

Major Thomas Claiborne  
Sarah Claiborne  
May 17, 1780 – January 9, 1856

Section 7 ID # 70043  
Section 7 ID # 70044

Thomas Claiborne, born near Petersburg, Brunswick County, Virginia, on May 17, 1780, was the son of Thomas and Mary C. Claiborne. He was married in Brunswick County in 1805 to Hannah Hicks (1788-1808). Admitted to the bar in 1807, he began his law practice in Nashville. He was a member of Tennessee House of Representatives from 1811 to 1813.

In 1812, four years after the death of Hannah, he married Sarah Martin Lewis King, the widow of James King and daughter of Col. Joel Lewis. The Claibornes had ten children. Thomas Claiborne was the first Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tennessee (Free & Accepted Masons) 1813-1814. Three years later, he was elected a member of U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1817-1819. One of the founders of Christ Church (Episcopal), he was elected first Senior Warden of the Vestry in 1829.

Major Claiborne died at his residence on South Cherry Street on January 9, 1856. The next day the Masonic “fraternity was called together at 10 o’clock for the purpose of paying the last sad tribute of respect to Bro. Claiborne first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.”

Thomas Claiborne’s wife lived for 15 years after his death. She was interviewed for an article in *Nashville Republican Banner*, February 17, 1869, in which she told about her birthplace in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on February 15, 1786, of coming to Nashville with her parents in 1792, of her marriage to James King in 1802, and of her marriage to Thomas Claiborne on February 6, 1812. In 1870, she was listed, aged 84, in the household of her son Thomas Claiborne, his wife Ann (Maxwell) Claiborne and their children, in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. She was buried beside her husband at City Cemetery on April 28, 1871.

The original Claiborne tombstones have been lost to time and weather. Replacement Tombstones are scheduled to be dedicated in 2018

#### Sources

Claiborne Family Bible. Names of ten children. Bible Collection. TSLA. On-line  
Claiborne Bible. Marriages. Bible Collection. TSLA. On-line  
Members of Tennessee & U.S. House of Representatives. On-line  
Hannah Hicks Claiborne. Tombstone moved from earlier burial ground. City Cemetery website  
Obituary. Thomas Claiborne *Nashville Republican Banner*, Jan. 10, 1856 City Cemetery website  
Minutes of Cumberland Lodge No. 8. Microfilm # 433. TSLA  
History of Sarah Claiborne. *Nashville Republican Banner*, Feb. 17, 1869  
City Cemetery Interment. Claibourne (sic) Thomas, Jan. 10, 1856 City Cemetery website  
City Cemetery Interment. Claiborne, Mrs. S.M. April 28, 1871 City Cemetery website  
Davidson County Will Book 2. Sarah Claiborne. Will recorded June 30, 1871

Fletch Coke 2017