



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXIV Number 2 May 2020

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Clayton Library

Manager

Susan Kaufman



President's Message

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed all of our lives. We can learn from our ancestors who also experienced pandemics and other crises with strength and courage. But unlike our ancestors, we have technology that enables us to be together and stay safe.

The Clayton Library Friends Executive Board held its April 25th meeting virtually via Zoom. Attending were twelve people and six cats.

Thank you Sue Kaufman and John Dorroh for sharing your furry friends. They were very attentive.) Although we will miss seeing and visiting with all of our members, we wanted to both proceed with our Business meeting and offer you an excellent program. We decided to hold our May 9th General Meeting using GoToWebinar, generously provided by the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS). Don't worry if you have never attended a virtual webinar. Registration and sign-in are very simple. You don't need to download anything or enter a password. To register, enter your name and email address. That's it! Here's the key information:

- Prior to May 9th -- **register for the meeting using this link**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2170053729713973260>
- Prior to the meeting -- you will receive an email reminder from TxSGS and a link to enter the meeting.
- A few minutes before 10:00am on Saturday, May 9th, click the link in the email to **enter the meeting**.

You will be able to see the agenda and presentation and hear the speakers. The main agenda item is to select our Nominations Committee. You will have the opportunity to volunteer to join that committee. You will also be able to ask questions of our speaker.

Please join us virtually on May 9th. I fervently hope that we can meet together in person in August.

Lynda Collins, President

Join us for the CLF General Meeting
10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 9th
in your home -- by Webinar

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities

January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020

Income

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 3,605
Temporarily Restricted	385
Membership Dues	1,245

Total Revenue \$ **5,235**

Expenses

Current Programs	\$ 22,850
Administrative & General	5,211

Total Expenses \$ **28,061**

Net Operating Income (Loss) (\$ **22,826**)

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Account	\$ 98,477
Other Current Assets	\$ (1,485)

Fixed Assets \$ 7,967

Total Other Assets \$ 1,030,210

(Investments, of which \$826,907 is the permanently restricted Endowment)

TOTAL ASSETS \$ **1,135,169**

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total Liabilities (VISA card)	\$ 482
Equity	\$ 1,134,687

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ **1,135,169**

Resa Nichols Hennings, Treasurer

New/Returning Members

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

**Pat Croom,
Cecilia Dykes,
Natalie McLain,
Ellen Panell,
Cary Rodriguez.**

Special Donations

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

In Honor of:

**Steven Bychowski
(Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator)**

In Memory of:

**Billie Louise Bradford Brown,
Judith Carter Phelps DeMoss,
Marjorie Sibley Kopmeier-Havlick,
Grace Picton Wise.**

Volunteer Needed

when the Library re-opens to the public

The Clayton Library is looking for a volunteer to fill the Microprint Desk shift on the 1st Saturday of the month from 3pm to 5pm. The duties include greeting visitors, limited reference help, and assisting with microfilm readers and printers. Training is provided for all duties. A genealogy background would be very helpful. Please contact Steven Bychowski, the Volunteer Coordinator of Clayton Library, at:

Steven.Bychowski@houstontx.gov

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.

Filling in the Family Stories – Social History



Speaker:

**Susan Kaufman, Manager
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**

**Saturday, May 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

webinar -- in your home

(a copy of the handout is included in this newsletter)

This presentation will help you to find sources to help you understand the context in which your family lived, celebrated, cooked, listened to music, and other daily activities that help provide the stories that make our families come alive. Family history research, put in context, goes beyond just a name, date, and place on a pedigree chart. Social history helps us to better understand lives, provides a background to our research, adds interest to the pedigree chart, and can also lead to additional records.

Susan Kaufman is the Senior Manager of the Houston (TX) Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston. An Illinois native, Susan has more than 30 years of experience as a genealogy librarian, having started her career in Peoria, IL, then moving to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, then moving to Texas in 2004.

