



# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII

February 1998

No. 1

## President's Message

As we start another year, we welcome five new board members. However, I would be remiss if I did not thank outgoing members David Singleton, Jerry Betsill, Vivian Jordan, Robin Bashaw, and Leon "Randy" Evans for their contributions. Each of these individuals has spent at least two years on the board—some serving in more than one position—and their work has been vital to this organization's progress. We hope they will continue their support as CLF volunteers.

Regarding the present board of officers (listed on the next page of this newsletter): Please feel free to contact any of them with suggestions, ideas, and comments about the organization. We are representing you and hope to do a good job of it.

This year, you received a "Clayton Library Wish List" along with your membership renewal form. Thank you for your additional contributions—it has shortened the list considerably! The specifics of our progress are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year we are hoping to complete the 1920 Soundex collection, and, toward this end, we are establishing an advisory committee to assist with applications for grants and other fund sources. If you have any ideas in this area or would like to help with this effort, please let us know.

As many of you may know, CLF has a bulletin board in the snack room

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## Santa Claus Came to Clayton!

Donations made by CLF members certainly made it seem as if Santa Claus made a stop at Clayton Library.

Several "Friends" contributed funds for the acquisition of the 46-roll collection of North Carolina land warrants made in Tennessee during the period 1783-1797. This microfilm has arrived and is ready for use (cabinet 46, drawer 1). The index for these records, on microfiche, lists the name of the grantee, reel, frame numbers, and county (cabinet 70, drawer 6).

In addition, 30 reels of North Carolina death indexes, 1909-1967, were ordered. Thanks to our Friends!

Funds to purchase Texas death indexes, 1992-1996 (microfiche) were donated by Mrs. Suzanne Sandlin Gay in memory of Marlin Elijah Sandlin. These records are located in cabinet 70, drawer 7.

Myron F. and Maria Luisa Benteen Steves have donated funds for Florida vital records: dissolution of marriages, June 1927 through 1969 (133 fiche); death indexes, 1877 through 1969 (305 fiche); and marriages, June 1927 through 1969 (481 fiche).

Mr. Tom Green provided funds for Tennessee death indexes, 1908-1946, and birth indexes, 1908-1912.

Many thanks to all our special friends who contributed to these acquisitions. We would like to continue acquisition of the vital records of various states as the records become avail-

able. If you are interested in donating funds for this project, please contact Liz Hicks, (713) 944-1118. ■

## Time to renew!

1998 CLF membership renewals are now due. Your \$10 (individual) or \$15 (two people at the same address) payment must be received by March 1st for your name(s) to be included in the 1998 CLF Yearbook (membership directory). Please check your newsletter mailing label to see if your membership has been paid for 1998. For those not renewing, the February issue will be your last.

The 1997 membership year (January 1st through December 31st) closed with 1,485 members, making Clayton Library Friends the largest genealogical group in Texas for the second straight year. Our goal for 1998 is 1,486 "Friends." Checks should be made payable to "CLF" and mailed to CLF Membership, P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078.

The strength of our membership is very important when we apply for grants and funding in support of Clayton Library, and a large membership says a lot about how serious we are in our commitment to the library. Please join us in making 1998 another great year for Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends!

Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks  
Membership Chair

**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**

Patricia Palmer Metcalfe ..President  
Martha Anderson Burg .....1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks ....2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Joyce Baskin Carter.....Secretary  
Forrest "Cal" Wolfert, Jr. .... Treasurer

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Donald E. Pusch, editor  
Pat Metcalfe and John Dorroh,  
assistant editors

**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**

October 1 through December 31, 1997

<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT—Wells Fargo Bank</b>	
Starting Balance .....	\$ 24,394
Unrestricted Funds.....	6,391
Restricted Funds	
Binding.....	1,010
Endowment.....	546
Other.....	1,304
CLF Operating Funds.....	15,068
1998 Prepaid Dues.....	75
<b>Deposits, total .....</b>	<b>12,987</b>
Unrestricted.....	3,468
Restricted	
Binding.....	25
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	8,094
CLF Operating Funds.....	900
1998 Prepaid Dues.....	500
<b>Withdrawals, total .....</b>	<b>3,577</b>
Unrestricted.....	75
Restricted	
Binding.....	- 0 -
Endowment.....	546
Other.....	798
CLF Operating Funds.....	2,158
<b>Ending Balance.....</b>	<b>33,804</b>
Unrestricted.....	9,784
Restricted	
Binding.....	1,035
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	8,600
CLF Operating Funds.....	13,810
1998 Prepaid Dues.....	575
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND—Univ. Bank .....</b>	
<b>15,394</b>	
Certificate of deposit #1 .....	12,540
Savings account.....	2,854

Cal Wolfert, Treasurer

**NEXT MEETING**

<<<<<< >>>>>>

**Saturday, February 28th, 10:15 a.m.**  
**Concourse Meeting Room**  
**Houston Public Library (Central)**  
**500 McKinney Avenue, Houston**  
**(Opposite City Hall)**

