

THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXIV Number 1 February 2020

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President's Message

As January comes to a close, I want to take a look back at 2019 and also look ahead to 2020. In October, after serving CLF for many years in many capacities, President Sue Yerby had to step back from her duties due to health issues. As your new President, I find myself starting the year with exciting opportunities to serve and support CLF and Clayton Library in new ways.

Since taking on the role of President, laye had a steep learning curve, but great support from our excellent Board and superior library staff. I pledge to do my very best to carry out the vision of CLFs founders and subsequent leaders to enrich the resources and facilities of Clayton Library, support the library staff, and keep our members informed about library and Board activities. We are grateful to Sue Yerby for the years of dedicated service she has given to Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends, and hope to see her back with us soon.

Last October, the Texas State Genealogical Societys annual meeting was held at the Omni Hotel in west Houston. I know that many of you attended and also volunteered to help at the conference and at our CLF table. CLFs exhibit beautifully highlighted Clayton Library to visitors from all over Texas and some other states. In addition to introducing many people to the Library for the first time, the book sale also provided income to the CLF by selling duplicate donated books. That revenue is used to support the Librarys acquisition of new books and continued on pg 2

Join us at the CLF Joint Meeting 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 8th Holocaust Museum Auditorium, across the street from Clayton Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Revenue

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 27,663
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	3,391
Membership Dues	5,060
Other Income	0

Total Revenue \$ 36,114

Expenditures

Current Programs	\$ 85,733
Administrative & General	17,020

Total Expenditures \$102,753

Net Operating Revenue (Loss) (\$ 66,639)

Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 120,615
Other Current Assets	2,231
Fixed Assets	7,967
Total Other Assets	1,207,589
(Investments, of which \$826,907 is	the

Total Assets \$1,338,402

permanently Restricted Endowment)

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total Liabilities (accounts payable)	\$	0
Equity	\$ 1,	,338,402

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 1,338,402

Thomas F Coughlin, Treasurer

President's Message –

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other needs. The organization and setup of that entire exhibit and book sale is possible because of the leadership and dedication of Pat Metcalfe and other volunteers. Thanks to all of you who helped out. And, congratulations to Sue Kaufman, Clayton Library Manager, who was named a TxSGS Fellow at the conference.

Looking ahead to 2020, I am excited about the programs that have been planned. The content of the February meeting is described elsewhere in this newsletter. We are pleased to partner with our neighbor, the Holocaust Museum, and also with the African American Historical and Genealogy Society. This joint event showcases Clayton Library to a wider audience that hopefully will bring in new visitors. The Holocaust Museum has wonderful event facilities that can accommodate a larger audience. I hope you will join us. While you are in the neighborhood, please take a few minutes to check out the progress of the renovation of the first floor of our Clayton Library and learn about the technical upgrades, which are still in progress.

Special Donations

The following special donations were made to Clayton Library thru Clayton Library Friends since our last newsletter.

In Memory of:

Jerry E Chiles, Lou Lazartic, Lawrence Shaner, Frank & M Caroline (DaShiel) Timko, Charlotte Wacker.

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



CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

PAPER TRAILS: TRACING AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY

SAT. FEB. 8

10 AM - 5 PM

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

5401 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004

The Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) - Willie Lee Gay H-Town Chapter in partnership with the Houston Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research (HPL/CLA); the Clayton Library Friends (CLF) and Holocaust Museum Houston invite you to celebrate African American History Month as we explore African-American family histories and genealogy with a FREE full day workshop. Advance registration is required.

The full day workshop offers lectures by nationally recognized speakers, **Ari Wilkins** from Dallas, TX and **Sharon Batiste Gillins** from Galveston, TX.

9 AM

Pre-Workshop Session:

Beginning your African-American Family History Research - Franklin Carter Smith Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research - Carriage House, 5300 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004

10 AM - 5 PM

Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004 Workshop Sessions:

Incorporating Oral History into Your Research - Ari Wilkins
Researching Ancestors in Wills, Land and Property Records - Sharon Batiste Gillins
Using Antebellum Southern Plantation Records - Ari Wilkins
Researching African-American Family History - Sharon Batiste Gillins

REGISTER AT: https://hmh.org/events/paper-trails-tracing-african-american-ancestry-2020-02-08-10:00:00

On-site registration begins at 10:00 a.m. at the museum. Street parking and Holocaust Museum Houston parking is available for a fee.