A presenter at local, state and national genealogy conferences and meetings, she also has held numerous genealogical society board positions in Illinois, Indiana, and Texas and at the national level.

In 2019, Susan received the National Genealogical Society / ProQuest P. William Filby Award, and became a Fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society. Both of these honors were for outstanding service as a genealogy librarian and for service to family history researchers. She also received the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award. Sue is past President of the Texas State Genealogical Society, and currently serves as its Director of Education. She is a member of the Texas Library Association and the American Library Association.

Mark your calendar for:

CLF General Meeting . 10:15 a.m. -- Saturday, August 8, 2020

***State of the Library* – annual presentation by Manager, Sue Kaufman**

CLF Annual Meeting . 10:15 a.m. . Saturday, November 14, 2020

Members are invited to attend CLF quarterly Executive Board meetings. Please let us know at least a week in advance if you wish to speak to the Board . so we can add you to the agenda.

Manager's Message -



Hello Everyone,

I hope this message finds all of you safe and healthy. These times are a changing. One-day-at-a-time is a new normal. I hope that those that are facing especially hard challenges know that there are many people out there who care and have you in their hearts. If anything, we know that our ancestors faced adversity and persevered. The strength of those who came before us runs through our DNA. We will all be OK.

Do know that here at the library all of us are thinking about you, missing you, and looking forward to the day when we help you find that nugget of information. Until then, I can give you an update here about our services and some suggestions for research.

At this point, 1 May 2020, the library is still closed. Staff is working from home and working in the building, working on projects and tasks that are part of our everyday job. We are also looking for ways to engage with you. We have no idea when we will open at Clayton. As of today, we are closed through May 2020.

So, I would like to remind you of the databases that are available to you through our website. Visit www.houstonlibrary.org, click on **Research**, then scroll to the middle of the page and click on **Genealogy**. There you will find databases that are accessible from home, including Ancestry Library Edition (ALE)! It is free to use via that link through May. We thank ProQuest, the vendor for ALE, for making that available.

In addition to the genealogy databases, after clicking on the **Research** link from the library home page, notice on the left side of the page you can see **Research by category**. The Houston Public Library subscribes to many databases that are applicable to family history research. Check out the **Encyclopedias and Dictionaries** link to find the *Encyclopedia of Maritime History*. If you have water-faring ancestors, you might find some background information there to help you with your research. Not a **traditional** family history research database, but this source might be full of hints to lead you on another path in your research. There are many other databases like this throughout the listings. Check them out.

We are highlighting many of these databases in the current and upcoming *Clayton Town Crier*, our quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is different than the one you are reading, *The Clayton Advocate*. If you have not signed up for the library newsletter which is chock full of information about the library collection, please visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/find-it/readers-link/newsletters-all-interests> and click on **Special Collections** to sign up.

We are also working on a number of other things . ramping up social media posts both through the library and the CLF Facebook page; Instagram posts; and very exciting news . we are putting together a YouTube channel where we will soon be adding presentations in a webinar type format! Watch the CLF Facebook and webpage for that announcement.

Although we are not answering the phones currently, we are looking to offer phone reference in the future. Know that we miss you, are thinking about you, and look forward to helping you find your ancestors soon. If you do need to contact us, you can call my office at 832-393-2602 and I will return your call as soon as I can. I am working from home a few days a week, and in the office a few days.

Please take care and be safe!

Sue Kaufman
Manager, Clayton Library



BE AN ANGEL

Angel Report and Donations Still Needed for 2020 Subscriptions

The following list of periodical subscriptions are those that Clayton Library wishes to receive on an ~~as~~ 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 ~~Angel~~ on your check.

