

# THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXVIII

Number 2

May 2014

## Executive Board

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## Clayton Library

### **Manager**

Susan Kaufman



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently took my mother on a trip to meet her newest great granddaughter. How fortunate to have four living generations of my family gathered together! During the hours on the road, my mom and I had plenty of time to chat. After something brought it to her mind, my mother began talking about memories of my father's career and the different positions he had held. To my surprise, I discovered details I had not previously known. No matter how well we interview our relatives, there will always be more details that can come out later, simply because we have not yet thought of or asked all the questions.

We know how important it is to gather as many family stories as possible while we have the opportunity. Along with recording the living memories of our family members, an often-overlooked but very important task is to record our own stories. As genealogists, we know the sorts of information we wish we had from previous generations. Some of us, myself included, need to stop procrastinating and record our own stories for those to come.

I believe many of us feel overwhelmed at the thought of trying to produce an orderly tome of family lore. We see the published family history books at Clayton and think, "There's no way I can do that!" But, you don't have to. You don't have to write a book. Break it down into manageable pieces and don't get bogged down in the formatting details. It doesn't have to be perfect. (All you perfectionists out there, are you paying attention?) Your family will love and cherish your stories in whatever format you choose. even if it's jotting down random memories in a spiral notebook. Funny stories and memorable moments are great, but don't forget that what may seem to you like mundane, everyday detail will also be a treasure, because your descendants' way of life will likely be much different from your own.

There are many ways to tell your story. Be creative! You can center it around family photos or maps, which are great memory

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## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Clayton Library Friends, Inc.**

### **Statement of Activities**

**January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014**

#### **Revenue**

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 3,830
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	1,979
Membership Dues	4,530
Seminar Ticket Sales	1,750
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 12,089</b>

#### **Expenditures**

Current Programs	\$52,293*
Administrative & General	4,649
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 56,942</b>

**Net Operating Revenue** **\$ -44,853\*\***

### **Statement of Financial Position**

**As of March 31, 2014**

#### **ASSETS**

##### **Current Assets**

Bank Accounts	\$ 383,115
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 383,115</b>

##### **Other Assets**

**(Investments, of which \$824,996 is the Permanently Restricted Endowment)** **\$ 1,088,975**

**Total Assets** **\$ 1,472,090**

#### **LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

**Total Liabilities** **\$ -0-**

**Equity** **\$ 1,472,090**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **\$ 1,472,090**

\* Previously restricted contributions for Clayton House Maintenance were expended in the amount of \$19,435 and unused gift funds of \$27,177 for Clayton House Renovations were returned to the donors; these two items total \$46,612.

\*\*Otherwise, Net Operating Revenue would have been \$1,759.

**Resa Nichols Hennings, Treasurer**

## **President's Message**

*continued from page 1*

triggers. You can write your story out by hand, do an audio or video recording, or type it on the computer. Perhaps you are artistic and could make a scrapbook. Maybe you have a lot of old recipes from which you could compile a cookbook of family recipes, including your own, along with memories of family members and family gatherings.

You could start a family newsletter or blog, encouraging members to share stories, memories, and photos. Those stories might trigger additional memories from other family members. If your family is anything like mine, everyone might not agree on every story, but you should still end up with some interesting material!

You may not have as many stories from your family members as you could wish for, but this is your opportunity to change that for future generations. Don't put it off any longer! Now is the time to start recording the story you know best of all . your own! If you're not sure where to begin, Clayton Library has a number of resources to help you get started on capturing your family stories, so be sure to stop by and see what's available!

Also, mark your calendar for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Susan Kaufman, Library Manager, will be sharing the latest on Clayton Library with us at the Clayton Library Friends General Meeting. We hope you'll join us!

Tammy Frey  
President@ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

Visit Clayton Library Friends on Facebook at  
**[www.facebook.com/ClaytonLibraryFriends](http://www.facebook.com/ClaytonLibraryFriends)**

You can view it without having a Facebook page.

However, if you want to like something, you will have to register.

## **Mark Your Calendar -- And Join Us**

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 10:15 am . 12:00 noon  
Carriage House Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Center

### ***The State of the Clayton Library***

Speaker: Sue Kaufman, Manager of Clayton Library



Clayton Library Friends (CLF) of Houston, Texas warmly invites everyone to their next General Meeting on Saturday, May 10, 2014 during which there will be a presentation by Susan Kaufman, Manager of Clayton Library. Registration begins at 10:15 am (coffee provided), and the program begins promptly at 10:30 am. Members and visitors alike are welcome to the free presentation.

