



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. VII

February 1993

No. 1

UPDATE ON CLAYTON HOME RESTORATION

As reported in the last newsletter, bids for the second phase of the Clayton home restoration were taken on September 10th. Because of a bid bonding deficiency, the Capital Projects Department (City of Houston) recommended that the low bidder be rejected and that the next lowest bidder, Mesa Southwest Construction Corporation, receive the contract award. Mesa's bid came in at \$728,648. Additional costs, aside from those incurred with Mesa, will bring this phase of the restoration effort to approximately \$845,200.

Because of the fact that the low

bidder was rejected, a public hearing by City Council must be conducted prior to award of the contract. As of this writing, no date had been set for either the hearing or the contract award.

According to David Henington, Director of the Houston Public Library, the contract is divided into five separate work packages, with primary emphasis being on the rehabilitation of the exteriors of the main building and the two buildings to the rear. The effort will also include refurbishment of the interior of the main building's first floor; that portion of the building should be ready for re-occupancy at the end of this phase of the restoration effort.

FOGLE-WEST FUNERAL HOME RECORDS PROJECT

Status Report

Clayton Library Friends has been working for a number of months in preparing a computer index of Clayton's collection of Fogle-West Funeral Home records. These date from the mid 1920s, and the entire collection consists of some 24 thousand files, many of which contain death certificates, obituaries, and miscellaneous papers. Our data-entry crew, headed by Margaret Mottley, has now entered over 17,000 records into the database, and work has begun on the report formats. Over the holidays, the database was successfully imported into MicroSoft Access for quality checking and output design. To ensure the preservation of the work done thus far on the project, multiple back-up copies have now been made.

If you would like to get involved in an indexing project like the Fogle-West effort, please contact Don Pusch, the CLF volunteers coordinator, at 326-3278.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: FEBRUARY 13

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

Speaker: Tom Green

"The Non-Population Schedule in the 1880 Census: Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent"

Mr. Green is well known to many in the Houston area as an educator and administrator in the Houston Independent School District. Having retired from HISD, Tom now teaching family history at the Kingwood Campus of North Harris County Community College.

Thanks very much to all those CLF members who helped prepare the wassail and cookies that were served at the library on December 5th. Special thanks also to the hostesses: Mary Ulmer, Judy Barnett, Eva Cunningham, and Mary Stark.



If you have not returned your CLF membership renewal form, please do so this month in order to ensure that your name is included in the year book. Also, please take time to fill in the skills inventory at the bottom of the form and the interests survey on the back. If you did not receive a renewal form, please contact membership chairman Margaret Mottley, 789-5766.

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.

Ulmer Receives National Award

In ceremonies held on October 17th, Mary Lewis Ulmer, former head librarian of the Clayton Library and organizing chairman of the Clayton Library Friends, was presented with the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In making this award, the Foundation cited Mrs. Ulmer for "lifetime achievement in the preservation of American heritage and in the building of Clayton Library." Mrs. Ulmer retired from the Houston Library System in 1980 after 30 years of service.

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 Margaret Grigsby Mottley 1st VP
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CLF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

Providing a deferred gift to the Clayton Library Endowment can be simple

Bruce Breeding

THOSE of us who have spent so many hours at Clayton learning about our ancestors want to ensure the future enjoyment of genealogy by others, and this can be done through a planned gift made during your estate planning.

Just a few years ago, preparing a will to pass property to one's heirs or to benefit one's favorite charities was a relatively simple matter. Today, however, it is clear that the consumer revolution has reached even this peaceful area of our lives. We are now faced with a wide array of choices: testamentary trusts, living wills, durable powers of attorney, simple trusts, complex trusts, life insurance trusts, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and other instruments. One can even set up a foundation to implement such bequests. While a lawyer needs to be consulted to draw up many such instruments, there are two very simple ways of making a deferred gift, through the Clayton Library Friends, to the Clayton Library Endowment. These include—

- Naming the Clayton Library Endowment as the beneficiary (in whole or in part) of a life insurance policy, a retirement fund, a savings bond, or other financial instrument that provides a survivor benefit.*
- Making a specific bequest in your will. (If your will has already been completed, a simple codicil can be added.)*

Of course, any gift to the Clayton Library Endowment may have beneficial tax consequences for your estate.

