



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

# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII

November 1994

No. 4

## President's Column

At a dusty construction site in the center of an ancient city, two stone cutters were asked what they were doing. The first said, "I'm cutting stone into blocks." The second replied, "I'm part of a team that is building a great cathedral."

This story, by an anonymous observer, illustrates a very important characteristic of people with vision: they see their personal efforts as key to the achievement of broader team objectives. And individuals like this are found in abundance in truly successful organizations. By contrast, organizations often languish and die when too many of their members are just "cutting stones into blocks," unable or unwilling to work toward the achievement of team objectives.

American history is filled with examples of successes built on the vision and teamwork of individuals. John C. Miller, in his book, *The Federalist Era, 1789-1801*, points out

the remarkable achievements made by individuals of vision who set aside personal agendas and, in the short span of twelve years, laid the foundation of a great nation. "The Federalists literally followed Alexander Hamilton's counsel to 'think continentally.' In just a dozen years, the Constitution was demonstrated to be a workable instrument of government, the cabinet system evolved, American territory was cleared of British and Spanish interlopers, and [a foreign policy was established that] served as a guide to statesmen of the Republic for over a century." Truly, the founding fathers considered their work to be that of "building a great cathedral."

The lesson of the stone cutters is one that can be readily applied to the Clayton Library Friends. Since its founding in 1986, the organization's greatest achievements have been made by individuals who set aside personal agendas and focused on the team objective: to build a world-class family history library. Just a few short years ago we were struggling to get organized, to define our goals, and to build a viable membership. Today, with a membership that is approaching 900 and a volunteer corps tempered on the forge of the 1994 NGS Conference, we have made a number of remarkable achievements, not the least of which is the formation of a solid organizational base. The bringing in each year of new executive board officers, new committee and project leads, and new members will continue to strengthen that organizational base. As long as CLF

remains an organization of visionary individuals focused on team objectives, the future of Clayton Library is assured.



As my term as CLF President draws to an end, I would like to thank the Friends for having entrusted the care of the society to me for this past year. I could not have survived such a busy term of office without the help of my executive board and all of the wonderful volunteers. My role was really one of cheerleader—the real gains came from all of you. Your resourcefulness, insight, and energy amaze me.

At the November general membership meeting, we will be electing officers for the coming year, and from the list of nominees presented on page 2, I can see that the nominating committee has put forward a fine slate of candidates. My best wishes to the new executive board and to the entire membership as we move together into 1995.

*Karen Stein Daniel*

### **NEXT MEETING:**

*November 12th*  
Montrose Library  
4100 Montrose  
10:15 a.m.

### **SPEAKER:**

Malcolm McCorquodale III  
Immediate Past President  
Clayton Library Friends

### **TOPIC:**

"Computers and Genealogy"

**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**

Karen Stein Daniel ..... President  
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**

Carolyn Dowden Grimm  
Glenn E. Sewell  
William R. Swearingen

**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

**Governor Richards designates October 1994 as Family History Month**

Trevia Wooster Beverly

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Ann Richards declared October 1994 as "Family History Month in Texas." Citing Clayton Library Friends for its work in supporting the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Governor Richards praised the dedication of the association's membership and noted the importance of family history to the study of state and national history. The citation, to which is affixed the Governor's seal, will be put on display at the Clayton Library. ■

**Salt Lake City research trip being organized**

**January 17-24, 1995**

Spend a week exploring your roots in the country's premier genealogical library. Your tour will be hosted by Dr. Art Allee, who has conducted genealogy tours annually to Salt Lake City. Dr. Allee has planned an informative and fun-filled week for you. Register early, as the trip will fill up quickly.