Paper Trails: Tracing African American Ancestry

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Clayton Library Carriage House and Holocaust Museum Houston

9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Beginning your African American Family History Research --Franklin Carter Smith -- Clayton Library Carriage House 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Check in & Registration at Holocaust Museum Houston** 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Welcome & Remarks **Incorporating Oral History into Your Research --** Ari Wilkins 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Oral history can dramatically enhance your genealogical research. Not only can it provide you with names, dates of life events, and places, these narratives can reveal motives for migration, explanations of brief marriages, or descriptions of an ancestors personality. Oral histories can offer information that traditional records may not provide. 11:30 - 11:45 a.m. Break 11:45 - 12:45 p.m. Hand in the Glove: Researching Ancestors in Wills, Land and Property Records -- Sharon B Gillins An exploration of the inextricable link between wills, probate records and land records with case studies that demonstrate how to analyze the records of slaveholding families to identify enslaved family members. Lunch on your own (Brown Bag, Café available at the 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Museum, or area restaurants) -- Browse tables / Museum Store Using Antebellum Southern Plantation Records -- Ari Wilkins 1:45 - 2:45 p.m. The Antebellum Southern Plantation Records can offer great insight into many Southern families. This resource documents families opersonal and business correspondence, conditions of plantation life (including the elusive names of slaves and descriptions of slave relationships); and much more. Learn about the genealogical value of the Southern Antebellum Plantation Records . how they are organized, how to search the collection, and apply it towards your genealogical research. 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. **Break** 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Researching African American Family History – The Same and **Different -- Sharon B Gillins** Similarities and differences between African American family history research and that of other ethnicities; includes examples and case studies that demonstrate strategies to locate information in alternate sources and to overcome the absence of direct evidence.

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Visit Holocaust Museum Houston's galleries

Closing Remarks

4:00 - 4:15 p.m.

4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

The American Slave Narratives -

by Franklin Smith

Clayton Library has added a valuable set of American slave narratives to its collection. With the help of the Clayton Library Friends (CLF) the 41 volume set, *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography* by George P. Rawick, is now available for those researching slavery era ancestors. The set is located in Clayton USA section under call number: 305.567 A512 USA.

History

The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography consists of 41 volumes of over 2,500 autobiographies and biographical sketches chronicling the lives of formerly enslaved African-Americans. In addition to oral interviews the narratives include biographical information from newspapers and other print sources. The collection of narratives by former slaves was conducted by the Federal Writers Project, a department of the Works Project Administration, from 1936-1939. The slave narratives are the most comprehensive resource available documenting first-hand accounts of slaverys survivors in their own words. They consist of the original 19 volumes published in 1972 and 22 supplemental volumes published in 2 series from 1977-1979.

Since their publication, scholars have relied heavily on the narratives to provide insight into the culture, social customs, and traditions of the enslaved. However, to their descendants they are a treasure chest of priceless genealogical information identifying spouses, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, birthplaces, places lived, and slaveholders.

Rawick, George P. (general editor), The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1972-1979. Print (Clayton 305.567 A512 USA)

What The Narratives might reveal about your ancestors

To insure consistency, the WPA created 20 standard questions from which to conduct interviews. Interviewees responses varied depending on which questions the interviewer asked, the persons recollection, and their willingness to respond. The questions can be divided into four major categories.

- Genealogical
 - Their family Parents, siblings, grandparents, spouses, and children.
 - Their slaveholders . identity, family, movement, and neighbors.
- Social customs and traditions during slavery
 - Marriage, health, religion, death/burial, housing, diet, and entertainment.
- Impact of slavery on their lives
 - Treatment, punishment, separation from family, work, movement, and personal feelings on slavery.
- Life after the Civil War
 - Where and how they lived, family life after the War, and what happened to family.

