

# The Claflin Family Association

# *Claflin Connection*

Volume III, Issue I

Spring 2008

## 2008: 154<sup>th</sup> Reunion

All descendants of Robert MacLachlan, their wives, widows, husbands and widowers are cordially invited to the Claflin Family reunion to be held on Saturday, July 26, 2008 in Lowell, MA. Located at the confluence of the Concord and Merrimac Rivers, the site was recognized in the early 1800s as having water power potential for future textile mills, and the settlement grew from 1822 into a major textile city. That story is

vividly told in the Lowell National Historic Park, the American Textile Museum, and other museums of textiles and art in Lowell.

Additionally, this is the weekend of the Lowell Folk Festival and the day of a Lowell Spinners baseball game. The town will be hopping. Join us for a day of Claflin Family fun and a visit to one of the key centers of development of the American textile industry.

### *Lowell Folk Festival*

*Join in the fun - Music - Art - Food - Dancing*



**Directions to Lowell** and a map are available on the internet: [www.lowellfolkfestival.org](http://www.lowellfolkfestival.org). Our reunion will be held at the Middlesex Community College (MCC) shown on southeast corner of the festival map. The distance from the nearby parking garage to MCC is about 100 yards via a scenic walking bridge. Park to the rear of the garage. The exit and path are handicapped accessible.

### **\$500 Merit Scholarship**

Available to a student of Claflin descent  
Enrolled at Boston University or Claflin University  
Send inquires to:: Leslie Dolleman  
257 Middle Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Final Application and Documentation  
due **May 30, 2008**

### **2008 Annual Reunion Schedule** Middlesex Community College, Lowell, MA

#### **Pre-reunion 5:00 PM, Friday, July 25, 2008**

Persons in the vicinity are invited to join Bill and Eunice Claflin for dutch treat cocktails at 5:00 and dinner at 6:30 at the Doubletree Riverfront Hotel in downtown Lowell. *Please let Bill know if you are coming* by calling Bill or Eunice at 401-421-1855 or e-mail at [whclafin@cox.net](mailto:whclafin@cox.net).

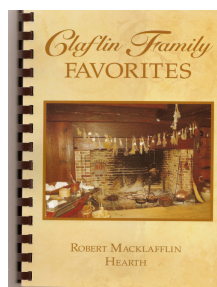
**YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INVITATION IN THE MAIL SHORTLY, BUT PLEASE PLAN ON:**

#### **Reunion Day, Saturday July 26, 2008**

- 8:30 AM Open Executive Board Meeting
- 9:00 AM Registration  
Coffee and Mingling
- 9:45 AM Workshop-Master Genealogist  
Continued Coffee and Mingling
- 10:30 AM Annual Business Meeting
- 11:15 AM Lunch (**RESPONSE CARD WILL BE IN FUTURE MAILING**)
- 12:00 Noon Members are free to enjoy the Folk Festival, or continue informal activities with light refreshment in the cafeteria.
- 3:00 PM Cafeteria closes, Reunion ends

#### **Post-reunion 4:00 PM, Saturday July 26, 2008**

Family members are invited to gather at a place in downtown Lowell (to be announced) at 4:00 PM for a visit to one or more of the local pub/restaurants and one of the evening's musical events. Entrance tickets may bere-



The Claflin Family Association contributed 20 cookbooks to the Wenham Museum during the 2007 reunion which quickly sold out. An additional 20 cookbooks were donated January 2008 plus 10 more in April. Be sure to purchase yours ASAP while supplies last, **SEE INFORMATION INSIDE.**

## Thank you from the President

One of the most joyful and scary tasks of a Claflin Family Association President is to acknowledge persons for their generosity to the Association and/or the Friends. Joyful in the acknowledging, scary in the possibility of leaving someone out. In any event I happily acknowledge the following persons for contributions to our work during the last year, and I sincerely apologize for any inadvertent admissions.

Anne Claflin Allen, Belmont, MA  
Kenneth Blake, Wilton, CT  
Mrs. Robert Bradford, Whitefield, ME

Bruce B. Burkart, New Britain, PA  
William Butler, Mendon, MA  
Tom & Norma Campbell, Wichita, KS  
Gary & Lucyanne Claflin, Fishers, IN  
Lee Claflin, Philadelphia, PA  
Nelson & Doris Claflin, Charlotte, VT  
Ronald & Dorothy Claflin,  
Canon City, CO  
William & Eunice Claflin,  
Providence, RI  
Richard & Elinor Kampersal,  
Holliston, MA  
Meg LaBrie, Madison, WI  
Betty Jane Lee, Boynton Beach, FL  
Jeff & Izumi Ludgate, Northboro, MA  
John & Judy Ludgate, Bartlett, NH  
Mary Messenger, Canton, CT  
Barbara Ann Smith, Rochester, NY

Loraine Walters, Sterling, CO  
Mrs. John Wickersham, Salina, KS

My sincerest thanks to you all!

