

## *Claiborne of Virginia*

*Lineage.* "Edmund Cliburne, b. 1544, d. 1590, at Cliburne Hall, County, Westmoreland and Killerby, County York; Administration granted at York, 22d September, 1590, son of Richard Cliburn, of Killerby and descended from Bardolph, Earl of Ravensworth and other manors in Richmondshire. Bardolph is of the family of the Earls of Richmond (Gale's "Honorisde Richmond" and Whittaker's "Richmondshire"). This Bardolph was seventh son of Eudo, who was second son of Geoffrey, Duke of Brittany, whose wife was Aricia, sister of Richard, Duke of Normandy (see O'Hart's "Irish Peerages," p. 100, Dabbin, 1888). The first son of Geoffrey was Alan and Bardolph had among others two brothers, named Alan, viz., Alan Niger and Alan Rufus, hence the name Alan dictus Claiborne. The first Claiborne who resided at Cliburn, Westmoreland, was Alan dictus Cleburne, he was third son of Hervey Fitz Akaris (1165-o.b.1182) who was son of Akaris (1140), who was the son of said Bardolph (Le Nave, MSS. III, 114). Edmund Cliborne, through Elizabeth Curwen, who m. John, son of Rowland Cliborne, dau. of Sir. Thomas Curwen of Workington Hill, was descended from Cospatrick 'The Great', Maldred and Elgiva, dau. of Ethelred the 'Unready' (Jacksons, Curwens of Workington, Symeon of Durham II, 307; Freeman's 'Norman Conquest', IV, 98). Edmund Cliborne matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 1572, and m. September, 1576, Grace Bellingham, dau. of Sir Alan Bellingham of Helsington and Levins, Treasurer of Berwick and Deputy Warden of the Marches." Colonial Families of the United States Volume VI by George Norbury Mckenzie.

Sir Edmund Cliborne and his wife, Grace had issue: Thomas, William (see below) and Robert.

**Colonel William Claiborne of *Romancoke***, was born 1587\*, died 1677. He married 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane Butler of London, and married 2nd in Virginia, Elizabeth about 1644. He was engaged by the Virginia Company as a Surveyor in 1621 and arrived in Virginia with Governor Wyatt in 1621. He was appointed Secretary of State for the Colony and Member of the Council 1625-1637 by Governor Yeardley; Treasurer of Virginia in 1652. In 1644 a land grant was made to Elizabeth Claiborne, the wife of Colonel William Claiborne, in Elizabeth City, Virginia. After Col. William Claiborne settled at his plantation, *Romancoke*, on the Pamunkey (ca1650) he became one of the leading men in the Colony and was named Secretary, and appointed by the King.

His wife, Jane Butler was the daughter of John Butler and Jane Elliott. They had two sons at least, William and Thomas Claiborne; two daughters, Jane Claiborne who married Thomas Brereton and Mary Claiborne who married 1st Edward Rice and after his death she married Robert Harris. Clayton Torrance in his excellent article on the English Ancestry of William Claiborne wrote: "There is no evidence that the Honorable WilliamClaiborne (1600-1677/8) and his wife Elizabeth Butler had other children (at least who survived infancy or childhood) than William, Thomas, Leonard, John, and Jane). Also Mary married 1st Edward Rice and 2nd Col. Robert Harris, 167\_\_\_.

Northumberland County Records, State of Virginia, Deeds & Orders 1650; 1652, pg. 36, William Claiborne 1648

"Whereas there are certain debts and other things due to me at Chichecon (i.e. Chicacone) and other places up the Bay. These presents are to appoint and authorize my kinsman Mr. Samuel Smith to ask and receive as also to implead and acquit and compound for any the said debts with any persons inhabitants or beings in the said places and in particularas being guardian unto my two daughters I do hereby authorize the said Samuel Smythe to take all those cattle at Chiceon into his custody fortheir use and to receive a heifer due from the estate of James Cloughton for a bull he killed of theirs witness hereunto my hand and seal this second day of April 1648,"

W. Claiborne

Witness: Christopher Williams, etc.