American-Canadian Genealogical Society \$50

Annals of Wyoming (Wyoming State Hist Soc) \$60

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

Families (Ontario Genealogical Soc.-Canada) \$100

Family Tree Magazine (United Kingdom) \$100

Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly \$35

Kin Hunters (Sandusky, Ohio) \$17

Leaves and Branches (Navarro Co TX) \$15

Licking Lantern (Licking County, Ohio) \$14

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

Montgomery Genealogical Soc. Quarterly (AL) \$25

Rhode Island Roots \$15

Shelby County Historical Society Quarterly (AL) \$20

South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly \$23

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

The Geni (Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Assn.) \$20

Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (KS) \$55

Angels

(Those who have earned their "wings" since the last newsletter)

Betty Dunquez -- renewal of ~~Ok~~ Oklahoma Historical Society Quarterly + in Memory of Raymond Dunquez.

Marjorie Lowe -- renewal of the ~~Go~~ Goingsnake Messenger + in memory of James S. Lowe.

David Swenson -- renewal of the ~~Ma~~ Maine Genealogist +

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Closed through May 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic

Clayton Library Friends

P O Box 271078, Houston TX 77277-1078

www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the August 2020 issue is July 18, 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 – Jessica Collins, Norma Davenport, Lesley Douthwaite

How Did the Houston Genealogical Forum (HGF) React to the Pandemic?

By Barbara Richards

At the March 7th membership meeting, the HGF Webmaster asked for input from the members about a possible virtual meeting for the April 4th seminar. There were two concerns. Would the speaker be willing to travel amid the worsening health risks? Would the venue, Harris County Bayland Community Center, be open to HGF in early April? Information from the Centers for Disease Control, Harris County, and Houston City officials was suggesting limitations might be in order. Members expressed varying opinions, from acceptance of whatever was necessary to doubt that there would be a need to cancel or modify the format of the seminar. The conclusion was that the Board would monitor the situation, investigate alternatives, and notify the membership through email and the HGF website. By March 13th Bayland was closed.

Nancy Loe was the scheduled speaker for the April 4th seminar. Airfare had been paid. Registration and payment for the seminar had already begun. When the HGF Program Chair contacted the speaker, she was relieved, and open to changing arrangements. Recognizing the importance of maintaining the meeting schedule and providing an opportunity for member interaction, the board decided on an online meeting. The Webmaster researched webinar providers and identified a discounted three-month trial of GoToWebinar for qualified nonprofit organizations. Registration, at no charge, was limited to members.

The HGF website expressed concern for members: ***"HGF Responds to the Covid-19 Virus -- We hope that each of you is taking the necessary precautions to stay healthy and well during this difficult time. HGF will carry on by offering you live on-line presentations by leading genealogists and opportunities to interact with your fellow HGF members. These include the April webinar with Nancy Loe, a special online DIG meeting with Dana Leeds in April, and the May webinar on Scots-Irish Research with Amanda Epperson."***

The HGF Board held an online meeting on April 1st and a practice session with the speaker on April 3rd. On April 4th the first HGF virtual meeting, *Beyond Ancestry, Essential Portals* by Nancy Loe, was held. Attendees submitted questions online, the moderator asked the questions and the speaker responded. A survey and spontaneous responses from registrants, were positive. About eighty-five percent of the ninety-five registrants attended, well above typical webinar attendance of about sixty percent of registrants. Nancy Loe was surprised at the excellent turnout.

The April 18th DNA Special Interest Group (DIG) was held online. Dana Leeds spoke about *Understanding the New Shared cM Project Data*. There was interaction among participants at the DIG. Dana agreed to take live questions during the presentation. This contributed to a more personal experience. Registration was limited to members. Sixty members attended the DIG.

The final regular meeting of the season was on May 2nd. Amanda Epperson's *Seed, breed, and generation: Finding Your Scots-Irish Family* was offered to HGF members by Webinar.

HGF has found the online format to be successful and well attended in this period of physical distancing. We hope to offer more online meetings, as an opportunity for persons who live a distance from Bayland Community Center or are traveling and want to listen to the HGF speakers. The pandemic has made us look for creative ways to offer programs to our members, but we look forward to mingling in person in the fall.

