let them hunt, but trying to get them all at the dinner table when dinner was ready was another story. It didn't happen, and that did not make the cook happy.

If they didn't care about a hot turkey dinner, neither did I. So Thanksgiving dinner changed dramatically. No more turkey, no more mashed potatoes, no more gravy, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, etc. Done! Oh I still make Great Auntie B's pumpkin pies from scratch and there is ice cream too, but now we have chili. Venison chili. Whenever our guests wander in from the fields and tree stands there will be a hot meal. Help yourself, no formalities, no muss no fuss, just a big pot of chili on the stove and a much happier cook.

*Jim Richardson*

For as long as I can remember, Thanksgiving has been my favorite holiday, a holiday unlike any other.

Thanksgiving isn't Christmas, a complex holiday that over the years has largely lost its religious meaning, and that has sadly been replaced with acquiring lots of presents and all the anxiety that comes with it. For many, it begins with deciding on a freshly-cut tree that is perfectly formed and just the right height, and that costs more than the my monthly electric bill. Unlike Easter whose real meaning has been replaced by a bunny that hides plastic eggs filled with candy, or my birthday that constantly reminds me of my ever-increasing age, Thanksgiving was simply designed to be a time of gratitude for all that we have, a time to celebrate family and friends, and a time of sharing and reconnecting around the dinner table. In these times, what could be more nourishing than that?

*Maura and Mary Bollinger*

This Thanksgiving we travelled to the wilds of Harford County for an intimate gathering of Bollingers—only 29 this year. This is just Marty's side of the family, the joys of big families. Over the years as his brothers

and sisters married and had children it grew, peaking at 42. When the nieces and nephews hit their teen years the table boasted three turkeys, a ham and a dozen pounds of potatoes with hardly a leftover. While now the spread is slightly less, the gathering is still expanding as the nieces and nephews bring in new SOBs (spouse of Bollingers) and we shared news and photos of the babies born this year. The next generation cherishes the traditions so much that our daughter Libby opted to fly home from the Netherlands for Thanksgiving instead of Christmas. Our son James joined us from Charlottesville (unclear who had the more arduous journey 😊). While they both are with us this weekend, we will also celebrate a few family Christmas traditions. Wishing our fellow Claibornites a Happy Thanksgiving, Maura and Marty.

*Shirley Cockey*

I no longer prepare Thanksgiving dinner for my family. They have their own families and have dinner with them. I just have to decide which family I want to be with for the holiday. This year I will have dinner with my daughter Judy and her family on Tilghman Island. Daughter Carol and her family will be there. Tommy, Judy's husband will have his mother and brother there too. Judy will make the main part of the meal. Everyone else will bring side dishes and dessert.

*Leigh Ann Schaefer*

Ed and I spent Thanksgiving in La Venta, Baja California Sur, Mexico this year. What started as a normal day – trip to the hardware store, laundry, you know the drill, ended with us enjoying a traditional dinner as guests at Pro-Windsurf La Venta right next door. The festivities are held in a very large palapa rightly called the Party Palace.

Around lunchtime I took over our contribution of 7 kilograms (~15 pounds) of potatoes to start washing, peeling, and chopping. Our hostess Zaira was running around with one of the resort guests Judy getting the rest of the menu prepared – I'll elaborate of the wonderful food later. It was organized chaos with the three of us working around each other. After my part was completed, I got out of the way for the next person to help with their part. Resort owner Wyatt brought a turkey over to our house to cook. The next three hours we babysat the turkey.

Fast forward to 5ish, my favorite time – sunset! While Ed went next door to start enjoying the festivities, I took my evening pictures. Next thing I know a herd of cows head down the street! Yes, the cows here are free range. The notorious one has one horn that faces down. He's even painted on a mural as you enter town. Everyone has gates to their properties to keep the cows out. Next thing I hear, as I was moving up to the roof to get better sunset pictures, is yelling from next door. Their gate wasn't closed in anticipation of human guests, and they had to shoo the cows back to the dusty, dirt road. The sunset did not disappoint – the best of the trip so far.





Now to the Thanksgiving party! I arrived to around 20 people drinking beer, margaritas, or wine wearing blinking leis around their necks. Those with drinks in glasses had blinking lights in them. Music was playing and everyone was having a great time. Next to arrive were our Mexican friends from the town about 45 minutes away. Once everyone had greeted each other and had time to catch up, it was time to eat.

Tables and chairs were arranged while the food was put out buffet style. The food was incredible and plentiful including traditional turkey as well as Mexican turkey (white wine, orange, hot sauce and salt), orzo salad, broccoli, brussels sprouts, mashed potatoes, stuffing, spicy avocado noodles, traditional turkey gravy and cranberry gravy, and fresh bread. And, for dessert tres leches cake, apple crisp, and pumpkin pie.

After singing a song one of the guests wrote dedicated to the resort owners and staff, we sat down with about 45 others ranging from ages 6 to 75ish- staff, guests, neighbors and friends of the resort – and enjoyed everyone’s company. There were folks from all over North America, but mostly west coast US. It was a very enjoyable evening meeting new people and trying to practice my Spanish. The evening ended with more partying which now included neon lights and patterns on the ceiling of the palapa, good music, and dancing.

### **HIGH AND WIDES CAPTIVATE CLAIBORNE**

*Emma Richardson (daughter #2 of Martha and Jim and partner, but not paramour, of banjo Sam)*



On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Hall hosted The High and Wides, a bluegrass band with roots in Baltimore and, as one member put it, “the mountains of Kent County.” The band formed in 2015 and is

composed of Marc Dykeman (guitar, vocals), Sam Guthridge (banjo, mandolin, vocals), Nate Grower (fiddle), and Mike Buccino (bass). Their fusion of bluegrass with country, rockabilly, and Western swing kept the Hall rocking with fiery old-time fiddle tunes and original ballads.

