



# THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. IX

August 1995

No. 3

## Ray Miller to speak at August meeting

Ray Miller, Houston television personality and author, will speak at our general meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Because of space limitations at the Montrose Library, we will meet at the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters, 1911 Bagby. (See directions in the seminar flyer on page 8.) The meeting time is 10:15 a.m.*

Mr. Miller's career in radio and television has spanned 52 years, and he was, for 20 years, news director at Channel 2 in Houston. Well known as the creator of the "Eyes of Texas" and "Ray Miller's Texas" programs, he has also written 10 books about Texas. Miller still does some TV work on Steve Smith's Sunday program on Channel 11, but he works mostly now for County Commissioner Steve Radack, handling special projects for Precinct 3 out of an office in Bear Creek Park.

The following books by Mr. Miller will be offered for sale at the meeting:

*Ray Miller's Houston*  
*Ray Miller's Galveston*  
*Eyes of Texas Travel Guides:*  
*Houston / Gulf Coast*  
*San Antonio / Border*  
*Fort Worth / Brazos Valley*  
*Panhandle / Plains*  
*Dallas / East Texas*  
*Austin / Hill Country*  
*Ray Miller's Texas Forts*  
*Ray Miller's Texas Parks*

Following his presentation, Mr. Miller will sign books that are purchased. **Forty percent of the proceeds from this book sale will be donated to the Clayton Library Friends.** Payment may be made in cash, check made payable to Clayton Library Friends, MasterCard, or Visa.

The Dallas and Austin travel guides are no longer available at book



Ray Miller

stores and are being made available for CLF through a special arrangement with the author. ■

### President's Message

The Houston Genealogical Forum has donated 70 sets of back issues of periodicals to Clayton Library Friends to be bound and donated to Clayton Library. This is a very significant gift and very important in that it is a substantial addition to our growing collection of periodicals. Periodicals continue to be an important current

source of information for researchers. They contain the latest research findings as well as deed and will abstracts, cemetery listings, family histories, and the query section, which may lead a researcher to another person working on the same family line. These new periodicals should be in the library ready for patron use some time in August.

The Forum's gift is part of our

gifts-in-kind program. Gifts-in-kind are donations of books, microfilm, and papers to Clayton Library as a concomitant to our direct financial support. Last year, Clayton Library Friends donated over 750 items to the library. That is an average of over fourteen books per week. If you buy a book for your research, please consider

*(Continued on page 12.)*

**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.*

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**Annual Membership Dues**

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

**Special Friends**

Contributor.....\$1 to \$49  
Donor.....\$50 to \$99  
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Sponsor.....\$250 to \$499  
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## Clayton Library Friends Financial Report

(January 1 through June 30, 1995)

**CHECKING ACCOUNT—First Interstate**

Starting Balance ..... \$ 17,427  
Unrestricted Funds.....\$ 9,101  
Restricted Funds  
Census .....481  
Rebinding.....1,970  
Other .....1,774  
CLF operating funds  
Dues .....4,101

Deposits, total..... 19,018

Unrestricted.....9,899  
Restricted  
Census .....185  
Rebinding.....125  
Endowment.....1,446  
Other .....851  
CLF operating funds  
Dues .....6,462  
Prepaid dues .....50

Withdrawals, total..... 19,837

Unrestricted.....12,034  
Restricted  
Census .....666  
Rebinding.....583  
Endowment.....1,000  
Other .....1,005  
CLF operating funds.....4,549

Ending Balance..... 16,608

Unrestricted.....6,966  
Restricted  
Census .....-0-  
Rebinding.....1,512  
Endowment.....446  
Other .....1,620  
CLF operating funds.....6,014  
Prepaid dues .....50

**ENDOWMENT FUND—Univ. State Bank..... 12,953**

Certificate of deposit #1.....5,240  
Certificate of deposit #2.....7,300  
Savings account.....413

Robert L. Lowry, Jr., Treasurer



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## The Kentucky Land Grants

*The following book review, by CLF Director Mic Barnette, appeared in the 11 June 1994 "Your Family Tree" column in the "This Week" section of the Houston Chronicle. Reprinted with permission of the publisher. The book being reviewed is one of the many fabulous aids to research available at Clayton Library.*

Land was one of the most important commodities available to pioneers on the westward frontier. Land provided a place to live, grow crops and graze livestock. It was an investment. It provided stability, prosperity and a place to live.

Kentucky was one of the earliest and most important areas of the nation, particularly in the infant stages of migration west of the Appalachian Mountains.

*The Kentucky Land Grants: A Systematic Index to All of the Land Grants Recorded in the State Land Office at Frankfort, Kentucky 1782-1924* was compiled by Willard Rouse Jillson. It was published [reprinted] by the Genealogical Publishing Co. It is available from the publisher at 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

This massive 1,844-page, two-volume set lists the names of all grantees of land grants in Kentucky. It was originally published in 1925.

The book is divided into chapters. Chapter titles are named for the type of grant issued. Listings include the name of each grantee in semi-alphabetical form, the number of acres, the book, page and survey date. The county and watercourse or land description is also listed.