Just as the Clayton Library is important to you, so you are important to the Clayton Library and its continued service to the field of family history research. Please remember to support the Clayton Library Endowment in your estate planning.

President's Note:

Greetings, Friends. We have a number of exciting things to look forward to this year, and I would like to encourage everyone's participation. Our many special projects are going well, our in-library volunteers are doing a great job, our fund-raising efforts are bearing fruit, and we are gearing up for the 1994 NGS conference. By year's end, we may even be able to see the old Clayton home re-occupied. There is plenty of room for everyone to contribute. If you would like to be a part of our volunteer corps, please contact me or any of the board members and just say, "I want to help Clayton Library!"

See you at the February 13th CLF meeting.

Malcolm McCorquodale III

CLF receives Exxon grant

In November, Clayton Library Friends received a \$2000 grant from the Exxon Involvement Fund in recognition of the volunteer activities of CLF members Norman Crook and Eva Cunningham, both Exxon retirees. The funds are being used to acquire the series *Index to and Deeds of Georgia Counties Prior to 1850*.

Can you help with posters?

CLF Vice President Vivian Jordan is seeking volunteers with graphic-art skills to help prepare posters for display in the library. These would promote participation in Clayton Library Friends, and a new poster—with a new theme—would be put in place about every two months. If you would like to help with this project (by preparing posters or coming up with ideas), please contact Vivian at

Myrtle Kennedy, Clayton Library employee for the past eleven years, died suddenly on January 22nd. At the time of newsletter publication, funeral arrangements were pending.

FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE SURVEY

As of January 22nd, we had received 45 responses to the Foreign Acquisitions Committee's survey concerning interests in foreign research. The survey, which was mailed out in the October Newsletter, asked members to respond to a number of questions concerning foreign research methods, sources, and interests. Following is a summary of the survey results:

Only 13% of the respondents indicated that they confined their research to the United States, while less than 2% indicated that they were primarily interested in foreign research. As might be expected, 84% were interested in both foreign and U.S. research.

Of the 84% who indicated that they had attempted researching their family in a foreign country, about three

fourths reported having some success. The other one fourth reported having little luck in tracing their family back beyond the gateway ancestor.

Respondents reported interests in 20 foreign countries. The most frequently mentioned were England (29), Germany (27), Ireland (19), France (15), Scotland (12), Poland/Russia (6), Switzerland (5), and Italy (5).

When asked about the most frequently-used source materials, respondents reported very little use of foreign-language material; half indicated that they *never* used foreign-language material. This compared to 51% who indicated that *most* of their foreign research was done using English-language material.

Of those responding, 64% reported that they did all of their own foreign research, while 33% indicated that they sometimes have others do this research for them.

Several individuals made specific recommendations concerning foreign research material that they would like to see added to the Clayton collection. These recommendations have been passed on to the library staff for consideration.

It is difficult to draw very many sound conclusions from the relatively small number of survey responses that were received, but it is apparent that foreign research is of vital interest to many of the library's patrons. The Foreign Acquisitions Committee will continue in its efforts to improve the library's collection of foreign material.

During the October foreign acquisitions drive, Clayton Library Friends collected \$361. Our sincere appreciation to those who supported this effort.

Special thanks also to Mary Stark, Ginny Toney, and Pierre Mommessin for their work on the survey.