CLF Will Not Have an Exhibit at NGS in Salt Lake City

From NGS: Amid COVID-19 concerns, NGS made the necessary decision to transition to a virtual conference. The NGS 2020 Virtual Family History Conference will begin with a full day of NGS 2020 Live! on Wednesday, May 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (ET). The event will feature opening remarks from the NGS President, lunch speaker Stephanie Raff, NGS award announcements, and exciting presentations from Thomas W. Jones, Judy G. Russell, Elizabeth Shown Mills, and Blaine T. Bettinger, plus online chat during each session and a short Q&A after each session facilitated by C. Ann Staley +

Clayton Library Friends' Collaborative February Meeting

by Lynda Collins

What a great February meeting! First, I want to thank Sue Kaufman for including Clayton Library Friends in her vision for a jointly-sponsored seminar with AAHGS (Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society) and HM (Holocaust Museum). The speakers were excellent, and the meeting space at the Holocaust Museum was superb. Next, I want to thank Nick Cimino for his work on the planning committee. And finally, I want to acknowledge the great volunteers who kept CLF in the forefront on Saturday: Elsa Schmieder, Glenda Hayes, Barbara Richards, Jessica Collins, Nick Cimino, and Pat Metcalfe.

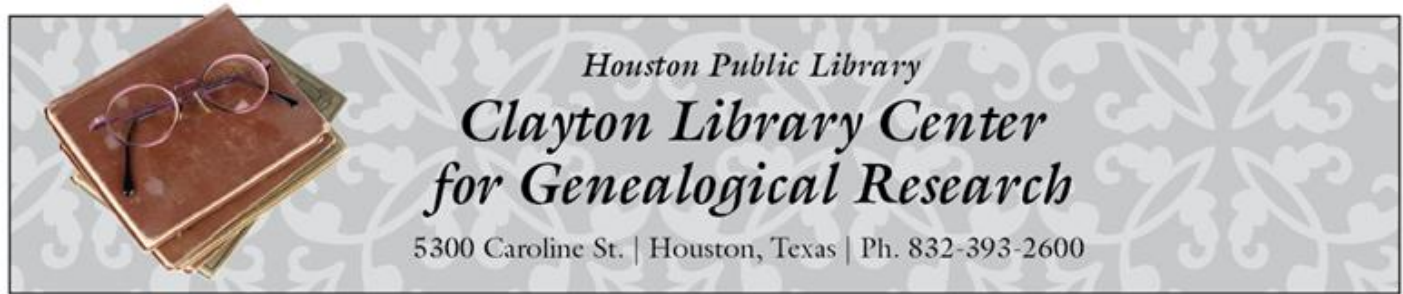
Over 150 people were introduced to Clayton Library or reminded of its rich resources through this conference. Both speakers highlighted Clayton throughout their talks and Sue never missed an opportunity to sing its praises.

Finally, once again, Pat and Jessica advertised Clayton Library with our impressive exhibit, while selling over \$200 worth of donated-duplicate books.

I really enjoyed the conference, and I think all three organizations benefitted from working together. Thanks to all.

The CLF Executive Board Meeting via Zoom — March 25, 2020





Filling in the Family Stories – Social History

Susan Kaufman | Senior Manager

This presentation will help you to find sources to help you to understand the context in which your family lived, celebrated, cooked, listened to music, and other daily activities that help provide the stories that make our families come alive. Family history research put in context goes beyond just a name, date and place on a pedigree chart. Social history helps us to better understand lives, provides a background to our research, adds interest to the pedigree chart and can also lead to additional records.

When we look at our pedigree charts, so many questions begin to swirl in our heads.

