



# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VI

October 1992

No. 4

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

If you saw Katherine Mize's recent article ["Cutbacks cripple Houston's public libraries," *Houston Chronicle*, September 14, 1992], you may well be alarmed at the magnitude of the cutbacks facing the Houston Library System in fiscal year 1993. Your support of CLF fund raising and volunteer activities is more critical now than ever before. Here is a run-down on some of the figures put forward by Ms. Mize:

Going into the next fiscal year, the Houston Library System will see a cut of 19.5 percent in the number of books purchased, and there will be a 27 percent reduction in subscriptions. Since 1985, the system's book budget has declined by 47.3 percent (against inflation), and the overall materials budget is down 61.6 percent over the same period. Since 1986, the system's total staff has been reduced by 24 percent. For fiscal year 1993, the system will be forced to leave 59 of

660 positions vacant. Adding to this problem, the President's Budget seeks a cut of 76 percent in Department of Education library programs for the next federal fiscal year. At the state level, our own Texas Legislature has mandated a cut in funding of the Texas State Library and Archives of 5 percent

in the next biennial budget.

The degree to which such funding cuts affect the Clayton Library is determined to a large extent by your support of Clayton Library Friends. Your monetary gifts ensure the continued acquisition of research materials and the expansion

of existing facilities, and your in-library volunteer work helps offset staff reductions.

You depend on Clayton Library for your family history research; can Clayton Library depend on you? When renewals come up next year, please consider making an additional "Special Friends" contribution to CLF.

Ruby Dusek

## REPORT FROM THE CLF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the August 8<sup>th</sup> CLF meeting, Karen Daniel, Judy Barnett, Mary Paez, Ginny Toney, and Patrick Cochran were elected as members of a nominating committee to assemble a proposed slate of officers and directors for next year. The committee's work has now been completed, and Karen Daniel, the committee chairman, wishes to place in nomination the following individuals—

For President:

*Malcolm Scott McCorquodale III*

First Vice-President:

*Margaret Grigsby Mottley*

Second Vice-President:

*Vivian Hill Jordan*

Secretary:

*Judy Seitzler Barnett*

Treasurer:

*Leslie John Martin*

Directors:

*Carolyn Dowden Grimm*

*William R. Swearingen*

*Keith E. James*

For more information on the candidates, please see page 2.

## October is Foreign Acquisitions Month!

**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS**

P. O. Box 271078  
 Houston, Texas 77277-1078  
 Established 1987



*Clayton Library Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3). The sole purpose of CLF is to enrich the resources and facilities of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.*

**OFFICERS**

- Ruby Vigneaux Dusek .....President
- Fredericka Richter DeBerry ...1<sup>st</sup> VP
- Mary Burns Stark ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- Judy Seitzler Barnett ..... Secretary
- Kerry Short ..... Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

- Bruce A. Breeding
- Donald E. Pusch
- Karen Stein Daniel
- Virginia Newbanks Lloyd
- Malcolm S. McCorquodale III
- Pierre R. Mommessin

**CLF NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Donald E. Pusch

**Annual Membership Dues**

- Individual..... \$10.00
- Two People (same address)... \$15.00

**Special Friends**

- Contributor .....\$1 to \$49
- Donor .....\$50 to \$99
- Patron .....\$100 to \$249
- Sponsor .....\$250 to \$499
- Benefactor .....\$500 and above

**Malcolm McCorquodale**, nominee for President, is a native of Houston and is employed by American General. Mr. McCorquodale holds a Bachelor of Science degree in computer and information science from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He is currently a CLF director and chairman of the grants committee, a job that he has pursued with substantial success over the past two years; at the CLF meeting in February, Mr. McCorquodale had the pleasure of presenting Clayton Library with a \$50,000 grant check acquired from the Houston Endowment Fund. He is a former officer of the Houston Area League of Personal Computer Users (HAL-PC) and is currently the coordinator for HAL-PC's genealogy special interest group.

**Margaret Mottley**, nominee for First Vice-President, is a native of Palestine, Texas. In addition to doing volunteer work for many years, Mrs. Mottley has worked as a parish secretary and, for seven years, was secretary-treasurer of the San Simeon Townhomes Association. She is currently administrative secretary for The National Grigsby Family Association and, as a Clayton Library volunteer, she is project lead for the Fogle-West Funeral Home Records Indexing Project. She has been active in genealogical research for the past 12 years.

