It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the year has flown by, and the more I learn about technology the farther behind I get in my quest for family history. There are more and more tools to learn to use that make it difficult to utilize all of the information that is available. In addition to technology, Clayton Library continues to add books, journals, and other reference materials through dues, donations, and volunteers.

If you were serving on the CLF board, you graciously stood at the back of the room to hear Sue Yerby present “Genealogy in Your Jammies” with a great deal of pride in having a full house at our February program.

Our next meeting on Saturday, May 9, will be highlighted by Sue Kaufman's report on the "State of the Library" which ties together all of the improvements, efforts, and future of genealogical research at Clayton Library. We are so fortunate to have such a world-class facility with dedicated staff and friends who are making history available to the growing number of people we serve. Volunteers are always needed as we increase services and events to energize genealogy.

Good ancestor hunting,

Leslie O. Fullerton
President, CLF
Welcome New Members

Clayton Library Friends would like to extend a warm welcome to these nineteen new members who have joined CLF since our last newsletter.

We are 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.


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Special Donations

Recent donations to Clayton Library Friends were made In Honor Of:

- Vernie S Bennett
- Virginia Blalock
- Kay Kopycinski

And donations In Memory Of:

- Adrian Sinclair Balch
- Frederick C Lawrence
- Robert & Emo Foster Lee
- James E Little
- James C Magee
- Liz Obelgoner
- Kae Theilen
- Wolkart Family

Donations made to the CLF Angel Program are acknowledged in the Angel Report on page 5 of this newsletter.
Mark Your Calendar -- And Join Us

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10:15 am – 12:00 noon
Carriage House Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Center

Clayton Library Friends (CLF) of Houston, Texas, warmly invites everyone to their next General Meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2015 for 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.

The State of the Clayton Library

Speaker:
Sue Kaufman,
Manager of Clayton Library

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 8, 2015 10:15 am ï 12:00 noon
Mobile Genealogy Apps – Speaker: Fidel Ramirez, CLF website manager

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Saturday, November 14, 2015 10:15 am ï 12:00 noon
Annual Meeting ï Elections ï Speaker

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Anniversaries!!

This year marks my 9th year anniversary at the Clayton Library. It has been a joy to continue to build on the strong and deep reputation of a nationally recognized family history research collection. As the Senior Manager of the collection, I am proud to be a part of a major public library system that values it's special collections, especially it's genealogy collection.

I am especially proud and grateful for the relationship that the library and I have with the Clayton Library Friends. CLF is recognized throughout the HPL system as one of the strongest, must supportive Friends organizations.

The Friends provide financial support, volunteer support, expertise of knowledge and support to me on a personal professional level by telling me that you are happy with the direction the library is moving. My strategic plan is to keep the library in the forefront of major research institutions through material collection, technology, and partnerships.

Coming up in the next few months, we have a few special events including streaming the event of the summer... the Global Family Reunion on 6 June 2015. This worldwide event will highlight many nationally recognized speakers presenting sessions on varied topics applicable to family history research. For more information, visit www.globalfamilyreunion.com. This event is in addition to our monthly library orientation program on the third Saturday of each month, and our monthly topical programming.

Signing up for the Clayton Library electronic newsletters is a fantastic way to keep up to date about the happenings at the library. Visit www.houstonlibrary.org and sign up for the NextReads genealogy newsletters.

In the coming library fiscal year, beginning 1 July 2015, you will notice new technology including microfilm scanners, increased outreach, and even more books being digitized and available for free at our partner website FamilySearch.org. Also, don't forget Family History Month in October including our extended hours evening (TBD) and plenty of other opportunities for continuing education.

As always, please contact the library at 832-393-2600 for any questions you have! We hope to see you at the library!

Sue Kaufman
Manager, Clayton Library
Periodical subscription program for Clayton Library

Those who have earned their “wings” for 2015 and since the last newsletter are:

John Davis. Clarke County, Arkansas in honor of Dr. Wendy Richter, Archivist at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Patsy Jane McLaughlin. Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert I. McNeil. Donation for The Times (NC); Carolinas Genealogical Society Quarterly; and Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Patricia Ann Phillips. Donation for Tap Roots (E. Alabama); Montgomery Co. Alabama Genealogical Society Quarterly; Carolinas and Irish Roots.

