



The Claflin Family Association and
The Friends of the Claflin Family Association

Claflin Connection

Reunion #157 & Counting! July 30, 2011 — Holliston, MA



Holliston Historical Society
Barn—157th Reunion site

Genealogy database to be featured

The Claflin Executive Board has been hard at work preparing for Reunion #157 and seeking increased membership and involvement.

The 157th Annual Reunion of the Claflin Family Association will be held at the Holliston Historical Society Barn (547 Washington Street, Holliston, MA). The snow in the photos will be gone and the grounds will be ready. Our digital genealogical records will be featured (*details on page 3.*)

- * Registration will open at 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 when the Annual Business meeting will be conducted.
- * At the Business meeting, election of new board members (please consider volunteering) will be held and plans for the coming year discussed and voted upon.
- * Games will be on the lawn, and displays including genealogy will be indoors. Tables will be available to set up "show and tell" displays (*details on page 2.*)

Claflin History in Holliston MA



This summer, when you join us for the 157th Claflin Family Reunion at the Holliston Historical Society on Washington St. (Route 16) in Holliston, MA, you may drive right by a piece of Claflin history. If arriving by Interstate 495 and take Route 16 into Holliston, you will see a large colonial house on your

left painted the reddest of reds. This is the Braggville section of Holliston and you are facing the John Claflin house, home to many of our early reunions.

The house was built around 1791 and was bought by John Claflin (Ebenezer, Daniel, Robert) in 1801, for his son William, but it is William's son John that gives the house its name. John was born in 1810 and died in 1888. He married Angeline Claflin, his third cousin (Rufus, Samuel, Caleb, Daniel, Robert). It is the oldest house on the seven-mile road from (*cont. on page 3*)

- * Lunch will start around 12:30 p.m. and will include a menu of steak, fresh vegetables, salads, and ice cream for dessert, all prepared and served by Claflin family members.
- * Entertainment includes Scottish dancing and a presentation by members of the Waushakum Live Steamers of Holliston about model steam railroading.

The genealogy database is an on-going process. We have a committee working on bringing it up-to-date.

At this Reunion, we plan to run a kinship report for any or all inter-

ested attendees so you may get a listing of your closest relatives within the database. If you have family history records,

please bring them to the Reunion and spend a few minutes ensuring the information is correct. If you register for the Reunion early, we will try to test it out in advance and update it as much as possible for the day of the Reunion. See you there!

George Claflin



The Asa Whiting House
Holliston Historical Society
Holliston Historical Home

CLAFLIN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE SETS RULES

By John Pillis, Chairperson

The permanent home of Claflin Family Archives is getting closer to being a reality. The Archive Committee met Saturday, January 29, to work on guidelines for the archives. Chairman, John Pillis and his Committee of Marcia Wardwell, Bruce Claflin, Bill Claflin, Jack Cowern and Claflin Family Association (CFA) President, George Claflin, worked out a rough draft of guidelines to present to the Hopkinton Historical Society and the Claflin Board of Directors. After the approval of both groups to a set of guidelines, the storage of Claflin memorabilia may begin at Hopkinton Historical Society in Hopkinton, MA.

The mission statement of the Archives Committee is *“To collect and categorize/inventory information and memorabilia of the Claflin Family Association and its membership for the Claflin Family Association membership.”*

The proposed guidelines cover everything from the creation of a committee to oversee donations to the archives to their care and liability issues. In general, some of the major proposals include:

- * The Committee should be placed under the Friends of the CFA to facilitate donations, both for artifacts and contributions, because of its tax exempt status.
- * The Committee decides what items would be accepted and who has access to the archives. If the Committee declines a donation or wishes to purchase an item for the archives, it will be resolved at the annual meeting of the CFA.
- * The liability of the items housed at the Hopkinton Historical Society is a shared responsibility.
- * Items must be of a quality that does not present a hazard to the Hopkinton Historical Society.
- * The Hopkinton Historical Society has the responsibility to take reasonable care of the archives in partnership

with their collections.

- * The archives Committee would provide the curator and archivist of the Hopkinton Historical Society full access to the archives for research and exhibit use.
- * Access to the archives would be limited to those approved by the Archives Committee and the visits would be recorded in a log book. No item is to be removed from the premises.

Jack Cowern and Bill Claflin were asked by Chairman John Pillis to be the liaison with the Hopkinton Historical Society. Their geographic closeness to Hopkinton will be helpful for meetings and discussions.



John Pillis, Archive Chair

Claflin Family “Show and Tell” at Reunion

Last summer at our Reunion, family members had fun showing an artifact and sharing family history with attendees. Please bring a family artifact to the Reunion with a description for our “Show and Tell” table and share your story. Additional details will be in the Reunion invitation mailing in June.

Update on Cookbooks and Archives at Wenham Museum

Deborah Deptula has only a few cookbooks remaining, so make sure you order one soon. She also has a quantity of Bertha Draper CD’s available. Contact Deb at:

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

The cost for each CD is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 shipping for the first CD and \$0.50 shipping for each additional CD.

Join us in Holliston in July for a special Claflin Reunion Presentation:



Waushakum Live Steamers Model Railroad Club

The Waushakum Live Steamers are model steam railroad enthusiasts and they maintain an outdoor track in Holliston to operate scale steam locomotives. They have several gages, and all can accommodate passengers. They welcome visitors during the summer. Additional details will be sent with the Claflin Reunion invitation. Their presentation will be about their club and some history of steam railroading in the area. For more information, please check out their website: www.waushakumlivesteamers.org.