**SPEAKER**

**Marje Harris, Manager of the Clayton Library**  
**TOPIC**  
**My Dreams For Clayton Library**

THE  
NEW YORK HERALD  
A DAILY AND WEEKLY NEWS  
DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION  
ALSO is served to Subscribers in the City  
(except Sunday) at the rate of TWO DOLLARS  
in advance to the Newsman.  
Country Subscribers, in any part of the Unit-  
ed States, can receive THE DAILY HERALD, by mail,  
at one dollar per copy, on remittance cash in advance.  
The WEEKLY HERALD, containing all the in-  
formation of the week, is published every  
Sunday at THREE DOLLARS per annum, 2  
copies for one dollar, in advance.  
Letters to the Editor to be post paid.

OLD ESTABLISHED PAPER

# THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1837. WHOLE NO. 469.

SOLELY BY  
DON BENNETT,  
at the corner of Nassau and  
4th streets.  
The extensive circulation of the  
Herald, and the superior character of  
its printing, are its great recom-  
mendations.  
LITERARY, OR LEGAL,  
NOTICES, OR ADVERTISEMENTS,  
of any kind, will be received  
and inserted in the Herald, on  
application to the Editor, and  
paid for before their insertion.  
THE WEEKLY HERALD, at \$1.00 per  
copy.

SEE ADVERTISEMENT—ABERNETHY'S COMPASSIONATE  
LAWYER, at the corner of Nassau and 4th streets, at the  
great demand of  
the public, from the lower part and west side of the city, to  
publish the names of the  
dividuals to popular indignation; but neither masses  
of the people, nor sections of the country have been  
swerved from their devotion to the bond of union,  
unqualified services of the first President, it was com-  
mon sentiment, that the great weight of his character  
could alone bind the discordant materials of our  
country into a solid and permanent union.

## Murder most foul... threats and insults!

by Trevia Wooster Beverly

>>>>>>> <<<<<<<<<

Matagorda Weekly Dispatch  
June 29, 1844

The body of a Mr. Canfield, whose residence is about nine miles from Houston at Piney Point, was found in Buffalo Bayou a short distance below his dwelling on the 6th inst.<sup>2</sup> He had been shot in the face and neck with buck shot.

The Telegraph and Texas Register  
Wednesday, April 6, 1839

Beware of Imposters!! We the members of the Quarterly Meeting conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, Washington circuit expose to public journals that James Brown and W. W. Wallingford are imposters. Brown, an Englishman, about 30, of light complexion and middle size stature, & is remarkably boisterous in reading hymns & preaching -- Wallingford obtained a license to preach in Austin Co. last fall, since then his guilt has been exposed. He has several wives in the U.S. and deserves to be shunned --

Brenham Weekly Banner  
October 31, 1879

Serious Gin Accident. Mr. John Hoffman, an old citizen of this county living near Berlin, a brother of Mr. R. Hoffman of this city, on Friday morning was fearfully cut and lacerated by his cotton gin.... Dr. E. R. Young, his family physician, amputated the hand about two inches above the wrist.

>>>>>>> <<<<<<<<

Did your ancestors also make it into print? Yes, indeed. Quite likely they did! In between being born, getting married, and dying, they did all sorts of interesting things, some of which, no doubt, were newsworthy. If you'd like to know more about the use of newspaper collections in your family research, check on the many sources available at Clayton Library and at the main repository of the Houston Public Library.

family data not available from other sources. And the variety of information to be found in newspapers is impressive.

Newspaper obituary sections are always a great place to start. These will often contain such information as the deceased's birth place and date, maiden and married names, names of spouses, children, brothers and sisters, and even, on occasion, immigration data. And of course, if the notice gives the name of the funeral home and the cemetery, you then have two additional sources to explore. It behooves the researcher to remember that these obituaries may carry various titles—Obituaries, Death Notices, Mortuary Notices, Funerals, etc.—and they may

John Hersey once said, "Journalism allows its readers to witness history...." For this reason, newspapers are perhaps the best history that can be found. And, although considered by genealogists to be "secondary sources," newspapers can be extremely valuable in providing

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not always appear in the same section of the newspaper as they do today. Some early ones will even appear in the classified section. Also, don't assume that the death notice will only appear in newspapers from the place where your ancestor was residing at the time of death. Death notices are very often found in the newspaper of an ancestor's old hometown. Such accounts may bring to light additional family history that may be very valuable. Even today's obituary of an aged person may lead you back to the early 1900s or even into the previous century.

Marriage announcements, especially those appearing in the hometown newspaper of the bride, may include extensive information on members of the wedding party and on wedding guests, many of whom may be relatives of the bride and groom. Such announcements may also mention places of residence, occupations, and other facts. And what a find if there is a photograph!

