



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXVII Number 4 November 2023

Clayton Library Friends Executive Board

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President's Message



Fall is a time of change. We see it in the trees around us – maybe brown from our summer's drought, maybe brown because it's autumn – and feel it in the Houston air that's finally crisp and cool. Clayton patrons are also experiencing change, as we said farewell to senior library manager, Sue Kaufman, in October.

In the ten years I've been involved with Clayton, Sue has represented all the best things about the library and

family history research to me. She probably means the same to many of you, too. Beyond her position's managerial duties, Sue often helped me find just what I needed in the stacks or helped me approach a brick wall with different thinking. She was always generous with her time, both for individual patrons but especially for Clayton Library Friends. Sue had an open-door policy for all things CLF because she valued the relationship between our organization and Houston Public Library. Sue will always be a Friend, and we wish her well as she moves back home to Illinois. (You can read a copy of Sue's personal message to Clayton Library Friends, distributed by email in October, on page 4.)

Other changes this fall include two long-time CLF board members stepping down from their roles at the end of their current terms. Resa Nichols Hennings has served as Treasurer from 2012-2016 and 2020-2023. She has been a wealth of knowledge of all things finance-related for our board and epitomizes timeliness and attention to detail. Glenda Hayes has served as Director of Correspondence from 2018-2023. If you've ever been a recipient of one of her thank you letters or memorial acknowledgements, you know Glenda is a masterful writer and gifted with expressing gratitude with sincerity. I thank both Resa and Glenda for their years of service and for their depths of organizational knowledge that has served CLF well and been immensely valuable to this new president.

When changes occur, we are reminded of why Clayton Library Friends is important. Dedicated organizations are essential to continuity. The CLF board has a strong relationship with HPL-Special Collections and

Continued on page 2

CLF General Meeting (must register)

Hybrid – via Zoom or In-Person

10:30 a.m. CST, Saturday, November 18

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities

July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

Income

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 4,350
Angels	\$ 110
Membership Dues	\$ 105
D-D Books	\$ 839

Total Income \$ 5,404

Expenses

Current Programs	\$ 1,133
Administrative & General	\$ 2,517

Total Expenses \$ 3,650

Net Operating Income \$ 1,754

Other Income –

Charles Schwab Investment Account

NOTE: Our TD Ameritrade account is now with Charles Schwab. Schwab acquired TD Ameritrade 9/1/2023

Interest & Dividends Income	\$ 9,280
Unrealized Gains	\$ 28,220

Other Expenses –Schwab

Management Fees	\$ 3,520
Unrealized Losses	\$ 29,334

Net Other Income -Schwab \$ 4,646

Net Income \$ 6,400

Statement of Financial Position

As of YTD September 30, 2023

Assets

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 88,990
Total Other Assets	\$1,405,829
(Investments, of which \$828,704 is the permanently restricted Endowment)	

Total Assets \$1,494,819

Liabilities and Equity

Liabilities	\$ 40
Equity	\$1,494,779

Total Liabilities and Equity \$1,494,819

Resa Nichols Hennings, Treasurer

President's Message --

Continued from page 1

continue to be updated on library operations and the manager search. Outgoing CLF board members are dedicated to training their successors and facilitating smooth transitions. CLF continues to promote library programs and be ambassadors for Clayton in the genealogical community. In times of change, friends are important. We are those Friends.

Jessica Horne Collins

New and/or Returning Members –

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

**Laurie Tilton Anderson,
Virginia & Frank Bernhard,
Gail Lover,
David Bryan Singleton &
Ruth Murphy Singleton.**

We are glad you discovered (or re-discovered) Clayton Library Friends and hope you will also join our group of volunteers who provide support to the library in so many ways.

Special Donations –

Since the last newsletter, Clayton Library Friends has received these special monetary donations.

In Memory Of:

Cathy Conerly Taylor,
Steven L Villareal,
Alan Young

Clayton Library Friends

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

Clayton Library Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization – IRS Code 501(c)(3) – whose purpose is to enrich the resources of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, a Special Collections branch of the Houston Public Library. We always welcome donations to further our purpose.

