



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXVII, Number 2

May 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah, Spring! Doesn't it make you want to get outside and do something? The mild weather makes it a great time for a road trip and for cemetery explorations. Do any of your cemeteries have a "Decoration Day"? Having grown up in Houston, I was unfamiliar with the concept of Decoration Day until a few years ago when I was invited to an annual Decoration Day event at a small cemetery where many of my grandfather's family were buried. I learned that the purpose was twofold: to clean up and beautify the cemetery and for the families to gather together and to remember those who had passed on – a sort of family reunion on the cemetery grounds. What genealogist wouldn't love that?

Before you set off on a genealogy trip, however, whether it be to attend Decoration Day or to visit a courthouse, it's important to do your homework. You can save yourself time and frustration and can have a much more enjoyable trip by doing a little research ahead of time at Clayton Library. If you are not familiar with the library's resources, consider attending one of the free orientation classes. Ask a librarian for research tips, learn to use the online catalog, explore the books, periodicals, microfilms, and digital resources. There is so much more available than you can imagine! The more you know before you set out, the more productive your trip will be.

Speaking of free classes at Clayton Library, I hope that you all regularly check the "Events" tab on the library's website. There are some excellent educational opportunities available! Did I mention the "free" part?

As you plan your travels, be sure to plan around Saturday, May 11. On that day, we have a special treat for you at the Clayton Library Friends General Meeting. Teri Flack will be coming from Austin to share with us the Fundamentals of Researching Texas. Whether your goal is applying for a Texas Heritage Certificate through the Texas State Genealogical Society or

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013

Revenue

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 7,783.67
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	25,043.70
Membership Dues	5,793.11
Total Revenue	\$ 38,620.48

Expenditures

Current Programs	\$14,861.18
Administrative & General	6,514.44
Total Expenditures	\$ 21,375.62

Net Operating Revenue \$ 17,244.86

Statement of Financial Position As of March 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 456,410.64
Other Current Assets	75.15

Total Current Assets \$ 456,485.79

Other Assets (Investments) \$ 996,515.42

Total Assets \$1,453,001.21

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Credit Cards	\$ 84.39
Other Current Liabilities	591.90

Total Liabilities \$ 676.29

Equity \$1,452,324.92

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$1,453,001.21

Resa Nichols Hennings, Treasurer

President's Message

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simply working on your Texas line, Teri's presentation will be full of great information and tips for Texas research. For more about Teri, see her bio on our website.

After Teri Flack's presentation, plan to spend the afternoon at the library. This would be a good time to jump right into your Texas research, while the things you've learned are still fresh in your mind. There are thousands of Texas resources available at Clayton Library, so you should have plenty to keep you busy!

As much fun as it is to explore new places, in the end there's no place like home. And isn't it nice that we have such a great research facility right here at home? Don't take it for granted. I hope that you will support the library by volunteering, by donating, by being courteous and appreciative to the hard-working staff. One of the best and easiest ways is to join Clayton Library Friends. (See our website for more information and a membership form.) We all know that giving back is the right thing to do. We're delighted that so many of you do choose to give back in so many ways. Your efforts are important and very much appreciated. Thank you!

Tammy Frey
President@ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

Correction:

The Financial Statement in the February 2013 issue of *The Clayton Advocate* was titled incorrectly.

The Statement of Activities should have been dated 'January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.' The figures in that report were correct – they were the January-December numbers.

Resa Nichols Hennings, Treasurer

Mark Your Calendar -- And Join Us

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 10:15 am . 12:00 noon
Carriage House Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Center

Fundamentals of Researching Texas

Speaker: Teri E. Flack

Joining us on Saturday from Austin, Teri is a genealogist and consulting historian. She is a 6th generation Texan who has been researching her family history for over 30 years. Teri is an active member of the genealogical community. She chairs the Texas State Genealogical Society's Records Preservation and Access Committee and is the state liaison to the national Records Preservation and Access Committee. She also serves as treasurer for the Austin Genealogical Society. Recently, Teri was appointed to the Travis County Historical Commission. She volunteers at the Texas State Archives working on a project to preserve and make accessible to the public over 1,000 volumes and 300 cubic feet of Galveston County records from the 19th and 20th centuries.