"Gossip" columns and local news sections contain all sorts of interesting and informative items. In such columns—especially in small-town papers—you may find items on who's visiting who from where and what their family connections are. Out-of-town births, deaths, and marriages attended by local persons were often mentioned, as were school graduations, award announcements, club news, and illnesses. Also, don't be surprised if your ancestor made the news because of something he did that was less than honorable or because of encounters with the law. Scandalous behavior was always newsworthy, especially if it involved criminal activities. In the South, Blacks associated with a crime or act of rebellion—especially if such acts involved runaway slaves—always made the news.

Public notices can also contain

valuable genealogical information. Look for a wide variety of items, including business and trade announcements, tax lists, unclaimed mail, passenger and hotel lists, and—usually in the advertising sections—notices concerning missing heirs, settlements of accounts by estate administrators, and estate sales.

Special editions, such as one celebrating the 100th anniversary of the town or one published as a "Merchants Issue," will often include biographical sketches of locally prominent families and individuals,

#### MARRIED.

On Thursday, 2d inst., by the Right Rev. Bishop Onderdonk, Morgan A. Dayton, of Poughkeepsie, to Mrs. Ana A. Bennett, of this city.

#### DIED.

On Friday, 3d inst., of scarlet fever, Eugene, son of Eugene Kettas, aged 1 year and 16 months.

On Friday, 3d inst., William J., infant son of James H. Townsend.

On Friday, 3d inst., of scarlet fever, Mary, only child of Chas. E., and Ellen Hasbrook, aged 5 years, 10 months, and 7 days.

On Friday, 3d inst., at his residence, 25 Fureyth st., after a short illness, Truman A. H. Graves, aged 26 years.

Suddenly, at Morristown, N. J., on Friday, 3d inst., Henry King, Esq., aged about 70 years.

oral history, and anecdotal information about earlier times.

Past and current newspapers often offer local "history" columns that can contain genealogical information. And the use of personal ads in the classified section may also bring forth others working on, or with a knowledge of, the families you are researching, including "lost" relatives.

Compilations of genealogy columns can also be very useful. One that comes to mind is *Ken Thomas on Genealogy* (975.8 T458 GA).<sup>3</sup> Thomas's columns offer advice, book reviews, and queries, in addition to news concerning libraries, society projects, etc.

It is always best to examine the actual newspaper or a microfilm copy, but published abstracts are the next best thing. These are frequently found in genealogical quarterlies but have also been published in book form.

Examples include such works as Kevin Ladd's *Gone to Texas: Genealogical Abstracts from The Telegraph and Texas Register 1835-1841* (976.4252 L154 TX), Kathleen Koppel Glass's *Texas History Through the Eyes of The Galveston Daily News* (976.41 39 G549 TX), and the Wood County Genealogical Society's *Genealogical Abstracts of Wood County, Texas, Newspapers Before 1920* (976.4223 G326 TX). Other examples of newspaper abstracts include Robert M. Tompkins' *Marriage and Death Notices from the Western Carolinian* (975.6 T674 NC) and Robert Davis's two volumes of *The Georgia Black Book, More Morbid, Macabre, & Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value* (975.8 D263 GA).

Pauline Gandrud's 245-volume *Alabama Records* series includes many newspaper abstracts. After Gandrud's work was published, newspaper records were pulled from each of the volumes and published as *Marriage, Death and Legal Notices From Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819-1893* (976.1 G196 AL). Other newspaper items, of course, must be culled from the various original volumes.

Selected items have often been transcribed and published from various religious papers. One such offering is Brent Holcolmb's *Marriage and Death Notices from the Southern Christian Advocate, 1837-1860* (975 H725 USA) and a similar volume, *Marriages from the Southern Christian Advocate, 1867-1878* (same call number).<sup>4</sup>

If you have Irish ancestors, an excellent collection of newspaper extracts can be found in the five volumes (to date) of *The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in the*

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*Boston Pilot* (974.4 S439 MA) being published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. When completed, this set will contain all of the Irish immigrant advertisements that were placed in the *Boston Pilot* during the years 1831 to 1916. Often, these advertisements were placed by those back in the homeland in attempts to locate family members and friends in the U.S. Also, the *Pilot* contained ads placed by newly arrived immigrants who were looking for those who had come before, many of whom had immigrated far inland. This communications network for Irish immigrants was an important feature in the *Pilot* for nearly a century. For this reason, the *Pilot* was subscribed to by many ethnic Irish living well outside of the Boston area. What are your chances of finding a connection in the *Boston Pilot*? Very good! Here, for example, is a notice that appeared in the *Pilot* on 16 October 1841:

...JAMES KELLY, a native of Tipperary, by occupation an engineer. He worked at Taunton, Ms., about three years since, from whence he is supposed to have gone to the South, or Houston, (Texas,) where he is thought to have been employed as an Engineer of a steamboat. Any information respecting him will be most thankfully received by his brother, John Kelly, who resides in Fall River, Ms.

Throughout this series, one will find almost every state mentioned. So, if you have Irish ancestry, no matter where they settled in the U.S., searching this series is a "must."

