



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII

February 1994

No. 1

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

February 12th

Montrose Library
4100 Montrose
10:15 a.m.

Speaker: Trevia Beverly
Host Society Chairman
1994 NGS Conference

"What is the NGS Conference?"
(See note on page 6.)

Books at the bindery

If you are unable to find a book that is supposed to be at Clayton Library, check the "bindery list." This is in a black, three-ring notebook, located on the WiseCat table, that lists all books that are at the bindery. A second copy of the list is located in the staff notebook on the reference desk. Books that are sent to the bindery may be missing from the shelves for up to six weeks. ●

President's Column

"Dost thou know how to play the fiddle?" "No," answered Themistocles, "but I understand the art of raising a little village into a great city." (Motto on mast head of the *Emigrant Aid Journal*.)

Daniel J. Boorstin, in his epic work, *The Americans—The National Experience*, offers a lively discussion of what he terms "community-ism" and the "booster spirit." He defines community-ism as a preoccupation with the growth and prosperity of one's city or local community and calls it a leading characteristic and secret strength in the development of America. Booster spirit, as discussed by Boorstin, consists of optimism, initiative, enterprise, loyalty, and boundless enthusiasm in support by voluntary contribution from the surrounding community to strengthen and better itself. This spirit of volunteerism began very early in American life and became a tradition that did not wane or die, but gathered intensity. The booster spirit, at its best, combined with powerful local support to reinforce our New World tendencies toward strengthened ties to our community.

Let us vow to take this spirit of optimism and volunteerism to new heights this year as we continue to watch Clayton Library grow "into a great city." We are already well on our way there, due in large part to the efforts of many wonderful, dedicated, and selfless volunteers performing in every imaginable type of service open to us. Let us place you in a volunteer position according to your interests, talents, and time commitments. You are important to the Friends and to Clayton Library. Our booster spirit is contagious, and you'll feel good about yourself. Don't be left out.

This year will be perhaps the most important and certainly the most visible year ever for Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends as we host the National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States in June. We will be greeting genealogists from all over the world. It will be a perfect opportunity to showcase the Clayton Library and let the international genealogical community discover what we already know—that we have one of the finest genealogical facilities and collections in existence. To accomplish this enormous undertaking effectively, we need dozens of volunteers over a period of several days. If you can help for a day or an hour, let us know. We have a job just for you. Clayton Library, the Friends, and the City of Houston have everything to gain from this conference. Let's put on our best "Texas" smile and welcome the world to our house.

Sewell appointed CLF Director

CLF Director Keith James, who has moved out of the Houston area, resigned his post in December. In accordance with Article VI, Section 6.4 of the CLF bylaws, the Executive Board has appointed Mr. Glenn E. Sewell to fill this position. Mr. Sewell's appointment was effective January 10th, and he will serve during 1994 as a second-term director.

Karen Stein Daniel

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

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

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 Margaret Grigsby Mottley 1st VP
 Ruth Chambers Lewis 2nd VP
 Kathryn Holloway Strack ..Secretary
 Robert L. Lowry Jr..... Treasurer

FIRST TERM DIRECTORS

Mic Barnette
 John Dorroh
 Ann Brittain Reed

SECOND TERM DIRECTORS

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 Glenn E. Sewell
 William R. Swearingen

CLF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Committee assignments

Following is a current list of CLF committee and project assignments:

- Margaret Mottley—Membership*
- Vivian Jordan—Programs*
- Jim Younglove—Mailing Lists, Membership Roster*
- Eleanor McGee—Secretarial Support*
- Jane Mann—Secretarial Support*
- Ruth Lewis—Ways and Means*
- Ruby Dusek—Parliamentarian*
- Mic Barnette—Volunteer Projects and Services Coordination*
- Elizabeth Hicks—Volunteers Screening and Recruiting*
- Don Pusch—CLF Newsletter, Microprint Desk (lead)*
- Margaret Mottley—Fogle-West Funeral Home Records Project (lead)*
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- Ann Smith—Historian*
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- Ginny Toney—Publicity*
- Trevia Beverly—1994 NGS Conference (Host Society Chairman)*



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Clayton Library Friends

Treasurer's Financial Report (For the period 1/1/93 through 12/31/93)

CHECKING ACCOUNT—First Interstate

Balance at 1/1/93 \$567

Deposits:

Membership, 1993 \$4,815
 Membership, 1994 3,980
 Contributions 14,730
 Total Deposits 23,525

Withdrawals:

Clayton Library \$13,600
 Audit and Tax Service 1,237
 Newsletter Printing 677
 Bulk Mail Deposits 500
 NGS Meeting 205
 NGS Mailing 20
 Office Supplies 178
 Post Office Box Rental 93
 Postage/Mail Misc 387
 Publicity 41
 Yearbook Printing 504
 Misc. Expenses 459
 Total Disbursements 17,901

Balance at 12/31/93 6,191

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT— Bank One 4,940

TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS at 12/31/93 11,131

ENDOWMENT FUND—University State Bank

Certificate of deposit 5,240
 Savings Account 2,679 7,919

Robert L. Lowry Jr., Treasurer

✓ 1993 financial audit slated

The CLF Executive Board has engaged Durio & Company, Certified Public Accountants, to audit the 1993 financial records. The audit will be performed during the month of February, and a draft financial statement will be available for Board approval in mid-March. Special thanks are in order for CLF treasurer Robert Lowry, who has done a tremendous job over the past several months in preparing our financial records for this audit.