Where Is the Book with My Family in It?



Speaker:

Drew Smith

Saturday, November 18, 2023

10:30 a.m. CST

This meeting requires registration.

This is a Hybrid meeting -- held both online via Zoom and in-person in Clayton's Susan Garwood Meeting Room. Registration is required for in-person attendance due to limited seating capacity. Registration for online attendance is also required to obtain Zoom login instructions. To register, go to claytonlibraryfriends.org/event-5475594.

There will be a brief business meeting followed by our guest speaker.

Before beginning their own research, good researchers seek out the research already done by others. Find out how to do an exhaustive search for books, periodicals, and other published or unpublished printed research material that may save you time in your own research.

Drew Smith is the genealogy librarian at the University of South Florida Libraries in Tampa and is the 2016 winner of the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship, presented by the National Genealogical Society. He has served on the boards of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is the author of *Social Networking for Genealogists*, and *Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher*, and co-author of *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*. His latest book, published this year, is *Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy*.

Drew speaks regularly at conferences and meetings of national, state, and local genealogy societies, especially on topics linking genealogy and technology. Together with George G Morgan, Drew has been the co-host of *The Genealogy Guys Podcast* since September 2005. Beginning in 2016, he began hosting the *Genealogy Connections Podcast*, which alternates with *The Genealogy Guys Podcast*.

To register for the Clayton Library Friends' November 18th on-line Zoom meeting, please go to the Clayton Library Friends website at: www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

Mark your calendar for:

CLF Quarterly Meetings – 3rd Saturdays February, May, August, November.

CLF Executive Board Meeting

CLF 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.

A Special Message from Sue Kaufman, Clayton Library Manager 2006-2023



*The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things:
Of shoes – and ships – and sealing wax –
Of cabbages – and kings...*

- Lewis Carroll,
"The Walrus and the Carpenter"

Hello Everyone,

The time has come to let all of you know, I am leaving the library. My last day will be Saturday, October 7, 2023. We are moving back to Illinois. I am very happy, amazed, overwhelmed, and full of peace.

Many, if not all of you, knew this day was coming. It has not been any secret that we wanted to go home. The stars have aligned, and I will be coming full circle by going back to Peoria to be the local history/genealogy librarian. Many of you know this was my very first job back in 1987 that started me on my career.

It has been a great ride, and these last 17 years have been amazing. There are so many memories, and the one that stands out the most is winning the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship. I don't have enough words to express the honor of that award. I would not have received that award if it weren't for -- what I understand to be -- the barrage of letters of recommendations sent to the National Genealogical Society by Clayton Library Friends members current and past. That is the greatest honor that a genealogy librarian can receive. I have so much gratitude for that effort.

The years here at the library and being part of the Friends have taught me so much and left me with so many memories:

- How to manage a renovation project
- How to work with a strong group of supporters to reach common goals
- How to put on a conference (TxSGS in 2011)
- Genealogy After Dark food and celebrations
- A group of volunteers who are ready, willing and able to help with the needs of the library
- A group of people who support the library, and are an ACTIVE part of the library
- A group of people who supported me and my ideas
- A group who financially supports the library through materials and technology making the library one of the best in the nation
- A group of people, past and present, who I will remember as kind, generous, fun, there to listen when needed, and to share memories with me
- Among so, so much more...

Thank you so much for everything you have done for me and the library in my time here. I will miss you all, and I'll take the lessons I've learned in working with the BEST group of people who REALLY believe in the library, and supported it unfailingly always with me.

Thank you all --

Love, Sue

Board Candidates, Bylaws Revisions on November Ballot --

CLF members will vote on several measures this November, including candidates for three executive board positions and revisions to the organization's bylaws.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic suspended in-person meetings in 2020, voting by the membership has been conducted electronically. The board approved temporary emergency exceptions to allow electronic voting each year, and organized a test of formalized electronic voting procedures that was conducted with the last election. Since this successful test in November 2022, the board has revised and approved bylaw changes that will allow CLF to conduct electronic elections permanently. CLF members will now vote whether to approve these changes. The revisions, in full, are presented on page 6.