When dealing with newspaper abstract (or extracts), it is important to remember that the abstract collection may not include the specific item that you seek or that would enhance your family's story. The compilers couldn't include every item found in every paper, so compilations of abstracts are

not complete; they contain only those items the compiler deemed important.

Many newspapers have been microfilmed, and there are even indexes available for some of these. For Tennessee research, see *Tennessee Newspapers: A Cumulative List of Microfilmed Tennessee Newspapers in the Tennessee State Library* (976.8 T297 TENN). For North Carolina, see Roger Jones's compilation, *North Carolina Newspapers on Microfilm: A Checklist of Early North Carolina Newspapers Available on Microfilm...* (975.6 J78 NC) and Alan D. Watson's compilation, *An Index to North Carolina Newspapers, 1784-1789*. For Illinois, see the Illinois State Library's publication, *Newspapers in the Illinois State Historical Library* (977.3 N558 ILL). For Maryland, see Les White's compilation, *A Guide to the Microfilm Collection Newspapers at the Maryland State Archives* (975.2 M393 MD). Those researching Virginia, will find that Clayton has the *Virginia Gazette* on microfilm (6 rolls) together with the hardcopy, *Virginia Gazette Index, 1736-1780* (975.5 C249 VA).

For Texas newspapers, an excellent source of information is *Lone Stars and State Gazettes* (976.4 S564 TX) by Marilyn McAdams Sibley. Sibley's work discusses Texas newspapers before the Civil War and contains an appendix giving a very detailed checklist of the Texas newspapers from annexation to the Civil War. The work also provides information on where these newspaper collections are located. Did you know, for example, that the San Jacinto Museum of History has an excellent run of the (Anderson, Grimes County) *Central Texian* from 1855 to 1857?

Most of us in the Houston area are familiar with the no-longer-published *Houston Post*, but did you know it had a predecessor, the *Houston Post-Dispatch*? The Texas and Local History Department of the Houston Public Library, whose collection supplements

that of the Clayton Library, has this and many other newspapers in its large collection, including some items that date from 1835. Even a few foreign-language papers can be found here, such as the *Texas Anzier*, a German language paper of 1892-1893. If you do visit the Texas and Local History Department, be sure to inquire about their newspaper scrapbook collection and the newspaper card index. This latter item contains over 3,000 personal names selected from local newspapers published from the late 1830s up into the 1850s.

A major collection of newspapers has been assembled by the University of Texas Archives. If you plan to visit this collection, first examine Chester V. Kielman's 1967 compilation, *The University of Texas Archives, A Guide to the Historical Manuscripts Collection in the University of Texas* (976.4 K47 TX). This will help focus your research. For example, Kielman mentions, at item 754, a typed list of foreign newspapers, listed alphabetically by country, city, and newspaper title. Item 1911 directs the reader to a newspaper scrapbook collection organized by subjects that include Agriculture, Alabama, Baptists, Confederacy, Indian Captives, Oklahoma, Presbyterians, Texas Counties (Anderson, Aransas, Coryell, Zapata, and others), and Texas Pioneers, to name but a few.

A number of states have ongoing newspaper projects that try to identify, locate, and preserve—through microfilming—the newspapers circulated or published within their respective states. Such a project for Texas is being conducted by the American History Center at the University of Texas. Virginia has a project managed by the State Library of Virginia.

Check university and historical society libraries and archives to see what can be found in their newspaper collections, and especially check those in the state of your interest. For exam-

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ple, the Filson Club in Louisville, Kentucky has over 300 pre-Civil War Kentucky newspaper titles in its holdings, and the Kentucky Historical Society has a large collection of newspapers for the years 1830-1890.

If you can't visit the library that has the collection you want to access, call and inquire about the possibility of an inter-library loan. If the material is available for loan, you can make arrangements, through the inter-library loan department of your local library, to access the material.

Current newspapers may be of help in several ways, and most are being microfilmed today and are easily accessible. While Clayton does not have current newspapers, our Houston Public Library system does. Check with the main library, and check your local libraries and university libraries. Many current-day newspapers, the *New York Times* and the *Houston Chronicle*, for example, have annual indexes, and these make it easy to look up a name or a subject. Such indexes are in most major public and university libraries.

For researchers with Internet access, there are several good Web sites you can visit to view current newspapers online. Examples:

#### BIE-Online Newspapers

<http://www.coba.wright.edu/bie/paper.htm>

#### Newspaper Online!

<http://www.newspapers.com/>

#### Editor & Publisher Online Newspapers

<http://mediainfo.com/ephone/npaper/nphtm/online.htm>

Since May of 1996, Clayton's patrons have had access to E-Cat (Everybody's Catalog) for finding items in the library. But, did you know you can access the actual text of some newspaper and magazine articles through E-Cat. Next time you are in the library, ask a librarian to show you how to take advantage of this very useful library tool.

Before closing, I would like to recommend to the reader a few other, more general, references that are of interest to those doing newspaper research. Not all of these are available at Clayton.

Brigham, Clarence Saunders. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*, 2 vols. 1974.