Milford to Holliston as mentioned in a newspaper article for the 49th Claflin Family Reunion in 1903. At that time it was a working 160 acre farm owned by John's daughters

How does the John Claflin House connect with the Claflin Reunions? The first Claflin Reunion was held in 1854 at Wildcat (probably Wildcat Pond) or Deerbrook which is along Route 85 (the road from Milford to Hopkinton). It was a 12-mile stretch from the center of Holliston to the site of the first Claflin Reunion or picnic. Reunions were held at this site until 1864. Westborough was a Reunion site in 1865 for several years and ten in Hopkinton in 1873. 1874 and 1875 Reunions were at Holliston. No picnic was held in 1876 and starting in 1877 the Claflin Reunions or picnics were held at John Claflin's farm with an occasional change to Framingham, Franklin, or Milford. The farm was the scene of many Reunions in the barn and sometimes in a 40 x 60 foot tent erected for the Reunion. It was here that the Claflin Family Association (CFA) voted to be chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1910. (It wasn't finalized until 1943.).

The CFA voted to purchase the house in 1913 with the hope "that it might be annually the place of meeting." Something happened or didn't happen regarding the purchase because the 1917 Reunion was held at the home of the President in Milford. Subsequent Reunions were held in Milford and a newspaper account of the 1922 Reunion reports a committee



had been formed the year before to investigate purchase of the Claflin homestead as "a permanent meeting place for the association." According to a handwritten account the executor was contacted with an offer of \$5,000. The offer was refused saying \$6,000 was needed. \$3,000 had been raised so when the counteroffer was accepted by the committee the executor stated he had an offer of \$7,000. The committee held back and two months later the executor contacted the Association stating the farm's price tag had increased to \$8,000. In 1923 the committee was actively looking for "a home" for the Association.

Reunions at the John Claflin house in Holliston actually led to moving the Reunion to the Claflin-Richards house in Wenham. It was at the 1914 Reunion that Mary Richards, owner of Robert Claflin's house in Wenham, was a special guest. She gave a talk on the house which at that time had been in her family for 85 years. Her death in 1920 was mentioned in the minutes of the meeting as she had attended and made financial contributions to the CFA since 1914. They learned the Richards house had become a museum for the Wenham Historical Society. The Claflin Family held its first Reunion at Wenham for the 71st Reunion in 1925. Since then Reunions have occasionally come down to the Milford/Holliston area and Wenham has been the central area. If you come over Route 16 and see this red house, remember this is part of Claflin history.

(Left) The John Claflin house today on Washington Street in Holliston

Genealogy Committee Report

George Claflin is reviewing the Master Genealogist software that currently holds our files and determining the status of the database and steps for improvement. His goal is to have a printout of names with some ancestry information available at the 2011 Reunion that is useful for people to review and comment upon. There is a function of the software that allows you to put in a name and run a kinship search so that you can see who you are directly related to in the database. Come to the Reunion and try this interactive, "Pilot Program" of the genealogy.



Treasurer's Good News

As of January, 2011 the Fidelity funds continue to improve and are coming close to previous levels. We have limited the cost of our annual reunions for the past two years and hope to continue to find ways to hold down costs—a very frugal Committee. With the sale of Claflin Cookbooks and CDs, plus family contributions, we should be able to continue to hold reunions for the next 100 years—as long as we can entice our family members to become involved! Your funds are in good hands with our Treasurer, John "Eddy" Claflin. *(Pictured, left, with George Claflin)*

CLAFLIN FAMILY/FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

26 Lincoln Street
Andover MA 01810

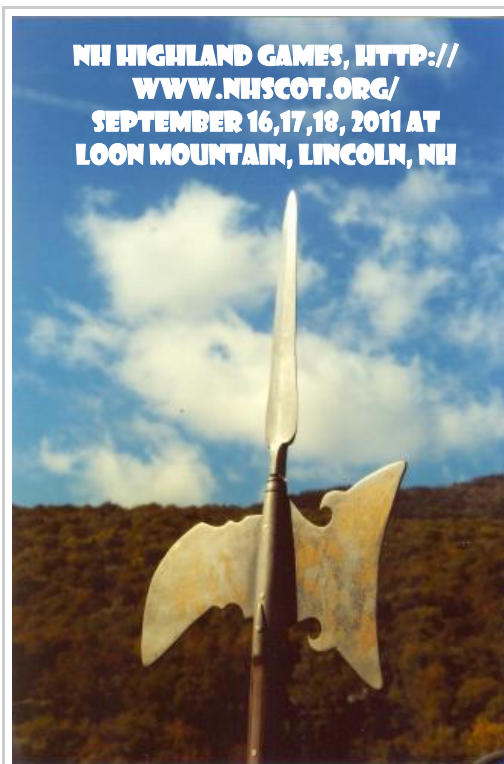
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www.claflin.org

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Reminders:

- ⇒ Scholarship deadline application for Boston University by **May 31, 2011**. Please email application requests to Leslie Dolleman, at lesliedolleman@comcast.net.
- ⇒ Save **July 30, 2011** and join us in Holliston MA for family, food and fun for our 157th Reunion.
- ⇒ Bring a family artifact to the Reunion with a description for our “Show and Tell” table and share your story with family members.
- ⇒ Be prepared to follow your Claflin ancestry with help of our genealogy “Pilot Program.” (*See page 3 for details*). Bring your family history to check our accuracy.
- ⇒ Order your CD/Cookbook ASAP or plan on purchasing one at the Reunion.
- ⇒ Send family materials for the website to David Claflin at daveclaflin@hotmail.com. You can also add comments in the Guest Book/Messages tab.



Honorable mention JudyGuptill, Kingston NH
“Get the Point”