The bylaws revisions address three key areas:

- **Allows membership voting to be conducted electronically and tasks the executive board with establishing, maintaining, and communicating procedures for electronic voting.** For elections with electronic voting, the revisions state the board must publicize a period in which members can nominate additional candidates outside of the nominating committee process. This process mirrors the "nominations from the floor" of in-person elections. Specific platforms, applications, and timelines are not outlined in the bylaws so as to not restrict adoption of new technologies in the future.
- **Changes the quorum for membership voting from a set number of 25 to a percentage -- 10 percent -- of members.** Currently, these numbers are roughly equal, but changing the quorum to a percentage will allow a similar threshold for conducting business as the organization grows or shrinks.
- **Changes the library's name to its new designation communicated by Houston Public Library earlier this year.** All instances of "Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research" were changed to "Houston Public Library – Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus."

Three executive board positions are also up for election: Treasurer, Director of Correspondence, and Director of Acquisitions. Biographies prepared by the candidates are presented on pages 7 and 8 for members' review.

Because the CLF November meeting will be held in a hybrid manner – both in-person at Clayton and online via Zoom – the board approved another exception to allow this election to be conducted electronically. Current dues-paying members will receive instructions by email on November 11 for how to cast their electronic ballot. Voting will remain open until 11:00am on November 18 during our quarterly meeting. Members are encouraged to vote online before the meeting even if they plan to attend in-person at Clayton, as no paper ballots will be distributed. If a member arrives at the in-person meeting having not voted, they may vote from their own personal device (phone or laptop). CLF will have limited devices available at the meeting for members who have not voted.

The CLF Executive Board encourages each member to let his or her voice be heard on these issues that move our organization forward in both leadership and processes.

Proposed CLF Bylaws Changes

November 2023

Article III – Purpose

The purpose of Clayton Library Friends as stated in the Articles of Incorporation shall be for education and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In this connection, its purpose shall be the enrichment of the resources and facilities of ~~Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research~~ the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus (hereafter referred to as “Clayton Library”), a Special Collections unit of the Houston Public Library. Its further purpose shall be to do any other lawful act or thing incidental to or connected with the above purpose.

Article V - Meetings

Section 5.4

~~Twenty-five~~ Ten percent of total current members, calculated at the time of the meeting, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Friends, regular or special. Each member shall have the right to cast one vote on matters brought before the membership, provided the member is in good standing and complies with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. No votes shall be cast by proxy for other members. Voting may be done electronically. The Board shall notify members of voting procedures before any election in which votes are cast electronically.

Article VII – Officers and Directors

Section 7.5

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting for elections in which voting is conducted only in-person. For elections conducted electronically, the Board must provide a process and publicize a period in which members may nominate additional candidates before voting begins. No name shall be placed into nomination without the consent of the nominee. The election of Board members shall be by ballot; however, if there is but one nominee for any office, election for that office may be by voice vote. A majority vote shall elect.

Article XII – Relations with Clayton Library

It is recognized that ~~Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research~~ the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus is a Special Collections unit of the Houston Public Library and that the Friends plays a supporting role. Projects of the Friends directly affecting the facilities of, or the materials owned by, Clayton Library will be undertaken only upon agreement with the Library management. Publication of materials jointly developed by the Friends and Clayton Library shall be published only with the agreement in writing of Clayton Library and the Friends.

Article XVII – Dissolution

If the corporation, Clayton Library Friends, should be dissolved, either voluntarily or involuntarily, it shall be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and all other applicable laws of the State of Texas. After all debts, obligations, and liabilities of the corporation shall have been paid, satisfied, and discharged, all money and property constituting the residue of the assets of the corporation shall be paid over and delivered to ~~Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research~~ Houston Public Library – Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus if it is then in existence, or otherwise to the Friends of Houston Public Library if it is then in existence, or otherwise to the Houston Public Library System, or otherwise to one or more organizations qualified as “exempt organizations” under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or hereafter amended, or successor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code then in effect. One or more such organizations shall be selected and designated by resolution duly adopted by a majority of the then qualified and acting Executive Board of the corporation.

