



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. X

May 1996

No. 2

Emily Croom to speak at May 18th meeting

The featured speaker at our May meeting will be Miss Emily Croom, author of *The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1994) and *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*, 3rd edition (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1995).

Miss Croom will be speaking on the topic "Federal Supplemental Schedules and Finding Aids." Sometimes incorrectly referred to as "non-population census schedules," the supplemental schedules were created during the 1880 federal decennial enumeration and list individuals described as "dependent,

delinquent, and defective." Included are the mentally ill (insane and idiots), the deaf, the blind, homeless children, prison inmates, and individuals residing in poor-houses or otherwise boarded at public expense. This should be a very interesting lecture, so please make plans to attend.

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, May 18th
Montrose Library
4100 Montrose
10:15 a.m.

SPEAKER:

Miss Emily A. Croom

TOPIC:

"Federal
Supplemental
Schedules and
Finding Aids"

Copies of Miss Croom's books will be available for purchase at the meeting. These will be offered for sale at \$14.99 for *Unpuzzling Your Past* and \$16.99 for *The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook*. Forty percent of the proceeds from this sale will go to CLF. Payment may be made by cash, check made payable to Clayton Library Friends, Visa, or Master Card. ■

HPL orders remainder of 1920 census schedules

The National Archives announced in late March that the price per roll of microfilm would increase May 1st from \$23 to \$34. Although all of this year's materials budget for Clayton Library had been encumbered, Houston Public Library was able to order the remaining rolls of the 1920 census by using part of next year's budget. The cost of these schedules was approximately \$26,000. Clayton Library patrons will benefit greatly from having access to this film. Many thanks to Acting Manager Marje Harris, Acquisitions Director Brenda Tirrell, and HPL Assistant Director Lou Caldwell. These three were able to bring about this very important (and timely) purchase for Clayton Library. ■

President's column

Due to our editing and printing deadlines, I am writing this column right in the middle of our census Soundex drive. We have two weeks to go before the National Archives' price increase on May 1st. So far, we have been very successful. Contributions are really pouring in; we have completed two more states (Illinois and Vermont), and the Executive Board is very optimistic for the outlook over the next two weeks. I am very proud of our membership's response to this drive. We had planned a longer, more structured fund-raising campaign this year, but the National Archives' sud-

den announcement caused us to quickly change our plans.

Others outside of CLF are also contributing funds to support the acquisition of census microfilm. CLF member Karen Stanley put an announcement on the CompuServe genealogical bulletin board; as a result, we have received contributions from as far away as California, from people who have never been to Clayton Library but who wanted to help us acquire the Soundex. Mic Barnette wrote an article about the drive in his weekly newspaper column, and we

(Continued on page 3.)

CLF holds fund raising campaign to acquire more 1920 Soundex

At the announcement of the price increase noted above, there still remained over \$130,000 worth of the 1920 Soundex microfilm to be acquired. Because of this, a mail-out campaign was initiated to raise money to purchase more of this very important microfilm. The Illinois Soundex (\$11,000) has now been purchased, and as of press time, CLF had acquired about \$30,000 in gift money to apply toward additional purchases. We're doing great!!! ■

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.

ELECTED OFFICERS

John Dorroh President
 Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks 1st VP
 Jerry M. Betsill 2nd VP
 Vivian Hill Jordan Secretary
 Frank L. Worley, Jr. Treasurer

FIRST TERM DIRECTORS

David B. Singleton
 Robin N. Bashaw
 Leon R. Evans

SECOND TERM DIRECTORS

Gay E. Carter
 Gladys Rutledge Edwards
 Charles L. Jensen

CLF NEWSLETTER STAFF

Donald E. Pusch, editor
 Pat Metcalfe, assistant editor

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

**Clayton Library Friends
 Financial Report**

(January 1 through March 31, 1996)

CHECKING ACCOUNT—First Interstate	
Starting Balance	\$ 18,959
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 4,966
Restricted Funds	
Binding	769
Endowment	446
Other	5,268
CLF operating funds	
Dues	7,510
Deposits, total	11,259
Unrestricted	3,500
Restricted	
Binding	10
Endowment	- 0 -
Other	569
CLF operating funds	
Dues	7,180
Withdrawals, total	7,605
Unrestricted	500
Restricted	
Binding	64
Endowment	- 0 -
Other	3,707
CLF operating funds	3,334
Ending Balance	22,613
Unrestricted	7,966 †
Restricted	
Binding	715
Endowment	446
Other	2,130
CLF operating funds	11,356
ENDOWMENT FUND—Univ. State Bank	13,108
Certificate of deposit #1	12,540
Savings account	568

Frank L. Worley, Jr., Treasurer

† \$6,417 of this is encumbered for the 1920 Mississippi and Tennessee soundex, which was ordered this month.