Susan Kaufman is the Manager of Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research / Houston Public Library and also currently serves on the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) Executive Board as Director of Education. She also served as the President of TSGS from 2012-2013. A genealogy librarian for 25 years, she is originally from Illinois where she began her career. Before moving to Texas in 2004, she was a librarian in the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. She is a speaker at local, state, and national conferences, and has held board positions at the Illinois State Genealogical Society, the Indiana Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

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## **Also Mark Your Calendar for --**

Saturday, August 9, 2014 10:15 am . 12:00 noon  
a representative from Family Tree DNA

Family Tree DNA is based in Houston. The speaker will discuss the services they offer, give an update on the field of genetics for genealogy, and how to interpret and use the test results.

Saturday, November 8, 2014 10:15 am . 12:00 noon  
Annual Meeting . Elections . Speaker

\* \* \* \* \*

# Manager's Message --



Hello Everyone,

How many of you wonder what your next step in your research should be? Have you hit a brick wall? Or are you just not sure where to turn to find that answer you need? How many of you wish you knew how to utilize Clayton Library more efficiently, or wonder about our book collection, or even embarking on a new strategy for your research?

Education is the key to efficient, thorough, and effective research. Not only is there an expert staff here at the library to help you with your specific research query, but every month, at Clayton we offer different topical lectures to help you with your research. Each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, at 10:30 am, an orientation to Clayton is offered. This session includes an overview of beginning genealogy research, plus a virtual tour of the collection, helping you to effectively access the rich resource in your back yard. And don't forget, October is Family History Month filled with presentations and %Genealogy After Dark.+

Our programming is geared toward presenting informational and helpful sessions. Although some of our programs are ethnically oriented, or subject specific, I would like to invite you to attend them anyway. Maybe you don't have Hispanic Heritage, but maybe the Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> session on %How to Break Down your Brick Wall+will help you get ideas. You might only have urban ancestors, but maybe a land research session might increase your knowledge regarding searching for court documents. We offer a broad range of programming for our researchers that we hope benefit many. You just might have to think, %How can this lecture help me,+ and know that you can always learn something. .so why not attend?

*The Clayton Town Crier* and *The Clayton Extra* are the Clayton Library electronic newsletters that offer information about the library collection and our programming. These newsletters are different from the Clayton Library Friends newsletter *The Clayton Advocate*. Please visit <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/nextreads-hpl>, click on the %to sign up for NextReads+link. Then check off %genealogy+and %genealogy: Clayton Extra+, enter your email address and you will get our newsletters and all the great information in them!

See you at Clayton!

Sue Kaufman  
Manager, Clayton Library

## **CLAYTON LIBRARY CENTER FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

[www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton](http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)

### **Library Hours:**

Tuesday and Thursday . 10 am . 6 pm

Wednesday . 10 am . 8 pm

Friday and Saturday . 10 am - 5 pm

(Closed on Sunday and Monday)



A Big Thank You to all Clayton Library Friends who made donations to the Angel Program.  
All Angel periodical subscriptions have been renewed for 2014.

The last remaining %orphans+were renewed by generous donations from:

Ronald C. Bryan, donation to the Angel Program.

Linda R. Elliott, donation to the Angel Program.

J. R. and Alice Braud-Jones, donation for renewal of *Mississippi River Routes* in memory of Mr. Ray Stanfield.

Marjorie J. Lowe, renewal of the *Goingsnake Messenger* in memory of her Cherokee ancestor, Chief Richard Fields.

Betty J. Ryman, renewal of the *Journal* (publication of the German-Texan Heritage Society), in memory of Pierce Merrick Brower.

Myron Steves, donation for renewal of *Families* (Ontario Genealogical Society-Canada), *Lifelines* (Northern NY American-Canadian Journal), *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly* (Missouri), and *The Genealogist*.

The Angel Program is an on-going program which seeks to obtain donations for new and existing periodical subscriptions that Clayton would like to receive on an %as published+basis, but which are in excess of their periodical budget.

For information regarding the Angel Program, please contact: Liz Hicks, Angel Chair, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030; e-mail: [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net); phone: (713) 944-1118.

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## **Nominating Committee --**

Four Nominating Committee members will be elected at the Clayton Library Friends May General meeting. Their task will be to select candidates for the open positions on the 2015 Clayton Library Friends Executive Board. One member of the committee will already have been elected from the Board. That person will call the first meeting of the Committee.

Please consider serving on the Nominating Committee. If you would like to be considered for election to a CLF Board position, be sure to let the Committee know. As per our current Bylaws, all positions are now two-year positions.