Wooster, Mass: American Antiquarian Society, c1947. (Central Library, SR 071 B)

Gregory, Winifred, ed. *American Newspapers 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1937.

Library of Congress. *Newspapers in Microform, United States 1948-1972*. Washington, D.C.: Library of

Congress, 1973. Supplement, 1976. (011.35 N558 USA)

—. *A Check List of American Eighteenth Century Newspapers in the Library of Congress*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1936.

Milner, Anita Cheek. *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers*. 3 vols. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1977-. (016.071 M659 USA)

Parch, Grace D., ed. *Directory of Newspaper Libraries in the U.S. and Canada*. New York: Project of the Newspaper Division, Special Libraries Association, 1976.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis. "Newspapers," chapter 12 in *The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerny. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing Company, c1984. (929.1072 S724 USA)

Newspapers record "the fine print of our daily lives" and are important research tools that provide facts and figures, trends and commentary, and a wealth of information on the cultural settings in which our ancestors lived. Their use will add considerable texture and color to your genealogy and should not be overlooked.

#### NOTES

1. Trevia Wooster Beverly, a charter member of CLF and a professional genealogist, publishes the Texas quarterly, *The Tejas Gazette*, and teaches genealogy classes. Her great-grandfather, Q. A. Wooster, was a traveling correspondent for the *Monona County (Iowa) Democrat*, when a trip to the "sunny south" determined his settling in Harris County in 1892.

2. Although rarely seen today, the terms "inst" or "instant"—used especially in 19th century writing—refer to the current month. In this case, the "6th inst." means June 6th. The terms "ult" or "ultimo" were used to refer to the previous month.

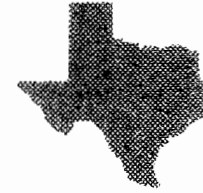
3. Except as otherwise stated, those publications whose call numbers are listed in this article can be found at the Clayton Library.

4. The *Southern Christian Advocate*, a Methodist newspaper, occasionally contained notices concerning the "unchurched" or persons of other denominations. The Lutheran clergy apparently also used this newspaper, since the *Lutheran Observer*, published in Baltimore, was the closest publication of that denomination until 1861.



## ❑ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

# Texas County Records



by Suzanne Sandlin Gay

**F**OR all of us fortunate enough to have Texas roots, there is, in the Ready Reference section of Clayton Library, a wonderful resource guide by Michael Haskett, titled *Texas County Records: A Guide to the Holdings of the Local Records Division of the Texas State Library of County Records on Microfilm*.<sup>1</sup> A Texas-size title, to be sure! The cover is a bit dog-eared, but consider that a badge of praise.

*Texas County Records* is a reference tool and, therefore, not meant to be read from cover to cover in one reading. A scan, however, will show that the book offers far more than just listings of microfilm holdings. For example, information is provided on how to borrow microfilm through inter-library loan. On page 8, we find details concerning inter-library loan policy:

- Limit of 5 reels per researcher at the same time
- 14-day check-out with renewal of 14 days (if no other request for that reel exists)
- Certified copies of documents can only be obtained from the county or district clerk's office where the originals are held
- Borrowed microfilm is for in-library use only

It is important to note that support for the inter-library loan service of the Local Records Division is decentralized. Therefore, requests for the loan of microfilm must be directed to the specific institutional repository holding the microfilm you need. A listing of institutions to which requests can be made appears on pages 5 through 7. When requesting film, provide 1) the reel number, 2) the name of the county, and 3) the title of the record.

Most of the records listed in *Texas County Records* are from the offices of the county and district clerks, with some from the county superintendent of schools and the county tax assessor-collector. For more information about these records, see the "About County Records" section beginning on page 9. Even if you do not plan to order microfilm, reading this section will be well worth your time, as it provides a brief, historical introduction to the following records:

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND ITS RECORDS

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND ITS RECORDS

#### *Records of Real Property*

Deed records, deeds of trust or mortgage records, patent records, land commissioners minutes, homestead applications, and homestead records

#### *Probate Records*

Probate minutes, probate records, will records, probate cases, and guardianship case papers

#### *Statistics*

Marriage records, marriage records (freedmen), marriage bond records, marriage license applications, marriage affidavits, notices of intention to marry, marriage licenses, birth records (including delayed and corrected), and death records (including delayed)

#### *Naturalization Records*

Declarations of intention, naturalization records (sometimes called petition and record), county court minutes or county court civil minutes, probate minutes, commissioners court minutes, naturalization petitions, and naturalization certificate stubs

#### *Court Records*

County court minutes and dockets

#### *Miscellaneous Records*

Pauper records, discharge records, occupation tax records, official bond records, voter registration lists, and muster rolls

### OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK AND ITS RECORDS

District court minutes, district court civil minutes, divorce minutes, district court records or final records, district court civil case papers, divorce case papers, declarations of intention, and naturalization records

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AND ITS RECORDS

Tax rolls

*Texas County Records* really is a guide. It actually has a section called "How to Use This Guide" with a sample page of the county listings (pages 14-15). On the frontispiece is a Texas map showing all of the counties in the state. This is especially helpful, since each of the county

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listings elsewhere in the guide have, at the top left corner, the map coordinates of the county. How intelligent! For example, Brazoria County has the coordinates "F5."