1996 Year Books

Those of you who were CLF members as of March 1, 1996 will be receiving a copy of the 1996 *Clayton Library Friends Yearbook* by mail. Anyone joining and/or renewing after that date may make arrangements to pick up a copy (while the supply lasts) by contacting Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks, Membership chair, (713) 944-1118. ■

President's column (Continued from page 1.)

have received several donations as a result of this. Members Judy Barnett and Ruby Dusek announced our drive at the monthly meeting of the Houston Genealogical Forum, and this resulted in a great many contributions. Kathryn Swearingen presented us with a generous check from the Harris County Genealogical Society. Many more, too numerous to mention, are helping us. I hope to be able to thank everyone personally for this great response.

Our February meeting was attended by over 90 people. All of us were pleased with the large turnout, but now it looks like we must soon find a larger meeting room than the one we have been using for years at the Montrose Library. Mic Barnette's talk on Georgia resources at Clayton Library was very well received. The bibliographic handout on some of the Georgia books and microfilm that Clayton owns is a very valuable guide for anyone doing research in that important colony and state. I want to thank Mic for working up this fine handout and for his many contributions to CLF.

The first of our 1996 seminars was held in March. Since these are free, the term "sell-out" does not really apply; however, we did actually have more people wanting to sign up than we could accommodate within the 100-person limit. A second beginners seminar is planned for early fall for any of you who were unable to come to this one. As always, Gay Carter did a wonderful job of organizing and presenting the seminar. CLF member Emily Croom spoke on what to do before coming to Clayton Library, and librarian Marje Harris then told the audience how to use all this information when researching at Clayton Library. Our June seminar is geared toward intermediate and advanced researchers. You should register for this as early as possible. Most of the 100 people present at the beginners seminar were very excited about this next one, so I know that it will fill up quickly. More information about the June seminar can be found on pages 7 and 8.

Now for all members who enjoy the seminars, I think you will all want to plan to come to our May meeting. Emily Croom will speak to us on how to use the federal census in ways you did not know were possible. She will focus on the "supplemental schedules" and the special finding aids available for the later censuses. We will also have Emily's two books available for sale. I assure you that you will learn as much from this as you have from our seminars. We are very fortunate to have Emily as a member and very appreciative that she is speaking to us. Circle May 18th on your calendar and plan to come hear this very informative lecture.

When I watch public television, I always note, at the end of a program, a statement is made that major funding for the broadcast was made possible by a grant from a



Proposed Amendment to CLF Bylaws

The CLF Executive Board has approved submission to the membership of the following amendment to the Clayton Library Friends bylaws. The proposed change will be voted upon by the CLF membership at the May 18th meeting.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 7.5 Paragraph 2

Current: "The Treasurer...shall keep a record of all income and expenditures and make a summary report at each regular meeting of the Membership and at meetings of the Executive Board as it may direct; shall keep a record of all donations to the Friends and submit a list of such to the President for proper acknowledgment."

Proposed: "The Treasurer...shall keep a record of all income and expenditures and submit a quarterly report to *The CLF Newsletter* editor for publication in the edition of the newsletter immediately following the end of the calendar quarter; shall keep a record of all donations to the Friends and submit a list of such to the President for proper acknowledgment; and shall notify the President of cash gifts restricted for a certain item or purpose so that the President can apply the gift as the donor wishes."

charitable foundation and also by the support of "Viewers Like You." Clayton Library "was made possible" by Houston Public Library and by the support it has received from many Houston organizations. As with public television, however, a lot of the valuable things at Clayton have been provided through the support of *Patrons Like You*. When all of our Soundex film is in and available for use, look at the many gift labels indicating that the film was donated by Clayton Library Friends. Be proud that our organization, comprised of patrons like you, continues to augment the holdings of the library and keeps it one of the best in the nation.