After working for the state of Texas for over 26 years . most recently as Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education and Special Advisor to the Commissioner of Higher Education . Teri retired from state government in May 2009. Although she already had two degrees . a B S in Education and an MBA . Teri returned to graduate school in the fall of 2010. She recently graduated from Texas State University with a Master's degree in History with a concentration in Public History.

A short business meeting will precede the speaker . we need to elect four people from the membership to this year's Nominating Committee. Pat Phillips is the CLF Board representative on the committee. Please be ready to volunteer, and be thinking of people you would like to see on the Board.

Also Mark Your Calendar for these future dates –

Saturday, August 10, 2013 10:15 am . 12:00 noon

Meet Mr Draper and the Reverend Shane

Trevia Wooster Beverly, Houston genealogist and historian,

Introducing us to two American frontier collections that are in the Clayton Library.

Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:15 am . 12:00 noon

Researching Adoptions for Genealogy

Dr Patricia Taylor, Houston adoption expert

Manager's Message



Hello CLF .

One of the most important things that we as family historians can do is monitor legislation that restricts access to vital records. Recently I was made aware of legislation pending in the Texas State Legislature.

House Bill 3252 by Representative John Zerwas (Fort Bend County) would close Texas birth records for 125 years and Texas death records for 50 years. Under current Texas law, birth and death records now become public information 75 years after a birth and 25 years after a death. Proponents of the bill believe that closing birth and death records for 125 and 50 years will prevent identity theft and fraud.

The Texas State Genealogical Society, the Texas family historians' voice in Austin, is actively opposing this legislation. Last week, President Susan Kaufman, President-Elect John Wylie, Director Randy Whited, and Records Preservation and Access Chair Teri Flack testified before the House Public Health Committee strongly expressing our opinion that increasing these time limits will do nothing to prevent identity theft and that, particularly by closing death records for 50 years, family historians will be prevented from obtaining their family's health history in a timely manner. We provided background information to enable the members to understand the impact of the bill. A copy of the bill, the written testimony we submitted to the committee, and our written response to questions and issues raised during the hearing may be found at <http://www.txsgs.org/RPAC/RPAC.html>.

If you are so inclined, you can watch the hearing at <http://www.txsgs.org/TSGS/hb3252/>.

Our voice needs to be heard . please participate!

Sue Kaufman,
Manager, Clayton Library

CLAYTON LIBRARY CENTER FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday . 10 a.m. . 6 p.m.

Wednesday . 10 a.m. . 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday . 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(Closed on Sunday and Monday)

Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony

On Friday, April 19, the Houston Public Library held a Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony at the Central Library's historic Julia Ideson Building, on behalf of all volunteers currently serving within the HPL system of libraries (including Clayton Library).

I was pleased to be able to join many Clayton volunteers in representing the Clayton Library, which has one of the highest numbers of volunteers in the entire HPL system! Two of our Clayton volunteers received special recognition at the event. Sisters Leslie Linton and Shirley Palmer of the digitization team - for the co-award of "Most Dedicated Volunteer".

The sisters, who are here on mission in a partnership between the Houston Public Library and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, typically put in a full 40-hour work week (just like the staff) to scan, digitize, prepare, and upload eligible older books to the FamilySearch website, where they are made available for free viewing to potentially millions of users. The sisters go above and beyond by also making themselves available to help with shelving books or staffing the Clayton House Welcome Desk in a pinch, and their friendliness and good nature is a welcome blessing indeed! Sister Palmer just completed her 18-month term of service at the end of March and has returned home, and new arrival Sister Roberta Brock is now working in Sister Palmer's place in the digitization room. Congratulations to the sisters for this award, and to all of our volunteers, for all the time and effort they generously give to the Clayton Library!



