



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I'm so excited about this upcoming year. We have so many events and opportunities coming our way. You are reminded

of the fact that this year is the 25th anniversary of Clayton Library Friends and we feel it's really something to celebrate. There are planned/surprise special (SPECIAL) events, throughout this year, and we hope that you will love being a part of it. Stay tuned...

As you know, we put a great deal of effort into hosting the 2011 Texas State Genealogical Society Conference. It was quite a success and we thank all the wonderful individuals and societies who supported this event. We believe we brought our Texas genealogists and "partner" societies closer than ever before. The 2012 TSGS Conference will be held in Ft Worth and we hope to have a caravan from Houston in place. Interested?

Our "Holiday Project" brought close to 100 ornaments for our beautiful tree. All are so precious to

us and were so much fun to place. Thanks to all my "helpers" in the decorating and to all you who donated.

This February, Clayton Library Friends has the rare opportunity to sponsor **TWO** speakers on Saturday, February 11. At our General Meeting in the morning Louis Aulbach, one of our "local treasures", will be

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President's Message *continued*

discussing Houston history and will bring along his newest book for purchase. Following the General Meeting and a break for a quick sandwich, Blaine Hedberg from the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center in Wisconsin will talk about Norwegian/Scandinavian research. Following his PowerPoint presentation there will be a workshop. He has been awarded the St. Olav's Medal for his 30 years of genealogical research and is sure to provide assistance in this area of research. Please be sure to read this newsletter carefully for times and details. It's a full day.

Our Membership Drive is in progress and it's my goal to increase our numbers each year. Please remember that our libraries are not Rights, but a privilege and they're only as strong as its Membership and support. Clayton is recognized every year for our outstanding support. Please, along with being a member, consider ADDING a member to our library. It's a "win-win" situation and the best \$20.00 anyone will ever invest.

See you in February.

Claudia Nickerson Grafton

P.S.

Notes from the Real World

When we finished de-decorating our house, I placed the tree outside (before final removal) and, within two days, all the tinsel was gone. I'm hoping to find some bird's nests with silver linings later on this Spring. I'd really love that! May you all find silver linings on your nests this year.

Forever hopeful,
CMG

Clayton Has It!!

Most of us think that it would be useless to look for an ancestors' name in the papers of a body as august as the Continental Congress. We think that family tradition would have told us if an ancestor had been a delegate to any Congress. However, there are many other reasons why we might find facts on our forbearers in such papers.

Consider where your people were during this time. The first of these pre-Federal Government Congresses began in Philadelphia on 5 September 1744 and ended 26 October 1774; the Second convened there 10 May 1775 but met successively for the next six years in a number of cities, becoming the Confederation Congress on 2 March 1781 under the Articles of Confederation. For seven more years it met in different cities holding its last session on 11 October 1788 in New York City.

Many papers from local officials and private persons, not only in the Colonies but also in the Territories are in the collection. As the delegates moved from city to city they met many ordinary citizens, received many letters giving opinions and asking for favors while they selected boarding houses, employed help, and saw to it that bills were paid. All the while, they were following in detail the Battles of the American Revolution and coping with Indian problems.

The five-volume every-name index to the Papers of the Continental Congress 1774-1789 is in the United States section on the first floor of Clayton Library, and the papers themselves, some 50,000 documents, are on microfilm upstairs. Read the Introduction in the first volume carefully before proceeding.

from an article by Mary Smith Fay,
CLF Newsletter, February 1990

Clayton Library Friends is a tax exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

Its purpose is to enrich the resources and facilities of the

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a unit of the Houston Public Library.

