



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VII

May 1993

No. 2

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: May 15

Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose
10:15 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. W. Arthur Allee

"Soundex in Genealogy"

Dr. Allee, a retired professor at the University of Houston, is a records management expert, educator, and author. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the State University of Iowa, and prior to joining the University of Houston he held teaching positions at both the State University of Iowa and the University of Illinois. He has been interested in genealogy and family history since 1978, and for the past several years has taken groups on research trips to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Society affiliations include the Sons of the American Revolution, Magna Carta Barons, Americans of Royal Descent, the Jamestown Society, the Colonial Order of the Crown, and many others.



*All eyes will be turned
toward Houston*

June 1-4, 1994!

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS, supported by several local genealogical and ethnic organizations, will be host to the NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S annual Conference in the States. The third floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center has been reserved for this conference, which will be the major genealogical event in the nation next year, presenting an impressive array of nationally known speakers, a large Computer Expo that

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Reminder to CLF members donating books

If you donate a book directly to Clayton Library, please complete a donation card (available at the main desk) and indicate on the card that you are giving the book through CLF. This will ensure that CLF is given credit for the donation. Please also state the value of the book. The total value of the books you donate during the year will then be credited toward your "Special Friends" contribution. (See the "Special Friends" donation categories at the bottom of page 2.)

President's Column

Several items of note...

- ✓ For those of you who hate to work with the "wet" microfilm copiers on the second floor of the library, I am pleased to announce that Library Manager Maxine Alcorn has ordered two new dry-process microfilm copiers. These will be purchased out of the Houston Endowment "equipment" money raised through our efforts. This will be a significant enhancement to the already first-class microprint area.
- ✓ Southwestern Bell recently donated an IBM-AT personal computer to the Clayton Library Friends. We are attempting to set this up to assist with the inputting of Glenwood Cemetery records, a project that is just now in the planning stage.
- ✓ We are getting close to the one-million-dollar mark in the amount of money raised by Clayton Library Friends. In fact, if 300 members would each contribute one hundred dollars, we could meet this goal.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A MILLION!

- ✓ My sincere thanks to all those who helped with the yearbook this time around: Ginny Toney, Norman Crook, Margaret Mottley, and James Younglove.
- ✓ Looking forward to seeing everyone on May 15th!

Malcolm McCorquodale III

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.

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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

Update on Clayton home restoration

As reported in the last newsletter, the Capital Projects Department (City of Houston) had recommended rejection of the low bid for the Clayton home restoration project due to a bid bonding deficiency. In cases where the low bid is not accepted, it is necessary to conduct a public hearing before City Council prior to awarding the contract to the next lowest bidder. After a delay of several months, the required hearing was held on April 14th, and the Capital Projects Department was given authorization to proceed with an award to Mesa Southwest Construction Corporation. According to David Henington, Director of the Houston Public Library, a start-work authorization will be issued to Mesa on or about May 1st.

More information on *DialCat*

On January 19th, the Houston Public Library placed in operation an improved version of the *DialCat* system. Like the old *DialCat*, the new system allows users with personal computers and modems to dial into a computer-resident database that can be searched for bibliographical data on library holdings. In addition to the material held by Houston Public Library, holdings of Harris County Public Library, Pasadena Public Library, Port Arthur Public Library, Baytown's Sterling Municipal Library, and others are also accessible through *DialCat*. The new system provides access to databases that are updated on a continuous basis, giving it the capability to provide information on the availability of material (that is, whether or not the material is in the library or is checked out).

Anyone with a personal computer and a modem can browse the catalog; however, some of the databases in *DialCat* cannot be accessed without a library card number. If you are not a Houston resident, there is an annual fee for a library card. Further details on *DialCat* operation are available from any Houston Library branch. If you would like to hook up to *DialCat* and try your hand at it, the number is (713) 247-2244. Modem settings: 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

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will include hands-on training sessions and upwards of 200 vendor exhibitors offering books, computer software, genealogical services, and many other items of interest to genealogists and family historians. In addition, there will be special exhibits and activities that will make this a conference that no one will want to miss. "In work" since May of 1988, some 20 different committees and subcommittees have been named to implement the various needs of the Conference. Volunteer opportunities are unlimited, and your place of service

will be tailored to your special talents and conference time schedule. From helping at the registration desk, the information center, or the exhibit area, to serving as a lecture-room host, Clayton bus host, or volunteer at the library, WE NEED YOU! There is something for everyone; if you have not yet volunteered, please call me at (713) 864-6862 and let's discuss your participation.