The best two sources for searching The Narratives

Potts, Howard E. <u>A Comprehensive Name Index for the American Slave</u>. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1997. Print (Clayton 305.567 A512 USA)

Pottsqindex is divided into three sections:

- Narrator index The person being interviewed
 Search for ancestor surnames, related surnames, and 1870 neighbor/community surnames.
- County & state index Indexed to narrator
 Look at everyone from your ancestors county and surrounding counties.
- Master-slaveholder index
 - Look for slaveholder candidates or anyone living near your ancestors that were slaveholders in the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules.

 continued on page 6

The American Slave Narratives . continued from page 5

Terry, Brenda. <u>Slaves II: A Deeper Look Into the WPA Slave Narrative: From a Genealogist Perspective</u>. Dallas, TX: OneBorn Pub. Co., 1998. Print (Clayton 305.56709 T329 USA)

• Terrycs book abstracts the original 17 volumes, indexed to narrator with birth date and location, interview state, any parents or grandparents named, and slaveholders identified.

Dong be discouraged if your ancestors areng found in the narratives. Narratives of neighbors and others from surrounding communities and counties could provide valuable insight into the lives of your ancestors. The narratives can also be used in conjunction with other genealogical data such as DNA research. Just as they solve puzzles in your paper trails they may provide clues on how you and your genetic cousins are connected. Clayton Library staff member Franklin Smith is willing to answer any questions or assist you on how to use the narratives.

Volunteer Opportunities --

The Clayton Library is supported by a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to join them in any of these areas or have questions, contact Elsa Schmieder, Director of Volunteers, or Steven Bychowski, the Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator, at Steven.Bychowski@houstontx.gov., 832-393-2600. We look forward to working with you!

The Clayton Library Friends refreshments team helps provide snacks and refreshments for any of our quarterly Clayton Library Friends meetings or other library or CLF events. You can contribute on a one-time or an ongoing basis. Elsa Schmieder is the coordinator.

Shelving Assistant

Shelving books and giving limited reference assistance. Training is provided. The typical time commitment requested for shelving volunteers is a 2-hour shift one day per week. The next training class is scheduled for Monday, February 17, 10:30am-12:30pm at the Clayton Library main building.

Microprint Desk and Clayton House Welcome Desk

The duties include greeting visitors, giving limited reference help, and assisting with microfilm readers and printers. Training is provided for all duties. Helpful skills would include general experience in genealogical research, basic computer skills, and familiarity with microfilm readers and printers. Volunteers typically cover one 2-hour shift each week or one 4-hour Saturday shift each month. Scheduling is flexible.

THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the May 2020 issue is April 25, 2020.

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

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

Editorial Assistance – Norma Davenport, Lesley Douthwaite, Jessica Collins

From the Library -

February 2020 - Calendar of Events

DAR Day

Saturday, February 1, 2020 – 10:30am – 4:30pm

Ever wonder how to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)? Representatives from local DAR chapters will be at Clayton Library for consultation and research help in preparing lineage papers for submission to the DAR. No reservations required. Adults/Teens.

Paper Trails: Tracing African American Ancestry Saturday, February 8, 2020 – 10 am – 4:30 pm



Nationally recognized lecturers Ari Wilkins (left) and Sharon Gillins (right) will be presenting two sessions each celebrating African American family history research, held at the Holocaust Museum Houston theater, across the street from the Clayton Library on Caroline Street.



Registration for the sessions at the Holocaust Museum Houston is required. Call 832-393-2600 to register. Check-in at the Museum begins at 10am.

Sessions include:

Incorporating Oral History into Your Research

The Hand and the Gloveo Researching Ancestors in Wills, Land and Property Records

Using Antebellum Southern Plantation Records

Researching African American Family History . The Same and Different

There will be an optional pre-workshop beginning genealogy session at 9am in the Clayton Library Carriage House. Seating for this session is limited and is first come, first seated.

Co-sponsored by: Houston Public Library/Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research,

Clayton Library Friends,

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc/Willie Lee Gay H-Town Chapter, and Holocaust Museum Houston.

Clayton Library Orientation Saturday, February 15, 2020 – 10:15am – 11:30am

In Clayton Librarys orientation we cover the process of research and discovery in the beginning steps of a family history project. Following this brief introduction, we examine the resources available at the Clayton Library and their organization, as well as how to plan an effective visit to the Library. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.