Mark Your Calendar - Two Guest-speakers – Two Topics – One Day (February 11th)

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Speaker: Louis Aulbach, author

10:30 am – 12:00 in the Carriage House Meeting Room

Buffalo Bayou: An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings tells the story of the people and events along the banks of Houston's most famous stream. Buffalo Bayou flows about sixty miles and is witness to the past 200 years of Texas history. You will find the names of familiar persons in the stories of Houston, such as Augustus C Allen, Benjamin A Shepherd, Zerviah Noble, Jack Yates, John T Brady, Ima Hogg, William Marsh Rice, and many, many others. But, there also are many individuals who are less well known today, such as Thuse Donnellan, Hugh Hamilton, Caroline Riley, Richard Allen, D F Stuart, Bertha Bethje, Alexander Sessums, Vidal Lozano, Ida Japhet and many, many others. Each of them made his or her mark on the city of Houston. Updated information to his published guides and excerpts from his current projects can be found on Aulbach's website: <http://users.hal-pc.org/~1fa/>

Louis Aulbach, a native Houstonian, is a graduate of St Thomas High School, Rice University, and the University of Chicago. He recently retired after more than 17 years as the Records Management Officer for the City of Houston. He served on the Harris County Historical Commission in the 2009-2010 term.

He is the author of five best selling river guides to the rivers of West Texas, including three guides to the Rio Grande, a guide to the Pecos River, and a guide to the Devils River. His first river guide, called the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, was first published in 1987 and is now in its fourth edition.

Sandwiches Available – Donations Appreciated

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Speaker: Blaine Hedberg, Norwegian-American Genealogical Center

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm – in the Carriage House Meeting Room

This presentation will be in two parts. First, a power-point presentation includes information on both Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogical resources, including Norwegian church records, Norwegian emigration records, Norwegian probate records, Norwegian and Norwegian-American census records, Norwegian-American church records, highlights of various Norwegian genealogical websites, including the Digitalarkivet [Norwegian Digital Archives], and highlights from the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center's [NAGC] collection, and new online databases.

Following this portion of the presentation will be a workshop portion that includes in-depth work in maneuvering through the Digitalarkivet [Digital Archives] and NAGC databases and finding specific genealogical answers to questions from those attending. If specific questions are e-mailed to the speaker before the speaker comes to Houston, he has offered to research that question and be prepared to easily answer their inquiry. bhedberg@nagcni.org

Blaine Hedberg is the recipient of Norway's St Olav Medal in recognition for his 30 years of work with Norwegian genealogy. The medal, instituted by King Haakon VII of Norway, recognizes "outstanding services rendered in connection with the spreading of information about Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their home country".

Acquisitions Committee Report

The beginning of 2012 has seen some changes to the Clayton Library Friends Acquisitions Committee. Karen Acker, after doing stellar work for several years as CLF Director in charge of Acquisitions, has handed over the reins to Lesley Douthwaite. Karen has put in many hours of her time and done a wonderful job. She will be a hard act to follow. However, she has graciously offered to ease the transition by continuing to physically place the orders to be purchased by the Clayton Library Friends once the materials have been identified and it has been confirmed that the library has not already received them as a donation, or has placed an order for them. She will also continue to solicit donations of privately published family histories.

The members of the Acquisitions Committee -- Karen Acker, Gay Carter, John Dorroh, Ruby Dusek, Vanessa Smith, and Charlene Wilson -- continue with the work of adding to the Clayton Library collection. Our mission, of course, has not changed: we aim to support Clayton Library by purchasing materials identified by the Library which they are unable to

purchase due to financial or other constraints. For example, these may be large-ticket items such as collections of microfilm, or foreign materials which must be paid for in foreign currency and require the use of a credit card.

We have continued to place orders during the last few months, including additions to the "Book for every County" project. Be sure to check the new book shelves when you visit Clayton to see what has been added. In addition, we have provided financial support so that many of the new soft cover books recently ordered by Clayton can go directly to the bindery before appearing on the shelves. This prolongs the life of the books and makes them much easier to shelve. A special thank you goes to John Dorroh for his help with this binding project. And of course, we will continue to work with Clayton Library Manager Sue Kaufman and her staff to identify how best we can support the Clayton Library in terms of collection development.

Lesley Douthwaite

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 at: ackertk@gmail.com or 281-358-0893.