John Dorroh

Evans appointed CLF Director

Leon R. (Randy) Evans has been selected by the Executive Board to serve out the term of Director Tom Krouskop who resigned in January. All of us will remember Randy as an employee of Clayton Library. He retired from Houston Public Library in July 1995 to devote his time to publishing genealogical materials. Recently, he published an every-name index to the 1910 census of Rockland County, New York, and has now undertaken the enormous task of preparing an index to the 1910 census for the boroughs of New York City.

Randy is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and will serve as an important liaison to the LDS Family History Centers. ■

New African- American material

Clayton Library has acquired three new books that will be of great use to individuals doing African-American research. These books are now found in the new-book shelves in the front of the library; they will eventually be placed in the USA section.

Black Southerners, 1619-1869, by John B. Boles (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1984) is a scholarly treatment of the slavery system from its seventeenth-century origins in the South to its abrupt end right after the Civil War. The book discusses the social structure, the plantation system, and the daily way of life among the slaves. There is an excellent bibliography that will direct the reader to many other sources. GEN 975.00496 B688 USA.

African-American Genealogical Sourcebook, edited by Paula K. Byers

(Detroit: Gale Research, Inc, 1995). This volume gives general information on conducting African-American genealogical research. There are instructions on records pertaining primarily to this group such as the WPA oral histories of slaves and the Freedmen's Bureau papers. Probably the most valuable section of the book is a directory of genealogical information listing libraries, archives, organizations, books, and other media that are specific to this group. The book list is indexed by author, title, and subject. GEN 929.1072 A258 USA.

The Bibliographic Checklist of African-American Newspapers, by Barbara K. Henritze, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995). This is a checklist (in alphabetical order by state and then by city) of various African-American newspapers, announcements, and pamphlets. The checklist provides the title, frequency of publication, dates of issues still extant, and most important, the source citations. The abbreviation for the source directs the researcher to a table listing names and addresses of repositories where micro-copies and/or originals of the newspapers are kept. GEN 071.3 H519 USA. ■

Angels Report

The following individuals and organizations have made donations to support the Angels (periodical acquisition) program:

- Patrick F. Cochran. *The Lexington Genealogical Exchange* (South Carolina), vols. 1-4 plus indexes.
- Marianna Matkin. Various missing back issues of *The Reporter*, a publication of The Cypress Basin Genealogical Society (Texas), in memory of her husband, Dr. Robert L. Matkin of Mt. Pleasant, Texas.
- Mr. and Mrs. Myron F. Steves. *Re-vista*, vols. 1-5 (1988-1992), a publication of The Cuban Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Houston Genealogical Forum, Lora Blount Schexnayder and Pat Metcalfe, librarians. Fifty titles of periodicals for the following states: Alabama (4), Arkansas (2), Georgia (4), Illinois (3), Indiana (2), Kansas (2), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (4), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (2), Nebraska (1), North Carolina (2), Oklahoma (6), Pennsylvania (1), South Carolina (1), Tennessee (4), Texas (9).

Correction to the February Angels report: Bernice Bell Mistrot donated vols. 14, 15, and 16 of *Tazewell Genealogical Monthly* for Illinois, not Virginia.

If you would like to be an "Angel" by donating periodicals or funds to acquire missing back issues or new subscriptions for the Clayton Library, please contact Elizabeth Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77034-2030, phone (713) 944-1118. ■

1996 CLF membership on record-setting pace

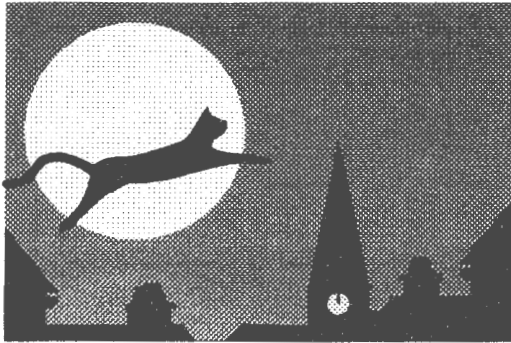
by Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

Clayton Library Friends closed 1995 with a record membership of 1,210. This makes "The Friends" the largest genealogical group in the state. The 1996 *Clayton Library Friends Yearbook* (membership directory) went to the printer with 103 more members than were listed in the 1995 edition. To date, there are 1,195 Clayton Library Friends. We will continue to accept members and surely will surpass the record set in 1995.