**Land Package: \$315**

**Airfare: \$235**

The Salt Lake City land package includes seven nights double-occupancy at the Howard Johnsons (next to the Family History Library), room taxes, baggage handling, transfers to and from the airport, and a Saturday evening dinner and speaker presentation at the Brigham Young Home. Access to the Family History Library is free, and you will have a

**REPORT FROM THE CLF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

At the August 14<sup>th</sup> CLF meeting, Ruth Lewis, Mic Barnette, Jim Younglove, Ginny Toney, and Ruby Dusek were elected as members of the nominating committee to assemble a proposed slate of officers and directors for 1995. The committee's work has now been completed, and the following slate of nominees is proposed to the membership:

For President:  
**John Dorroh**

First Vice-President:  
**Elizabeth Nütschke Hicks**

Second Vice-President:  
**Ruth Chambers Lewis**

Secretary:  
**Stephanie Anne Hebert**

Treasurer:  
**Robert L. Lowery, Jr.**

First-Term Directors:  
**Gay E. Carter**  
**Gladys Rutledge Edwards**  
**Rafael Gijón y Robles**

Second-Term Director:  
**Frank L. Worley, Jr.**

one-hour orientation upon arrival. Sunday will be a break day, but an optional tour is being planned. There will be a single-room supplement of \$235; however, Dr. Allee will work to provide you a roommate if you so desire. Airfare prices (roundtrip from Houston) are not guaranteed until tickets are purchased.

For more information and to register, please call Dr. Art Allee at (713) 748-3473. ■

**John Dorroh**, nominee for President, is currently serving as a first-term director on the Clayton Library Friends Executive Board and is committee chairman for grants, endowments, and gifts-in-kind. A native of Houston, John is a graduate of the College of William and Mary. In support of the 1994 NGS Conference, John served as the Clayton Library Activities Coordinator. His objectives for Clayton Library Friends include building on the momentum imparted to CLF by its success in hosting the NGS Conference. He would like to see the organization grow well beyond the 1000-member mark in 1995 and is anxious to see the organization's base of committee members and volunteers expanded. Recognizing the importance of communicating with the membership, John would like to see the CLF Newsletter expanded in scope by adding permanent contributing editors.

**Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks**, nominee for First Vice President, is a fourth-generation Texan with roots that extend back to pioneer German and English ancestors. She was educated in Austin, Texas, and attended the University of Texas.

Elizabeth has been a member of Clayton Library Friends since 1990 and is currently serving as project lead for the screening and recruiting of library volunteers. In support of the 1994 NGS Conference she recruited, trained, and scheduled volunteers to assist with shelving, microprint copying, and microfilm reader allocation. She is a member of several genealogical societies and is a contributing editor of *Tree Talk*, a publication of the Cherokee County (Texas) Genealogical Society. Over the next year, Elizabeth would like to focus on establishing an "Angels" program modeled on the one established by the Austin Genealogical Society for support of the Texas State Library.

**Ruth Chambers Lewis**, nominee for Second Vice President, is currently serving as Second Vice President of the Clayton Library Friends and is chairman of the CLF Ways and Means Committee. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Houston since 1943, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Southern Methodist University. Ruth has been interested in genealogy for many years and is currently working toward becoming a certified genealogist.

**Stephanie Anne Hebert**, nominee for Secretary, is a native of Houston and attended the University of Houston. She is currently serving as Recording Secretary for the

Houston Genealogical Forum and is Chairman of the DAR Good Citizen Youth Award, Samuel Sorrell Chapter. Stephanie served as a volunteer during the 1994 NGS Conference.

**Robert L. Lowery, Jr.**, nominee for Treasurer, is currently serving as Treasurer of the Clayton Library Friends. He is a native of Houston and a graduate of the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. Robert is interested in Italian culture and genealogy and has been active in helping the Italian Community Center with its new library on Milford, near Clayton Library.

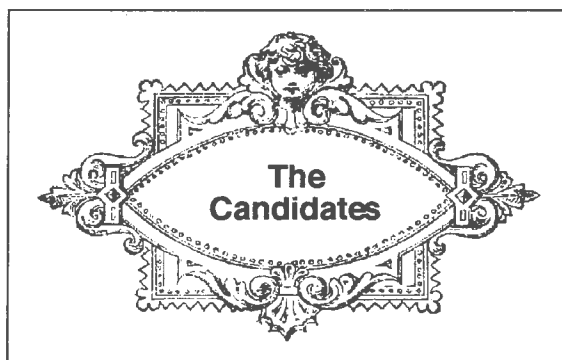
**Gay E. Carter**, nominee for Director, is currently the reference/documents librarian at Alfred R. Neumann

Library, University of Houston—Clear Lake, and supervises Neumann Library's U.S. federal depository and Texas state depository collections. She is a graduate of Texas Woman's University and holds a Master of Library Science degree. Gay is active in the Government Documents Round Table of the Texas Library Association and served as chairman in 1991-92.

