



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

** Note: Date Change – May 17th **

Presents

The Adams-Jefferson Letters (1812-1826) Compiled by Betty Crockford

The readers are:

Shirley Wettling (Narrator), a native of Chicago, has lived in Houston since 1965. She is a graduate of Grinnell College with post-graduate work at Northwestern University and courses of interest at the University of Houston. Shirley has worked in a number of theatres in Chicago, Minneapolis and Houston. Since retirement, she has become active again in local theatre and volunteer work which includes her church, the Symphony League, and the University of Houston Clear Lake. She and her husband, Dick, live in the Clear Lake Area. They have two sons. Shirley will read the words of Clementine Churchill in the UHCL-CLASP presentation of the Churchill love letters Dec. 6.

Ron Lohec (Thomas Jefferson) was born in Galveston, TX, grew up and attended schools in Alta Loma, now Santa Fe, and served in the U. S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in June 1955 from the

University of Houston. He married the former Bertha (Bo) Johnston of Galveston in 1953 while attending UH, where he completed degree requirements in January 1955. He then accepted a job with Humble Oil & Refining Co., now ExxonMobil. Ron served the Company in East Texas, Texas Gulf Coast, Louisiana and in world- wide engineering projects, until retiring in 1986. He continued a part-time consulting practice which took him and his wife to various assignments in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. In 2005 he closed his consulting practice to write books and technical articles for his own enjoyment. Publications include some technical papers, two sailing stories and a book, "Emma's Journal: Life on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast 1907-1932," copies of which are in several libraries, including the Clayton Genealogy Library. He and his wife live in Clear Lake and enjoy church, sailboat and golf, along with their three children, their spouses, and nine grandchildren, which he calls their prized

attainment. He has narrated the Churchill Letters in several presentations for UHCL-CLASP.

Walter Hansen, reading Johns Adams, retired from the FBI in 2001 to form his own investigative and security consulting firm, Scepter Security LLC. As a licensed security consultant, he provides security and emergency management consulting services for major corporations, non-profit

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organizations, and school districts. He has appeared on national televised news programs and is a frequent lecturer on emergency management and security planning for school districts across Texas.

Nancy Hansen will be reading Abigail Adams. After having studied one year at the University of Caen, France, in a Junior Year Abroad Program, Nancy Hansen received a BA in French with a minor in music at East Stroudsburg State University, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts in French Literature at Temple University. She taught English and French at

Monmouth University, in New Jersey, where she also received a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. As a contractor for NASA she translated instructional and operational manuals for the iSuper Guppyi transport. She now teaches private piano in the Clear Lake area and is Regent of the Sam Houston Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Author of this presentation is **Betty Crockford**, who enjoys bringing historical figures to the attention of the present day public, especially correspondence between

famous people. She compiled her Adams-Jefferson script from numerous unpublished and published sources, especially Lester J. Cappon's two volumes of *The Adams-Jefferson Letters: The Complete Correspondence Between Thomas Jefferson And Abigail And John Adams*. Other favorite sources were *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, John McCullough's *John Adams* and Lynne Withey's *Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams*. She will provide a detailed bibliography of sources used in developing this presentation for CLF attendees. Alice-Braud Jones

Community Wide Support for Clayton Home Renovation and Library Enhancements

Through the generosity of Houston area foundations, families and individuals, more than \$5.9 million of the needed \$6.4 million in construction costs have been raised to enhance the Clayton Library facilities. Clayton family members and foundations have provided an extraordinary \$3.425 million toward the Houston Public Library facility, a gift from the late Honorable William L. Clayton to the City of Houston in 1966. The Clayton Library Friends is most grateful for their gifts as well as lead gifts from The Brown Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., MD Anderson Foundation, Fondren Foundation and Wortham Foundation. Gifts from half a dozen additional foundations, funds totaling nearly \$1 million from the City of Houston, and donations from many individuals have contributed the balance of the \$5.9 million.

Many thanks to CLF members who have bought brick pavers or sent donations to the capital campaign. If you have not yet made a gift, please consider doing so to help put us over the finish line. Once completed, the Clayton Home facilities will provide additional shelving and storage for archival and research materials, two reading rooms, and meeting space envisioned to accommodate many genealogists' and Houston Public Library needs. Already a much respected educational facility, the enhanced Clayton Library will further enrich our city's outstanding library system and the study of our history.

Allyson Cook

The following family histories have been donated to Clayton Library through the Clayton Library Friends. Once they have been processed, the books will be available at the Library. For information on purchasing a personal copy of any of these books, contact Karen Acker, tkacker@cebridge.net.

The Bruner-Robinson Family History and Genealogy by Gerald J. Bruner

Christian Andreas Scherf Family, Including His Twin Wilhelm by Rachel (Scherf) Levine and Patricia Scherf Smith

Open to Change: A Biographical Historical Sketch of the Menius Name by Justus Menius

Presenting the Creech Family by Patricia Castle

The Allaman Heritage by Durward B. Allaman

Jones, Smith and Charlemagne by Bruce Barnes Cannady

Our Wilson Family Being Some of the Descendants of William and Ann (Mackey) Wilson by Duane E. Wilson

The Dorland Enigma Solved: A Revision of the Dorland Genealogy by Barbara Barth, edited by Judith Smith Cassidy and Harry Macy, Jr.