A big **THANK YOU** to the following:

Telephone Committee — Odile Lawler Roberts, Mary Elizabeth

(Continued on page 7.)



ECAT comes to Houston Public Library

*by Lou Caldwell,
Assistant Director for Support Services
Houston Public Library*

By the middle of May the Houston Public Library will have installed nearly 300 *Everybody's Catalog* (ECAT) terminals in libraries throughout Houston. This \$1.2-million project will allow patrons to search the library's catalog and have access to Internet resources. The ECAT, developed by the CARL Corporation, provides library users with an information retrieval system that allows them to enter a search query that systematically executes the search against various indexes and multiple databases. In addition, patrons have the option of browsing the catalog by title, author, or subject. Internet access will allow a user to search not only other library systems but also the wealth of resources now available across the entire network.

The library's catalog is the key to the holdings of the Houston Public Library. It reveals books owned by the library and their location. Furthermore, ECAT offers access to important periodical indexes and full-text magazine articles through the Magazine Index, Business Index, ABI Inform, ERIC, UNCOVER, Newspaper Abstracts, and an encyclopedia. This catalog is available in a text format via dial-in access (Dialcat) at (713) 247-2244.

Using the library's new ECAT, Houstonians will be able to log on to the Internet in all city libraries. In addition to the broad resources of the catalog and databases, users can launch into the exciting world of the Internet using the Houston Public Library Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us>

This page offers information about the library and provides links to Internet resources on a variety of topics. Under "Genealogy," there is a link that points to the Clayton Library's Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/clayton.html>

This in turn points to the informative Clayton Library Friends Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/clf.html>

which will lead readers to the recently established Clayton Library Finding Aids Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/fa001.html>

Also under the Genealogy topic are links to several other genealogy sites, including the informative and well-organized RAND Genealogy Club page:

<http://www.rand.org/personal/Genea>

This page, developed by a group of RAND employees who share the genealogy hobby, points to the ROOTS Location List, the ROOTS Surname List, and a Soundex Converter.

Following the topic of "Internet Searching," the user can search the Internet using any of several search engines or indexes to the Internet. For example, a search on YAHOO (<http://www.yahoo.com>) using just the word "genealogy" generates 362 references. Many historical and archival sites appear on this list, including the index to the Texas Confederate Pension Records.

April 16th was the "National Log-On at the Library Day." This has special meaning for the Houston Public Library, as it was the day the library announced its "on-line with the Internet" status. HPL invites and encourages all users to let libraries change their lives. Log on to the future (and the past) at your local library. ☺

□ Beginners column

The federal census indexes

by John Dorroh

The most used of all the books at Clayton Library are the state-wide indexes to the federal decennial censuses located in the ready reference shelves, which are the second two slant-top bookcases immediately in front of the librarian's office and the copy room. These books have a large yellow dot on the spine and are shelved alphabetically by state from Alabama to Wyoming, including the District of Columbia and the territories.

The beginning genealogist can save hours of time by using the index to find the census enumeration district and page reference where his ancestor's name can be found. This is much easier than pouring over one or more reels of census film. The more common of these indexes are the ones published by Accelerated Indexing Systems of Bountiful, Utah. Other organizations and individuals have also compiled such indexes; these can be more or less valuable depending on their content.

Some indexes reproduce the entire census listing exactly as it appeared for the pre-1850 years. This is the case, for example, in Dorothy Williams Potter's *1820 North Carolina Census Index* (Tulahoma: Tennessee: Dorothy Williams Potter, 1974) (GEN 975.6 P866 NC). Some list, alphabetically, only the surnames appearing in each county and do not give the page reference, so the microfilm must be searched. Pauline Jones Gandrud's compilation, *Alabama, An Index to the 1830 United States Census* (Hot Springs: Bobbie Jones McLane, 1973) (GEN 976.1 G196 ALA) lists surnames alphabetically and then indicates the county in which the name is

found. No page reference is given.