“Orphan” Angel subscriptions awaiting Angel donors for the 2015 subscription:

Kin Hunter (Sandusky Co., Ohio) $17.00
Journal of the Afro-American Hist. and Genealogical Society $45
Old Newberry (Newberry County, SC Genealogical Society) $20
American-Canadian Genealogist (French Canadian & Acadian Genealogy) $50
Collin County Chronicles (Collin County, Texas) $20
Houston History $15
Shelby County Historical Society Quarterly (Alabama) $20
Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (Kansas) $35
Mississippi River Routes (Vicksburg Genealogical Society) $25

To be an “Angel” please contact: Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030; phone: (713) 944-1118, e-mail: erootrot@usa.net or mail a check payable to Clayton Library Friends, P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078, and please write Angel subscription on your check.

All donations will be acknowledged in the CLF newsletter, unless otherwise requested. Memorial donations will be acknowledged upon request to specified individuals.

Non-specific donations to the Angel program are always welcome.

Clayton Library Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization -- 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.
Acquisitions Committee Report –

The Acquisitions Committee is pleased to announce that we have purchased over $5,000 worth of materials for Clayton Library during the first quarter of 2015. Many of these are items which have been suggested by Clayton staff members; other ideas have come from members of the Clayton Library Friends.

Some of the items purchased recently include:

- A number of books published by the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico. These are primarily baptismal records for such towns as Santa Fe, Gallup, and Taos, as well as some census and marriage records
- The latest volumes in the North Carolina Troops series (vol. 19); German Immigrants in American Church Records (vol. 16), together with a consolidated index to the latter series; and The Arkansas Prior Birth Index (vol. 12)
- Some attractive and informative map books on the Cumberland Settlements in Tennessee, suggested by John Dorroh. Clayton Library already owned volume 1 in the series, but CLF has now also acquired two additional volumes and some related land grant genealogies.
- Several books on the cemeteries of New Orleans, and those who were buried there
- The new 5th edition of Angus Baxter's In Search of Your German Roots, published in March 2015. This guidebook is designed to help you trace your German ancestry in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, and points you to the most useful record repositories abroad.

Many of you, no doubt, subscribe to various genealogical periodicals, or online genealogy blogs, and that is where we find many of our potential purchases. If you happen to hear about an interesting title that you think would be a good addition to our collection, please let us know. Either leave the information in the CLF Acquisitions folder at the front desk at Clayton, or email me the information at lwdouth@aol.com

Lesley Douthwaite
Lesley Douthwaite, CLF Acquisitions Director

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In Memoriam

Adrian Sinclair Balch passed away on February 2nd after a long struggle with cancer. She spent endless hours doing her genealogical research at Clayton Library – almost becoming her home away from home. We are sorry to learn of the death of Frederick C Lawrence last November.

Mary Anne Phillips, a Charter Member of Clayton Library Friends, died March 6th in Houston at the age of 90. Many will remember her from the early days of the Friends.

Mary Ellen Springer Pearson, an active volunteer at Clayton Library, passed away February 9th after a courageous battle with cancer. An avid genealogist, she belonged to a number of genealogical groups – Colonial Dames, UDC, DRT, and was a Charter member of the Bay Area Genealogical Society.
Membership Committee --

Since those of you receiving this newsletter have already paid your membership for 2015, I don’t need to give you my value of a CLF membership spiel. However, if you hear people wondering where their newsletter is, please ask them if they paid their 2015 dues. Each year, we have a number of last year’s members who get too busy, and then the membership form gets buried under their paperwork. This week I will be sending a reminder to those people one more time.

We are pleased that Clayton Library Friends has added nineteen new members this spring. Their names are on page two of this newsletter. When you see them, do welcome them to the organization.

We hope you are enjoying your CLF newsletter, The Clayton Advocate, and learning about Clayton Library activities and what Clayton Library Friends is accomplishing at the library.

I’m sure that Elani, our CLF Volunteer Coordinator, would like me to remind you that membership is a lot more fun when you participate in some of the activities that help Clayton Library Friends and the Clayton Library run more smoothly. One of the easiest volunteer jobs is manning the Welcome Desk at the Clayton House. You have access to a library computer to do your own research while you make it possible for the patrons to use the facilities at the House and allow the professional library staff to work with patrons in the main building. Another volunteer position is shelving. By helping to re-shelve books, you’ll find yourself in states and countries that you’ve never ventured into. You may discover a treasure as a reward for your service. I found my grandfather’s entire Irish immigrant family in the index of a book I was re-shelving.

If you have friends that are interested in genealogy, bring them along to a meeting and we hope that they enjoy it enough to join our group.