BE AN ANGEL

Gen. Society) \$15

2020 Angel Periodical Subscriptions Sponsors Still Needed for Clayton Library

The periodicals listed below are ones Clayton Library wishes to receive on an \(\) published+basis, and that are in excess of their periodical budget. If you wish to earn your \(\) wings+by donating for one or more of these periodicals, please contact: Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030; phone: (713) 944-1118, or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net. All donations to the Angel Program will be acknowledged in the CLF Newsletter, unless otherwise requested. Memorial donations will be acknowledged upon request. Checks should be made payable to Clayton Library Friends, and mailed to P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078. Please write \(\) wingel+on your check.

American-Canadian Genealogical Society \$50

Annals of Wyoming (Wyoming State Hist Soc) \$45

Clarke County Hist. & Gen. Soc Quarterly (AL) \$30

Collin County Chronicles (Collin County, TX) \$25

Families (Ontario Genealogical Soc-Canada) \$100

Family Tree Magazine (United Kingdom) \$100

Franklin County Gen Soc Quarterly (TX) \$20

Goingsnake Messenger (Goingsnake District Heritage Assn.-Oklahoma) \$15

Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly \$35

Internet Genealogy \$32.95

Kin Hunters (Sandusky, Ohio) \$17

Leaves & Branches (Navarro Co TX Gen Soc) \$15

Licking Lantern (Licking County, OH) \$14

Lifelines (Northern NY-American-Canadian) \$35

Maine Genealogist \$25

Minnesota Genealogist \$30

Montgomery Genealogical Soc Quarterly (AL) \$25

Rodziny (Polish Genealogical Soc of America) \$35

Shelby County Historical Society Quarterly (AL)\$20

South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly \$23

St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly (MO) \$40

Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (KS) \$55

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society \$30

Les Voyageurs (German-Acadian Coast Hist. &

Those who have earned their "Wings" since the last newsletter:

Lynda Beth Collins -- renewal of *The Carolina Herald, Central Georgia Genealogical Society*, and Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly.

M/M Thomas Coughlin -- renewal of MASOG (Mass.).

Ruby Dusek -- renewal of *Ceske Stopy* (TX Czech Genealogical Society Quarterly) in memory of John E. Dusek; *Le Raconteur* (Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane) in memory of John & Roberta Griffin Vigneaux.

Glenda Kay Hayes -- donation for renewal of *Alabama Genealogical Society* Bi-Annual, *Mississippi River Routes* (Vicksburg Genealogical Society), *Tennessee Journal of History and Genealogy*, *Tap Roots* (East Alabama Genealogical Society quarterly) or other needed periodical.

Becky Morgan. -- renewal of Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly or other periodical.

Selma M Post . renewal of the *Carolinas Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Barbara Jean Richards -- renewal of Vermont Genealogy.

Paula Rene White -- renewal of *Argyll Colony Plus* in memory of Frank Broderick; and *Indiana Genealogist* in memory of John Henry Bough.

M/M Doug Wilbourn -- donation for the Angel Program.

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2019 Contributions and Donations

We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the following individuals and organizations who, during the calendar year of 2019, have generously made financial gifts to Clayton Library Friendsq ongoing goal of enriching the resources and facilities of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.q

Contributor (\$1 - \$49) \$ 685.75 'Contributor' total

Kaye Bonner Arnold Michael Bailey M/M Jim Bernhard Georgianne Bigam Virginia Dale Blalock

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The Bay Area Genealogical Society

The Genealogical Society of Kendall County

The Houston Colony of the Magna Charta Dames &

Barons

Bela & Mildred Toth M/M Doug Wilbourn Jo Ann Williams

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Sponsor (\$250 - \$499) \$0. 'Sponsor' total

Benefactor (\$500 and above) \$24,440. 'Benefactor' total

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The Hopkins County Genealogical Society
The John McKnitt Alexander Chapter NSDAR
The Paul B and Frances Lenore Terry Jr Family
Foundation
M/M Jack G Westberry

Total Contributions for 2019 -- \$31,021.13

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2020?

In this year of %perfect 20/20 vision+ -- dong lose sight of renewing your CLF membership.

