



*Clayton Library Friends: Host Society  
for the National Genealogical Society  
Conference in the States, June 1994.*

# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII

August 1994

No. 3

## President's Column

The marking last month of our country's 218<sup>th</sup> birthday brings to mind the social and cultural values passed down to us by the founding fathers. Among these was the recognition that books and libraries are essential to the maintenance and growth of a free society.

Carl Van Doren, in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Benjamin Franklin*, tells us that Franklin was an "avid, powerful reader of many books." Franklin was always surrounded by books, in his private and social life and in his business. In 1730, he made a suggestion to a group to which he belonged that all their books might be conveniently brought together to form a library from which all of the members would benefit. After



experimenting with this arrangement for about a year, Franklin conceived a plan to organize a subscription library in the city of Philadelphia that could serve a much larger community. He worked out the details of the venture, and on July 1, 1731, an "Instrument of Association" was drawn up and signed. With money provided by subscribers, books were ordered from a Quaker merchant in London. The library grew rapidly, and by 1769 had absorbed all of its Philadelphia rivals. Over the 264 years since Franklin first conceived of a common repository for books, the number of public libraries in the

U.S. and Canada has grown to over 135,000.

Thomas Jefferson was also an avid scholar and lover of books. Dumas Malone, in his Pulitzer Prize-Winning, six-volume work, *Jefferson and His Time*, tells how Jefferson acquired the nucleus of his first collection—40 volumes inherited from his father's estate—and how that collection grew through the acquisition of estate collections such as those of Peyton Randolph and Richard Bland. To this were added, over many years, a wide assortment of maps, newspapers, law books, rare Virginia manuscripts, and other "perishable material of local history." Following the War of 1812 and the British destruction of the Library of Congress, Jefferson arranged to sell his 6,000-volume library, at a price

less than half the auction value, to the U.S. Government to form the nucleus of a new Library of Congress collection.

Like Franklin and Jefferson, CLF members appreciate the value of books and recognize the importance of building and sustaining good libraries. And like the founding fathers, we know that we cannot sit idly by waiting for others to build library collections. An excellent case in point is the Clayton Library. It did not spring from the ground fully-formed and stocked with research material. It was built through the efforts of individuals who were willing to offer their time and money, recognizing that the job would simply not get done without them. It is now one of the finest research facilities in the country.

Under the direction of John Dorroh, we are in the midst of an active program of soliciting gifts-in-kind. For 1994, our goal is to obtain 600 books and other printed material for the collection. As of June, we were just under halfway there. This is a modest goal and is certainly achievable with our membership in excess of 800. If you have books or other printed material (or an entire collection) that you would like to donate to the Clayton Library, please contact John. If you would prefer to make a cash donation for use in purchasing books, John can also explain to you how that can be arranged. Call him at 713-498-2603 (office) or 713-781-2741 (home) for details.

Karen Stein Daniel

## **NEXT MEETING:**

August 13<sup>th</sup>  
Montrose Library  
4100 Montrose  
10:15 a.m.

## **SPEAKER:**

Pat McGinty  
Librarian, Houston  
Genealogical Forum

## **TOPIC:**

"Using Periodicals in  
Genealogical Research"

**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**

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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

July 15, 1994

***An open letter to the volunteers***

I recently received the following note in a letter from Carolyn J. Nell, President of the National Genealogical Society:

*Please convey to the volunteers representing Clayton Library Friends our heart-felt thanks and appreciation for their hard work and dedication that was so necessary for the planning and implementing of the 1994 NGS Conference in the States. Planning a conference of this magnitude is truly a two-year endeavor requiring the assistance of a large volunteer group. Clayton Library Friends can be proud of its contributions.*

I would also like to extend my personal thanks to the volunteers who contributed time and talent to this massive project. It simply couldn't have been done without the help of so many dedicated individuals. A word of special thanks goes to our Host Society Chairman, Trevia Wooster Beverly, who kept us in line and heading toward a common goal. Thanks also to the cooperating societies whose dedicated volunteers worked untiringly at jobs big and small.

In addition to the note from Carolyn Nell, numerous letters were received from speakers and other conference participants complimenting Clayton Library Friends for putting on a really successful conference. All of you can be proud of a job well done—Texas style!