The Ancestors of George Noble Howell (1839-1882) and How We Found Them by H. Thomas Howell

Isaac Wright and His Descendants from Stephen Wright of Southeastern North Carolina by Henry N. Wright

Ancestors of Dudley George Roe of the Eastern Shore of Maryland by Page Kenly Roe Barroll

In the Shade of the Oaks: A Story of American Heritage by Margaret Louise Harris

The Groton Avery Clan and the Civil War by Dr. Vincent J. Pitts

Our Genevay Ancestors by H. Thomas Howell

CLAYTON LIBRARY FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

5300 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004-6896
832-393-2600

Membership - It's Time to Renew for 2012!

Welcome to 2012! As you know, our new membership year at Clayton Library Friends has also begun. We want to give a big THANK YOU to all of you who have already renewed! We're looking forward to another great year partnering with Clayton Library as it continues to provide ever-improving, world-class genealogical resources for researchers. Your support not only helps your own research, but builds a legacy for the future. This year marks the 25th

anniversary of Clayton Library Friends; let's resolve together to make it the best one yet! Together we can make a difference! If you have not yet renewed your CLF membership, now is a great time to do so. For your convenience, you may either mail your dues (membership form included in this newsletter) or you may renew online at *ClaytonLibraryFriends.org* (join/renew tab). Thank you for your support!

Welcome New Members!

Clayton Library Friends would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since our last newsletter. We're glad that you've discovered the Clayton Library Friends and hope that you'll also join our group of volunteers that provides support to the library in so many ways.

Terrie Bean-Minero, Barbara Jo Brothers, Janis Esenwein, Wendy Halliday, Patricia S. Johnston, Toni Mackain-Bremner, Judith M. Reynolds, Deta Rogillio, Mary and Tom Sesniak, and Linda Steubinger.

Facilities

The maintenance of the Clayton House enters a new year with the basement project (water seepage) still on hold. The investigation into the sources of the water will continue once we get approval from Houston Public Library. Due to the recent heavy rains the problem has manifested itself again. Houston Public Library Landscape and Facilities personnel have been made aware of this issue.

The maintenance of the grounds for 2012 will continue under the primary care of the City of Houston and an independent firm for interim care. Mrs Susan Garwood, the great-granddaughter of Will Clayton,

continues to be our primary advocate for the continuing beautification of the Clayton House and the grounds. She works tirelessly along with Clayton Library Friends to maintain the property of this historic site.

The next major challenge for the future of Clayton Genealogical Library is the build-out of the second floor on the library building. Space is at a premium in the present building. Planning for this expansion will be a challenge for the City of Houston and the Clayton Library Friends.

1940 Census Release

It's coming! The 1940 Census release date is April 2, 2012 – just a few months away. Have you made your list of who you want to find, and where you think they lived at that time? This is the first census release that the library and CLF will not be asking for

donations toward microfilm – this census is not being released as microfilm. And, remember that there will not be a searchable name index until after it has been transcribed.

**The CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the May 2012 issue is April 8, 2012.
What have you found at Clayton? We welcome any articles related to Clayton Library, or it's collections.**

Thank You 2011 Volunteers!!!

Did you know that there are almost 100 people who work for Clayton Library? A few of them are library staff, but most are people who donate their time and talents for free, helping out in various ways to make the library run smoothly and shine brightly as a gem of the Houston Public Library System. These generous people work as Clayton Library Friends board members and committee chairs, book repair specialists, digitization team members, special event docents, Clayton House welcome desk assistants,

newsletter editors, periodical acquisitions assistants, research helpers, shelving team members, indexers and transcribers, website managers, and much more. It takes a dedicated group to get all of these things done, and as we start the new year, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge all those who have volunteered their time in 2011. My sincere apologies for any accidental omissions.

Steven Bychowski, Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator

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I know that there are also people who volunteer their time anonymously.

To all of you -- **THANK YOU!!!**

2011 Contributions and Donations

Clayton Library Friends wishes to acknowledge and express appreciation to the following individuals and organizations who have generously contributed \$33,542.21 this past year for our ongoing goal of enriching the resources and facilities of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

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Angels Report

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you! I am very happy to report that ALL 2012 Angels subscriptions have been “adopted”!

Those Clayton Library Friends earning their “wings” since the last newsletter are:

Thomas “Tom” Coughlin. *MASSOG* and *The Journal of Past Times*, in memory of his great grandfather, Dennis J. Lonergan.