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Election of 2024 CLF Executive Board members

Annual Meeting on November 18, 2023

Clayton Library Friends members who are elected to the following Executive Board vacancies at the Annual Meeting in November 2023 will assume office on January 1, 2024. The term of office is two years.

Robert A (Bob) Olsen – Treasurer



I was born and raised in a small town in central Iowa. I graduated from Wartburg College with a degree in Music Education and taught public school music for eight years in two schools in Illinois. I then attended Concordia University in Illinois where I received a Master of Church Music degree. In 1989 I started a career in Oil and Gas Accounting in the Chicago area and was transferred to the Houston area in 1996. I retired in 2017 but continued to work as a church organist-choir director in several Houston area churches, a career in church music that I started in 1966 playing the organ in my small hometown church.

Looking for somewhere to volunteer, I discovered Clayton Library and began volunteering at the Clayton House Welcome Desk and the Microprint Desk on the second floor of the library.

My love for genealogy came from my mother who had done some research in that field including a trip to Germany where many of her ancestors had been born. In 2004 I took her to Ireland to explore our Irish roots. After her death I was the recipient of her research and expanded upon it, having worked on family trees for several members of my extended family as well as friends. Much of my free time now is devoted to genealogical research and I have just recently come back to the Clayton House to assist with the Clayton Library Friends' Donated-Duplicate book project.

Dora “Sam” Akkerman – Director of Correspondence



I began researching my family's history about ten years ago, attempting to answer the many questions left by my parents' generation.

Prior to becoming involved with genealogy, I served twenty years as the Fleet Historian of the now 126-year-old Houston Yacht Club. During this time I created their archives, researched and wrote several periodical articles; researched and authored two editions of the book *From Buffalo Bayou to Galveston Bay, the History of the Houston Yacht Club* as well as several periodical articles; curated two historical photography exhibits -- the Museum of Printing History and the Texas Seaport Museum; researched and processed what is now the Humphreville Beasley Photograph Collection (glass plate negatives and prints) at the Houston History Center; and contributed to Rice University's online exhibit *Business & Pleasure on Houston's Waterways, 1897-1927*.

I have volunteered with the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, Houston Junior Forum, and the Blue Bird Circle benefitting pediatric neurology. I am a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. My B.A. is in English Literature from the University of Houston, and I have worked as a technical editor for an engineering society. I joined Clayton Library Friends about a year ago. I'm trained on Vivid Pix and volunteer on Scanning Saturdays to help patrons scan and restore photos.

SLATE OF NOMINEES -- continued



Trudi Coston Becht – Director of Acquisitions

Trudi was born in Texas, grew up in South Florida, and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California – Santa Barbara. She worked in the social work field until becoming a mom in 2008. The time at home allowed Trudi to pursue her curiosity about genealogy, and it quickly grew into her passion.

Trudi has furthered her genealogy education with courses from Boston University and the International Institute for Genealogical Studies. She has also attended the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. Trudi currently serves as Registrar for the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and she co-leads a Girl Scout group of 10-graders as they pursue their Gold Awards.

Trudi is currently serving as CLF Director of Acquisitions having been appointed by the Board in January 2023 to fill the position vacated mid-term.

2024 CLF Membership Renewal Drive --

Renew your CLF membership online between November 3 – 25 for a chance to win one free pass to watch sessions from the 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference. The playback pass features 46 on-demand lectures available through February 10, 2024. We also have three copies of the MacKiev Family Tree Maker genealogy software as additional prizes to win.

You'll enjoy taking your genealogy skills to the next level and we'll enjoy your continued commitment to the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus.

If you have any questions about your membership, renewals, or the contest, please send them to 1vp@claytonlibraryfriends.org. Thank you, Mary Ramsey Hollis, 1st VP – Membership

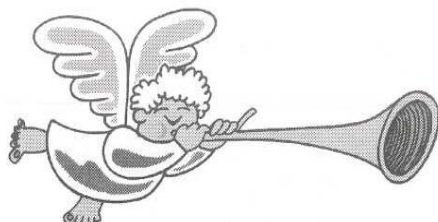
CLF goes to the Houston Highland Games –

On Saturday, October 14th, Clayton Library Friends presented the virtues of Clayton Library in Humble at the annual Houston Highland Games. Jessica Collins and Pat Metcalfe promoted genealogy from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a booth amid the background sounds of the bagpipe competitions. We brought a generous supply of Clayton Library brochures and beginning genealogy handouts – and ran out of them before the end of the day. We also brought some of our Scotland-related Donated-Duplicate books – surprising many visitors that Clayton Library was a National collection, but also has an International collection.

