

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

Claflin Connection

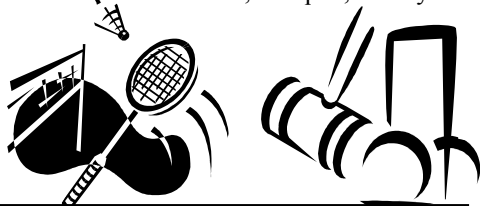


Claflin Reunion Returns to the Barn Topsfield MA July 25, 2009

Lisa Doucett provided the following:
"Here is the photo from the 1910 reunion. The barn is highly decorated with bunnings, etc, I do not have an explanation, though the reunions were often held in conjunction with berry picking, so it could have been the fourth of July."

After almost 100 years the Claflin Board has decided to *return to the barn*. In an effort to cut costs while maintaining a focus on the historical value of our reunions, the Topsfield barn has been selected as this year's reunion site. George Claflin has worked tirelessly with reunion committee members, Frances Wentworth and Heather Clayton, to bring the Claflin Cousins together with games and music. The site is perfect and will be a reunion you don't want to miss!

- Outdoor Sports— Badminton, Croquet, Volleyball.



- Indoor Board Games—some old, some new. . .
- Possible short trips that could include visiting local cemeteries to view Cousin gravestones, the Wenham museum or provide information on historic Salem MA that is only a short distance away.

And always lunch plus an assortment of food to sample before and after lunch, with a "voluntary contribution" box in place at the registration table.

Directions to the Topsfield Gould Barn will be provided with the Reunion Registration.

CLAFLIN FAMILY ARCHIVE

By John Pillis

The Claflin Family Archive is getting closer to a reality. Negotiations continue for locating the archive at the Hopkinton Historical Society Museum at Hayden Rowe in Hopkinton, MA. The building is a former two-room schoolhouse where the society has been located since 1991. The building is undergoing major renovation at this time. A new climate-controlled basement is the area in which the archives will come to stay. This will allow preservation of family memorabilia for future generations of Claflins to view and research.

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Financial Update by President, Bill Claflin

Since the Association meeting in Lowell, MA last July 26, our financial resources, invested in 6 Fidelity Mutual Funds, have declined from a high of \$104,000; on May 31, 2008, to below \$72,000 due to the decline in the financial markets.

In compliance with the Association bylaws, we finance our yearly activities by drawing upon these accounts to an extent that does not exceed 5% of their overall value, averaged over 3 years.

Given the extraordinary decline in our investments over the last six months, we have been considering whether or not we would live with the averages of the past 3 years or figure our draw as a % of just the current, lesser balance. This step would reduce our draw by about \$1,000 to about \$3,750.

Our income consists of the draw described above, the sale of reprints

of the Wight Genealogy of the Claflin Family and the cookbook, and, of course, the generous donations of our members. This income supports:

1. The annual reunion, including:
 - ⇒ printing expenses
 - ⇒ mailing expenses
 - ⇒ facilities rental
 - ⇒ luncheon
 - ⇒ entertainment
2. The newsletter
3. Scholarship awards

How shall we replace the expected reduction in investment, or what shall we give up in expenditures?

We have voted to have a box for luncheon donations at the registration table (as was done in some former years) and continue to budget carefully and thoughtfully.

We consider two newsletters a

year, plus the reunion registration mailing as essential communication with Family members. At reunions we support lunch and worthwhile entertainment necessary to entice Family members to take the time out of their busy schedules to attend this yearly event. We will provide this in Topsfield this July.

This discussion will be continued at our April Board meeting, at which time we will be considering and adopting a budget for the 2010 fiscal year. If you have questions or comments and write, call, or email me or any other Board member. You will find me at 228 Irving Avenue, Providence, RI 02906; Tel 401-421-1855; whclaflin@cox.net. We always encourage your participation and comments at our annual business meetings, the next one to be held in Topsfield on Saturday, July 25.



To learn about this barn is to step back into American history. It was built about 1710 and originally stood at 129 Washington Street, about a mile from its present site. It was built by the Goulds, one of the founding families of Topsfield. Zaccheus Gould came from England about 1639 and took an active role in creating the town, then known as New Meadows, and was one of its leading citizens. The barn's owner during the Revolutionary War was Joseph Gould, Zaccheus's great-grandson. Joseph was a farmer who, on December 5, 1774 was

Topsfield Gould Barn *was built about 1710 by the Zaccheus Gould. It is now insulated with a capacity of 99. It has wheelchair accessible restrooms and a kitchen is available. There are fields surrounding the barn that allow for cookouts and sports.*

elected Captain by the citizens of Topsfield of one of the two Militia Companies. It is recorded that Captain Gould was one of those who, on April 19, 1775, left his plow in midfurrow and galloped off to Lexington and Concord to help drive the Redcoats back to Boston. It is his barn that has been restored. The 297 year old white oak timbers clearly show the hand tool marks left by their colonial craftsman. Think of it: this barn was 22 years old when George Washington was born! The barn was given to the Society in 1982 by Dr. and Mrs. Michael Schiff and carefully dismantled prior to its timbers being stored for future preservation and

reconstruction. The key figure in the restoration was the President of the Society, Mr. Norman Isler of Topsfield. Many volunteers were used in the restoration process. Local trees furnished much of the lumber for the reconstruction. Much effort was made to reconstruct the Barn as authentically as possible. Parson Capen had a barn, now long gone, which was contemporary with the Gould Barn. The Gould Barn now reerected on the Capen property will help visitors understand and appreciate more completely life in Colonial Topsfield.

