



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VI

April 1992

No. 2

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: MAY 16

Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose
10:15 a.m.

Program: "Finding-Aids at Clayton
Library"

Presenter: Maxine Alcorn

Miss. Maxine Alcorn, Manager of the Clayton Library, has had an interest in history and genealogy since elementary school, an interest sparked by the discovery that she was born on her great-grandmother's birthday and that this same great-grandmother had named her. Miss. Alcorn received her B.A. degree in history from Mary Hardin-Baylor and her Master of

Library Science from Texas Women's University. Employed by the Houston Public Library since 1958, her first assignment was in the Julia Ideson Building in the Local History and Genealogy Department (this department eventually evolved into what is today the Clayton Library). In 1969 she was appointed head of the Vinson Branch Library, and in 1974 she moved to Looscan as head of that branch library. She became the manager of Clayton Library in 1980. Miss. Alcorn holds memberships in many lineage, genealogical, and historical organizations and has been actively involved in researching her own family since 1958.

Ginny Toney

FOGLE-WEST RECORDS PROJECT—YOU CAN HELP!

As some of you may know, Clayton was given the old Fogle-West Funeral Home records some months back, and the Friends is helping with a project to sort and prepare a listing of this material. Cathleen Shoemaker, who has been the lead on this effort for the past year, has turned the project over to Margaret Mottley. Margaret and a small group of other volunteers are in the process of entering the Fogle-West data into a computer database. Until very recently, this was being done on a Zenith lab-top computer. Thanks to Jim Younglove, we have now re-hosted the database software onto the Compaq 286 machine in the computer room. The 14-inch color display and the full-size keyboard on the Compaq are

making the data-entry task a lot easier. As of this writing, over 4,000 records have been entered into the system. To help this project along, we need additional volunteers. The work is not difficult, and only very minimal computer skills are required. Once trained, volunteers are free to work independently on their own schedules. If you would like to work on this project, contact Don Pusch, 326-3278 (home) or 282-2537 (office). If you have not done volunteer work in the library before, you will have to complete a registration form and arrange for a brief interview with library manager Maxine Alcorn. Registration forms are available at Clayton's main information desk.

Don Pusch

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On April 20, 1987, Clayton Library Friends received its charter from the State of Texas. Its sole purpose: "...enrichment of the resources and facilities of Clayton Library." Both Clayton Library and the "Friends" have come a long way in the intervening five years. Starting out with just over 200 charter members, CLF membership now tops the 600 mark.

Although the Clayton Library was still housed in the old Clayton mansion at the time CLF was founded, our interests—and our fund raising efforts—were firmly fixed on the new building. Through the efforts of the Friends, a \$760,000 grant was obtained from the Houston Endowment. This money was used to purchase shelving, tables, microfilm and microfiche readers, copy machines, and computers—assets that helped "jump start" public access to the new facility. And fund-raising was not the only effort put forth by CLF on behalf of the new Library. During the move, CLF members played a substantial part in helping to relocate the book collection (some 40,000 volumes) from the shelves and storage areas in the old building and carriage house into the new facility. Rumor has it that the collection actually grew in size as it was being moved to the new stacks!

Since the original Houston Endowment grant, CLF has been successful in bringing in an additional \$190,000 for a total of just under \$1 million—not an insignificant sum for a support organi-

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OFFICERS

Ruby Vigneaux Dusek.....President
Fredericka Richter DeBerry ... 1st VP
Mary Burns Stark 2nd VP
(Vacant)..... Secretary
Kerry Short..... Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Bruce A. Breeding
Donald E. Pusch
Karen Stein Daniel

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

P. O. Box 271078
Houston, Texas 77277-1078
Established 1987

Clayton Library Friends is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3). The sole purpose of CLF is to enrich the resources and facilities of the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research.

Annual Membership Dues

Individual..... \$10.00
Two People (same address)... \$15.00

Special Friends

Contributor \$1 to \$49
Donor \$50 to \$99
Patron \$100 to \$249
Sponsor \$250 to \$499
Benefactor \$500 and above

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY CLF MEETING

On February 8th CLF members met at the Montrose Branch Library. Ginny Toney, Program Chairman, introduced Mr. David M. Henington, Director, Houston Public Library, as guest speaker. Mr. Henington's remarks addressed a number of subjects of interest to CLF, and the program was well received. Of special interest was the insight Mr. Henington was able to provided on funding issues—both for Clayton and for the rest of the Houston Library System.

The plan for Clayton Library properties is to repair the exteriors of both the old Clayton home and the carriage house. This will be followed by complete interior restorations. Cost of the project is approximately \$600,000, with the first priority being the main building. A considerable cost of the project was the removal of asbestos, a \$131,000 effort that has now been completed.

It was mentioned that Clayton Library Friends would like to see a major part of the restoration project completed in time for the 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference. This will represent a unique opportunity to showcase the library and its facilities to the many visitors who will be in Houston for this event.

Mr. Henington reminded members that Clayton is not *his* library, nor does it belong to the *librarians*; it is rather the *peoples'* library. With this in mind, he indicated that his door is always open if there is a problem that needs to be brought to his attention or if there are suggestions to be made for improving library services.

Mr. Henington answered a number of questions about the Clayton Library and about the Houston Public Library System and policies that affect library services. He also made a number of suggestions regarding how CLF and individual members could help. He cited the CLF work in providing over 1,000 hours of volunteer service in 1991 and encouraged efforts to increase the level of participation. He mentioned book binding as a worthy project, since the current library budget does not have sufficient funds for the repairing of books or the binding of periodicals.