Traditionally, the HHG group had offered a free beginning genealogy orientation one-hour class. This year it was presented by Jessica. Most of those participants then visited our booth at some time during the day.

At the end of the day, Jessica and Pat concluded that we needed to do more of these outreach programs. We felt that it was a VERY worthwhile way to spend a day successfully promoting Clayton Library. Several of the folks that we talked to have already made their way to the library and/or renewed their CLF membership.

Please contact CLF if you have some ideas of locations for us to take our booth to promote genealogy and the collections at Clayton Library and attract visitors to our outstanding facility.



Angel Program

BE AN ANGEL

You can earn your Angel “wings” by donating to the Clayton Library Friends’ Angel Program. This may be for a specific periodical selected from the list of periodicals requested by the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, or it may be a non-specific donation to the Angel Program. All donations to the Angel Program will be acknowledged in the CLF newsletter, unless otherwise requested.

Donations may be made by check or online on our CLF Website – claytonlibraryfriends.org. Checks should be made payable to ‘Clayton Library Friends’. And mailed to: PO Box 271078, Houston TX 77277-1078. Please write ANGEL on your check.

Those who have earned their “wings” since the last CLF newsletter:

John Shepherd Texas Chapter Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America,
Wallace Edwin Davenport,
Elizabeth Hicks,
Barbara Jean Richards,
Jerry Stewart.

CLF Donated-Duplicate Book Sale –

Books that are donated to Clayton Library Friends that the library already owns or does not need, are listed for sale on our Clayton Library Friends website – claytonlibraryfriends.org/books. These books are usually priced at \$5 - \$10 - \$15 per volume, although an occasional volume or series may be priced higher.

There are several lists on the website: 1) books dealing with a single state – listed alphabetically by state, and 2) a group of multiple lists – foreign, general, U.S., and Civil War. A ‘recent additions’ list is sometimes added to the website.

These books are available either on our Book Sale days that are held the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 11 to 3pm at the Clayton House, or you may have selected titles mailed to you. We can mail your selections via Media Mail rates; you pay book and postage costs by check upon receiving the book(s). Contact CLF volunteer Pat Metcalfe at claytonexchange@ix.netcom.com.

In Memoriam –

We have recently learned of the passing of the following long-time CLF members:

Kathryn Swearingen, Feb 1935 – November 23, 2021, continued her CLF membership long after she and her husband Bill, 1941-2013, had moved to Bellville, TX. They were both very active in the genealogy community as Clayton Library grew in national prominence.

Sharon Anderson Nelson, wife of Kenneth Nelson, passed away on May 17, 2023 at the age of 84. They have both been loyal CLF members for many years.

Our sympathies are extended to the families of these wonderful, dedicated ladies.



Genealogy Face2Face is an informative and fun Zoom hangout that features genealogical speakers, discussion, and sharing. This program, which meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:00pm CDT, is open to both CLF members and guests free of charge. Our goal is to promote Clayton Library, its collections, and genealogical research. If you have not yet registered for our programs this year, please go to www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

December 7: In-Person Face2Face Research Day at Clayton Library

Looking for that one document to share over the holidays? Join us at Clayton Library as we gather to do research together. Library hours are 12pm to 7pm. Additional details pending and subject to change.

Please Remember!

If you have a change to any of your contact information (address, phone number, email, etc.), please remember to send it to 1vp@ClaytonLibraryFriends.org. Thank you!

The Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Current library hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday -- 10am to 5pm

Thursday -- noon to 7pm

***THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE* deadline for the February 2024 issue is February 1, 2024.**

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

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER STAFF

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plpm@ix.netcom.com

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