*Karen Stein Daniel*

Karen Stein Daniel  
President  
Clayton Library Friends

**Clayton Library Friends receives national recognition**

In an awards presentation held at the opening of the NGS Conference, the Clayton Library Friends was presented with an Honorary Membership in the National Genealogical Society in recognition for its service to NGS and the national genealogical community. CLF President Karen Daniel accepted the award on behalf of the membership, and it is now on display at the Clayton Library. ☺



## Clayton Library reception knocks their sox off!

By JOHN DORROH

HOUSTON — Clayton Library was the scene Wednesday evening, June 1<sup>st</sup>, of a special reception for NGS Conference speakers and exhibitors, providing them with a private walk-through of the library's facilities and research collection. Receiving the guests were key members of the library staff and the Executive Board and committee chairs of the Clayton Library Friends. Refreshments were provided by a committee headed by Rose Mary Fritz.

Boarding buses at the Hyatt Regency, the library's special guests were welcomed by Karen Daniel, president of the Clayton Library Friends, and Maureen Singleton, president of the Houston Genealogical Forum. En route to the library, the guests were provided with a "presidential" overview of the library's holdings.

Attending the reception were many of the leading genealogical scholars in the country, and, although the library's reputation was well known to them, many had never had the opportunity to visit the library. It is an understatement to say that they were in awe of the collection and genuinely impressed by the building, furnishings, and equipment.

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**"...top six...on anybody's list."**

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Elizabeth Mills, editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, had previously acknowledged that Clayton Library was "one of the top six in the country on anybody's list." This was affirmed by Curt Witcher, manager of the genealogical department of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne,

Indiana. He praised the library not only for its collection but also for the strength of the Friends organization. Brent Holcomb, noted South Carolina genealogist, said that Clayton had more material on South Carolina than did most libraries in the state of South Carolina. Rave reviews seemed to come from everyone who attended the reception, including Eric Grundset, librarian of the DAR Library, James Hansen, librarian of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and Nick Vine Hall, a noted Australian genealogist, to name but a few.

Probably the most gratifying comment came from Sammie Townsend Lee, an employee of the genealogical section of the Dallas Public Library and former president of the Dallas Genealogical Society: "Clayton Library is perfect. I wish that we could carbon copy it and take it back to Dallas with us." ■

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## Microfilmed census acquisitions on the move

Aside from the regional branch of the National Archives in Fort Worth, which has all available census and soundex microfilm through 1920, Clayton Library has the most complete census collection in the state. Some libraries collect only the census film, but it is our objective to acquire both the census and the soundex in order to offer patrons of the Clayton Library the most complete set of research tools available. And we are making tremendous progress toward that objective.

Clayton Library is nearing completion of its collection of the 1910 soundex. The complete soundex for North Carolina and Florida and part of the Ohio soundex were acquired in July. Besides the remainder of the Ohio film (406 rolls),

the library needs only three states in order to complete its 1910 soundex collection: California (252 rolls), Michigan (253 rolls), and Pennsylvania (681 rolls). The special order of 1920 census microfilm, purchased with funds from the spring campaign, was also received by Clayton Library in July and is now available for patron use.

Our special thanks to those who have contributed funds for the acquisition of this material. ■

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## CLF book bags available

Canvas book bags imprinted with the CLF logo will be available at the August membership meeting. Produced by CLF for sale at the NGS Conference, the bags can be acquired for a donation of 8\$. These are a great way to express pride in and support for the Clayton Library. ■

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## Software donated for newsletter publication

The editor wishes to thank Timeworks International, Northbrook, Illinois, for the donation of its latest version (4.0) of Publish It!, a desktop publishing application for the PC-Windows environment. This quarter's CLF newsletter was assembled using the application. ■

*We would like to extend our sympathy to CLF member Mr. Harland H. Miller, Jr. on the loss of his father, Mr. Harland Harold Miller, Sr.*

*NGS...*  
*We did it!*









## Texas barbecue a lively experience

BY ANN REED

HOUSTON — On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, NGS Conference attendees were treated to a genuine, Texas-style barbecue in the ballroom of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Before the conference, estimated attendance at this event was set at 350, but the final count came in at a whopping 620, requiring the barbecue committee to do a lot of last-minute scrambling. In spite of the record turn-out, the catering staff at the Brown did an outstanding job, and all 620 guests were served in under 20 minutes.

The star attraction at this event was a group called The Lone Star Cowboys, whose stage antics, musical talent, and down-to-earth Texas humor kept the audience smiling with glee and, on several occasions, roaring with laughter. The only disappointment was that the Cowboys couldn't play all night! Our sincere thanks to "Cowboy" Dave Singleton, Michael Mark Butler, and Lewis "Loophole" Case for a really terrific show. And, oh yes, the group performed at no cost to NGS. We appreciate it fellows!