(Information from
www.topsfieldhistory.org/gould_barn

John Pillis, Claflin board member, has been working with members of the Hopkinton Historical Society to establish a repository for many of the Claflin memorabilia. He has scanned a sketchbook of Jenny Claflin, daughter of Sumner. Her art sketchbook consists of vivid sketches of her family, friends and buildings in Goffstown, NH 100 years ago. The archive will be able to store scrapbooks, photographs, etc. of the Claflin family and of their reunions.

Currently a committee consisting of myself, Bill Claflin, Marcia Wardwell, Deborah Deptula and John Cown will meet to set up the criteria for the archive. A letter has been sent to Russell Greve, the curator, to meet with the Hopkinton Historical Society board. Your board will meet in Hopkinton for the quarterly meeting on April 25, where they will be able to inspect the Hopkinton Historical Society Museum and determine what kind of materials

(bookcases, file cabinets, etc) will be needed to store items there. The final step will be the agreement between the Claflin Board and the Hopkinton Historical Society Board on the archives.

There is still much to be done but the archive project is alive and well.



Castle Maclachlan

Board Meeting January 31, 2009—9:00 AM—2:30 PM—Salem MA

Members attending: William H. Claflin; George Claflin, John Claflin, Deborah Deptula, Leslie Dolleman, Lisa Doucett, Judith Ludgate and John Pillis.

Our meetings always draws lively, enthusiastic discussions. After approving the Secretary's report, time was spent discussing our financial situation and the best way to work with this crisis. On page two is an excellent summary by Bill explaining our situation and how we hope to deal with it.

We then focused on the Claflin Reunion, July 25, 2009, venue and plans for the day. George Claflin presented several options researched by the committee with final details to be approved at our next meeting.

It was decided the next board meeting will be held at the Hopkinton Historical Society where we will view the space we hope will house the Claflin archives. John Pillis presented the current situation and the committee of John Pillis, Bill Claflin, Marcia

Wardwell and John Cown was established. It is expected there will be more information available at the 155th reunion. Hopkinton has been very receptive to housing the Claflin archives, but they are currently focusing on renovation efforts which will provide such an excellent opportunity for us.

Leslie Dolleman stated there are no applicants for the scholarship at this time. This is a reminder for all of you—if you know about a student of Claflin descent who is considering attending Boston University or Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, please inform them of this scholarship opportunity. It is extremely simple—send inquiries to Leslie Dolleman, 257 Middle Road, Portsmouth NH 03801 before May 31, 2009

We are always looking for interested persons to serve on the Board. If you are interested, or know of someone in your immediate family who might be interested, please write, call or email William H. Claflin at 228 Irving Avenue, Providence, RI 02906-5519, Tel. 401-421-1855; whclaflin@cox.net. This is an opportunity for you to be involved in a meaningful way in the Association's future.



Pictured above. Jonathan Ludgate at Lowell National Park after meeting and lunch July 25, 2008

CLAFLIN FAMILY/FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
26 Lincoln Street
Andover MA 01810

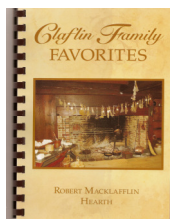
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Reminders:

- ⇒ Save **July 25, 2009** and join us at the Topsfield Gould Barn for family, food and fun.
- ⇒ An Association's trip to Scotland, **June 20-20, 2009**. Please contact Bill Claflin if you have any interest—there is space available and Bill and Eunice would love to have you join them.
- ⇒ Attending BU or Claflin University in SC,? Contact Leslie Dolleman before May 31, 2009.
- ⇒ Highland Games will once again be held in Lincoln, NH, at Loon Mt. on **September 18, 19, 20, 2009**. Go to <http://www.nhscot.org/> for more information.
- ⇒ The Claflin Family Favorites Cookbooks will soon be gone. Order yours ASAP from Deborah Deptula, 22 Falcon Drive, Budd Lake, NH 07838 or at deptula@optonline.net.



Amy McGowan looking for Claflin links. . .

Amy will once again be available on July 25, 2009, to provide information regarding your Claflin family history. She has been in charge of this project for several years now, and is always looking for information that will provide accurate information and bring her closer to the current generation. Please try to see Amy this year at the Claflin Reunion or send family information via email or by visiting the web page www.claflin.org and adding your genealogical information on the guest book/messages link.



Help her as she works her way through the thousands of names, attempting to make the Wight information current and accurate.

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