Norma and Wally Davenport. Donation to the Angels program.

Alfred Davis IV. Donation to the Angels program.

Vickie Lea Gilbreath. *Foothills Inquirer* (Colorado).

Alice Braud-Jones. *South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly*, in memory of Dean Burl Hamburg; *Mississippi River Routes*, in memory of Wynnfred Stewart Holloman, aka Cora Lillian McCoy; and *Houston History*, in memory of Geneva Tillian.

David and Paula Ann Pitts. *Chicago Genealogist*, *Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and *Rhode Island Roots*.

Patricia R. Williams. *The Licking Lantern* (Ohio), in honor of her Licking County, Ohio ancestors.

Polish Genealogical Society of Texas. Renewal of *Rodziny*, publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of America for 2012.

And a **Very Special Thank You** to Susan K. and John D. Thompson for their very generous donation for ALL remaining 2012 Angel subscriptions, and for their continued support of Clayton Library.

Please remember, if you have current or old issues of periodicals you no longer need, consider donating them to Clayton. Even if your periodical is a duplicate for Clayton, it can still be of benefit in an exchange with another library for something Clayton wants, or offered for sale to raise money for Clayton.

For information regarding CLF’s Angel Program call or contact: **Liz Hicks**, Angel Chair, (713) 944-1118, or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net.

Behind the Scenes (or, What Happens to Them?)

You’ve done your spring housecleaning and donated some discarded genealogy books and/or journals to the Clayton Library. Now what? First, the Clayton staff selects the books and journal issues that they do not have, so you have helped supplement the Clayton genealogy collection. But what if Clayton already owns the items you donated?

The library has two relatively similar projects for handling our donations. CLF member, Cathy Fitch, volunteers her time with the periodicals; library staffer, Ashley, works with the donated books. They search for

locations throughout the country that can use our duplicates to fill gaps in their collections, AND that have extra items that Clayton can use. The trade is made. Everyone gets something that they want, for the cost of postage.

A single journal issue may be just the one that someone needs. A reference book that is so far out-of-date that it is no longer useful to you may be hard to trade. Easily traded items are indexes, abstracts, and histories.

Clayton Library Friends turns 25 --

As we enter the year of 2012, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Clayton Library Friends. During this year, we will have a series of articles in the CLF newsletter chronicling some of the highlights of the organization.

Part I – Starting out...

In February 1987 a group called Clayton Library Friends was formed. At that time they filed their application for IRS tax exemption; and in April the “Articles of Incorporation” as a non-profit organization was filed with the Secretary of the State of Texas. The tax-exempt status was approved in November, thus making donations to CLF tax deductible.

During the first three months the group had grown to 200 members. It was decided by the Board of Directors that anyone who paid their dues by June 30th would be considered a ‘Charter Member of Clayton Library Friends’. Thus, the large number of current (2012) CLF members who identify themselves as charter members.

On March 24th the Board approved a \$600 contribution to Clayton Library to purchase the *International Genealogical Index*. This was the first direct contribution made by the organization and was made possible from dues paid by members.

By June of that same year, the latest word from City Hall was that the bids for the new building had been opened and all were within budget. October 6th was the date of the official groundbreaking. After opening remarks, Mayor Kathryn Whitmire, Councilman George Greanias, Library Board Director Katherine T Mize, CLF vice-president Barbara York, and Library Director David Henington took up shovels that were beautifully decorated with red, white, and blue ribbon and officially broke the ground for the new building site.

Early in 1988 the membership received exciting news in a letter to CLF President John Kirtley from J H Creekmore, President of Houston Endowment, Inc., a philanthropy endowed by Mr and Mrs Jesse H Jones. The letter said --- “Reference to your letter of 1 January 1988 in which you request monies for the furnishing and making usable the new building of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas, a unit of Houston Public Library. I am pleased to inform you that the trustees at

our meeting of 27 January 1988 authorized a grant of \$760,000 for the above mentioned purpose. Accordingly, this grant of \$760,000 payable to Clayton Library Friends, Inc. will be funded on 31 May 1988.”