Clayton Library Friends wishes to acknowledge major grants received from the following trusts and foundations during 1993:

The Mada L. Hackedorn Trust

The Kayser Foundation

The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation

The Harry and Isabel Cameron Foundation

Notes from the November meeting

At the November CLF meeting, Karen L. Daniel, C.G., spoke on the topic of "Locating and Using Records of Emigration/Immigration at Clayton Library." Ms. Daniel addressed three principal topics: the character and significance of nineteenth and early twentieth century immigration to the U.S., the importance of developing a search strategy for finding the place of origin of your immigrant ancestors, and using the Clayton Library's collection to assist you in following the strategy you have selected.

Background. Since 1607, over 42 million people have migrated to the U.S., with the more significant numbers clustered in multiple waves extending from the end of the War of 1812 to the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Fortunately, a high percentage of the immigrants entering the U.S. during this one-hundred-year period are documented in passenger lists, customs records, or immigration papers, and it is possible to extract from these documents some very interesting statistical data. We find, for example, that the largest single source of immigration to the U.S. was Germany (peak year 1882), followed closely by Italy (peak year 1907) and Ireland (peak year 1851).

Search Strategy. The importance of having—and following—a search strategy cannot be overemphasized. A good first step is to study background information relating to the general topic of immigration; this will help you get oriented with respect to reference sources and search techniques. Re-examine the research you have already done, focusing on anything that might reveal your ancestor's place of origin, port of entry, or time of immigration. Was your ancestor a member of an ethnic association? Did he pass down any personal papers containing foreign-language text or letters postmarked from the old country? Is there a family tradition

Continued on page 5

□ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

Italians to America

Karen Stein Daniel, C.G.

If you have Italian ancestry, you will want to consult a new source at Clayton Library: *Italians to America, 1889-1899*, edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. This is the first fully indexed reference work devoted to Italian immigrants to the United States. When completed, the series is expected to include twelve volumes (four are currently available). This important source contains passenger list information on the first major wave of Italian immigration during the last two decades of the nineteenth century.

Passenger lists are presented in chronological order by each ship's date of arrival and include information on each person's age, sex, occupation, village of origin, and destination. These lists indicate the name of the ship, the port of embarkation, and the date of arrival in the U.S. port. Each volume also contains an introduction on the history of Italian immigration to the U.S. and a full name index.

Over 900,000 Italians immigrated to the U.S. between 1880 and 1899. Although Italians departed almost entirely from Italian ports, this series will include Italian departures from all foreign ports. The vast majority of Italians immigrated to New York City (about 90%), and the first eight volumes of the series are expected to deal with those arrivals. Later volumes will cover other U.S. ports. The database for this project was derived from the original ship manifest schedules housed at the Temple-Balch Institute's Center for Immigration Research in Philadelphia. According to the editors, "Italy experienced a migration boom between 1871 and 1915 when over 13.5 million emigrants left the country for European and overseas destinations. Migration was the most visible manifestation of a disequilibrium caused by a stagnant

economy and increasing population pressure." The exodus was also aided by poverty, backwardness, isolation, and ignorance. Demographic pressures, low wages, the desire for greater social mobility, surplus labor, an agricultural crisis in the 1880s, and cheap and more efficient transport contributed to the emigration.

The U.S. emerged as the primary destination of Italian emigrants after 1898. Prior to that time, between 1880 and 1897, Argentina and Brazil were major destinations for Italians. The emigrants were mostly male (80%), of working age, and generally married. The largest number, however, traveled as singles to the U.S.

They were not from the poorest classes, since they were able to afford the cost of migration. They were, however, largely unskilled and illiterate.

By the 1890s, Italian emigration was largely a matter of "chain migration," in which family networks played a crucial role. An earlier generation of migrants generally provided transport, accommodations, employment, and support for more recent arrivals. This helps to explain the development of "Little Italies" where fellow townsmen clustered together within cities.

For those interested in an Italian-Texas connection, it should be noted that the Italian population of Texas was small as compared to that of the Northeast and Midwest. While there were Italians to be found in Texas during very early periods, by 1920, slightly more than 8,000 foreign-born Italians lived in Texas, mostly in the Galveston-Houston area, in the Brazos valley between Bryan and Hearne, and in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. Through their ethnic clubs and societies and a strong sense of community, Italians have maintained a distinct identity on the Texas scene. ●



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NGS Conference

At the February 12th Friends meeting, Trevia Wooster Beverly will be presenting details of the June 1-4 National Genealogical Society Conference, this year's most significant and prestigious genealogical happening. Clayton Library Friends is serving as host society for this year's conference, which will be held in the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Family researchers will have the opportunity to hear nationally known speakers presenting "how-to" lectures on research methods, the use of immigration, naturalization, church, land, and military records, and a host of other broad-based topics. There will also be programs on a number of specialty subjects including American-Indian, Hispanic, and Black genealogy. Workshops will be offered on cemetery research, the preservation of family documents, the dating of old photographs, and the location

and use of vital records. Genealogical librarians, teachers, and museum personnel will find sessions geared specifically to them.

Because of the mushrooming interest in genealogical computing, we have planned a number of computer workshops, lectures, and software demonstrations that will interest both the novice and the advanced computer user. There will also be a large vendor area featuring genealogical books, maps, computer software, preservation supplies, reference materials on CD ROM, publishing and research services, and a multitude of other items.

Mrs. Beverly, a charter member of the Clayton Library Friends and a long-time member of the NGS, is serving as Host Society Chairman for this year's conference. Come to the February 12th CLF meeting and get all the details about this most exciting event. You'll be glad you did!

>>>>>We need your help!<<<<<

Volunteers are being signed up now to help with the National Genealogical Society Conference, June 1-4. Your talents can be put to good use both at Clayton Library and at the conference site. If you are interested, please contact John Dorroh (office: 713-498-2603 or home: 713-781-2741) or Trevia Beverly (713-864-6862).

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