The earliest grants were Virginia land grants. They were granted by Virginia while Kentucky was a part of that commonwealth. There are 9,564 of them. They date from 1782 to 1792. Land in these grants was issued to soldiers of the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.

Old Kentucky Grants consist of 9,034 grants. These grants were issued by the new state of Kentucky beginning in 1793 and continue through 1856. These grants include military, seminary, academic, treasury warrants and

pre-emption grants. Some were based upon warrants and surveys made by Virginians prior to Kentucky statehood.

Grants South of the Green River were entered between 1797 and 1866. They number 15,730. They are sometimes called Headright Claims. Prior to the Act of December 21, 1795, only soldiers might claim land in the area south of the Green River. This legislation opened up the area for settlement to any persons over the age of 21 having a family.

There are 572 Tellico Grants. They were recorded between 1803 and 1853. They apply to lands ceded to the United States by the Cherokee Indians in 1805. Most of the land is in the Great Sandy Valley and Eastern Kentucky.

In 1815 the Kentucky legislature passed an act allowing land east of the Tennessee River to be sold to anyone in Kentucky except aliens. There are 25,621 grants dating from 1816 to 1873.

Kentucky became the possessor of land obtained by the United States from the Chickasaw Indians in 1818. This land comprised the present-day Kentucky counties of McCracken, Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton, Graves, Marshall and Calloway. These lands were opened up for settlement in 1820. There were 8,713 grants issued between 1822 and 1858.

The largest type of grant is the grants in County Court Orders. There are 69,356 grants dating from 1836 to 1924. Under the Act of February 28, 1835, counties were given all vacant and unappropriated land in their county. The grants were then issued to individuals through the county court system.

Anyone with Kentucky ancestry will want to consult the information in these fabulous indexes. ■

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## Library volunteers needed

Clayton Library is in need of volunteers to re-shelve books and to staff the second-floor micro-print desk.

Although shelving volunteers are needed most during peak library hours, there is no set schedule, and volunteers can come in and help whenever they have an opportunity.

The micro-print desk is staffed by volunteers on Saturdays; and it is desirable that volunteers sign up for at

least one 2-hour shift per month. Volunteers can also sign up as micro-print substitutes.

To become a volunteer, you must attend a class (given by a member of the library staff) and be registered as an in-library volunteer. If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, please contact volunteers coordinator Frank Worley, (713) 664-9028. 

# The Robert Bruce Blake Research Collection: A Resource for Early Texas Research

*Karen Stein Daniel, C.G.*

**T**HOSE of us with early Texas roots are often intimidated at the prospect of having to search for our ancestors in unfamiliar records and perhaps even in a foreign language. After all, the first federal census for Texas did not occur until 1850, and census records are among the first items we have been taught to go to. According to Mary Barnett Curtis, "while research in Texas from the time of statehood is almost identical as to places where the records might be found as in any other state, the accessibility of the records of the Texas Colonial period to the end of the Republic is governed by Texas' unique history."

Anyone planning to undertake research into early Texas records must become thoroughly familiar with its unique history of French, Spanish, and Mexican rule, as well as its history as a Republic. Only then will one be able to chart a course through unfamiliar records and repositories that may best serve to assist our individual research goals.

The Clayton Library offers an impressive collection of early Texas sources, one of which is the *Robert Bruce Blake Research Collection*. This set of books is located in the Texas section of the open stacks on the first floor. The call number is 976.4 B636. The set consists of seventy-five original volumes and eighteen supplemental volumes and covers several shelves. We become even more impressed with this massive collection of early Texana when it is realized that one man devoted over thirty years to compiling these materials.

From the mid-1920s until 1955, Robert Bruce Blake resided in Nacogdoches and Austin where he became familiar with the archive records of both places. He came to understand that the history of Texas owed much to the 18th-century Spanish and Mexican settlements at San Antonio and Nacogdoches.

Knowing that voluminous collections of official and private documents and proceedings from these two settlements had been preserved and to some extent sorted and assembled, Mr. Blake realized that a careful selection and recording of these records in book form would greatly enhance their value to historians and researchers. Although it was a tremendous undertaking, he studied, translated, and classified the documents and records, and

typed the 30,000 or more pages making up the original seventy-five volumes. He worked without publicity or compensation, other than an inward pleasure and satisfaction.

Mr. Blake translated and typed the Spanish documents and copied the old records, using his years of experience as a court reporter. After his death in 1955, Mrs. Blake, carrying out her husband's wishes, turned over his work to the University of Texas to be made available to several Texas educational institutions, including the Houston Public Library system.

Dr. Charles A. Bacarisse of the Department of History at the University of Houston gave the following excellent description of the collection:

"... the collection is made up of the following large sections:

"Nine volumes of official documents and personal letters from the Office of the County Clerk, Nacogdoches, dated between 1792 and 1837.