**Vivian Jordan**, nominee for Second Vice-President, was born in El Paso, Texas, but came to Houston at the age of six. Her family roots go back to New England, Virginia, and the Carolinas. Mrs. Jordan retired from the Clayton Library in 1989 where she had been a staff member for twelve years. She is a charter member of the Clayton Library Friends and is presently a director of The Houston Genealogical Forum. Lineage society affiliations include the Mayflower Society (librarian), DAR (chapter records chairman), and the Huguenot Society (treasurer). In her spare time, Mrs. Jordan does professional genealogical research.

**Judy Barnett**, nominee for Secretary, is a native Houstonian. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Houston and a Registered Nurse degree from Baptist Memorial Hospital. She retired from nursing in 1986, but has remained active in her involvement in numerous lineage, historical, and community-service organizations. Mrs. Barnett is a co-founder and charter member of Clayton Library Friends and served as recording secretary in 1987 and 1988; she is currently serving in the post of secretary. Active in genealogical work in Houston for many years, Mrs. Barnett was one of five individuals who organized the Houston Genealogical Forum in 1958. She has been researching her and her husband's family since the early 1940s and boasts ten Revolutionary War ancestors.

**Les Martin**, nominee for Treasurer, is a native Houstonian and a recent retiree from Southwestern Bell Telephone. In his twenty-five years with Bell, Mr. Martin was involved in a wide variety of technical projects and network design initiatives. He attended both Texas A&M University and the University of Houston and holds a degree in business administration from the latter. Mr. Martin has been active in genealogy and in community service for a number of years and, for three years, served as treasurer for the Texas Fathers for Equal Rights organization.

*Continued on page 3.*

### The Candidates (Continued from page 2)

**Carolyn Grimm**, nominee for CLF Director, is a native of Port Neches, Texas, but has lived in Houston since 1952, where she attended the University of Houston. Her family roots go back to Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, and to Bedford County, Tennessee. Mrs. Grimm is a retired pastry chef, having worked for a number of years as a bakery supervisory. She has been doing genealogical research for over 25 years and has collected a set of some 10,000 names on her family tree. She is an active member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and has held both local and district offices in that organization.

**Bill Swearingen**, nominee for CLF Director, is a native of New Iberia, Louisiana, but has called Houston home since 1950. Mr. Swearingen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Lamar University in Beaumont and is currently employed by Dresser Industries. His ancestry, on his mother's side, can be traced back to the legendary Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, founder of Natchitoches, Louisiana. He is currently seminar chairman for The Houston Genealogical Forum and recently accepted the post of ground transportation chairman for the 1994 NGS Conference. In addition to his genealogical interests, Mr. Swearingen is active in the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and is an adult counselor for Boy Scouts of America Troop 642.

**Keith James**, nominee for CLF Director, is a native of Texas and, for the past 25 years, a resident of Houston. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and describes himself as a "semi-retired" chemist, involved in both laboratory work and sales/marketing. Although genealogy is now his first interest, Mr. James has been active for a number of years in civic and public-service organizations and in work with the Episcopal Church.

### ☐ VOLUNTEERS

#### Don Pusch

My sincere thanks to the many individuals who helped out in the library in August and September. Special thanks to Elizabeth Babcock, Judy Barnett, Mildred Carroll, Eva Cunningham, Conrad Mang, Miriam Slemmons, Virginia Lloyd, and Bill and Ginny Toney for the fine work done in supporting the micro-print desk during a very busy time.

Margaret Mottley, coordinator for the Fogle-West Funeral Home Records Indexing Project, reports that over 10,000 records have been entered. The project is now to the point where we need a few extra volunteers willing to proof-read the database print-outs against the original records. If you would like to assist with this project, please contact me at (713) 326-3270. For specific information regarding what the proof-reading task involves, you may also wish to contact Trevia Beverly at (713) 864-6862.

### ☐ FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS

#### Pierre Mommessin

The entire month of October has been designated "Foreign Acquisitions Month" by the Clayton Library Friends. With this October seeing the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas, it is a fitting time to focus our interests on the Old World and on the family roots that many of us have there.