The Ancestry of Alila Miller (1881-1960) of Miller Place, Long Island, New York by Willis H. White

Elder Bethuel Riggs (1757-1835) of Morris County, New Jersey, and His Family by Alvy Ray Smith

Karen Acker

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Who is Will Clayton?

As we all know, The Clayton Library Center, the 5300 block of Caroline Street, was the home of William Lockhart and Susan Vaughan Clayton. A voracious reader, Clayton deeded their home to the City of Houston for use as a library, effective upon his death in 1966. Their home reopened in 1968 as the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Study. While Mr. Clayton's generosity is remembered, many of us know nothing about the man. His was a fascinating life.

Will Clayton was born in Tupelo, Mississippi in 1880. His parents were poor, and Clayton worked after school from his childhood. Upon finishing eighth grade, he left home to work for a cotton merchant in St. Louis, typing and taking shorthand. After a year, Clayton followed the merchant to New York, where he rose through the ranks of the American Cotton Company by working around the clock and reading assiduously.

In 1904 at age 24, Clayton borrowed \$9,000 from his wife and his brothers-in-law, and founded Anderson, Clayton and Company in Oklahoma City. Through his intense work ethic, powers of concentration and intelligence, Clayton built Anderson, Clayton into a global company. He relocated the firm's headquarters to Houston in 1916. By 1936, it was the largest cotton brokerage firm in the world, with annual revenues of \$200 million.

As his business empire and wealth grew, so did his national profile. During World War II, Clayton oversaw the "warehouse war", successfully procuring needed materials for the Allies and keeping them from the hands of the Axis powers. According to Greg Behrman, author of *The Most Noble Adventure: The Marshall Plan and the Time When America Saved Europe*, Clayton "had acquired enormous stature during the war years." President Roosevelt asked him to stay in Washington and assume the title of undersecretary of state for Economic Affairs in the State Department. Knowing that Sue Clayton wanted to return to Houston, Roosevelt even wrote her to help

convince them to accept the offer!

Having quickly won over Harry Truman, Will Clayton served as

undersecretary from December 1944 until October 1947. His focus became the building of an open and prosperous international economic order, especially in Western Europe. He wanted no repetition of the conditions that had led to the rise of totalitarianism between the two World Wars. In his post, Clayton's vision, amazing recall of figures and diplomacy led to creation of the Marshall Plan, for which he is credited by author Behrman as "more than any other man...the intellectual architect of the Plan".

When Will Clayton finally resigned to keep a promise to his wife and return to Houston in 1947, *Newsweek* called him "the principal architect of American postwar foreign policy." A *New York Times* editorial stated that "Mr. Clayton has been the greatest single force operating in the direction of bringing order out of the European chaos." In Houston, Clayton remained actively involved in world trade issues and in local philanthropy.

The *Most Noble Adventure* offers many insights to Will Clayton's character:

He was direct, commanding and self-effacing....A soft spoken and mild-mannered Southern gentleman, he worked harder than his subordinates, and was known to give them credit for successes and to assume the blame when problems arose...Clayton's discipline and self-control were legendary...he was a pragmatist, interested in efficiency, impact and solutions...

In a nutshell, Will Clayton was a true gentleman and statesman, a Houstonian who made a difference in his local community and quite literally, in the world.



The Will Clayton Summer House

Will Clayton bequeathed his family home on Caroline, his “in town” house, to the Houston Public Library system. His “summer house”, the first house built in River Oaks, has remained in his family. Now owned by Susan Clayton Garwood, Will Clayton’s great-granddaughter, the large Clayton summer house property is the location of our May 18 CLF membership wide gathering.

Mrs. Clayton, Susan Vaughan Clayton, was a native of Kentucky. She loved all things Southern and she had great faith in the architect of her home on Caroline, Birdsall Briscoe. In 1923, Mrs. Clayton engaged him again to design a miniature of Mount Vernon, with the new River Oaks Country Club golf course substituting for the Potomac River. The Clayton summer house, at 3376 Inwood Drive, was never intended to be lived in year-round. The four Clayton daughters ranged in age from 10 to 20 years old in 1923. Mrs. Clayton did not want them or their four female cousins “riding around in cars with boys”. Thus, she built them a summer retreat with a swimming pool, bathhouse and tennis court.

Mrs. Clayton asked that the house be easy to maintain so the “gardener could open the front door on to the marble hall and hose it down”. She installed all interior shutters instead of the heavy draperies that adorned the Caroline house. Each year, the Clayton family, servants and china moved to Inwood Drive and stayed for the entire summer.

At some point during the 1930’s, the east passageway was enclosed and the house was “winterized”. During



The William Clayton Summerhouse as it looks today.