President's Message (from page 1)

zation just five years old! With this money, Clayton has been able to complete the 1900 census and Soundex, the 1910 census, and much of the 1910 Soundex. Within a few months, the 1920 census and Soundex for Texas will be added.

What's coming up? Lots of exciting things for Clayton and the CLF. In answer to an invitation extended by the "Friends," the National Genealogical Society has selected Houston for the site of its 1994 "Conference in the States." A

feather in our cap for sure!

We've come a long way in five years and have carved out a solid benchmark against which to gauge the next five. My very sincere thanks to all CLF members for their hard work and commitment to Clayton...and, oh yea, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRIENDS!!!!**

HOUSTON ENDOWMENT FUNDS PRESENTED

At the February 8th CLF meeting, President Ruby Dusek and Grants Chairman Malcolm McCorquodale, III, presented Mr. Henington, Director of the Houston Public Library with a check for \$50,000 from the Houston Endowment Fund. The money has been designated for the procurement of microfilm for the Clayton Library collection.

Ginny Toney

Ruby Dusek

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Census Holdings

Through the generosity and fund raising of CLF, Clayton now has on order all the population schedules and Soundex for the 1900 census and the population schedules for the 1910 census. About \$74,000 is still needed to complete our collection of the 1910 Soundex. On order—but not yet received—is the 1920 population schedules for Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. The 1920 Soundex is also on order. We anticipate receiving this material sometime in the fall and will provide CLF members with an update on this in the October newsletter.

Cataloging

Conversion of books to the *WiseCat* system (the Houston Public Library electronic catalog) is ongoing. Thanks to Louie Reifel and Frances McDaniel for helping with this project. As a result of the conversion, the call numbers will appear somewhat differently in *WiseCat* and on the spine of the book. It will take quite some time before all the books reflect this change. Books will now have the state or country name included just below their call numbers, thus:

GEN 943	GEN 979.4	GEN 973.7
A123	Calif	B456
Ger	USA	

For family histories, the name of the family (truncated to eight letters) will appear just below the call number:

GEN 929.2	GEN 292.2
A123	B456
Robertso	Smith

This addition of the country, state, or family name should make it easier to find the book in the library, since it ties down the section in which the book is shelved, *i.e.*, State Section, USA Section, Family History Section, or Foreign Section.

Library Staff

Ruby Weaver, Chief of Central Services, is retiring on May 15th after 36 years of employment with the Houston Public Library. She has given wonderful support to Clayton Library in all our endeavors, and her guidance and help will be greatly missed.

Volunteers

I would like to thank all those CLF members who contributed their time to

support our volunteer service program the past several months. As library use increased during the summer season, your support becomes even more important to us. If you would like to become a Clayton volunteer, contact any member of the staff or Don Pusch, the CLF volunteers coordinator.

Maxine Alcorn

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Financial Report

(For the period 1/1/92 thru 3/31/92)

CHECKING ACCOUNT (First Interstate)

Balance, 1/1/92	.....	\$1,842
Deposits:		
Memberships	.....	3,295
Contributions:		
Restricted:		
Foundation	.....	50,000
Other	.....	4,272
Total	.....	<u>54,272</u>
Total Deposits	.....	57,567
Withdrawals:		
Clayton Library	.....	54,150
NGS Conference Table	.....	150
Newsletter Printing	.....	104
Postage/Misc.	.....	109
Total Disbursements	.....	<u>(54,513)</u>
Balance 3/32/92	.....	<u>4,896</u>

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (Bank One) 4,537

TOTAL OPERATING FUND (CASH & INVESTMENTS), 3/31/92 9,433

ENDOWMENT FUND (University State Bank)

Certificates of Deposit	.....	5,240
Savings Account	.....	<u>2,116</u>
		<u>7,356</u>

Kerry Short, Treasurer

A FASCINATION WITH THE PAST...A CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE

It shouldn't come as any surprise that the budget provided by the City of Houston for Clayton Library acquisitions is very, very small. So where did all those books and rolls of microfilm come from? And how did the collection get to be one of the finest in the nation? The fact is that a large portion of Claytons' holdings comes from us. That's right, people like you and me who are interested in the well-being of the Library and appreciate the value of ancestral heritage and the joys of family-history research.

From its very beginning, the genealogical collection of the Houston Public Library has benefited enormously from the generosity of those who use it. And the benefit is far from one-sided. Whether it's a general reference book or a one-of-a-kind family history, a book funded by a patron benefits both the Library and the patron.

Many people enjoy knowing that one of those books has their name listed as donor. It's also a very satisfying way to memorialize a family member, someone you knew and loved, or maybe that especially intriguing ancestor you spent so many hours tracking down.

As genealogists, our appreciation for the heritage from the past translates quite naturally into a concern for the heritage we leave for future generations. An excellent means of expressing that concern is through a planned or deferred gift such as a bequest made in a will. You might also like to consider making Clayton Library or the CLF one of the beneficiaries of a life insurance policy or an IRA account.

If you have already made out your will—and what good genealogist hasn't!—you might consider adding a simple codicil similar to the following:

This is a codicil to my will. I, Cornelius Colonist, give \$1,500 to the Endowment Fund of the Clayton Library Friends, the proceeds to be used to fund family histories and subscriptions to genealogical periodicals.

Signed on the ___day of ___, 1992.
s/_____

Of course, matters relating to your will should be reviewed with your attorney.

Bruce Breeding

As of the end of February, gifts to CLF in various categories amounted to just under \$3,000. Over sixty generous donors were responsible for this amount.

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS
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