We want to know what the day was like for those names. What did they wear, how did they cook, what did they cook, how did they grieve, how did they get to the place they were, what was their environment like, what challenges did they have? What were their fashions, how did they get from one place to another? What was the trip across the ocean like? What hardships did they live through? Were they persecuted? What happened to them as they settled? How did they, why did they have to defend themselves? We want to know what role society played in their lives...and what role they played in society.

What is social history and why should we care?

Social history is history on the micro level, examining how families fit into, were part of, and can help answer the impact society had on them. Social history helps us to better understand lives providing context to our research. Social history fills in the gaps between the birth, marriage and death of an ancestor. It helps us to understand how they worked, how they played, and who they were.

It is the study of ordinary people's lives. It is the stories we were told as children, heard as adults, and the memories we share. These are the stories of life. Our families live in social context, with a circle of relatives, friends, acquaintances all placed in a world of activity. These stories are the fabric that weaves and creates a "family history" We want to know how our ancestors lived and what life was like for them. This creates a picture in our mind of who and what they were.

Researching the historical context of your family gives us broader picture of what our families thought about, what events were impacting their lives, how they worked, events that were part of their lives. In addition, as a bonus, it might even make the most reluctant person who is not even interested in "genealogy" become interested in "family history"

How, why, and what questions

These questions are what drives us to begin the search for our ancestors. Finding information to fill in the dashes is not as difficult as it might seem. Beginning your search by doing a Google search and entering a question can return many matches that will give you history of what you are looking for.

As an example: "What did people eat for dinner in 1880?" Read:

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/everyday-life-food> or blog posts like <https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/whats-for-dinner-what-your-ancestors-ate-back-in-the-day/>

The questions that generate after the dates of events are placed on our pedigree charts might include, as a sample:

- Why did they come?
- What did the neighborhood look like?
- What was the experience like?
- What did they eat?
- How did they learn?
- What was daily life like?

These are leading questions that begin to weave the family narrative as you discover answers to those questions.

Planning your search

As always, examining your pedigree chart and your background research should give you clues on where to look. The dates and places that put your ancestor in a specific location are the guideposts to further research. You might have an ancestor who moved to Kentucky who was a coal miner. Not sure where he settled? Learning about and searching for coal mining history not only will educate you on the topic, but it gives you history of your ancestor's life beyond the dashes listed on the pedigree chart.

<http://kycoal.homestead.com/>

What sources can help you? (not an exhaustive list)

- Local newspapers of the times
- Local Histories
- Interviewing relatives
- Books, Periodicals, Microfilm
- Online Sources
- Museums
- Historical societies
- Libraries

Learning about using Social History

Understanding what social history is and how it can benefit your family story can be found in many places. The listed sources below are just a few of the articles and blogs that are helpful in becoming educated about social history. Continued searches using library catalogs both locally and through WorldCat, an online worldwide library catalog that lists books, articles and much more www.worldcat.org should return other publications for background research.

Cooke, Lisa. "Tell Your Ancestor's Story: Use Social History for Genealogy." *Genealogy Gems*, 21 Sept. 2017, lialouisecooke.com/2015/09/21/social-history-for-genealogy/

Sturdevant, Katherine Scott. *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway, 2000.

"What Is Social History?" | History Today. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 May 2017. www.historytoday.com/raphael-samuel/what-social-history

Fallon, Jennifer.

"Give Your Ancestors a Place in History." *FamilySearch Blog*, FamilySearch.org, 10 Apr. 2017, www.familysearch.org/blog/en/give-ancestors-place-history/

At your library

Online magazines, books, music and more from your library

Ask your librarian what type of digital media the library subscribes to. Finding books and magazines, both popular and scholarly can help you create a life story. You might find historical fiction to get ideas, ethnic music, videos, languages, encyclopedias and other databases that can help fill in information. When you use the online sources, you might have to look outside of the "genealogy" online resources into the categories of almanacs, encyclopedias, social studies, history or other non-traditional topic categories. Remember the quest is social history, not genealogy research. Always ask a staff member if you are not sure about a resource.