Your membership can be renewed online at claytonlibraryfriends.org or by mailing the paper membership form (also downloadable from the website) with your payment. Dues remain \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a joint membership of two people residing at the same address.

Your membership dues support the Clayton Library with resources that, in turn, enrich your own genealogy research.

Dond delay, renew today!

Jessica Horne Collins, 1st VP - Membership

New/Returning Members

Clayton Library Friends extends a warm welcome to these new and returning members who have joined/rejoined CLF since our last newsletter.

Walter Bissex & Tina Shaheen, Nelda Gillespire Eppes, Mary Hollis, Kathleen Williams.

We glad that you group discovered (or re-discovered) Clayton Library Friends and hope that you glass join our group of volunteers that provides support to the Clayton Library in so many ways.

A Reminder ---

If you change your contact information (address, phone numbers, email address, etc.) PLEASE let us know at 1vp@claytonlibraryfriends.org Thank you!!

Clayton Library:

Ideal Meeting Place for Records Preservation –

Jessica Horne Collins

As family historians, our reason for visiting Clayton Library is usually research. We spend a great deal of time with Clayton's books, periodicals, microfilm, or online databases. We may also visit for educational programs or to use the photo or slide scanners. But have you considered Clayton as a meeting place for records preservation?

I discovered a letter written by my 4th great-grandfather on eBay last fall. I purchased it, but the fragile 1850s document needed the care of an archivist. I contacted my friend Rachael Altman, Director/Archivist at the Carnegie History Center in Bryan, Texas, and we arranged a meetup at Clayton Library one Thursday evening. Clayton's newly-remodeled first floor with its ample lighting, dust-free tables, and temperature-controlled environment was the perfect spot to work on the document and encapsulate it in a protective covering.

Librarian Becky Grimes located archival gloves for us when Rachael couldn't find hers, and librarian Melissa Hayes offered tips as we pondered over some of the more difficult handwriting. As I get deeper into the letter's transcription, Clayton Library's books about early American handwriting will also be key to this project.

Thank you, Becky, Melissa, and Clayton Library, for being a valuable resource for all types of genealogy projects.



Archivist Rachael Altman completes preservation work on a 19th century letter in Clayton Librarycs newly-remodeled first floor.



Encapsulating the fragile letter was made easier in Claytons new collaboration areas.

Tidbits --

From Dick Eastmancs blog. ‰or years, genealogists learned that anything published prior to 1923 is now considered to be in the public domain. In other words, there are no copyrights on these older works and they may be copied or reproduced freelyo Starting on January 1, 2020, anything published in 1924 (or anything published prior to 1925) is now considered to be in the public domain.

Clayton Library Friends will be at NGS May 20-23 in Salt Lake City having their booth promoting Clayton Library. We will not be bringing Donated-Duplicate books to this conference, so there will be no selling. But if you are attending the conference, please stop by to let the volunteer(s) have a break and stretch their legs. It is VERY MUCH appreciated!

Clayton Volunteer Recognition -

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held in December, with a great turnout. It always a great time --with food, fellowship, and fun! Congratulations to John Dorroh (*Above and Beyond*), Bob Olsen (*100 Club*), and Mary Hollis (*100 Club*) on receiving their awards.





Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896 832-393-2600 www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday . 10 am . 6 pm Thursday. 12 pm . 8 pm Friday, Saturday . 10 am . 5 pm (Closed on Sunday and Monday)

Clayton House Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday -- 10 am . 2 pm Thursday . noon . 4pm

Clayton Library Friends

P O Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078 www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

In Memoriam -

It is with great sadness that we tell you that **Marje Harris**, our Clayton Library Manager from 1996 to 2006 passed away on December 22nd after a brief illness that began on Thanksgiving. She worked for the Houston Public Library for 34 years . 30 of those years at Clayton Library.

Charles Landon 'Chuck' Chambers passed away on October 31st. He was on our Clayton Library Friends Executive Board as Volunteer Coordinator from 1999-2001.

Several of the Clayton Library Friends members have lost their husbands recently. Dianne Kirks husband, **John Peter Kirk**, passed away in December. And we just learned of the death of Emily Chiles husband, **Jerry Edmond Chiles**, in June of 2018. Our condolences to both Dianne and Emily on the death of their husbands.