Steven Bychowski,

Clayton Library Volunteer Liaison



(photos courtesy of Roosevelt Weeks, HPL Deputy Director of Library Administration)

Pictured above are:

Steven Bychowski (Clayton Library Volunteer Liaison),
Andrea Lawrence (HPL Volunteer Coordinator/Community Engagement),
Sister Roberta Brock (substituting for Sister Shirley Palmer),
Dr Rhea Brown Lawson (Director of Houston Public Library System),
Sister Leslie Linton.



Angels Report

I am happy to report that ALL 2013 Angel periodical subscriptions have found donors. Many thanks to all who support this program for Clayton Library.

The following people have earned their wings since the last CLF Newsletter

Georgianne Bigam -- renewal of *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families*,

Wally and Norma Davenport -- donation to the Angels Program,

John Davis -- renewal of the *Historical Journal*, publication of Clark County Arkansas in memory of Allen Syler (a long-time contributor to that County's historical collections),

Ruby Dusek -- renewal of *Ceske Stopy*, publication of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society,

Mary Lou Gullett -- donation to the Angels Program,

Linda J Hobbs -- renewal of *Clarke County Historical Society Quarterly* [Alabama] and *Blue Grass Roots* [Kentucky],

David and Maureen Murphy Singleton -- donation to the Angels Program,

Myron Fuller Steves -- donation for back issues of *The Genealogist* to complete Clayton's holdings of this periodical,

Sandy Wilbourn -- donation to Angels program in memory of her first ancestors to settle in Texas: Jonathan Fuller Brown and Edgar Silas Billings,

Joseph "Joe" Wolf -- renewal of *Kin Hunters* [Sandusky County Ohio].

Clayton Library would like to add *Old Newberry Chapter Quarterly* [Newberry South Carolina] to the Angels list. Is there someone who would like to earn their wings by donating \$20.00 for this periodical? If so, please contact: Liz Hicks, e-mail: erootrot@usa.net, or phone: (713) 944-1118.

Clayton Library Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3). The purpose of the organization is to enrich the resources and facilities of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a Special Collections branch of the Houston Public Library.

Membership

Hello Members! Have you made plans to attend the upcoming CLF general meeting? You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear Teri Flack of Austin, Texas, present *Fundamentals of Researching Texas*. Teri is a 6th generation Texan, an active member of the genealogical community and has been researching her family history for over 30 years.

Do you know a budding genealogist that could benefit from Clayton Library or Clayton Library Friends? Our May 11th quarterly meeting at the Carriage House would be a great time to introduce a friend to the facility and our organization. Enjoy light refreshments, an educational speaker, and the CLF membership network.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Clayton Library through Clayton Library Friends. Don't be a stranger!

Kathleen Dickerson,
1st VP & Membership Committee Chair

Only those of you who have renewed your membership for 2013 will be receiving this newsletter. The membership year started January 1st. According to the CLF bylaws (Section 4.2) . %Dues that are not renewed by March 1 will be considered delinquent, and all membership privileges shall be revoked. When dues are ultimately received, the member will be in good standing and privileges shall be reinstated.+ Remember that you must be a member to access the Members Only section of the CLF website.

Do you have friends who were past members and have forgotten to renew their membership? A membership form is on the Clayton Library Friends website . www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org Please remind them to renew.

Also, remember to let us know when you move and/or change an e-mail address. A recent e-mail was sent to a number of persons who had not yet renewed their membership. The Membership chair promptly found 23 undeliverable e-mails that bounced because the e-mail addresses were no longer valid. Mail sent through the post office does not get back to us that fast. We send our newsletters and membership renewal reminders with a notation of Address Service Requested. This means that the post office will either send us the forwarding address, or return the mail-piece to us with a notation of why it was not delivered. [Mail in our PO box last week . April 15th -- included 4 November 2012 CLF newsletters that had addresses that were so old that these members were not getting their mail.]

Welcome New Members! Mr & Mrs Brian P Barrow, Zenobia Viola Harris & Darvell Bivens, Mildred C McAlpin, and David Roger Swenson.