World War II, when the Claytons lived in Washington, D.C., their various newly wed daughters lived in the house. Following the war, their second daughter, Susan and her husband, Maurice McAshan, returned from Brazil and became the occupants until Mrs. McAshan’s death in 2001. Susan Garwood, the granddaughter of the Clayton’s eldest daughter, Ellen, then acquired the house. After a sensitive interior modernization, Ms. Garwood and her young family moved into the house in 2003.

Passionately dedicated to the upgrading and enhancement of the Clayton house and library facilities, Ms. Garwood has graciously offered to host a tea in her gardens on Sunday afternoon, May 18. All current CLF members will receive an invitation to the tea in mid to late April. We look forward to seeing you there.

CLF Membership Year Now April 1-March 31

Effective 2008, our CLF membership year has changed to April 1– March 31. Renewal letters were mailed to all active 2007 members, as well as to former members from the previous two years. Never has membership in Clayton Library Friends been more important for the support of this world-class library, or offered more benefits for each membership dollar. With the completion of CLF multi-million dollar renovation program, the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research will provide enhanced research facilities, significantly increased holdings, new meeting facilities and office space for the “Friends.” Computer hardware and software has been generously donated to the CLF by Harriet Latimer and Associates and the City of Houston is scheduled to donate furnishings for the new buildings. New and interesting programs have been scheduled through 2009 for general membership meetings, offering a wide variety of speakers and subject matter. Be sure to return your completed membership form and include a small donation to add to our new facilities’ holdings. Together we will ensure the strong future of the Clayton Library.



Angels Report

by Liz Hicks

The Angel Program was created in 1994 to provide for periodicals the library does not have the funds to purchase. Anyone interested in becoming an "Angel" by underwriting one or more of the following periodicals for 2008 should contact Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030, 713-944-1118 or email at erootrot@usa.net. Please remember donations can be made in memory or honor of someone(s) and acknowledged in the *CLF Newsletter*. A bookplate can be placed in the bound periodicals at the end of the year. Donations for binding are also welcome.

Many thanks to the following donors who have become "Angels" since the last *CLF Newsletter*.

- Ms. Judy J. Bute, donation for "Upper South Carolina Genealogy & History" renewal for 2008, in memory of Sarah Ann House Bute.
- Mr. Vernon G. Gillette, donation to the Angels program.
- Ms. Alice Braud-Jones, donation in memory of her mother: Cora Lillian McCoy, aka Wynnfred Stewart Holloman of Perry County, MS, for "Mississippi River Routes".
- Mr. Sam Lusk, donation for renewal of the "Chicago Genealogist".
- Mrs. Winona Wilkinson, donation for 2 year subscription to "Coryell Kin" (Coryell Co., TX) in memory of Ms. Bobbie Ross, A-1 genealogist of Coryell County.
- Mrs. Ann Z. Wrenn, donation for renewals of "Bluegrass Roots" (KY), "Redbone Chronicles" (KY), "Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly" (AL), and subscription to "Morgan Memories" (Morgan Co. Gen. Society, Morgan Co., AL) in honor of her ancestors: Henry Augustine and Mildred Pratt Washington of VA, KY and AL.
- Mr. John L. Davis, renewal of "Clark County Historical Journal", and missing issues of the "Clark County Historical Journal" (Arkansas) to complete the collection of this periodical to

present at Clayton. Mr. Davis' donation is being made in memory of Mr. Allen Syler.

Mrs. Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks, donation in memory of Mrs. Arline Lange Shockey.

Angels are still needed for the following periodical renewals for 2008:

- American-Canadian Genealogist* (French Canadian, Franco-Amer. & Acadian Gen.) \$50
- Branching Out* (Marissa Historical and Gen. Society) \$15
- Family Tree Magazine* (British Isles-includes a monthly CD) \$95
- Foothills Inquirer* (Colorado) \$15
- Idaho Genealogical Society Journal* \$19
- Indiana Genealogist* \$30
- Kith 'n Kin* (Sandusky, Ohio) \$10
- Lifelines* (Northern NY American-Canadian) \$30
- Ross County Gen. Society Newsletter* (Ohio) \$15
- St. Louis Gen. Society Quarterly* (Missouri) \$28

Donations are also needed for binding periodicals.

Please contact **Liz Hicks** at (713) 944-1118 or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net if you wish to become an Angel. Make checks payable to CLF, and mail to P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078.



Established 1987

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**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS
GENERAL MEETINGS
2008-2009**

Day	Date	Speaker	Topic
Saturday	– Aug. 9, 2008	Karen Avery Miller, <i>Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesmen – 1607-1783</i> – Researching your ancestors who were engaged in artistic and trade professions. Providing a new methodology for your ancestral research.	
Saturday	– Nov. 15, 2008	Kathryn Black-Morrow, <i>Professional Genealogist – From Piles of Paper to Polished Prose</i> – Writing a narrative history of your family and achieving organization of records and documents	