



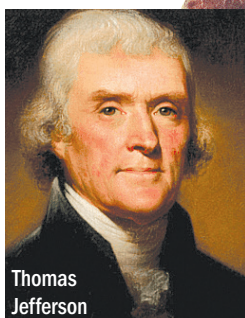
WHAT
HAPPENED

William
Charles Cole
Claiborne
died in 1817
at age 42.

William C.C. Claiborne accomplished a great deal in his relatively short life.



Aaron
Burr



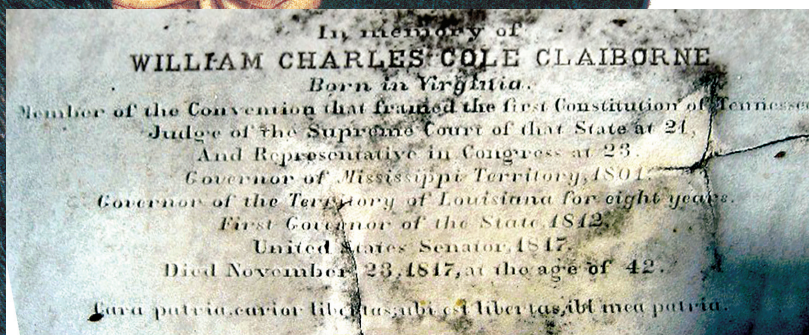
Thomas
Jefferson

William C.C. Claiborne won the support of Thomas Jefferson after Claiborne, as a member of the House of Representatives, cast a deciding vote in favor of Jefferson over Aaron Burr for president in the election of 1800.

William
Charles
Cole
Claiborne



Thomas
Jefferson
appointed
William
C.C. Claiborne
governor of
the Louisiana
territory in
1803.



William C.C. Claiborne's grave in Metairie Cemetery. Claiborne, a Protestant, was originally buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, but was later reinterred in Metairie Cemetery.

But perhaps his biggest accomplishment was winning over New Orleans' Creole population after America took over the Louisiana Territory. Claiborne was born in Virginia and moved west, where he was elected to the House of Representatives for Tennessee in 1797 to fill the seat vacated by Andrew Jackson — even though at 24, Claiborne was too young to do so. After the presidential election of 1800, when the House of Representatives had to determine the outcome of the election between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, Claiborne sided with Jefferson. Jefferson rewarded Claiborne by appointing him governor of the Mississippi Territory. In 1803, Jefferson appointed Claiborne and Maj. Gen. James Wilkinson to take possession of the Louisiana territory from France. Claiborne was then appointed governor of the Territory of Orleans and elected the first governor of Louisiana when it became a state. At first, there was mutual disdain between the French-speaking Creoles and Claiborne. He found them “uninformed, indolent, luxurious.” The Creoles didn't trust the English-speaking Claiborne. But Claiborne won over the Creoles by conducting state business in both French and English. He also won respect through his quick response to the 1811 River Parish slave revolt. His popularity helped him defeat Creole Jacques Villere in the election for governor in 1812. Claiborne was elected to the U.S. Senate but served just a few months before dying in 1817.