Clayton Library Friends would like to extend a warm welcome to these 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.

Retirement takes another Clayton staff member –



The end of March marked the retirement of Elizabeth Jane Porter. A small group of people managed to surprise her with a party . even though she said she didn't want one. She reports that she is already volunteering at the library . completing some projects that I had never managed to finish. +

But the Clayton staff adds a new face –



If you have thought that you noticed a new face around the Clayton Library, you would be right; it's our new Librarian, Melissa Meadows. Melissa began her career with the Houston Public Library system five years ago when she moved to Houston to complete her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice at University of Houston, and also subsequently earned her Master's degree of Library Science at Texas Woman's University. She has worked at various branches within the HPL system before coming to Clayton, most notably McGovern Stella-Link and the neighboring Freed-Montrose branch.

This previous experience in branch libraries is only part of the story however, as Melissa brings years of experience in genealogical research to her new position. Her focuses include Programs, Outreach, and book mending, as well as all things technology! You may find her planning classes, searching the shelves for books that need a little tender loving care, or talking someone's ear off about the virtues of Evernote for genealogy (class coming in October!). She works almost every day that Clayton is open, so feel free to stop by and greet our newest staff member!

***THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE* deadline for the August 2013 issue is July 13, 2013.**

What have you found at Clayton?

We welcome any articles related to Clayton Library or its collections.

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – Pat Palmer Metcalfe plpm@ix.netcom.com

Editorial Assistance -- Norma Davenport

Acquisitions Committee Report

During the first quarter of 2013 the Acquisitions Committee of the Clayton Library Friends has continued to purchase materials to enhance Clayton Library's collection. Some of the more interesting materials we have acquired are the following:

Several titles to fill in gaps as part of our "Book for Every County" project (for the state of Michigan we have been able to acquire books for Dickinson, Keweenaw, Ogemaw, Emmet and Houghton counties). Many thanks to members of the Committee who have worked so diligently to identify and track down these hard to find titles.

Several titles in the "No Land Only Slaves" series of slave conveyances, compiled by Vivian Lehman and Edith Smith. Clayton already had the early volumes in this series, which focused on Louisiana records, but we have been able to purchase the remaining volumes so far, which cover many Texas counties. Mrs. Smith anticipates publishing more volumes in the series, and has promised to let us know as they become available.

Father Donald Hebert's Southwest Louisiana Records, vols. 1-31, on CD-Rom. Clayton already has all the volumes compiled by the late Fr. Hebert in hard copy, but the CD-Rom is searchable by name, which will be a huge help to researchers who don't have an exact date to work with.

Again, if you happen to hear about an interesting title that you think would be a good addition to our collection, please let the Acquisitions Committee know. Either leave the information in the CLF Acquisitions folder at the Clayton Information Desk, or email me the information at lwdouth@aol.com. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent me suggestions.

Lesley Douthwaite

Book Count



On March 11th, a Monday when the library was not open to patrons, thirty-plus people gathered to physically count the books in the Clayton collection. No effort was made at this time to count the individual periodical issues, the microfilm, or the microfiche. But, a good count was done on the books including those in other parts of the library such as reference desks. In addition to providing a service to the library, it was a wonderful time to get to know some of our CLF members during breaks and lunch. More photos will be at the May meeting and later on the bulletin board in the library snack room.





Established 1987

Clayton Library Friends, Inc
P.O. Box 271078
Houston, Texas 77277-1078

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday – 11 May, 2013
10:15 am General Meeting
Clayton Center Carriage House

Fundamentals of Researching Texas

Teri Flack -- genealogist, consulting historian

Saturday – 10 August, 2013
10:15 am General Meeting
Clayton Center Carriage House

Meet Mr Draper and Reverend Shane

American frontier collections at Clayton Library
Trevia Wooster Beverly -- Houston genealogist

Saturday – 9 November, 2013
10:15 am Annual Meeting
Clayton Center Carriage House

Researching Adoptions for Genealogy

Dr Patricia Taylor . Houston adoption expert