Whether or not your genealogy extends overseas, we hope that the next time you are at Clayton you will take time to browse through the foreign collection and consider how you would like to see it grow to serve your current or future needs. Since your interests are important to us, we would also ask that you take time to complete the enclosed *Foreign Acquisitions Committee Survey*. By providing us with this feedback, we will be better able to steer the collection in a direction that will meet the greatest needs of the library's patrons.

During October, we also solicit your designated gifts to CLF for the expansion of Clayton's foreign collection. Please consider sending in a check—along with your survey form—to the CLF address noted at the top of the form. Checks should be made payable to *Clayton Library Friends* and should be marked "foreign acquisitions."



Please  
tell us about  
your interests in  
immigrant ancestors by com-  
pleting and mailing in the enclosed  
survey form. We'd like to hear from  
you!!!

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## PROGRAM NOTES

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If you missed the last CLF meeting, you missed a very informative talk by Maxine Alcorn on "Military Records at Clayton Library." The following is a short summary:

Clayton Library has a substantial collection of material related to military service, ranging from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 to the Mexican War and the U.S. Civil War. Library holdings include all indexes to federal pension records from the Revolutionary War through 1934. This includes Union soldiers and widows. For the Revolutionary War, holdings include *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Land Warrent Application Files, 1800-1900* (NARA M 805, 898 rolls). Being purchased, as budget

permits, is the *Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers* (NARA M 253). Some Union service records are available in book form; however, the library has not been able to purchase the NARA film indexes to Union service. Other military-service-related material includes *Register of Enlistments in the United States Army 1798-1914* (NARA M 233, 81 rolls) and *Special Index to Numbered Records of Revolutionary Records, 1775-1783* (NARA M 847, 39 rolls). Such federal records are augmented by a considerable amount of material compiled and indexed by state societies, including much material contained in local historical and genealogical periodicals.

Another excellent source of information on military service is John P. Butler, comp., *Index to the Papers*

*of the Continental Congress 1771-1789*, which indexes *Papers of the Continental Congress 1771-1789* (NARA M 247, 204 rolls), *Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress 1774-1789* (NARA M 332, 10 rolls), and *Records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787* (NARA M 866, one roll).

Since there is still a tremendous volume of pension and bounty land warrant applications that have not been indexed, it is essential that you become familiar with the many finding aids that can help you narrow your search for that elusive veteran. Researchers are strongly encouraged to consult these aids, many of which can be found in the shelves opposite the WiseCat terminals on the first floor or on the second floor to the right of the main staircase.

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### Bids taken on Clayton home restoration

On September 10<sup>th</sup> the City of Houston accepted bids on restoration work for the old Clayton home, former repository of the Clayton Library collection. Work on this phase of the project will include restoration of exterior wood and brickwork and complete renovation of the building's air conditioning and electrical systems. Houston City Council is expected to make a final contractor selection by the middle of November, and the work itself will take approximately nine months to complete. After restoration, the Clayton home will remain a part of the Clayton Library facility.

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### Congratulation to Karen Daniel, "C.G."

We were pleased to learn that CLF Director Karen Daniel has completed requirements for the designation "Certified Genealogist." Congratulations, Karen!

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## Report on 1994 National Genealogical Society Houston Conference

**Trevia Wooster Beverly, Host-Society Chairman**

Excitement has been building for the Houston Conference, and a much larger attendance is now anticipated. We've moved! To the entire third floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center! Clayton Library Friends will host the NGS Conference, and we want to give those attending a big **TEXAS WELCOME!** We anticipate some 150 vendor exhibits, lecturers of national prominence, computer demonstrations and workshops, many special non-vendor exhibits, and a lot of other "fun" things.

To put on a **TEXAS-SIZE CONFERENCE**, we'll need people. **YOU** can help! There is something that everyone can do, so we invite you to let us know if you would like to serve on our volunteer staff in some way. We are now forming a Staff Pool that our committee chairmen can draw upon for committee members. Call me at 864-6862, and we can discuss the various needs for your consideration.