**Gladys Rutledge Edwards**, nominee for Director, is a native of Houston and was, for over 30 years, a teacher in the Houston Independent School District. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in music from Dillard University, New Orleans, and a Master of Music Education degree from Texas Southern University. Gladys is working toward becoming a certified genealogist.

**Rafael Gijón y Robles**, nominee for Director, is a native of Puerto Rico and a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, from which he received a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. In 1985 he retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of colonel. In addition to genealogy, Rafael is interested in heraldry and vexillology [the study of flags] and is a member of numerous heraldic and vexillological societies.

**Frank L. Worley, Jr.**, nominee for Director, is a native of Kansas City, Missouri. He attended Austin College and the University of Houston and holds baccalaureate and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer (Texas) and, until his retirement in 1992, was Associate Dean of the University of Houston College of Engineering. Frank has been actively involved in genealogy for the past six years.



## Board votes to purchase microfilm

At its meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Board of the Clayton Library Friends voted to purchase the following microfilms using unrestricted funds:

Arkansas State Tax Lists (first half of state counties), 41 rolls.

Soundex to the 1880 Ohio Census, three volumes.

Texas Agricultural Census Schedules (All available, including social statistics; industry and manufacturing; defective, dependent, and delinquent), 51 rolls. ■

## Order placed for "Roll of the Dead"

In October, Clayton Library Friends placed an order for the 500-page, facsimile edition of the *Roll of the Dead*, a 9 x 12-inch volume soon to be published by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The hand-inscribed original, packed away in the National Archives for the past 47 years, was recently returned to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. It is now being prepared for publication.

According to Dr. George L. Vogt, Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, "The history of this document reads like an old detective novel. It took some real sleuthing by our staff to identify the document and prove that it belonged to the state of South Carolina."

The South Carolina Secession Convention of 1862 requested the governor to collect and record the names of South Carolina soldiers who died while in Confederate service. The finished document was to be housed in the state archives as a memorial to the

fallen men. The governor appointed a local newspaper editor, William B. Johnston, to the task. Two years later the General Assembly reviewed Johnston's work, found it to contain too many errors, and replaced him. South Carolina College Professor William J. Rivers took on the task. Starting from scratch, Dr. Rivers worked for three years to compile the names, ages, ranks, companies, and regiments of South Carolina's fallen soldiers. Wherever he could, Rivers noted how and where the soldiers died and where they were laid to rest.

The poverty of the post-Civil War era and the radical Reconstruction government ended state funding for Rivers' work on the Roll of the Dead, but he continued to collect names and information until 1870. He then turned the work over to the state Survivors Association. The Association began arranging the names and creating the elegant, hand-inscribed final document.

Little is known about what happened to the Roll of the Dead until 1947, when an officer of the South Carolina National Bank found the manuscript stashed in an old bank vault. He did not know the document's identity, but sensed its age and importance. He sent the volume to the War Department in Washington, D.C., which transferred it to the National Archives. There it stayed, unidentified and unheralded.

In 1985, a staff member of the South Carolina Archives heard of the existence of the document and obtained a microfilm copy for the South Carolina collection. It's identity as the work of William J. Rivers, however, was not recognized until Reference Archivist Patrick McCauley, a specialist in Civil War documents, undertook an investigation of the document and the history behind its compilation.

Supported by the facts brought to light by McCauley, South Carolina

Archives Director Dr. George Vogt presented evidence to the acting Archivist of the United States contending that the document was the rightful property of the State of South Carolina and was, in fact, the work originally chartered by the state's General Assembly in 1862. The National Archives agreed, and in June 1994, Dr. Vogt took possession of the manuscript in Washington and hand-carried it back to South Carolina.