PROGRAM NOTES

At the November 14th CLF meeting, Clayton Library Manager Maxine Alcorn spoke on the very interesting subject of "Hidden Resources at Clayton Library." The following is a recap of Miss Alcorn's presentation:

Contrary to the title of this talk, nothing is really "hidden" at Clayton Library. No, we don't have an attic stuffed with "secret" information about your ancestors. With the exception of new acquisitions that have not yet been shelved or materials that are being prepared for patron use, all Clayton holdings are available for research and can be accessed through the proper finding aid. Discussed here are a few of the less known resources, ones that the casual researcher may very likely overlook.

Maps. Clayton has two map cases containing over a thousand maps and charts. Both are located directly opposite the main entrance, near the stair case. The long one along the wall to the right contains material related to the United States; maps covering more than one state are grouped under the category "U.S.A."; maps of individual states, counties, cities, etc., are grouped under the category "States." The other map case (located directly below the stairs) contains foreign maps and family charts. All the material in both cases has been inventoried, and each item has been assigned a unique locator number; these are tabulated in a finding aid on top of the long map case and will direct the researcher to the proper cabinet and drawer.

Vertical File. Clayton, like many libraries, has a small collection of miscellaneous material, much of which is in the form of newspaper clippings, copies of old documents, research notes, unpublished family histories, and the like. Through the years, patrons have donated this material to the library, and we have been careful to preserve it. The file, consisting of

several cabinets located on the first floor toward the back of the library, is divided into three sections: The main section, which contains mostly material related to individuals, is arranged by surname; the U.S. section is arranged alphabetically by state (with general U.S. at the front); and the foreign section is arranged alphabetically by the name of the country. A finding-aid notebook is located on the top of file. To appreciate the vertical file one must simply browse through it. It is as close to an "attic" as you will find at Clayton, with a true potpourri of information. If you would like to place an item in the vertical file—something from your personal collection of notes, clippings, etc.—please contact a member of the staff; they will ensure that the item is properly accounted for, stamped, and filed.

Information on Native Americans. While Clayton has some excellent published material on Native Americans, individuals interested in this area should not overlook the library's microfilm collection. Here are just a few examples: On the end of roll 234 of the 1900 federal census of Idaho is an enumeration for Fort Hall and the Nez Perce reservation (mostly Shoshone, Bannock, Omaha, and Chippewa). Such a list can also be found at the end of the 1830 federal census of Arkansas. Clayton Library also owns several sets of microfilm specific to Native Americans; these include the 1905 "Dawes Roll" (final rolls of the five civilized tribes), an index to the final rolls of the five civilized tribes, the census of the Cherokee Indians east of the Mississippi in 1845, the "Drennen Roll" of 1851, and the enrollment cards for the five civilized tribes, 1898-1914. This last set of records consists of several hundred rolls of microfilm.

Draper Manuscripts. This is a large, multi-volume collection assembled during the mid-nineteenth century by Lyman C. Draper, secretary of the

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Clayton owns a complete set of the collection on microfilm plus several guides and calendars to its component "papers." In gathering the material, much of which relates to the Revolutionary War and to the trans-Appalachian migration, Draper contacted thousands of individuals, and the collection is filled with letters written in response to his inquiries. Although there is no comprehensive index to the collection, the guides and calendars are a big help. Clayton owns calendars to several parts of the collection, including the George Rogers Clark papers and the Kentucky and Tennessee papers.

Irish Records. Individuals with interests in Irish genealogy should be aware that Clayton has a copy of "Griffith's Valuations," a general tax roll covering the various towns, parishes, and baronies of Ireland in the 1840s. Included in this listing are both land owners and tenants. If you have an Irish ancestor but do not know where he came from in Ireland, this reference may help you locate him.

Boston Transcripts. This is a compilation of queries published in the *Boston Transcript* newspaper in the early part of this century. The Clayton copy is on micro-card. To access information in this resource, see *American Genealogical-Biographical Index* (929.1 A512 USA). Although the compilation will be of interest primarily to those researching New England families, it does contain references to other parts of the country.