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## DialCat Brings it Home

Did you know that you can view the Houston Public Library catalog (including Clayton's holdings) without ever leaving home? Last year, this service was made available via dial-up modem to individuals with properly equipped personal computers, "PCs" in computer lingo. Anyone with a PC, a modem, modem software, and a phone line can access and view the catalog without ever leaving home. The system, referred to as "DialCat," can be accessed by calling 247-2244 (this is a data line, not a voice line, so don't expect to talk to anyone). Protocol for the DialCat interface is as follows: Terminal emulation should be set to ANSI or VT100; any baud rate up to 9600 will work; configure your system for eight bits, one stop bit, no parity, and full duplex.

Once you have linked to the DialCat, type <ENTER> twice; you should see the welcoming banner and the DialCat menu. Three choices are offered: You can search on any word (author, book title, etc.) or on any of several retrieval numbers, you can view the entire catalog in alphabetical order, or you can browse a subject area that interests you. On-screen instructions are provided to help you navigate around within DialCat. In addition to being able to search on a key word, you can get very specific in your search by stringing together the boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT. When you find the item you want, you can capture the bibliographical information you need by doing a screen print. Unfortunately, that's about as far as the system goes in the direction of high-tech. No capability is provided to assemble an entire bibliography or to download it to your system—a major shortcoming that we think will eventually be fixed.

DialCat service is available 24 hours a day, and there is even technical help that can be obtained by calling 247-3501. The help line, of course, is not

manned 24 hours a day, but it is equipped with a recorder on which you can leave messages. ■■■■■

## Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

### Financial Report

(For the period 1/1/92 thru 9/18/92)

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT—First Interstate

Balance at 1/1/92 . . . . . \$1,842

##### Deposits:

Membership . . . . . 4,900

##### Contributions:

Foundation . . . . . 50,000

Other . . . . . 6,379

Total . . . . . 56,379

Total Deposits . . . . . 61,279

##### Withdrawals:

Clayton Library . . . . . 55,916

NGS Conference . . . . . 344

Newsletter printing . . . . . 426

Membership Directory . . . . . 452

Brochures for Library & NGS Conference . . 530

Pencils for Library . . . . . 83

Bulk Mail Deposit . . . . . 175

P.O. Box rental . . . . . 93

Tax filing . . . . . 49

South Main Center Asso. Dues . . . . . 100

Postage, Misc. . . . . 176

Total Disbursements . . . . . (58,344)

Balance at 9/18/92 . . . . . \$4,777

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT—Bank One . . . . . \$4,624

TOTAL OPERATING FUND CASH &  
INVESTMENTS at 9/18/92. . . . . \$9,401

#### ENDOWMENT FUND—University State Bank

Certificate of deposit . . . . . 5,240

Savings account . . . . . 2,281 . . . . . 7,521

BULK MAIL ACCOUNT—Balance at 9/18/92 . . . . . \$100

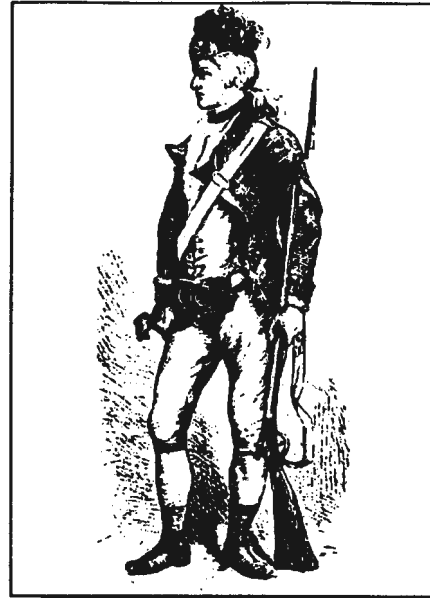
Kerry Short, Treasurer

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## □ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

Ginny Toney

Looking for a Virginia ancestor who may have fought in the Revolutionary War? At the end of the Virginia section, with the periodicals, you will find *Virginia Appalachian Notes*. In volume 12 (1988) is an article entitled "Pensioners from 1840 Virginia Census." This contains a listing of all names from the Virginia 1840 U.S. Census that were coded as "Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services." This list, arranged first by county, then alphabetically by name, is an excellent finding aid. Since many of the pensioners listed are above 80 years of age, quite a few of them are not listed as "head of household." As a result, their names will not appear in 1840 census indexes that list only the heads of households.



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