In addition to the lists of microfilm holdings, a lot of other useful information is provided in the county listings:

- Dates of creation and organization of the county<sup>2</sup>
- Courthouse fires or other events that may have caused destruction of the records
- County seat and zip code of the courthouse
- Name of the institution to which loan requests are sent (address list begins on page 5)
- Office of the custodian of the records (e.g., Office of the County Clerk)
- Title of the record and inclusive dates (e.g., County Court Minutes, 1867-1915)
- Notes regarding indexing, lost records, etc. (e.g., indexed in volume)
- Reel number with inclusive dates and volume number(s) (This information appears on the reel boxes at Clayton.)
- Page breaks (i.e., breaks in the records as they appear on the reels)

At the back of the guide is a summary chart listing the 254 counties in Texas "and one county (Greer) formerly part of Texas, but now in Oklahoma." This listing also contains coordinates to the map on the frontispiece. Much

to my surprise, I found 27 additional counties, which have been formed but never organized. Among them, Buchel, Encinal, and Foley had survey and tax records created.

When I was planning this article, I thought I would focus more on a specific county and its records. However, the guide is such a storehouse of information for Texas researchers that it seemed more important to give *Texas County Records* my undivided attention. See you at the Library!

#### NOTES

1. Clayton Library has the second edition of *Texas County Records* (Austin: Texas State Library, 1990). The call number is 976.4 T355 TEX.
2. It is important to note the creation date of the county you are researching. If your ancestor was in the area prior to the creation of the county, records related to him may be in the parent county records office or in the records office of a neighboring county.

Clayton Library has an extensive microfilm collection for the State of Texas, but donations for the acquisition of additional film are always welcomed. If you wish to make a cash donation for the acquisition of county records microfilm, please contact Pat Metcalfe at (713)721-7062 for further information.

#### President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

at Clayton. This was put in place originally to attract new members, but we also use it to communicate with our current members. Check it for announcements made between newsletters.

One last thing before closing: As we went to press with this quarter's newsletter, the 1998 CLF roster stood at 1,089 new and renewing members. This is about two thirds of our end-of-year number for 1997. If you haven't renewed your CLF membership, please do so. Clayton Library appreciates your support!

Pat Metcalfe

### National Genealogical Society Conference in the States

Local Host:  
Colorado Council of  
Genealogical Societies

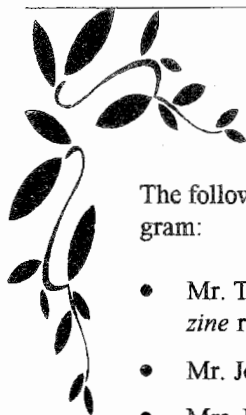
6-9 May 1998  
Denver, Colorado



#### Explore Your Heritage at the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous

For information, write to: NGS '98 Conference Registration Brochure, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399. Telephone (703) 525-0050; toll free (800) 473-0050. Fax (703) 525-0052. E-mail 76702.2417@compuserve.com.



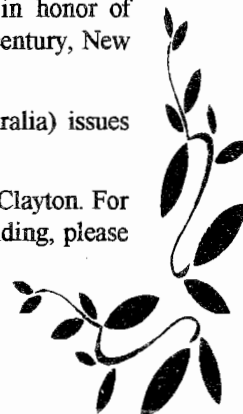


## Angels Report

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

- Mr. Thomas A. Dorrough. *Tap Roots* (Alabama) and *Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine* renewals for 1998.
- Mr. John Dorroh. *Rowan County Register* (North Carolina) renewal for 1998.
- Mrs. Dorothy Greer Beaudoin. *Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* subscription renewal for 1998 (in honor of her Carroll, Greer, Lackey, and Smith ancestors).
- Mr. Don W. Mercer. *Florida Historical Quarterly* and *Genealogical Society of Vermont Quarterly* renewals for 1998 and donation for binding.
- Ms. Beverley McCabe. *Annals of Wyoming* renewal for 1998.
- Mrs. Patsy Andrews. *Flint* (Michigan) *Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and a monetary donation for periodicals.
- Peggy H. Gregory. *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History* renewal for 1998 in memory of Marolf P. Gregory.
- Rose Mary Fritz. *Le Raconteur* (Louisiana) renewal for 1998.
- Margaret Newton Wagenecht. *Central Alabama Genealogical Society Bi-annual* renewal for 1998 in memory of her father, Jeff Harvey Newton.
- Mr. Joseph P. Wolfe. *Seneca Searchers* (Ohio) 1998 renewal.
- Mrs. Jo Anne Walton Gulliver. *The Family Tree* (British Isles) renewal for 1998 in memory of immigrant ancestor Thomas T. Gulliver.
- Dr. & Mrs. Joe M. (Phyllis Vaughan) Moody. *Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly* two year subscription.
- Mr. William S. Harwell. *Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly* subscription extension.
- Mr. Robert E. Moyer. *Topeka* (Kansas) *Genealogical Society Quarterly* subscription for 1998 (new) in honor of Bessie Bilbrey Larkin.
- Mr. Myron F. and Maria Luisa Benteen Steves. *Lifelines* (a publication of the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society) subscription for 1998 (new), in honor of Fuller, Steves, Dockstader, and William Fuller ancestors of 17th and early 18th century, New York.
- Houston Genealogical Forum. 76 titles (periodicals of U.S., England, and Australia) issues 1994-1996.