Trevia Wooster Beverly
Houston Host Chairman

PROGRAM NOTES

At the February 13th CLF meeting, educator Tom Green spoke on the subject of "The Non-Population Census Schedule of 1880: Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent." The following is a recap of Mr. Green's presentation:

In the years following the Civil War, the U.S. Government—as the central governing authority—first began to focus on the solution of wide-ranging social problems affecting the nation. The federal census became a means by which the magnitude of those problems could be better understood. To the 1880 census were added seven non-population schedules that attempted to count and to characterize certain individuals. This included persons designated as insane, idiots, blind, deaf-mute, homeless children, inhabitants in prison, and paupers and indigents. Thanks to these additional schedules, family historians are given a means for obtaining additional clues regarding family medical backgrounds, persons who "dropped out," or children who may have been adopted.

On the 1880 population schedule, questions 16 through 20 have to do with the health of the individuals enumerated. If a person in the household was insane, an idiot, blind, or a deaf-mute, the enumerator was required to mark the appropriate column (thus: "/") and to record more information on the corresponding non-population schedule. Although the population schedule does not contain columns that specifically identify them, homeless children, prisoners, and the institutionalized poor were also entered in non-population schedules.

The first five entries on each of the non-population schedules are for page and line numbers, name, city or town, and county/state. The next seven entries provide space for information pertinent to that particular schedule,

and it is important for the researcher to read carefully the "notes" given to the enumerator as instructions for completing the entries. We address five of the seven schedules here:

Schedule A: Insane Inhabitants. This schedule includes people classified as "insane" by 1880 standards. Thus, we find enumerated individual with melancholia (depression), paresis (paralysis), and dipsomania (alcoholism) as well as those with epilepsy and brain damage. In many cases, notes entered by the enumerator provide interesting insight into the individual's circumstances. (Mr. Green cited the example of a woman who, according to a family story, was "insane." In checking the appropriate non-population schedule entry, he found a note to the affect that the woman had actually been kicked in the head by a horse!)

Schedule A-1: Idiots. According to the instructions to the enumerator: "An idiot is a person the development of whose mental facilities was arrested in infancy or childhood before coming to maturity." Enumerators were required to obtain information from physicians as to the number of such persons in their enumeration district and to seek additional details regarding those individuals. This included such things as the age at which the idiocy occurred, the supposed cause of the idiocy, whether or not the person was self supporting, and whether or not the person had ever attended a trade school for idiots.

Schedule C: Homeless Children. If the researcher finds an individual listed in the "Homeless Children" schedule, a rather substantial amount of information may be obtained. Entries (if properly completed by the enumerator) will indicate if the child's parents are living, if the child was abandoned, if the child was born in or surrendered to an institution, the year the child was admitted to the institution, whether or not the parents

had ever been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for committing a crime and, if so, the nature of the crime.

Schedule C-1: Inhabitants in Prison. The purpose of this schedule was not only to enumerate the individuals but to account for their condition. Enumerators were required to record each prisoner's name on the regular population schedule and then transfer the name to the special schedule. Information to be found here will include the place of imprisonment, the nature of the crime, and the length of the sentence being served.

Schedule D: Pauper and Indigent. The "paupers and indigents" schedule includes individuals quartered in poor houses and asylums as well as those boarded at public expense in private homes. The information found here is focused on the condition of the individuals listed and on the costs associated with their maintenance. We find here comments about the person's mental and physical health, whether or not the person is able-bodied, who the provider of care is, and the costs of that care. If the individual was residing in an institution for the poor, this schedule will also have the date of admission and will indicate whether or not other members of the person's family resided in the same institution.

The above-described schedules of the 1880 census are worth looking into, especially in those cases where an ancestor has "dropped out" of other records. Investigating them carefully could open entirely new paths in your search for family ties. For researchers interested in further information on the 1880 non-population schedules, Mr. Green recommends Ruth Land Hatten, C.G.R.S., "The 'Forgotten' Census of 1880: Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 80, no. 1 (March 1992), pp. 57-70.

□ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY



"I saved myself five hours."

Many people overlook the importance of bibliographies to the success of their family history research. This is unfortunate, since they could save many hours of research if they simply learned to use such material. One very excellent bibliography at Clayton is *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry*, compiled by P. William Filby (3rd ed.; Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1983), call number 016.929 F479 3ED. The first and second editions will be found in the U.S. section; the third edition is on the "ready reference and finding aids" shelf. The books are marked with large red dots on their spines. The third edition has some 9800 entries—nearly double the size of the second edition—and retains the same successful format as previous ones. Bibliographical listings are grouped according to geographic area with listings for U.S., Latin America, Canada, Great Britain, and other regions. Entries contain a brief description of the work, a full bibliographical citation, and, for books still in print, information on where the item may be ordered. To assist readers in finding the item they need, Filby has included an index that contains some 20,000 entries. In some cases, if Clayton owns a book listed in *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry*, the call number—written in pencil—will appear in the margin; if no call number appears, researchers should check the library catalog.

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