Biographies and photos of the Slate of Nominees will be published in the November 2014 issue of this newsletter.



## Acquisitions Committee Report –

During the first few months of 2014 the Acquisitions Committee has been working closely with the Clayton Library Collection Development Team to purchase materials for the Library. Because we are able to order items as soon as they become available, we have been able to take advantage of some substantial discounts offered by various publishers. We have also been able to complete the purchase of some series where Clayton does not have all the volumes in a set. Some of the items we have purchased recently include:

- Several volumes in the *National Intelligencer Newspaper Abstracts* series, dating from 1852 to 1870
- The latest volume in the New York *Settlers of the Beekman Patent* series
- Some African-American Burials and Obituaries from Bastrop and Morehouse Parish, Louisiana
- A number of volumes published by the Bracken County Historical Society in Kentucky
- Vital Records for several towns in Maine, including Bridgton, Canaan, Wayne, Castine and Mercer.

We have also finally received all the volumes in the British *Victoria County History* series, and *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, which we have been anxiously awaiting since ordering them last year.

These books may not be on the shelf by the time the newsletter comes out, but keep watching the New Books shelf at the Library and you will see them begin to appear. And as usual, please let the Acquisitions Committee know if you happen to hear about an interesting title that you think would be a good addition to our collection. Either leave the information in the CLF Acquisitions folder at the Clayton Information Desk, or email me the information at [lwdouth@aol.com](mailto:lwdouth@aol.com)

Lesley Douthwaite

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## Welcome New Members –

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

**Rebecca A Bryant, Nelda and Susan Eppes, Stephanie Johnson, Elizabeth Lee Leifeste, Nancy B Matheny, John C Newsom, Carol Taylor, Larry D Tidwell, and Emma Jean West.**

### **In Memoriam**

Last month Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends lost another one of our dedicated supporters and friends. **Eva Jean Cunningham** passed away on March 20, 2014. She was a long-time, active member of several Houston area genealogy groups. Eva is fondly remembered for her many volunteer hours spent at the library, and for her contributions to Clayton Library Friends for support of the Clayton Library. Past CLF Board members remember the annual EXXON Volunteer Appreciation Award that Eva directed to CLF -- awarded in honor of her volunteer hours at the library. We all missed her smiling face around the library when she moved to the Bayou Manor Nursing Center about five years ago.

# Membership –

Have you made plans to attend the upcoming Clayton Library Friends general meeting? Do you know a budding genealogist that could benefit from Clayton Library or Clayton Library Friends? We would love to see you at the May 10<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting, which will include a presentation on %The State of the Library+, given by Clayton Library Manager, Susan Kaufman. Join us in the Carriage House and be among the first to hear what your contributions to CLF have done for your library and what is in the works for the future. Bring a friend, enjoy light refreshments, and take advantage of the CLF membership network.

If you renewed your membership for 2014 by December 31, 2013 you were automatically in contention for a free membership extension for 2015. The lucky winner, chosen by a random drawing, is Carolyn Shimek. Congratulations, Carolyn!

If you did not receive your copy of this newsletter in your inbox or your mailbox, your membership may have lapsed! Please renew now by completing the CLF membership form and mailing your payment to Clayton Library Friends, P.O. Box 271078, Houston TX 77277-1078. The membership form is available at the library or online from the CLF website ([www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org](http://www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org) >> Join/Renew tab.) Remember that your support of CLF and your contributions put over 500 books on the library shelves in 2013 and purchased access to the HistoryGeo database. We would love to be able to exceed those results in 2014, but cannot without your help!

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

Kathleen Dickerson

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Attention - everyone who is a CLF member before June 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is holding its 2014 conference, August 27th through August 30th in San Antonio, Texas.

Clayton Library Friends is giving away two Single Day FGS 2014 Conference Registrations to two lucky CLF members.

**All 2014 CLF members**, except members of the CLF Executive Board, are eligible to win one of the single day registration fees, each valued at \$85.00. **If you are not a CLF member, join before June 1, 2014** and your name will automatically be entered into the random drawing. The drawing will take place on June 9, 2014.

### **Need a CLF membership form?**

Stop by Clayton Library or visit our website,

[www.claytonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org) (Join/Renew tab).

### **Need more information about the FGS conference?**

See pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter, and

visit [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org) or Federation of Genealogical Societies Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FGSgenealogy](http://www.facebook.com/FGSgenealogy)).

**Good Luck!**

# “I can do it all on the Internet.”

When teaching a genealogy class for beginners I get at least one person, and frequently several, who tell me they can do ALL their genealogy research on the Internet. Then I have to explain that only the tip of the iceberg is in digital format.