Hope to see you at the May 9th meeting and at the library,

Pat Metcalfe, Membership

*****

Spelling and Transcription Irregularities --

When you find a document online and there are errors in the transcription, do you get as frustrated as I do? Last week, I was reading England census records and comparing them to the transcription. The man’s birth place was read as Madeira (Portapol). A little basic geography and you can easily read the census as Portugal. And, the online family trees all accepted the transcribed spelling.

This reminded me of an article from a recent Genealogy Tip of the Day blog with this list.

**Spelling Irregularities are a Necessary Evil.**

Your ancestor did not know how to spell his name,
Your ancestor could not read,
Your ancestor did not speak clearly,
Your ancestor had an accent with which the writer of his name was unfamiliar,
The clerk didn’t care,
The clerk had bad writing,
The transcriber could not read the name,
The transcriber did not care,
The transcriber made a typographical error,
The document has faded over time and is difficult to read, Or something else.

And the blogger ends with the example that James Rampley ends up indexed as Jarvis Pample.

Which leads to this: do you take the time to send back the corrections to the inaccuracies? If not, you’re going to see the same errors repeated over and over again in family trees as people copy and accept what they see because it was on the internet.

May 2015
Spotlight on a series... Audiencia de México finding aids

Have you ever wondered what you would discover in your parents’ or grandparents’ attic? What dusty, hidden away treasure lays waiting for you to find. Maybe once discovered this treasure would unfold the secrets to a long-time family mystery. What a great discovery that would be! Libraries can be like attics, having in their collections treasure troves of books, microfilms, CDs, and other items that have been overlooked or not often used. Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is no exception to this metaphor. Perhaps some of our treasure boxes might assist you in your genealogical research.

Located on our second floor is one such hidden treasure. Situated on the finding aid shelves is a group of black pamphlet or "pam" boxes that hold a series of 33 spiral bound books entitled: The Dunn & Cunningham Typescripts of the Audiencia de México in the Texas State Archives. The Real Audiencia de México (English: Royal Audiencia of Mexico) or high court was the highest tribunal of the Spanish crown in the Kingdom of New Spain. This Audiencia was created by royal decree on December 13, 1527, and was seated in the viceregal capital of Mexico City. The First Audiencia was dissolved by the crown for its bungling and corruption and the crown established the Second Audiencia in 1530. Another Audiencia was created in Guadalajara in western Mexico in 1548. During 1915 and 1916 Drs. William Edward Dunn and Charles H. Cunningham visited the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain and transcribed many original records created by the Real Audiencia de México and Real Audiencia de Guadalajara that pertain to areas that became American states. An original typed copy of their transcripts is in the collection of the Texas State Archives. Their activities were part of the Library of Congress’ Foreign Manuscript Copying program.

The Dunn & Cunningham Typescripts of the Audiencia de México in the Texas State Archives by Texas State Archives

These 33 spiral bound books in the Clayton Library collection are photostat copies of the Texas State Archives typescripts. The transcribed records contain Audiencias or official court hearings brought before the ruling authorities of Nueva Espana (New Spain) from the sixteenth century to 1846. Geographical areas mentioned are Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. There is no index to the set, nor are their indexes in the individual volumes. The volumes themselves are in Spanish, as they were created as typed transcripts of the original Spanish documents, not as translations. The records are not arranged in date order. There is a guide located in box 1 though.

The CLF guide to the Dunn & Cunningham Typescripts of the Audiencia de México and Audiencia de Guadalajara in the Texas State Archives by Texas State Archives

This guide gives a description of the individual audiencias in Spanish. It is arranged by the record numbers assigned by Drs. William Edward Dunn and Charles H. Cunningham during their trip to Seville. These record numbers lead you to the volume and then to the individual audiencia.

An index and finding aid to the Dunn and Cunningham Typescripts and extensive microfilm of original records created by the Real Audiencia de México can be found in the collections at the University of Texas at Austin. Also digitized images of many of the records created by the various Audiencias can be found on the PARES Portal de Archivos Españoles website (http://pares.mcu.es/). Using the Busqueda Sencilla (Basic Search) and Busqueda Avanzada (Advanced Search) sections you can search for, view, and download or print digitized images of original documents from the Real Audiencia de México.

Although these transcripts do not contain direct genealogical vital records, in the absence of church records, government and court records can provide those family connections. Also, while hunting through this collection, keep an eye out for other treasures in Clayton Library’s collection that may cover the areas that you need to research.

The Dunn and Cunningham Typescripts are a great discovery for the serious historical and genealogical gem treasure hunter! Enjoy the hunt.