Reach out to the library in the area you are researching. There you might find local history that can offer historical information about the area, buildings, businesses and more that will be able to put your family in context in the area they resided in.

Don't forget to check out university libraries. Often, they have resources that are applicable to social and historical research.

As with Google searching, a key in working with non-genealogy librarians to be most efficient is how you formulate your question. Often initially saying "I am here to do family history research" will sometimes send the librarian down the path of genealogy. In doing social history research remember the entry is history of a subject, time period or a place.

Selected Websites

Victoriana: The 19th Century online

<http://www.victoriana.com/>

Victoriana offers information on everything Victorian from homes, decoration, fashion, food and even the private lives of the Victorians.

American Memory

<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience. <https://www.loc.gov/collections>

Digital Public Library of America

<https://dp.la/>

DPLA connects people to the riches held within America's libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions. All of the materials found through DPLA—photographs, books, maps, news footage, oral histories, personal letters, museum objects, artwork, government documents, and so much more—are free and immediately available in digital format.

HistoryLines

<https://historylines.com/>

The site allows anyone to better understand the lives of their forebears by describing the historical events and cultural influences that surrounded their lives. Users see their relatives in historical context with a personalized timeline and map, and can read a detailed, editable life sketch based on when and where your ancestor lived in history.

Feeding America

<http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/cookbooks/index.html>

The *Feeding America* project has created an online collection of some of the most important and influential American cookbooks from the late 18th to early 20th century.

Chronicling America

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

is a Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Supported by the NEH, this rich digital resource will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. An NEH award program will fund the contribution of content from, eventually, all U.S. states and territories.

A Pictorial History of Kentucky Coal Mining

<http://kycoal.homestead.com/>

New York Public Library Digital Collections

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>

The New York Public Library Digital Collections contains [884,351 items](#) and counting. While that is a small fraction of the Library's overall holdings, it is representative of the diversity of our vast collections—from books to videos, maps to manuscripts, illustrations to photos, and more.

State Memory Projects

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/statememory/>

<https://blogs.loc.gov/thesignal/2013/09/71-digital-portals-to-state-history/>

This Day in History

<http://www.onthisday.com/film-tv/>

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>

JStor

<https://www.jstor.org/>

Scholarly journal, books and primary source archive covering information in the arts, science, business, history, education and much more. A subscription website usually through libraries and universities, there are individual researcher accounts available.

Fashion Era

www.fashion-era.com

Fashion-era looks at women's costume and fashion history and analyses the mood of an era. Changes in technology, leisure, work, cultural and moral values, homelife and politics have all contributed to lifestyle trends which influence the clothes women choose to wear. These are the changes that make any era of society special in relation to the study of the costume of a period.

Further Reading

Adding social history to your family narrative. *Genealogical Tips (Harlingen, TX)* Tip O' Texas Genealogical Society Harlingen Public Library. v.49 no.1 2009

Book Series: *The Writers Guide to Everyday Life*. Various titles, authors and publishers. Check this link on WorldCat and then check with your local library.

https://www.worldcat.org/search?qt=worldcat_org_all&q=Writer%27s+Guides+to+Everyday+Life

Books Series: *The Social History of Europe*

<https://www.worldcat.org/search?qt=hotseries&q=se%3A%22Social+history+of+Europe.%22>

But who were they? Social history tips. *Family Tree Magazine* (Great Britain) Warners Group Publication, Plc. v.7 no.1 1990

Country newspapers as a source of social history. *Indiana Magazine of History*. Indiana Historical Society. v.48 no.3 1952

Philibert-Ortega, Gena. *From the family kitchen: discover your food heritage and preserve favorite family recipes*. Cincinnati, Ohio : Family Tree Books, 2012.

Starmans, Barbara J. *Tracing your ancestors' lives: a guide to social history for family historians* South Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, an imprint of Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 2017