Topping off the evening was a visit by Sam Houston IV, great grandson of the famous Texas pioneer. Mr. Houston's inside stories of the Houston family were enjoyed by all, as was his not-in-the-history-books comment regarding the name of the general's horse. (No, we won't tell!) After Mr. Houston's talk, he was presented with what must be the most unique gift ever presented to an after-dinner speaker: two white geese decoys, a donation from G. & N. Decoy of Henryetta, Oklahoma.

Sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers who served on the barbecue committee and made the event such an outstanding success. ■

## Program Notes (from the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting)

*Because of a death in the family, Mrs. Betty McClenney, our scheduled speaker at the May 14<sup>th</sup> CLF meeting, was unable to give her presentation. In her place, Dr. W. Arthur Allee provided the membership with an excellent talk on Quakers and Quaker genealogy. Dr. Allee, a retired educator, records management expert, and author, is no stranger to the CLF membership, and many of you will recall the excellent presentation he gave at the May 1993 meeting concerning the Soundex system.*

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends—the Quakers—was born in the village of Ffermy Dryton, Leicestershire, England in 1624 and died in London in 1691. The son of a Puritan weaver, he was raised in the church and was an avid reader of the Bible. As a young man he developed a religious philosophy centered on the idea that Inner Light, or *conscience*, in the individual was the basis of all faith, and he placed this above the externals of organized religion.

Beginning to preach in 1647, Fox quickly gathered a loyal following, and by 1654 major concentrations of "Friends" existed in both London and Bristol. By 1660, through missionary work, Quaker congregations had been established in North America, Ireland, Holland, and the West Indies. The famous colonial, William Penn, founder of the Pennsylvania colony, established the largest enclave of Quakers in America, and Quakers maintained a large majority of the Pennsylvania Assembly until 1755. Fox himself journeyed to North America in 1671-1672 visiting Quaker communities.

The Society of Friends is well known for its excellent records, and individuals with Quaker ancestry will find a wealth of information available for researching their Quaker roots.

Dr. Allee explained to the group how he had been able, using only three sources, to trace his Quaker ancestors back to England over a line that led through six generations and extended over a period of 164 years. Dr. Allee's Quaker ancestors came from England to New Castle, Delaware, and Chester, Pennsylvania. Some of the family later moved to Surry County, North Carolina, then to Henry County, Indiana. The records tracing them from meeting house to meeting house are easily found in William Wade Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. Other excellent sources for Indiana Quakers include works by Willard C. Heiss.

Because of the short notice, Dr. Allee's presentation was not accompanied by handouts. However, these will be available at the August 13<sup>th</sup> CLF meeting. Of particular interest will be Dr. Allee's bibliography of Quaker reference sources. ■

## 8,000 passenger-trips delivered during NGS

NGS transportation committee chairman Bill Swearingen reports that 5,000 passenger-trips per day were provided for NGS Conference attendees going between the George R. Brown and area hotels. In addition, 1,000 passenger-trips per day were made to Clayton Library and 2,000 were made to support special events. One hundred conference attendees were treated to a guided tour on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, that included the Galleria, the Transco Fountain, the Museum District, the Medical Center, Rice University, the Ship Channel, and Petrochemical Row.

Bill would like to thank committee members Les Martin, John Dorroh, and Glenn Sewell; METRO representative Jim DePitts; and Grey Lines of Houston for their outstanding support. ■

## NGS Conference philatelic cachets still available

For those of our readers who are stamp collectors, Clayton Library Friends still has available about 10 of the philatelic cachets commemorating the Houston NGS Conference. These are numbered, signed by Carolyn J. Nell and Sam Houston IV, have been canceled at the Houston Clayton Station, and have an assortment of San Jacinto, Sam Houston, Texas Centennial, and Texas Statehood commemorative stamps affixed to them. These are priced at \$10 each. In addition to these, we have approximately 20 that feature only the 29-cent Buffalo Soldier commemorative stamp. These are available for \$5 each.