An example of how indexing has improved is found in the excellent work by Gwen Platt, Annabel Lannert, and Marian Peer, *Mississippi Northern District: Index to the United States Census of 1840* (Santa Ana: G.A.M. Publications, 1970) (GEN 976.2 P179 MS). This index lists the counties alphabetically, the name of the enumerator for each county, and the names of the heads of household copied page by page as the names appear on the microfilm. A newer work by Thomas E. Coyle and Berniece D. Coyle, *Mississippi 1840 Census, vol. 1, Alphabetically Listed by Surnames* (Lewisville, Texas: Coyle Data Company, 1990) (GEN 976.2 C881 MS), alphabetizes the entire state by surname, indicates county and page number, then reproduces the numbering of males and females in each household.

The many A.I.S. indexes have been compiled by Ronald Vern Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeple. Each index contains the following four columns in very small print:

1. Names of individuals who appear as heads of households or other individuals found in the household who have a different surname.
2. Four-letter code for the county where the listing is found.
3. Page number on the microfilm. Supposedly, this is the stamped number, but be careful! Only every other page has the number stamped, so that the number in the index refers to two pages on the film. Also, the pages may be out of order, so search the pages in the vicinity of the given page number.
4. Census division. This may be the city, township, enumeration district, area of the county, or in many instances "no township listed."

Tennessee researchers are fortunate to have the excellent work by Byron and Barbara Sistler, *1850 Census of Tennessee* (Evanston: Byron Sistler &

Associates, 1974) (GEN 976.8 S623 TN). This is an "every-name" index that lists all members of the household, their ages, the county in which enumerated, the page number, and the birthplace of the husband and wife. A few others like this may be found.

An excellent finding aid for census indexes is contained in a paperback, dark-green, loose-leaf binder kept on the top of the second slant-top book shelf. This index lists Clayton's holdings of census indexes in three columns. Example:

STATE	YEAR	NOTES
Alabama	1820	976.1 U
	1830	976.1 G195, J13
	1840	976.1 P855, J13

This finding aid indicates whether or not the state was only partially indexed, such as in the case of the 1870 Ohio census, which has one volume dedicated to Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and one volume for Stark and Summit counties (Akron and Canton). No other 1870 index is found, but all of the 1880 Ohio census is indexed. This aid also indicates whether or not a Soundex is available for 1880-1920 and tells whether or not the state was "soundexed" in 1910. There are two sheets listing the mortality tables available on microfilm and in book form.

Some very important advice for the beginning researcher is NOT to rely solely on these indexes. Just because your ancestor's name is not in the index does not mean that he was not enumerated in the actual census schedules. The indexers read the originals to the best of their ability, but they could easily misread a first letter or initial. It is wise to check every available index before going to the schedules.

Finally, many local genealogical societies have published every-name indexes for parts of states. These are in the regular shelves with the respec-

(Continued on page 7.)

Announcing the CLF Intermediate Seminar

Clayton Library Friends is happy to announce our second CLF intermediate Seminar. It will be held on Saturday, June 22, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. Centrally located at 2020 Hermann Drive, the Judson Robinson Community Center is just a few blocks from Clayton Library. The CLF Seminar will meet in assembly room 1.

Margaret J. Harris, Assistant Manager of Clayton Library, will speak on "Immigration, Migration, and Naturalization." Those of you who heard Ms. Harris at the CLF Beginners Seminar know you are in for a treat. This time she will focus on researching your immigrant ancestor on this side of the "pond" and how to identify clues to the country of origin.

Gene Church Schulz will present "Writing Your Family History." Ms. Schulz is a professional writer and teaches this subject at the University of Houston West Houston Institute at Cinco Ranch. She will show participants how to use writing to preserve family memories from the present to the past.