On a brass memorial tablet in Cliburn Church, near Penrith, Westmorelandshire, is the following:

"Insuper at in memoriam Guielmi de Cleyborne primie Secretis Coloniae Virgiiniensis qui anno vixit MDCXXVII" Virginia Carolorum, pg. 43, by Edward Neill

"Children of the Honorable William Claiborne (1600-1667/8) and his first wife Elizabeth Butler were William, Thomas, Leonard, John, Jane married Thomas Brererton (Breeton) and Mary who married Robert Harris (Genealogy of the Claiborne Family, pg. 14 for the last marriage.) Ref.: Northumberland County, Virginia Deeds, Orders 1650-1652, pg. 36 . William Claiborne 1640 &ndash; record states he had two daughters.) Records of the Virginia County, Congressional Library, Washington, D.C.

On a brass memorial tablet in Cliburn Church, near Peurith, Westmorelandshire is the following. (Latin inscription) translated. Guel M. (William) de Cleyborne senr. Claiborne primi Secretary of the Colony of Virginia 1627 (See ,Virginia Carelerum,pg. 43, by Edward Neill and pg. 155 in MartinFamilies by Wm. Cross, page 155) William Claiborne's daughter, Mary,1st Edward Rice and 2nd Robert Harris (b. 1635; d. 1701). Her father,Wm. Claiborne was the first Secretary of the Colony of Virginia, appointed by the King.

Harris Papers Volume 3, page 29, by Wiggan.

"To the Glory of God and to the honored memory of William Claiborne,son of Edmund Claiborne and Grace Bellingham of Claiborne Hall, Westmoreland County in England was born 1587 and settled in Virginia 1621; Member of the Council 1623-1660; Secretary of State 1625-1635; 1656-1660; Treasurer 1642-1665; deputy Governor 1653; Commander Expedition against the Indians1629 and 1644 at Kent Island. He made the first settlement within the present bounds of Maryland."

Issue of William Claiborne and his wife, Elizabeth Butler Claiborne.

- William Claiborne, Lieutenant-Colonel of King William County, New Kent in 1663, 1666, died 1682, married Elizzabeth Wilkes, New Kent. Issue: William, Ursula (married William Gooch) and Mary.

- Thomas Claiborne, Lieutenant-Colonel, born 8/17/1647, killed by Indians 10/7/1683 and buried in a tomb near Smokers King in King William County, Virginia, married 2d, Sarah Dandridge of New Kent County, Virginia. Issue.
  1. Thomas Claiborne, born 12/16/1680, Captain, of Sweet Hall, King William County, Virginia, died 8/16/1732, is said to have been married three times and to have had 27 children. His last wife was Ann Fox 5/20/1684–5/4/1733. Issue by third wife.
    - a. Thomas Claiborne 1/9/1704–12/1/1735, Clerk of Stafford County.
    - b. William Claiborne of Romancocke, his Last Will and Testament probated 6/16/1745.
    - c. Nathaniel Claiborne, Colonel, of Sweet Hall, born 1755, married Jane Cole.
    - d. Leonard Claiborne, Sheriff of King William County in 1732; Member of House of Burgesses in 1736, married Martha Burnell. Removed to Georgia.
    - e. Bernard Claiborne married Martha (Ravenscroft) Poythress, widow of Major William Poythress.
    - f. Augustine Claiborne of *Windsor* was born 1721, Colonel, was born at Sweet Hall, died 5/3/1787, removed to Surrey County; Member of the House of Burgesses 1748–1754; Clerk of Sussex County 1754; Member of the State Senate in 1780. He married Mary Herbert.
- Leonard Claiborne settled in Jamaica where he died 1694, married Martha.
- Jane Claiborne, died before 5/20/1671, married bef. May 1661 Colonel Thos. Brereton of Northumberland Co.

Ref. 21T245 Article by G.H.S. King IV 316–318; 56V442–6 Article by Dr. Clayton Torrance; Virginia Historical Genealogies ; John Bennett Boddie p. 36–38; Claiborne Family of Virginia ; Claiborne 1917 ; Old Virginia and her Neighbors ; Fiske 2 Vols. ; Founders of Maryland , Neill p. 38; The Ligon Family and Connections Wm. D. Ligon 1947; Col. & Revolutionary Lineages of America Vol. 4, p. 59–64, Vol.1, p. 213 , 221; History of Louisa Co., Va., Dr. Malcolm H. Harris p. 348; Colonial Families in the United States, Vol. VI by George Norbury Mackenzie.