[reprinted from the online Clayton Town Crier – April 2015]
Spotlight On: German Research

In the year 1871, various kingdoms, duchies, principalities, and electorates of German-speaking peoples were united under the leadership of Prussia to form a unified German Empire (from which the modern-day German state eventually evolved). Prior to that year, your German ancestor may have hailed from Baden, Bavaria, Saxony, Prussia, or from one of many other smaller geographic entities, but now they hailed from Germany. As you begin to trace your German ancestor back through time, it is important to determine which German state they actually lived in. German record collections, books, and databases are often organized by these state names. In your research, be on the lookout for the state names as well as any town names. Finding the town of origin is the primary key to locating the birth, marriage, and death records that will help you further in your research.

Clayton Library has beginner, intermediate, and advanced level resources for German research. Beginner resources include general guidebooks and reference resources as well as searchable databases. Intermediate resources expand beyond vital records to include other town-specific or state-specific record groups. Advanced resources are unique German-language collections that delve deeply into topics such as, regional history or the history of surnames. Here are some examples of each kind:

Beginner Level Resources

**Germanic genealogy: a guide to worldwide sources and migration patterns** by Edward R. Brandt

Found in Clayton's Germany book collection under call number: G373 GERMAN 3ED, this book is an excellent overall guide for conducting Germanic genealogy research. The book covers a wide variety of topics such as: finding your ancestor's place of origin using U.S. records; passenger departure and arrival lists; personal and place name studies; political geography and history of areas; migration patterns and tips for researching ethnic Germans living in other countries; sample letters for overseas correspondence; tips for reading old script and understanding basic German vocabulary; addresses for prominent Germanic genealogical associations; and much more.

**German-English genealogical dictionary** by Ernest Thode

Found in Clayton's Germany book collection under call number: T449 GERMAN, this handy reference source has a distinct advantage over a standard German-English dictionary - it can help you to decipher old terms, expressions, and abbreviations that might be found in German genealogical records, but are no longer in use today. If you are looking at genealogical documents written in German, be sure to have this book by your side for quick reference. This book is an excellent overall guide for conducting Germanic genealogy research. The book covers a wide variety of topics such as: finding your ancestor's place of origin using U.S. records; passenger departure and arrival lists; personal and place name studies; political geography and history of areas; migration patterns and tips for researching ethnic Germans living in other countries; sample letters for overseas correspondence; tips for reading old script and understanding basic German vocabulary; addresses for prominent Germanic genealogical associations; and much more.

**FamilySearch**

FamilySearch (http://www.familysearch.org) is a well-known and well-used online resource for international records research, and this holds true for German records as well. When you are getting started, it is helpful to search the German databases on FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list) for the names you are seeking. It is also helpful to do a place-name search in the FamilySearch catalog (https://familysearch.org/catalog-search) to see if you can find the town name you are seeking, and if any records for that town are available online or on microfilm. Don't forget that on FamilySearch there are now numerous databases which contain original town and church records that are not yet indexed, but users can still browse through the records.

Here is an example of some database titles for the country of Germany, state of Prussia, sub-state of Pomerania that you would see. The first entry in the list shows an indexed record group, with 185,216 entries in the index. The Browse Images terminology at the end of the second and third entries tells you that these digitized images are not indexed yet, but users can still browse through the record images. The original records will most likely be arranged in date order, and the digitized will follow this order:

- Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Church Records, 1544-1945 185,216
- Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Labes, Church Records, 1647-1764 Browse Images
- Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Stralsund, Church Book Indexes, 1600-1900 Browse Images

You could also do a global search of all FamilySearch databases from the home page of FamilySearch, but it is important to remember that those databases which show Browse Images are not going to be included in your search results (since they are not yet indexed).

[continued on next page]
Intermediate Level Resources

Map guide to German parish registers
by Kevan M. Hansen

Found in Clayton's Germany book collection under call number: H249 GERMAN, this set of volumes is designed to aid the researcher in understanding and visualizing the areas under the jurisdiction of the various church parishes (both Catholic and Lutheran) in specific states in Germany. The volumes are first divided by state (Baden, Bavaria, Hessen, etc.) so it is important to first know in which state the person resided. It is most useful if the town name is also known, as there is a Town Index at the back of each volume that shows which Catholic and Lutheran parishes cover that particular town. The book's maps allow you to see neighboring parishes, which can be useful if only the general area of residence is known. The Family History Library microfilm numbers are included for each locality, if its records have been microfilmed. Information about other major record groups for that area (emigration books, lineage books, and local/regional/state archives and repositories) is included as well.