As before, you must be a member of Clayton Library Friends (we always welcome new members!), and you must pre-register to attend. The deadline for registration is June 14, 1996. For more information contact Gay E. Carter, Seminar Chairman, at (713) 480-4255 (after 5 p.m.). ■

Beginners column

(Continued from page 6.)

tive state, NOT in the ready reference section. The best way to look for these is in the new card catalog. An example is the new series by Bobbie Jones McLane and Desmond Walls Allen, *1850 Census of Northwest Arkansas...* (Conway, Arkansas: Arkansas Research, 1995) (GEN 976.7 M161 ARK). This work covers nine counties and lists names, ages, birth states of the husband and wife, dwelling number, and township. ■

Membership

(Continued from page 4.)

Felscher Fleming, Stephanie A. Hebert, Dorothy Howell Carroll, Carolyn E. Boor Cannon, Bonnie J. Langford Taylor, Jimmy E. Dowell, John L. Ryan, Jeanette Kirtley Brooks, Howard M. Itz, Louie E. Rogers Reifel, Mildred M. Carroll, Jeanette Prague Taylor, and Mary A. Austill.

Sign-up Table at Clayton — John Dorroh, Frank L. Worley Jr., Margaret Grigsby Mottley, Thomas C. Mathies, Susan Dickson Whitworth, Stephanie

A. Hebert, Ruth Chambers Lewis, and Gladys Rutledge Edwards.

A very special THANK YOU to: Dr. James Younglove (membership records and yearbook), Norman T. Crook (yearbook), Margaret Grigsby Mottley (mail pickup and processing, gifts-in-kind, yearbook, and printing liaison). ■



CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS INTERMEDIATE SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, June 22, 1996
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p. m.
Place: Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Assembly Room 1
2020 Hermann Drive (Parking available next to building)

"Immigration, Migration, and Naturalization"

where to look for your immigrant ancestors

Margaret J. Harris, Assistant Manager, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

"Writing Your Family History"

ideas for collecting your reminiscences to write a family narrative

Gene Church Schulz, professional writer and writing instructor

>>>> Seating is limited to 100 <<<<

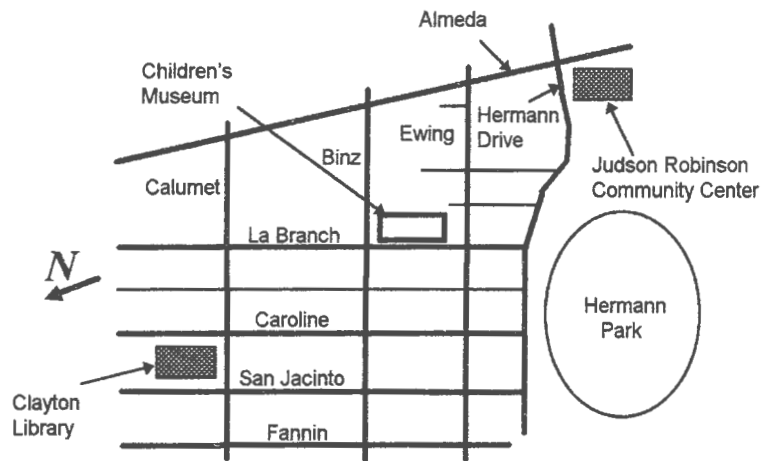
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 14, 1996

Please note:

You must be a member of Clayton Library Friends, and you must pre-register in order to attend.

Registrations received after June 14th will be placed on a waiting list.

For more information contact Gay E. Carter at 480-4255 (after 5 p.m.)



REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____

____ Member

Address: _____

____ New Member (dues enclosed)

Telephone: (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

Mail to : Clayton Library Friends
Intermediate Seminar
Attention: Gay E. Carter
P.O. Box 271078
Houston, TX 77277-1078

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch

by Randy Evans

ANYONE with German ancestry should examine the very valuable *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch* [German Lineage Book] volumes, available at Clayton Library. Subtitled *Genealogisches Handbuch Bürgerlicher Familien* [Genealogical Handbook of Bourgeois Families], this multi-volume set contains lineage tables and biographical compilations for thousands of bourgeois German families dating back several hundred years. Genealogical information includes family relationships; date and place of birth, baptism, marriage, and death; information concerning professions and military service; places of residence; and other data extracted from primary and secondary sources. The only serious shortfall to the series is the lack of citations to original sources, many of which are civil and church registers whose present location may be very difficult to determine.