We also have available a few numbered and signed cachets that are unstamped and uncanceled and a few plain cachets that feature only the two signatures. These are priced at 75 cents and 25 cents, respectively. If you would like to order one or more of these items, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check made out to Clayton Library Friends to Trevia Beverly, 25078 Tannehill Dr., Houston, TX 7700. ■

## Help needed to acquire Tennessee material

One of our members is interested in acquiring, for the Clayton Library, a complete set of the *Harden County [Tennessee] Historical Society Quarterly*. This member has already acquired back issues for 1982 through 1985 and is willing to donate these to the library. The balance of the set (1986 through 1993) could be acquired at a cost of \$84, 40% off of the original price. Are there CLF members out there who would like to help complete this set? If you have interests in Tennessee research and would like to contribute part or all of the money for this acquisition, please contact Elizabeth Hicks, 713-944-1118, for details. ■

## □ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

### Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America

Glenn Sewell

Have you ever known the name of a town in which an ancestor lived or the name of a river or creek on which he owned land but were unable to find the place. The town may no longer exist, and the river or creek may be too small to show up on the maps you have checked. If this is the case, check the *Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America*, edited by Frank R. Abate (Detroit: Omnigraphics, Inc., 1991).

This eleven-volume set offers a listing of over 1,500,000 places in the United States. As the editor points out, the *Omni Gazetteer* contains listings not only of populated places—states, territories, counties, cities, towns, townships, villages, districts, etc.—but also of natural features such as hills, mountains, and mountain ranges; valleys, plains, and basins; rivers, lakes, and streams; bays, inlets, and harbors; capes, peninsulas, islands, and beaches; forests and woods; caves and rock formations. The work also has tens of thousands of entries for structures and facilities, including schools, churches, hospitals, parks, airports, military installations, public buildings, dams, reservoirs, bridges, towers, historic sites, battlefields, and cemeteries.

Volumes 1 through 9 of the *Omni Gazetteer* are organized according to major regions of the United States:

1. New England
2. Northeastern States
3. Southeast (including island possessions)
4. South Central States

5. Southwestern States
6. Great Lakes States
7. Plains States
8. Mountain States
9. Pacific States & Territories

The states in each volume are listed alphabetically, and under each state the places are listed alphabetically. If the reader is looking for a place name but does not know under which state to look, volume 10 contains a national index that will refer the reader back to the appropriate regional volume.

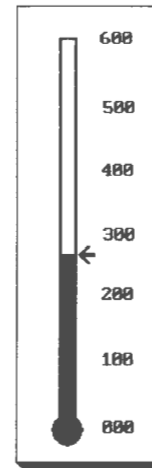
Information in the *Omni Gazetteer* is organized into six columns. The first column gives the place name and, if appropriate, the U.S. Postal Service zip code. The second column gives the type of feature or population. The third column gives the county name. The fourth column gives the U.S. Geographic Survey 7.5-minute topographic map reference. The fifth column gives the latitude and longitude. And the sixth column provides, in the form of a letter code, a reference to the source of the data and, where appropriate, the sea-level-referenced elevation.

To get more from these volumes, take a few minutes to read the "How to Use This Book" section in the front of each volume. The *Omni Gazetteer* can be found on Clayton's ready-reference shelf next to the microfiche catalog. The call number is RR (Ready Reference) Gen 973 055 USA (v. 1 through v. 11), and the states that each volume covers are listed on the spine just above the call number. ■

CLF First Vice President Margaret Mottley reports that our membership count as of July 1<sup>st</sup> stands at a record 825.

### ✓ Gifts-in-kind

*As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the Friends had received 270 items toward our 1994 goal of 600 individual gifts-in-kind (books, microfilm, and other material). If you have a book or a roll of microfilm that you would like to donate to the library through the Clayton Library Friends, please contact John Dorroh, 713-781-2741, or Elizabeth Hicks, 713-944-1118.*



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**TO:**



# Member Survey

The Clayton Library Friends Executive Board is considering organizing one or both of the following activities during 1995:

- ☐ TRIP TO THE LDS LIBRARY IN SALT LAKE CITY
- ☐ BEGINNER CLASSES ON HOW TO USE CLAYTON LIBRARY

If you would be interested in participating in one (or both) of these activities, please check the boxes above and mail this form to the address shown on the reverse—just mark, fold, staple, stamp, and mail. It is important that your response reach us by October 1, 1994.

If you would like to help the Executive Board in organizing either of these activities, please indicate this below:

- ☐ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ORGANIZING:
  - ☐ THE SALT LAKE CITY TRIP
  - ☐ THE TRAINING CLASS

Your name, address, and phone number:

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↓ Fold along this line ↓

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**TO: MEMBER SURVEY—John Dorroh  
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