The next step in the class is usually to have them pull up information on the Internet and then I hear whispers of ~~“that’s not right”~~, ~~“where did they get that information?”~~ ~~“I can’t find anything further back than my grandfather, what should I do now?”~~

Online services, paid subscriptions, and free web sites are very useful to get your foot in the door and begin, but they are limited. Much material can be found in a library, a courthouse, or in old churches.

Clayton Library has much more information than you would imagine. They have not only an entire floor of books from every state in the United States but also some foreign locations. This can still add just a little extra to that growing Pedigree Chart and accompanying Family Group Sheets.

Go upstairs at Clayton Library and be amazed at what you can find. Many years ago I found a microfiche collection that had colonial Massachusetts vital records beginning in 1643. If you are doing Texas research, there are 48 rolls of microfilm on the Nacogdoches Archives, 27 of them are original documents.

If you are still determined to do your research on the computer you can invest several hundred dollars (a year) in commercial subscription services or you can visit Clayton and have free access to at least some of the expensive services. A few of these are: Ancestry, Fold3, World Vital Records, Access Newspaper Archives, History Geo, etc.

I encourage you not to limit your research to just the few records available on your computer screen.

Sue Yerby

\* \* \* \* \*

**Editor’s note:** If you are determined to research online, some of the above mentioned databases that are accessible at the Clayton library may hold some real treasures. For example, this morning Dick Eastman’s blog mentioned that Pennsylvania Death Certificates are being put on-line, in stages . at Ancestry.com. Previously only Pennsylvania residents had access to this particular database. Now many libraries and research centers everywhere provide free access to Ancestry. After three years the records will be moved to the Pennsylvania State Archives website and be free to all.

So, another reason to spend some time at Clayton doing research. And while you are there, check the shelves to see what newly purchased and donated books will be helpful to your research.

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.

**THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the next issue is July 12, 2014.**  
We welcome any articles related to Clayton Library or its collections.

**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER STAFF**  
Editor – Pat Palmer Metcalfe [plpm@ix.netcom.com](mailto:plpm@ix.netcom.com)  
Editorial Assistance -- Norma Davenport





## Retirement Party –

We will be missing a familiar friendly face around Clayton library. Cary Hall, a longtime staff member, retired at the end of March. The library staff honored her with a potluck luncheon at the library, and then a reception with her friends was held at the Carriage House. The theme was ~~travel~~ because Cary and Emmett have a trip to Ireland planned for this spring.

Since Cary had been with the library for so long, many old friends and former co-workers were in attendance. Below, she shares some reminiscences with both of the Library Managers that she served under . Margie Harris and Sue Kaufman.



\* \* \* \* \*

## CLF Spring Seminar –



On Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, over fifty people gathered at the United Way Community Resource Center to hear Carol C Taylor present four lectures on ***Civil War Paper Trails***.

The entire day went smoothly, thanks to our CLF Seminar chair, Elsa Schmieder, and her busy seminar committee. The quiet buzz during breaks and lunch indicated that we were enjoying seeing long-time friends and making new friends.

Carol, our speaker, did a great job of including perspectives of both sides of the civil war . as CLF has a large number of transplants from the northern states.

Photos courtesy of  
Sandy Wilbourn,  
CLF secretary.



**A conference for the nation's genealogists**

**August 27-30, 2014★San Antonio, Texas**

with local co-hosts

San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society  
and the Texas State Genealogical Society

**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
IS COMING TO SAN ANTONIO  
AUGUST 27-30, 2014!!!**

Gather with the nation's genealogists in historic San Antonio, Texas for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2014 Conference, Gone to Texas!

Come to San Antonio August 27-30, 2014 to experience four days of genealogical learning, networking and discovery, deep in the heart of Texas. The local co-hosts for the 2014 conference are the Texas State Genealogical Society and the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. This is a fantastic educational opportunity, right here in our back yard!

This conference will be conveniently held in downtown San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center which will host the conferences, workshops, lectures, and FREE exhibit hall.

If you have never been to a national conference, this is your opportunity to come and learn from the best. From basic and introductory instruction, to methodology and problem solving techniques, ethnic research, migration and immigration, technology and southern and western regional topics, the choice is yours to focus on your specific interests.

Lectures are offered each hour with a variety of topics. The FREE exhibit hall highlights the latest and greatest in genealogy technology, books, societies, vendor demonstrations, and more! There are evening events to attend, lunches with presentations, plenty of networking and meeting new people and maybe even finding a relative, or getting through a brick wall!