*William Claflin*

Your contributions come from all over the country and help fund

- ⇒ This newsletter
- ⇒ The annual reunion
- ⇒ Scholarships
- ⇒ Genealogy research
- ⇒ Support of Wenham Museum
- ⇒ Website [www.claflin.org](http://www.claflin.org)
- ⇒ Archiving records



Lucyanne and Gary Claflin with "Victoria"

### Worth the Trip!

Lucyanne and I decided it was a good time to thank all of you for the wonderful time we had at the reunion in Wenham [last] summer. We attended with some trepidation, knowing that most of the attendees would be from the East Coast and wondering how welcome two strangers from the Hoosier State would be. We found out very quickly. We were family, all of us, and that is exactly how we felt. We enjoyed every minute: the meeting, the lunch, and the tour of "our" home. But most of all we remember the friendliness of everyone we met; the feeling of family was very evident.

I have urged my brother, sister, and our children to attend in the future, and they hope to do so. We certainly plan on returning. Thank you again.

*Gary D. Claflin*

The sign for the little town of Claflin, Kansas says :  
**"If you can't stop, smile as you go by."**



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This personal space is for you. *We need your news!*

- Jessica Claflin, daughter of Doug Claflin and Amy McGowan is a Junior in Lincoln School in Providence, RI. She is ranked 16th best high school women's laser sailor in the US.
- Robin Clayton, daughter of John Clayton and Heather (Claflin), graduates from the University of Miami in May and will begin work for IBM in Dallas, TX in June.
- Sons of Donna (Claflin), Geoff and Chris Lawhorn graduate from Colorado State University in May. Geoff will wed Austin Haggard in August.

*A wonderful keepsake or gift..... is now available for purchase!!!*

### *Claflin Family Favorites*

*In addition to over 140 tasty recipes, we have included some interesting tidbits about Claflin lineage.*

If you wish to purchase a copy or copies of this cookbook, please send a check made payable to:

Friends of Claflin Family Association  
c/o Deborah Deptula  
22 Falcon Drive  
Budd Lake, NJ 07828-2630

*The cost for each cookbook is \$10.00; plus \$2.00 shipping for the first cookbook and \$0.50 shipping for each additional cookbook.*

*Thank you for supporting the Friends of the Claflin Family Association and ENJOY!*

# 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gathering 2007



The star event of the day was unquestionably the visit by cousin Victoria Claflin Woodhull! No, it wasn't really "Cousin Vicky" (who lived between 1836 and 1927) but rather Sarah Longman Payne, scholar and accomplished actress, who portrayed Victoria in four vignettes of her life.

Sarah first became acquainted with Victoria while doing research for her doctorate in communications. Her interest led her to visit Victoria's estate in Bredons Norton and talk with people there who remembered her, to participate in a Readers Theatre production on Victoria, to seek out Victoria's relatives in Homer, Ohio,

and to write and act in this one-woman four scene play.

The range of scenes was striking: "Lady of the Manor," "I Announce Myself a Candidate," "Yes, I Am a Free Lover," and "The Beecher-Tilton Affair." The range of Sarah's voice, expressions, and gestures were also striking – at times alluring, determined, dramatic, and expository. Who would argue now that women should have less than equal rights in a marriage? It was the high point of a very successful day. The subsequent question period was fast-moving and vigorous.

Fifty-four of us, including 10 children and young adults gathered at the Wen-

ham Museum in Wenham, MA for a cheerful day. At the annual business meeting the group remembered those known family members who died last year, approved the budget for the present year and a bylaw amendment permitting the Association to pay the luncheon costs for quarterly Board meetings, and Lowell, MA as the location of the 2008 reunion. The following Executive Board members were elected: William Claflin, President; Leslie Dolleman, VP; Lisa Doucett, Secretary; Judy Ludgate, Treasurer; Deborah Deptula, Susan Rich, and Marcia Wardwell. Newly elected Board Members are George Claflin and John Claflin. Continuing Board Members are Amy McGowan and John Pillis. We are always looking for persons interested in participating on the Board. If you wish to explore this possibility, please call Bill Claflin at 401-421-1855 or e-mail [whclaflin@cox.net](mailto:whclaflin@cox.net).