The series is divided into three segments: Volumes 1-119 contain the *Alten Reihn* [old lines]; volumes 120-170 contain the *Neue Reihn* [new lines]; and volumes 171-198 are the *Ergänzungsregister, Neue Reihn* [supplemental registers, new lines]. At Clayton, the first 75 volumes are on microfilm in the microprint area, and volumes 127-198 are available in book form in the German section (GEN 943 5783 GERMANY). Volumes 76-126 are not currently owned by Clayton Library. Each volume has a double index. In the front of each volume is an index to the major family names found in the volume; in the back is an every-name index.

Although written in German, entries in this series of books can be readily understood provided the researcher has a basic knowledge of the organization of the series and the meanings of a few key German words. Most of the words—except for place names—appearing in the biographical sketches and the terms identified in the list of abbreviations can be easily translated using a German-English dictionary. One is available in this same area of the library (German section).

The *Abkürzungen und Zeichenerklärungen* [explanation of abbreviations and symbols], which appears in the

front of each volume, provides all of the basic information needed to decipher the biographical sketches. Some of the abbreviations and symbols used are shown in the inset.

A quick-study example of the kind of information contained in *Geschlechterbuch* can be seen in the ABENDROTH family compilation beginning at the front of *Band* [volume] 127:

On the first page of the Abendroth family section is a pedigree chart listing, by reference numbers only, the individuals described in the accompanying genealogy. Reference numbers consist of a Roman numeral (I, II, III, etc.) indicating the generation, a letter (a, b, c, etc.) indicating the specific individual within a given generation, and a *Seite* [page] number (S.15, S.16, etc.) on which the biographical information can be found.

Example (vol. 127, p.3):

Sohn:

VI Johann Sigismund Abendroth, * Mittweida 6. 5. 1693, † Scheibenberg im Erzgebirge 26. 8. 1764, Kurfürstl. Sächs. Berg- und Rezeßschreiber, auch Stadtschreiber ebd., Advocatus immatriculatus;
 ∞ Märkersbach 20. 11. 1725 Christine Concordia Schubarth, * ebd. 11. 6. 1709, † Scheibenberg 28. 5. 1780, T. v. Christian Andreas Sch., luth. Pfarrer zu Märkersbach (* Bärenstein...1669, † Märkersbach...1720).

Translation:

Son:

VI Johann Sigismunde Abendroth, born at Mittweida 6 May 1693, died at Scheibenberg in Erzgebirge 26 August 1764, electoral of Saxony. Mining and treaty recorder, also city recorder at the same place, enrollment attorney;

Married at Märkersbach 20 November 1725 Christine Concordia Schubarth, born at the same place 11 June 1709, died at Scheibenberg 28 May 1780, daughter of Christian Andreas Schubarth, Lutheran minister at Märkersbach (born at Bärenstein...1699, died at Märkersbach...1720).

(Continued on next page.)

Microfilm collection added to Finding Aids Home Page

In April, listings of Clayton's entire microfilm and microfiche collection were added to the Finding Aids Home Page on the World Wide Web. David Lodge, who developed the software that made this possible, has organized the material into four categories: State Records, U.S Records, International Records, and Family Records. In the state listing, material is organized, where possible, by county. Plans are now in work to further subdivide the collection by type of record. You can access these listings through the Finding Aids Home Page, or you can go directly to the Microfilm Collection.

Finding Aids Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/fa001.html>

Microfilm Collection Home Page:

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/clmc0.html>

Work continues on improving the form and content of this service. Suggestions and comments should be e-mailed to David Lodge at cdlodge@ghgcorp.com. ■

Geschlechterbuch (Continued from previous page)

Once you've found something on your ancestor in the *Geschlechterbuch*, be sure to record the appropriate citation. Even an experienced genealogist may have difficulty with this one. The *Geschlechterbuch* citation for the Abendroth family information noted above is:

Strutz, Edmund, ed. *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch: Genealogisches Handbuch Bürgerlicher Familien...*, vol. 127. Limburg an der Lahn: C. A. Strake, 1961, p. 3.

Viel Glück!!!

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

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Houston, Texas Permit No. 1747
--