Other good news came in January 1988 from Exxon Company relative to their Volunteer Involvement Fund Program which encourages volunteerism by employees and annuitants. A \$1,000 check to be used toward the purchase of microfiche readers was given to Clayton Library Friends because of volunteer efforts.

CLF members, Avis and Harry Brister, spent a great deal of time and effort in photographing and assembling approximately 60 slides showing the present (1987) facilities and focusing on the new building. They titled the presentation, A Dream of the Past...A Reality of Today. In 1989 the slide show that was developed to alert people to the coming of a big, new, beautiful library building was updated to include shots of the new building, both inside and out, new equipment, and the accessibility to the materials.

In 1987 CLF meetings were held at 10am on Wednesdays. The April 1988 CLF Newsletter contained the following announcement. “In response to the request of many members unable to attend daytime meetings, a night meeting has been arranged for Friday July 8 at Kaphan’s Restaurant on south Main. It will be a dinner meeting beginning at 6pm, and the form for mailing your reservation is at the bottom of this newsletter....”

The CLF Newsletter proudly proclaimed that “On Monday morning, October 31, 1988 the doors of the magnificent new building open for us and succeeding generations to use and enjoy. The beautiful furnishing, snack room, patio, lockers, elevators, and sparkling rest rooms on both floors will make you ask, IS THIS REALLY TRUE?”

Spring 1989 brought the announcement that “We have...placed membership application forms in the snack bar and on the information desk, had good response from a CLF sign on the sign-in desk, and permission was given to set up a membership table in the foyer of the library. In one two-hour period we signed up 19 new members.” By April of that year the

continued on page 11

Clayton Library Friends turns 25 -- continued from page 10

CLF membership had exceeded 490.

One of the early volunteer projects of CLF was the placement of boxes on the tables in Clayton to hold slips of paper for marking pages to be photocopied and/or writing call numbers.

The original 1987 Bylaws were updated several times in the early years, and since then have been periodically modified as needed. As the group evolved and situations changed, the Board has been responsive to

evaluating recommended changes. After Board approval of adjustments, the membership is informed, and then vote at a General Meeting to accept or reject the changes.

Part II of this series, in the May newsletter, will include the multiple logos/images that have represented CLF over the years.

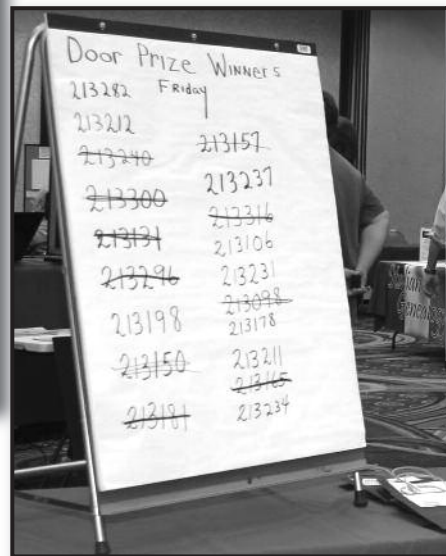
TSGS Memories –

The first weekend in November 2011 was very busy for Clayton Library Friends members as we sponsored the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Genealogical Society. CLF Board member, Hank Wenzler, was busy with his camera – but there's only space in this newsletter for a few of the photos.



Paula Stuart-Warren – featured conference presenter

Vendor booths



Door prizes

In Memoriam

In the past few months, Clayton Library Friends has lost two of its early members. **Ann Reed**, a Charter Member, passed away November 5, 2011; and **Virginia Lloyd**, who served on the CLF Board of Directors in 1991 and 1992, passed away in early December, 2011. Obituaries for both ladies were published in the Houston Chronicle.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday – February 11, 2012
10:30 am General Meeting

***Buffalo Bayou: An Echo of Houston's
Wilderness Beginning***

Louis Aulbach, author

Sandwiches Available – Donations Appreciated

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Super Seminar & Workshop

***Norwegian and Norwegian-American
Genealogy***

Blaine Hedberg, Madison, WI

Saturday – May 12, 2012
10:30 am General Meeting

James Harkins
General Land Office of Texas