This was the debut of "Claflin Family Favorites," a cookbook masterminded and put together by Debbie Deptula. Grateful thanks to Debbie for originating and carrying this project through

to complete. Sincere thanks also to the Dolleman family for underwriting the cost of publication as a memorial to Beverly Dolleman, their mother and longtime Secretary and President of the Association.

The book contains 147 recipes from Claflins all over the U.S. plus information about the Family and some of our more notable members. This charming booklet is available from Deborah Deptula.—see Page 2 for details. Proceeds will be used for charitable purposes.

One of the fun parts of a reunion is the opportunity to meet and talk with other Claflins, both far and near. We did that in the morning, at our lunch at the First Church in Wenham, across from the Wenham Museum, and at tea following Sarah's presentation. Some of us also toured the Claflin-Richardson House, built by our ancestor Robert MacLachlan. It was a wonderful day, and we look forward to a different but very interesting day in Lowell, MA in 2008. We hope to see you there.

## Why we needed two Associations!!

The Claflin Family Association, Inc., sponsors reunions and other activities of interest to Claflins and others who are descended from the Robert MacLachlan who settled in Wenham, MA in the 1650s. Friends of the Claflin Family Association, Inc., our related association, is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization, whose funds are devoted entirely to charitable purposes: the advancement of education, public health, or historic preservation. Contributions to the Friends may be reported to the Internal Revenue Service as a tax deductible, charitable contribution.

## Hotels and Motels near Lowell

Hotel accommodations abound in the Lowell-Lawrence area. On the other hand, this is the first weekend of the Lowell Music Festival, and rooms in downtown Lowell are in short supply. You may consult your AAA or other travel guide for listings in the Boston vicinity. The Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, which keeps lists of rooming accommodations, is located at 9 Central Street, Suite 201, Lowell, MA 01852; call 800-443-3332, 978-454-6150; or e-mail [www.merrimackvalley.org](http://www.merrimackvalley.org). A few are listed below:

## Genealogy

Many of you have sent in family history and immediate family additions. Now is the time to help put current information onto the combined family history.

A table will be set up during the Family reunion to discuss inputting genealogical information. There will also be help with the Master Genealogist computer software.

	Distance from <u>Lowell</u>	# of rooms	Telephone #	Price Range
Doubletree Riverfront Hotel, Lowell		251 rooms	978-452-1200	\$149-189
Courtyard by Marriott, East Lowell	0	118	978-458-7575	\$69-124
Best Western, Chelmsford	3	114	978-256-7511	\$59-129
Radisson, Chelmsford	3	214	978-256-0800	\$89-169
Fairfield Inn, Tewksbury	4	133	978-640-0700	\$80-159

# CLAFLIN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Andover, MA 01810

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[www.claflin.org](http://www.claflin.org)

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## Some Downtown Lowell Museums

- ♪ **Lowell National Historical Park**, Visitor Center at 246 Market Street. Introductory exhibit to park stories and resources. Award-winning video. General information. Children's Corner. Park Admission free. Trolley tour tickets \$8 adults, less for others. Canal boat rides not available during Festival.
- ♪ **American Textile History Museum**, 491 Dutton Street. Integrated textile history collection from colonial times to present. Textile machinery and hand tools. Demonstrations. In-depth look at fashion, fabric, technology, and fiber arts. Admission: \$8 adults, less for others.
- ♪ **Boott Cotton Mill Museum**, 115 John Street. 1920s weave room in action. Interactive exhibits. Lowell's history from the industrial age to the present. Admission: \$6 adults, less for others. Boardinghouse Park and Stage adjacent.
- ♪ **Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center**, 40 French Street. Mill Girls and Immigrants Exhibit, the human story of the Industrial Revolution. Admission Free.
- ♪ **New England Quilt Museum**, 18 Shattuck Street. Historic and contemporary quilts. Admission: \$5 adults, less for others. **Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse** and **Railroad Exhibit** nearby.
- ♪ **Whistler House Museum of Art**, 243 Worthen Street. Birthplace of James Whistler. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century New England art collection, including some Whistler etchings. Admission: \$5 adults, less for others.
- ♪ **Jack Kerouac Commemorative Park**, Bridge Street. He lived and worked in this area, using Lowell as a backdrop for novels.

*"Cousins" 2007  
Wenham Museum  
July 25, 2007*