Advanced Level Resources

Wappenbuch Collection

Found in Clayton's Germany book collection under call number: W252 GERMAN. The Wappenbuch collection is a German-language series of 35 volumes on German heraldry, first begun by Johann Siebmacher in the early 1600s, and later expanded with new editions as recent as 1967. This series chronicles the historical occurrence and development of surnames as they relate to the coats-of-arms of German nobility and prominent families. The volumes also contain illustrations of the coats-of-arms, as well as descriptions of the colors and symbols used in them. To use this set, first look at the "General-Index zu den Siebmacher'schen Wappenbüchern, 1605-1967" (Siebmacher General Index), which is an index to all 35 volumes in the set. You can look up a surname in the General Index and it will give you the volume abbreviation and the page number in which that name can be found.

For example, you might find: Bichowski Bad 7

This entry indicates that the surname Bichowski is found on page 7 in the Baden volume. (To know which volume is the Baden volume, consult the thin Wappenbuch User's Guide located on the shelf at the beginning of the Wappenbuch collection. It will tell you not only that Baden stands for Baden but also that the Baden volume is vol. 24 out of the 35-volume set. (See the Wappenbuch User's Guide for more tips on using this collection.)

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch
by Various authors

Found in Clayton's Germany book collection under call number: D486 GERMAN. The Deutsches Geschlechterbuch collection is a German-language lineage book collection pertaining to prominent and middle-class German families, first begun in the late 1800s, with new volumes published as recently as 2007. It follows a format similar to the lineage books of U.S. lineage societies like the DAR, so even if you have no knowledge of German, you can look for surnames of interest in the indexes of these volumes (which are divided and arranged by German state) and then look for the special symbols indicating birth/marriage/death. It is then relatively easy to see the order of ancestry and/or descent by following these symbols and dates. For more information on using this collection, please see the thin Deutsches Geschlechterbuch User's Guide located on the shelf at the beginning of the volumes. Note that vols. 1-75 of this collection are available at Clayton Library on microfilm (2nd floor), while vols. 120-212 are available in book form in the Germany section (1st floor). (Vols. 76-119 are out of print and not currently available at Clayton Library.)

The important thing to remember is that it is certainly possible to find a lot of records on German ancestors using these resources, and the more you know about the town of origin, the more records you will be able to find. Also, even if you don't speak the language, you can easily do basic record analysis (in addition to database searches) just by knowing a few key words. So give it a try and see what you can find.

Viel Glueck! (Good Luck!)

[reprinted from the online Clayton Town Crier – April 2015]
HPL Volunteer Recognition --

Americans celebrate National Volunteer Week in April, and the Houston Public Library honors this celebration by hosting an annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony for all HPL volunteers. This year’s event was held on Wednesday April 22nd in the auditorium of the historic Julia Ideson Building at the Central Library in downtown Houston. There were 100 to 150 people in attendance, including Clayton Library volunteers Tom and Kathryn Coughlin, Lesley Douthwaite, Elani Hantel, Pat Metcalfe, and Sue Yerby. HPL’s Dr. Rhea Lawson and her administrative team were also in attendance, along with special guests Jacqueline Davis (Miss Galveston 2015) and Julie Baker Finck (Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation), who served as guest speakers representing literacy advocacy groups. Volunteers were treated to a light lunch and goodie bags/door prizes, and the event provided an opportunity for volunteers to meet and get to know others who share the same commitment -- contributing time and talents to the libraries they love.

A few HPL volunteers were individually recognized at this event for their special achievements in certain categories. Clayton Library is very blessed to have one such outstanding volunteer in the person of Pat Metcalfe. Pat received the “Most Tenured” award, which recognizes a standout volunteer with 5 or more years of volunteer service.

Pat was actively involved with Clayton Library as early as 1995, when she helped with a microfilm labeling project as Clayton Library Friends completed the 1920 U.S. census microfilm collection for Clayton Library. She is currently the editor of the Clayton Library Friends Newsletter, and has served CLF in other roles as well (including CLF President in 1998/99).

Over the years, Pat has volunteered at the library in many different capacities -- greeting people at the Clayton House welcome desk, assisting researchers at the microprint desk, shelving books as needed, and, most recently, organizing and managing the Clayton Library unit book sale. Pat is proactive in offering to fill in for other volunteers who are sick or away on vacation, and is someone who can always be counted on to “get the job done.”

Many thanks to Pat and to ALL of our wonderful Clayton Library volunteers!!!

Steven Bychowski
Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator

THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the August issue is July 13, 2015.
We welcome any articles related to Clayton Library or its collections.
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