"The Roll of the Dead is truly one of the crown jewels in our collection," said Vogt. "Its age and beauty make it important, but the information it holds makes it most valuable. It is a powerful tool for genealogists and historians seeking information from the Civil War era." ■

## Microfilm of Georgia records ordered

Last November, Clayton Library Friends received a \$2,000 grant from the Exxon Involvement Fund for the purchase of the series *Index to and Deeds of Georgia Counties Prior to 1850*. The order for this series has been placed and should be available to patrons well before the end of the year. The series consists of deed and conveyance records from the superior courts of each of the following Georgia counties: Houston (1822-1850), Jones (1808-1853), Madison (1812-1889), Montgomery (1794-1872), Pike (1823-1850), Screven (1794-1864), Taliaferro (1826-1850), Telfair (1806-1870), Upson (1825-1855), and Walton (1819-1851). The library already has an excellent microfilm collection of records from Baldwin, Chatham, Elbert, Franklin, Greene, and Wilkes counties, and the film purchased through the Exxon grant will be a major supplement to that collection. ■

## □ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

### The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records

The New England states are known for the relative completeness of their family records, due both to the fact that such records were considered to be important at the local level and to the fact that they have been generally well preserved. In Connecticut, as in other New England states, the earliest vital records, some dating from as early as 1640, were kept by individual towns clerks, and although valuable to the genealogist, the form and content of these records varied considerably. This gradually changed as each state began to impose standards for the creation and maintenance of vital records. In Connecticut, the establishment of the State Board of Health in 1870 brought about a general improvement in the keeping of vital records, but it was not until 1897 that town clerks were required to furnish copies of new records to the state's vital records unit.

In 1914, under the direction of Lucius Barnes Barbour, a project was initiated to abstract and index all extant records of the early Connecticut townships. The project, which focused on vital records dating to about 1850, involved examining the original record books, abstracting entries onto sheets of paper, and preparing a state-wide surname index. Barbour's work was largely completed by 1926 and was placed in the Connecticut State Library at Hartford. More recent efforts have extended Barbour's

work of abstracting records to cover the period 1850 to 1900, although these abstracts have not been included in the state-wide index.

Barbour's state-wide index consists of over one million individual entries arranged alphabetically by surname. After the index, there is a bound volume of abstracts for each town, and at the beginning of each volume is a description of the original records from which the abstract was obtained. The vital records of Fairfield, for example, were abstracted from three volumes of land records, one volume of vital records, and one volume of marriage records. Both the index and the abstract volumes are cross referenced to the original records. For example, the citation "Fairfield LR2-123" indicates that the event was recorded in the town's second book of land records, page 123. The collection is simple to use and, considering its depth, can be very a very effective research aid in tracing Connecticut families well back into the seventeenth century.

Clayton Library owns this entire collection on microfilm. The index is contained in eighty reels of microfilm, and the abstract volumes, arranged by township, are contained in seventeen reels. To access the collection, researchers should inquire at the microprint desk on the second floor of the library. ■

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### HELP STILL NEEDED TO ACQUIRE TENNESSEE MATERIAL

[Repeated from the last newsletter.]

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. ■

## Individuals needed to underwrite Clayton subscriptions

CLF member Elizabeth Hicks is attempting to establish a Clayton "Angels" program and is seeking individuals or organizations to underwrite periodical subscriptions for the library. Sponsors are needed for the following:

*The Quill* (South Carolina).

*Austin County* (Texas) *Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

*Tap Roots* (Alabama).

*Watauga* (Tennessee) *Association of Genealogists Bulletin*.

*Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

*Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine*.

*Publication of the Lowndes County* (Alabama) *Historical Society*.

*Rowan County* (North Carolina) *Register*.

*Central Alabama Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

*Central North Carolina Journal*.

If you are interested in underwriting any of the above items, please contact Elizabeth Hicks, 746 Edgebrook, Drive, Houston, TX 77034-2030, (713) 944-1118. ■

## Friends to have table at October 29<sup>th</sup> Forum seminar

On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, The Clayton Library Friends will have a table set up at the Fall Seminar of the Houston Genealogical Forum. The seminar, featuring Desmond Walls Allen, will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Temple, 2900 North Braeswood. Dr. Art Allee and other CLF representatives will be there to sign up new members, promote the January trip to Salt Lake City, and talk to people about CLF activities. Clayton Library Friends book bags will be on sale. ■

**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS**  
Post Office Box 271078  
Houston, TX 77277-1078

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