Congressional Records. A little known—but very valuable—microfilm resource available at Clayton is *Papers of the Continental Congress 1771-1789* (204 rolls). The collection is indexed in John P. Butler's *Index to the Papers of the Continental Congress 1771-1789* (bound volume available on the first floor). Anything that was communicated to or from the Continental Congress can be found in this

(Continued on next page.)

(Program Notes, continued)

collection, including a 1790 census of Vincennes in the Illinois country.

City Directories. Clayton has a substantial microfiche collection of city directories that covers major U.S. cities prior to 1860. Supplementing this collection are a few bound volumes shelved on the first floor according to geographical location.

Slave and Mortality Schedules. If you confine your census searches to the well-used population schedules, you may be overlooking some other, very valuable census information. In federal census years 1850 and 1860, slave schedules were prepared; although these do not list slaves by name, tallies were made under each master's name listing the age and sex of each slave. For census years 1850 to 1880, special mortality schedules were prepared that list individuals who died during the year ending June 1st of the census year. Clayton has these schedules, either in bound volumes or in microform.

Enumeration District Descriptions. For the 1900, 1910, and 1920 federal censuses, Clayton has, on microfilm, detailed descriptions of the various enumeration districts. If you know the address or locality of a family, it may be possible to narrow your search by using this finding aid to identify the enumeration district. This is especially helpful if you are trying to find an individual or family in one of the 21 states that were not soundexed in 1910 or in one of the states whose soundex Clayton does not own.

Special Collections. Clayton has a number of special collections that are worthy of mention. Among these are the McCubbin (North Carolina), Hollingsworth (Georgia), Barbour (Connecticut), Charles M. Hale (New England), and Vosburg (New York church records) to name a few. These are all valuable sources and should be looked at very carefully.

The foregoing is just a sampling of the many "hidden" resources at Clayton Library. There is an excellent

chance that just the information you need is waiting in one or more of these. For further information, please consult a member of the Clayton Library staff. ■

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Financial Report

(For the period 1/1/92 thru 12/31/92)

CHECKING ACCOUNT—First Interstate

Balance at 1/1/92 \$1,842

Deposits:

Membership 5,601

Contributions:

Foundation 50,000

Exxon Involvement 2,000

Other 7,741

Total 59,741

Total Deposits 65,342

Withdrawals:

Clayton Library 62,513

NGS Conference 344

Newsletter printing 698

Membership Directory 452

Brochures for Library & NGS Conference . . 530

Pencils for Library 83

Bulk Mail Deposit 230

P.O. Box rental 93

Audit/Tax service 1351

South Main Center Asso. Dues 100

Postage, Misc. 223

Total Disbursements (66,617)

Balance at 12/31/92 \$567

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT—Bank One \$4,826

TOTAL OPERATING FUND CASH &

INVESTMENTS at 12/31/92 \$5,393

ENDOWMENT FUND—University State Bank

Certificate of deposit 5,240

Savings account 2,369 7,609

Kerry Short, Outgoing Treasurer

□ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY



"I found my grandpappy in the Rider Index!"

If you would like to save yourself endless hours of research, learn to use *American Genealogical-Biographical Index* (Fremont Rider, editor, Middletown, Connecticut: Godfrey Memorial Library), call no. 929.1 A512 USA, sometimes referred to as the "Rider Index." This is a multi-volume name index to compiled genealogies, biographies, histories, and other sources covering the period from 1600 through the mid 1900s. Clayton now has the first 170 volumes (through "Stratton, Eunice"). The value of this work lies in the fact that it covers such a broad collection of source material, material that would take an individual many years to search. When completed, the set will contain references to over 12 million sources.

The *Index* is relatively easy to use: Under each name is a short-titles list (together with page numbers) of the sources in which that name can be found. For the complete title, author, and other bibliographical data on the source material, you should then refer to volumes 1, 10, 34, 54, or 70; if the book you are looking for is owned by Clayton Library, a mark will be found next to the book's title. When you find the book you are looking for, simply turn to the page number shown in the *Index*.

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