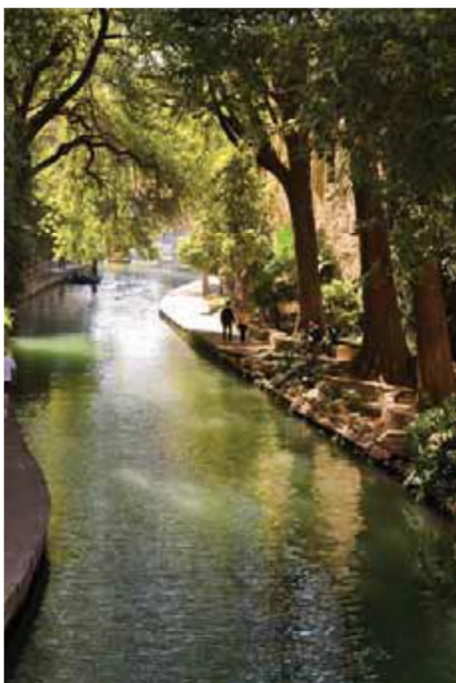
Sessions at this year's conference include a wide variety of offerings from many of the nation's leading family history experts and genealogical organizations.

In addition to many topical presentations, each day the conference features a track, %Ethnic Origins, focusing on different ethnic groups. Love workshops? Topics include photos, self-publishing, DNA, and many more options. Workshops fill up quickly, so register soon!

We invite you to visit the official conference website . [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org) for a complete overview of the conference, program, registration and a place to sign up for updates via the conference blog!

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be part of a national event! Visit [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org) and sign up today!





## YOU ARE INVITED!

Each year the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) hosts its annual conference. Open to anyone with an inkling of finding their past, FGS conferences provide a unique setting to interact, connect, and learn from many of the world's genealogists. This year's event, in historic San Antonio, promises to deliver an educational and enlightening experience unlike any other.

San Antonio is far more than just "The Alamo" and other historic sites. The city presents a vibrant energy, from its many restaurants to cultural delights, including the Institute of Texan Cultures and La Villita Historic Arts Village (the sites of two special events during the FGS conference). Staying at the conference hotel places you steps away from the conference activities and allows you to immerse yourself in the atmospheric activities of the Riverwalk, featuring hundreds of shopping, eating, and entertainment opportunities.

A rich conference program provides a wide array of topics, including those of local, regional, national, and international importance. You will find representatives from around the country in the exhibit hall, so plan to visit numerous times to explore the latest genealogical gadgets, books, and websites. Looking for more to discover? Many of the nation's genealogical societies will be represented at the conference. Come share ideas, network, and learn how to get involved in the family history community.

Our local co-hosts, the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society, conference sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers are hard at work and look forward to welcoming you to San Antonio in August 2014.

See you there,

**Joshua**

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS  
FGS President

## Conference Site and Hotel

Few cities combine the allure of living history with the exhilarating mood of a party like San Antonio, Texas. The historic Alamo and the Spanish Missions, coupled with the bustling Riverwalk, create a festive feeling that is irresistible. Now there is even more to get excited about: the 2014 FGS conference, co-hosted by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society. This four-day educational experience, August 27-30, 2014, will provide exceptional learning, networking, and discovery opportunities for genealogists across the nation and beyond.

Our conference hotel is the beautiful Marriott Riverwalk, located on the historic San Antonio Riverwalk. The conference will be at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, located directly across East Market Street from the hotel. The conference hotel rate is \$129/night for a single/double, \$149/night for a triple, and \$169/night for a quad. Additional persons are \$20 per night. Additional state and local taxes (currently 16.75%) will be added to the rate at the time of check-in. The nightly rate includes free wireless Internet. We are pleased to offer this rate as this hotel is located next to the Rivercenter Mall, yards away from the historic Alamo, and of course, the famous San Antonio Riverwalk. The hotel is filling quickly, so please make your reservations as soon as possible.

[For detailed information on the FGS conference, go to [www.fgskonference.org](http://www.fgskonference.org)]



*Established 1987*

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

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## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Saturday – 10 May, 2014**  
**10:15am General Meeting**  
**Clayton Center Carriage House**

***The State of the Clayton Library***  
Sue Kaufman, Manager of Clayton Library

**Saturday – 9 August, 2014**  
**10:15am General Meeting**  
**Clayton Center Carriage House**

***Family Tree DNA***

**Saturday – 8 November, 2014**  
**10:15am Annual Meeting/  
Election of Officers**  
**Clayton Center Carriage House**

*Speaker to be announced*