From my insider knowledge, I can report that the band was blown away by the turnout and had a wonderful time. All chairs - plus extras pulled from Renny's house at the last minute - were filled by over 70 attendees from Claiborne and beyond. This intrepid reporter drove all the way from Baltimore to see the show in her hometown.

After the encore, the audience was treated to delicious desserts - a perfect way to ease into the excess (abundance?) of the season!

## **CELEBRATING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE**

*Kirke Harper*

### *Claiborne History Project Kicks Off*



A group of volunteers, organized by Suzanne Todd, have met twice to discuss and plan a series of projects to identify and document Claiborne's history. We all know about the railroad and ferries, the Miracle House, and Maple Hall. But did you know Claiborne had two gas stations, two restaurants, and two stores? Did you know that two resorts were planned but never built? Or that a tide mill in Old Claiborne powered a saw mill for one of the largest lumber companies in America?

The history group is planning at least four projects that will gather information and write stories to be shared with the community. Marty

Bollinger's book, "Claiborne Bridges the Chesapeake" is finished and will be published soon. It documents the era from the Civil War through the end of the car ferries as reflected in events in Claiborne. Other projects aim to identify all previous owners of each house, to trace the buildings that have been moved from one location to another, and to acknowledge and interpret the remaining infrastructure from the railroad and ferry era. There may be an oral history project as well.

Sound interesting? The first steps involve making an inventory of what we already have, scanning and cataloging photographs, deciding how to share the information, and making improvements to our village website to accommodate more history information. There will be opportunities for you to digitize your historic photos so you can share them with family and friends. Please look for your old photographs and plan to bring them to the Hall to be scanned. They will never leave your sight and you will control which ones you permit others to see and use.

Future Clarion issues will provide progress reports and summaries.

### **UPDATES FROM NEW MEXICO**

*Liz Fellingner*





I officially began my career as a Broadcast Meteorologist at KRQE News 13 in Albuquerque NM on July 22nd. I was warned that weather in the desert southwest was boring, but with four months under my belt I can safely say that I was lied to. I made my broadcasting debut in the middle of Monsoon Season. Every day in the summer I was covering pop-up thunderstorms and severe flooding. As summer moved into fall the weather became starkly different across New Mexico. In the same day I have forecasted snow in the Northern Mountains, record breaking heat to the Southeast, and winds strong enough to take out power lines to the west. While the work has sometimes been challenging, I am nothing but grateful for the experience. If you would like to keep up with my forecasts you can follow me on Facebook at Meteorologist Liz Fellingner.

Outside of the News station, KRQE has given me so many fun opportunities to get involved in Albuquerque and New Mexico as a whole. In my first month on the job I created a bracing new “Weather Academy” presentation. The KRQE weather academy is a program where the meteorologists go into schools and teach kids about the weather. I have been on five weather academies already and have spoken to over 300 kids! Additionally, KRQE has a platform called *KRQEcures*. This program goes into title one schools and gives every single student a free new pair of shoes, backpack, hygiene products, and books. I have had the opportunity to go out to 2 schools with *krqecures* and help the kids pick out shoes.

Working at a news station certainly has its perks. A major one is free tickets and invitations to community events and festivals. In September I was given free entry to the New Mexico State Fair. This entry also included an all-access pass to meet the country artists performing in the nightly concerts. I was able to attend the Balloon Fiesta in October. Let me tell you, waking up at 3a.m. to see mass ascension is a whole lot easier when you have access to the Media Tent with free food and drinks. At Balloon Fiesta I was also chosen to give a live forecast for *New Mexico Living* (the daytime talk show).

Those who know me know that one of my favorite pastimes is competing in pageants. Many (like my mom) might also recall me saying that I would be taking a break from pageants after moving to New Mexico. Well, that break lasted all of four weeks.

In August, just one month after moving to Albuquerque, I signed up to compete for the Miss New Mexico Volunteer Scholarship Program. I was originally drawn to the Volunteer program because of their emphasis on Volunteer work. I have a social outreach program called “You Are Not Your Circumstance: Overcoming Adversity Through Positive Coping Mechanisms”. I primarily work with children aged PreK-6th grade. In the 12 weeks between signing up for the pageant and competing, I attended 12 appearances that focused on teaching youth positive coping mechanisms. I hosted workshops, clinics, and presentations for youth





involved in the Girl Scouts, YMCA after school programs, The Boys and Girls Club, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Additionally, I created pamphlets on mental health warning signs for parents that are still being handed out at schools and other non-profits, one example being Locker505.

On November 9th, just three and a half months after moving to Albuquerque, I was crowned Miss New Mexico Volunteer 2025. To win the title I competed in four categories of competitions. A 10-minute private panel interview, talent, swimsuit, and evening gown. For my talent I sang "The Sound of Music". As the winner I was awarded a \$1000 scholarship that I will put towards my student loans. I will also advance to the National pageant in June 2025 in Jackson TN. There I will compete against delegates from all 50 states for more scholarships and the title of Miss Volunteer America. If you like to keep up with my pageant appearances and volunteer work you can follow me on Instagram at and Facebook Liz Fellingner as well as at missnmvol.

While I am missing Claiborne, and the Chesapeake Bay, I am absolutely loving every minute of living in New Mexico!

### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Maybe you'll find it a *Friend of Claiborne* Sue Stockman's open house