If you have periodicals to donate, please let us check for duplicates before donating to Clayton. For this and information on donating funds for missing issues, new subscriptions, and binding, please contact Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030, (713) 944-1118. ■



## 1920 Soundex Countdown

Clayton Library moves closer and closer to the goal of acquiring the entire collection of the 1920 Federal Census Soundex. This is a massive set of records—8,585 rolls of microfilm—and the largest of the four censuses that have been indexed using the Soundex system. Clayton Library now owns or has on order 6,055 rolls, or about 71% of the total. And we own complete sets for many important states from the eastern seaboard, the Midwest, and the South. We are definitely in the final countdown to completing the acquisition of this important genealogical resource.

Since our membership Soundex drive in 1996, Houston Public Library has completed the states of Pennsylvania and Michigan. Also, donations in memory of Col. Marolf Gregory were used to purchase a large segment of the North Carolina Soundex, and a generous gift from Mrs. Joanne K. Craig helped purchase Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, Nevada, Guam, and American Samoa.

The accompanying table lists the rolls we need to complete the 1920 Soundex. If you know of an organization or foundation that will help us purchase any of this material, or if you would like to purchase a state collection or even a single roll, please contact a member of the Executive Board or telephone John Dorroh at (281) 498-2603.

Note: Clayton Library owns (or has on order) all of the available Soundex film for those states not listed here.

STATE	ROLLS REMAINING	COST
Canal Zone	3	\$102
Colorado	78	2,652
Connecticut	68	2,312
Delaware	20	680
District of Columbia	49	1,666
Florida	69	2,346
Hawaii	24	816
Idaho	32	1,088
Kansas	98	3,332
Maine	65	2,210
Maryland	124	4,216
Massachusetts	302	10,268
Minnesota	173	5,882
Montana	45	1,530
Nebraska	95	3,230
New Hampshire	40	1,360
North Carolina	84	2,856
North Dakota	47	1,598
Ohio	276	9,384
Oregon	67	2,278
Rhode Island	53	1,802
South Carolina	108	3,672
Utah	33	1,122
Virginia	162	5,508
Washington	117	3,978
West Virginia	102	3,468
Wisconsin	185	6,290
Wyoming	11	374
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>\$86,020</b>

## Two important Confederate document indexes to be acquired

Thanks to the efforts of CLF member Frances Froelich, Clayton Library has acquired a gift from the Confederate Ball Committee to purchase microfilm of two important sets of Confederate document indexes: Microcopy #409 (Index to Letters Received by the Confederate Secretary of War, 1861-65) and Microcopy #410 (Index to Letters Received by the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector Gen-

eral and the Confederate Quartermaster General, 1861-1865.)

Microcopy #409 reproduces, on 34 rolls, an alphabetical card index to letters received in the Office of the Confederate Secretary of War between 1861 and 1865. The index includes the names of signers and endorsers plus all of the names mentioned in the letters or enclosures.

Microcopy #410 reproduces, on 41 rolls, an alphabetical card index to letters received in the Office of the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General and letters and claims received in the Office of the Confederate Quartermaster General between 1861

and 1865. This index also contains the names of signers and endorsers plus all of the names mentioned in the letters, claims, or enclosures.

There are no plans at present to acquire microfilm of the actual documents—a large collection, not all of which is currently in the original series—from the National Archives. However, with these two indexes, it may be possible to locate and obtain copies of the original documents.

For further information on the two indexes, read the introductory material on the microfilm. ■

## ❑ PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS

# The Cuban Papers

by Don Pusch

**S**TEVEN Holston and his wife, Judah, living near Natchez, were the intended recipients of a letter written by their son, John Holston, on 15 May 1782.<sup>1</sup> John was, at the time, a Loyalist fugitive who had taken refuge at Chikasaw Bluffs, a small settlement up-river from Natchez that would later become the modern city of Memphis, Tennessee. John's parents never received his letter; however, the descendants of John Holston will be pleased to know that the document has survived. The original is one of the items in a major collection of American colonial documents safely deposited in Spanish archives. Not long after John wrote this letter, it was intercepted by Spanish authorities, then in control of Louisiana and allied with the United States in the rebellion against England. The letter was sent to New Orleans where it became part of the official papers of the Spanish government. Sometime between 1804 and 1806, the letter, along with thousands of other official papers, was shipped, possibly through Mobile, to Havana, headquarters of the Spanish captain general of Cuba. Finally, in 1888 or 1889, John's letter, together with other warehoused papers that had been massed into almost three thousand bundles of records, was shipped to Seville, Spain. It remains there today in the Archivo General de Indias. In accordance with Spanish archival practices, these records, coming as they did from Cuba, were designated the *Papeles Procedentes de la Isla de Cuba* (Papers Proceeding from the Island of Cuba).<sup>2</sup> Today, we call this collection the "Cuban Papers."