"Thirteen volumes of official documents, personal letters, and diaries all translated from the 'Nacogdoches Archives' now in the Texas State Archives. These date between 1792 and 1821. The Minutes of the Nacogdoches *Ayuntamiento* 1828-1835 are in this group also.

"Nine volumes from the Nacogdoches County Records and Archives which include translation of the correspondence of Governors Salcedo and Martinez, 1809-1819; Applications for Land Grants, Certificates of Entrance and Admission to Settle in Texas 1800-1835; Muster Rolls of Companies engaged in the Texas Revolution; and the records and papers of several prominent individuals.

"Twenty-one volumes of translations from the Nacogdoches Archives made up of documents dating between 1744 and 1836.

"Fourteen volumes from the Bexar Archives dating between 1745 and 1835 of official letters and personal letters relating to events in East Texas.

"Ten volumes of family histories compiled by R. B. Blake.

"Three volumes of place histories compiled by R. B. Blake."

*(Continued on page 5.)*



**Blake Collection** *(Continued from page 4.)*

According to Dr. Bacarisse, "R. B. Blake . . . combined a rare fluency in Spanish with an unusual knowledge of legal terms and forms in Spanish. It takes a long time to learn to read 17th, 18th, and 19th century Spanish script, signs, and symbols, and Mr. Blake was an expert in the field."

The last volume of the supplement is devoted to Masonic records of the DeWitt Clinton Lodge No. 29, A.F. & A.M. in Jasper, Texas and the Nacogdoches Chapter, and includes sketches of members. There is a separate book which is a name index to volumes 16-17 and 21-28.

The following is a partial list of the types of records this writer found in the collection: marriage contract, sale of Negroes, sale of lot, certificate of indebtedness, note, receipt, bond, sale of land, contract, lease of rancho, mortgage, transfer of land, application for guardianship, power of attorney, advertisement, rent, agreement, will, acknowledgment, grant, letter, petition, affidavit, resolution, enfranchisement, and list of jurors.

A representative list of examples of documents from the original Archives of the County Clerk, Nacogdoches, Texas, which are to be found in Volume 1 include:

- Will of Juan Seguin dated 13 August 1824,
- Marriage certificate of Antonio Menchaca to Ma. Santa de los Sanchez, dated 1 August 1825,
- Sale of land and slaves from John Durst to Samuel Price and others, dated 27 May 1836,
- Marriage contract of Miles G. Dikes and Eday Hodges, dated 17 September 1836,
- List of Jurors, dated 10 October 1836,
- Celebration of marriage between Thomas Y. Buford and Mary B. Simpson, dated 23 December 1836,
- Liberation of slaves by David Towns dated 23 January 1828, and
- Application of J. S. Roberts for Guardianship of Robert Callier dated 12 May 1835.

Volume 63 is representative of the wealth of information on individuals and families. The following examples are given:

"Thurmond, Alfred Sturgis - Born in 1816 in Tennessee, a son of John G. Thurmond and Ann Louisa (Sturgis) Thurmond. The children of this couple in order of birth were Erasmus, Darwin, John Hermodius, Orville, Mary Jane, Pulaski Adolphus, Tobias, Alfred Sturgis and Columbus Lafayette Thurmond. In Second Class Head-right Certificate No. 521 for 640 acres of land it is stated

that Mr. Thurmond came to Texas after March 2, 1836 and prior to October 1, 1937. . . ."

The narrative regarding Alfred Thurmond continues on for a page.

"Vansickle, Benjamin A. - Born in about 1817 and came to Texas with his mother, Louise or Leah Vansickle and her five children during the 1820s, and soon afterwards his mother married Daniel Clark, as stated under sketch of Elijah J. De Bard. . . ."

The above narrative likewise continues on for a page.

". . . Franklin Whitaker came to Texas from Tennessee about 1835, was a farmer and slave owner. . . . Three sons were in the Civil War. Franklin [was a] veteran of Texas Revolution [and is] buried in North Church Cemetery."

The above narrative includes lists of family members, burial places, and ages at death.

"Whitaker, Madison G. - Born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, April 4, 1811, and came to Texas in the fall of 1834. . . . Mr. Whitaker is shown on a muster roll in the Land Office as having enlisted in Captain Hayden Arnold's Company, in which he fought at San Jacinto, March 6, 1836. . . . The Marriage Records of Nacogdoches County show that Captain Whitaker and Henrietta M. Fitts were married at Nacogdoches, August 25, 1841. Mrs. Whitaker died May 12, 1862. Captain Whitaker died January 23, 1893 . . . and was buried in the old North Church Cemetery . . . beside the remains of his wife. Their graves are marked."

Likewise, individual sketches appear in the volume devoted to Masons. The following excerpts are representative:

"Abner J. Rogers - Brother Abner J. Rogers seems to have been one of the original members of DeWitt Clinton Lodge . . . was born in Talliaferro County, Georgia, on December 17, 1817. He was made a Mason in Washington Lodge No. 2, in Florida, about 1844; soon after which time he came to Jasper County, where he died on December 11, 1864. . . ."

"Patrick Hussey - . . . