



# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VI

July 1992

No. 3

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I would like to remind everyone that at the August 8<sup>th</sup> CLF meeting we will be electing a nominating committee that will be tasked to put together a slate of officers for next year. In addition to the five posts of president, first and second vice presidents, treasurer, and secretary, we will have three director positions coming open (CLF directors serve a two-year term). If you would like to influence the way CLF is managed and directed, please plan to come to the August meeting and participate in this very important pre-election activity.

Please note that we have included in this issue of the newsletter a supplement to the 1991 CLF Yearbook. Because of several factors, including printing costs, we will not be publishing a 1992 Yearbook. The supplement contains a listing of all new CLF members up through July 1, 1992. If you are a new member and do not have a copy of the 1991 Yearbook, please contact me at (713) 468-2355.

Ruby Dusek

### GENERAL MEMBRSHIP MEETING: AUGUST 8

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

Presentation by Maxine Alcorn:  
*"Military Records at Clayton  
Library and How to Use Them"*

## IT'S HERE!

### 1920 Census Arrives

#### Maxine Alcorn

Microfilms of the 1920 United States Census for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma plus the 1920 soundex for Texas and Louisiana arrived at Clayton in June and have been placed in the microfilm cabinets for public access. Also in the cabinets—with a few exceptions—are the individual county films (outside of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma) that were acquired through designated patron contributions. In cases where the patron contributed money for a single roll of film and the census actually took up two or more rolls, the film may not have been ordered. The library has attempted to contact each such contributor to see if they would like to re-direct or add to their designated contribution. If you need to know if a county census is

recorded on more than one roll or if you would like to know if "your" county has been ordered, please contact the library.

#### Most of 1910 Census

#### Also Available

With the exception of six rolls, Clayton now has all of the 1910 United States census. We will get the remaining six rolls as soon as possible. The 1910 soundex (or miracode) is complete for Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia, and the library has some rolls for other states (about \$76,000 is still needed to complete the 1910 soundex). Please check with the library staff to see if the soundex you need is available—and do keep in mind that only 21 states were soundexed for 1910.

If your CLF membership is current, "1992" appears on your mailing label. If you have not renewed, please consider doing so...Clayton Library Friends needs your support!

**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.*

**OFFICERS**

Ruby Vigneaux Dusek.....President  
Fredericka Richter DeBerry ...1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Mary Burns Stark .....2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Judy Seitzler Barnett ..... Secretary  
Kerry Short ..... Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

Bruce A. Breeding  
Donald E. Pusch  
Karen Stein Daniel  
Virginia Newbanks Lloyd  
Malcolm S. McCorquodale, III  
Pierre R. Mommessin

**CLF NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Fredericka Richter DeBerry  
Donald E. Pusch

**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

**☐ VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

**Don Pusch**

**Micro-Print Desk**

As some of you may know, we have several volunteers who help out by staffing the micro-print desk on Saturdays. Three shifts are set up: 10:30 to 12:30, 12:30 to 2:30, and 2:30 to 4:30. Duties are fairly simple, consisting mainly of registering patrons and allocating micro-print readers. When the library is busy--and this is the case throughout the summer months--this service by volunteers frees up Clayton staff member to assist patrons with research questions. The work can be fun, and it is a great way to learn more about the library and to get to know the staff. If you would like to volunteer to support a shift one or two Saturdays a months, please contact Don Pusch at (713) 326-3278. If you fancy yourself more of the executive type, you might want to volunteer to take over as the coordinator for this function; this simply involves putting together a monthly schedule showing which volunteers will be on duty. Pat Cochran, who had hart surgery a couple of months back, has stepped down from this post, and the job is open.

For the months of June and July, special thanks are due the following people who helped out on the micro-print desk: Elizabeth Babcock, Judy Barnett, Mildred Carrol, Eva Cunningham, Virginia Lloyd, Conrad Mang, and Marian Slemmons.

**Church Records Project**

Virginia Lloyd, coordinator for the Harris County Church Records Projects, is seeking volunteers to help out with this very interesting effort. Virginia has compiled a comprehensive list of all churches in Harris County together with the names of their pastors

or priests. She is now seeking volunteers willing to contact these churches--by phone or in person--and to complete survey questionnaires concerning their records holdings. The survey of records, which will include christenings, baptisms, communions, marriages, and deaths, should be of considerable value to family historians and genealogists. Since the project is rather large, there are plenty of work assignments to go around. It would be especially helpful if a volunteer--or a small, coordinated group of volunteers--would be willing to sign up to complete surveys on an entire church denomination. If you can help, please contact Virginia at (713) 521-2000 or (713) 667-1576.

**Fogle-West Project**

Margaret Mottley, coordinator for the Fogle-West Project, reports that the effort has moved into high gear and now has eight data-entry volunteers charging through the records. The project is aimed at compiling a listing of the more than twenty thousand individual files and data sheets in the Fogle-West Funeral Home records set, a recent Clayton acquisition. The project now has two personal computers in service, and, according to the latest count, over five thousand records have been entered. Current volunteers on the project include (in addition to Margaret) Cliff Hayes, Eugene Davis, Bettye Green, Carolyn Grimm, Keith James, Pierre Mommessin, and John Ullian. A concerted effort is being made to complete this project in the fall in anticipation of having the records microfilmed and made available to the public. We are not seeking additional volunteers at this time, but other data-entry projects are being planned. If you would like to

*Continued on page 3.*



## □ FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS

### Pierre Mommessin

Work continues in our effort to acquire foreign material for Clayton Library and to provide library management with recommendations for the establishment and growth of foreign collections.

One approach taken by the Foreign Acquisitions Committee has been to contact foreign consulates and ethnic societies and to solicit the contribution of materials. To date, this activity has yielded meager results for CLF, although several such donations have come in directly to the library. The Italian consulate recently provided Clayton with a *Guide to Italy* that provides—in English—information of interest to genealogists, particular in the chapters dealing with history, geography, and government. Included is a large-scale (1:500,000) map and a well-made locality name index that will be useful to those who are trying to identify small towns where their ancestors may have lived. The index gives the English equivalent of important place names and the two names used in officially bilingual areas.

Some of our CLF members are sending their personal donations through the foreign acquisitions committee. Thanks to Fredericka Richter DeBerry, a German book was donated by its author, Mr. von Heinz-Ulrich Kammerer. The work is a compilation of letters written by 38 German immigrant families between 1850 and the present. Trevia Beverly continues her donation of *The Genealogist*, an Australian quarterly devoted to family history.

As a sideline to the committee's primary function, assistance is provided to CLF members interested in research in France. The past few months, we have assisted with the writing of letters to French archives and have translated a number of documents received back by CLF members. The recipients of these services have expressed their appreciation by making generous contributions to the Foreign Acquisitions Fund. Their generosity is sincerely appreciated.

CLF members interested in helping the foreign collection grow or who have foreign-language or foreign-research skills and would be willing to work on the committee are encouraged to contact the chairman, CLF Director Pierre Mommessin at (713) 729-2873.

## □ NEW ACQUISITIONS

### Maxine Alcorn

Two very excellent reference sources were recently received at Clayton: *Early Alabama Marriages* and *The Omni Gazetteer of the United States*.

*Early Alabama Marriages* covers primarily the period from the beginning of each individual county up to 1850, although a few records date to 1935. All counties are included except for Choctaw, Covington, Geneva, Houston, and Walker. Since the work is arranged alphabetically by name—first by the groom, then by the bride—it is possible to find a record based only on the names of the parties. This can be especially helpful if the researcher does not know the date of the marriage or the county in which it was recorded.

*The Omni Gazetteer of the United States* is an eleven-volume set that should prove to be indispensable in identifying a place name. The work is organized according to nine major U.S. regions: New England, Northeast, Southeast, South Central, Southwestern, Great Lakes, Plains, Mountain, and Pacific. Included is information on the *USGS Topographic Map Names Index*, the *National Register of Historic Places*, indian reservations, U.S. airports, elevated landmarks and structures, and an index of geographic feature types and generic names. The work provides a comprehensive listing of U.S. place names and includes not only cities, towns, and communities but also natural features such as mountains, hills, valleys, inlets, harbors, basins, rivers, lakes, streams, bays, capes, peninsulas, islands, forests, and caves. Also included are name listings for such categories as schools, churches, hospitals, towers, bridges,

dams, parks, battlefields, and cemeteries. This is a magnificent work containing over 1,500,000 place names and should prove to be of considerable value to Clayton Library researchers.

### Volunteers (Continued from page 2.)

help out with this kind of work—which must be done in the library—please contact the CLF volunteers coordinator, Don Pusch, (713) 326-3278.

*We were saddened to learn of the death of Mr. James E. DeBerry, Sr., husband of CLF First Vice President Fredericka Richter DeBerry, on July 6, 1992. Mr. DeBerry suffered a heart attack on July 5th. Memorials may be sent to the Juvenile Diabetes Association or to Clear Lake Presbyterian Church.*



**□ LEAVING YOUR MARK**

**Bruce Breeding**

Every genealogist is looking for telltale clues or "marks" regarding an illusive ancestor. We find these in courthouse records, census schedules, old newspapers—wherever our ancestors left them. Plan now to leave your own "mark" so that upon your death a portion of your worldly goods can be left to benefit Clayton Library Friends. Doing this is quite easy, according to Rodney C. Koenig, an attorney with Fulbright & Jaworski who specializes in handling wills and estates. He indicates that such a gift can be made by designating Clayton Library Friends as a beneficiary in an insurance policy or in an IRA. Also, a change in your will or a handwritten codicil can be used to make a gift. The

following is an example of a simple codicil:

*This is a codicil to my will. In addition to other gifts, I hereby give \$10,000 to Clayton Library Friends to be used to enhance the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.*

*Signed on this 15th day of September, 1992, in Houston, Texas.*

*Clayton L. Friend*

**WITNESSES:**  
*Willie Temoin*  
*Wilda Zeuge*

This handwritten codicil should be signed and witnessed by two disinterested parties. For further advice in this area, please talk to your attorney.

**GUIDEBOOK PROJECT**

The CLF Board of Directors has authorized a committee to explore the possibility of producing a *Guide to Genealogical Research at the Clayton Library*. This is envisioned both as a fund raiser—for Clayton Library acquisitions—and as a much-needed guide for library patrons. Similar guides have recently been published on other notable genealogical libraries.

It is anticipated that the proposed book would also serve as a guide to the Texas and Local History Collection of the Houston Public Library. If possible, we would like to complete the project in time for the 1994 NGS Conference

Individuals with suggestions for the project who are willing to serve on or support the committee please contact the committee chairman, CLF Director Bruce Breeding at (713) 777-8920.

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