Now suppose you, too, had an Anglo ancestor who came to Mississippi from North Carolina, via Tennessee, in the mid-to-late eighteenth century. I'll wager that Spain's Cuban Papers is not high on your list of prospective sources in which to conduct research. The collection's name alone would put most people off the trail. Then too, many researchers are under the false impression that foreign collections contain only material on their "foreign" ancestors, overlooking the fact that many records created in the American colonies were carried back to Europe during or immediately after the colonial period. The Cuban Papers collection is a perfect example.

### About the Cuban Papers

The Cuban Papers includes archival records collected by the Spanish authorities of Louisiana and the Floridas

from 1761 to 1821, records of the captain general of Cuba, and a small quantity of earlier records from the period of French domination. The records comprise some 2,375 *legajos* (bundles) that, together, contain millions of individual documents.<sup>3</sup> Items to be found there include reports from Spanish outposts, correspondence, records related to the settlement of immigrants, passenger lists and lists of ships and crews, supply records, account books, government passes, employment records, legal proceedings, and lists of all kinds. Geographically, the collection relates to West Florida, East Florida, and Louisiana, the latter region extending well beyond the present Louisiana state borders to as far north as Illinois. Since New Orleans was the principal seat of government in Louisiana, much of the material relates directly to activities in and around that city.

Existence of the Cuban Papers, and the recognition of the collection's importance to American historians and genealogists, first came to light as a result of a Carnegie endowment project begun in 1903. The project, headed by John Franklin Jameson of the University of Chicago, had as its objective the identification of archival material in Europe that related to the history of the United States. During the conduct of preliminary surveys completed at Seville in 1905, the extent and value of the Cuban Papers was first recognized. A more in-depth examination was accomplished by Roscoe R. Hill in 1911-1913, resulting in the publication of his 500-page *Descriptive Catalogue of the Documents Relating to the History of the United States in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba...* (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1916). The 1965 reprint of Hill's *Catalogue* can be found in the USA section at Clayton Library (973 H647 USA). Of the 2,375 *legajos* of the Cuban Papers, Hill's *Catalogue* covers only 143, those considered most relevant to United States history.<sup>4</sup> As significant as Hill's work is, it leaves a mountain of material that has yet to be fully investigated.

This article is not meant to educate readers on how to use the Cuban Papers. In fact, Clayton Library does not own microfilms of this collection, and Hill's *Catalogue* is the only Cuban Papers-related material currently available at Clayton.<sup>5</sup> Rather, the author would like to interest CLF members in the future acquisition of this important collection. And it is not really that far out of our reach. In 1977,

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Louisiana State University and Loyola University began a project to microfilm the entire collection of the Cuban Papers. As a result of that effort, several institutions (none in Texas) have acquired parts of the collection. The Historic New Orleans Collection, for example, now owns over 900 rolls of this film.

The author has been asked by the CLF Executive Board to present more detailed information on the Cuban Papers at their next board meeting and to propose a specific acquisition strategy. Details will follow in the next newsletter. I would be happy to talk to any of our members who would like to know more about the Cuban Papers or who would be willing to assist in the acquisition project. Contact Don Pusch at 281-326-3278 (e-mail: pusch@ghg.net).

#### NOTES

1. John Holston to Stephen Holston & Judah his wife, 15 May 1782, Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, Archivo General de India, legajo 194. Cited in John Walton Caughey, *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana, 1776-1783* (1934;

reprint, Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, 1991), p. 227.

2. Henry Putney Beers, *French and Spanish Records of Louisiana: A Bibliographical Guide to Archives and Manuscripts Sources* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989), p. 39.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 40. The number of *legajos* given by Beers may be a little off. Information taken from the Archivo General de Indias' Internet homepage puts the number at 2,956. <[http://www.ven-icis.com/web\\_icis/id4.htm](http://www.ven-icis.com/web_icis/id4.htm)>, downloaded 8 February 1998.

4. Roscoe R. Hill, *Descriptive Catalogue of the Documents Relating to the History of the United States in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba...* (1916; reprint, New York: Kraus Reprint Corporation, 1965), p. vi.

5. Researchers will find, however, a small amount of material from the Cuban Papers in Lawrence Kinnard's three-volume set, *Spain in the Mississippi Valley, 1765-1794*, published in volumes 2, 3, and 4 of the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1945* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1949). Call number at the Houston Public Library (Central) is T 973.4 K55.

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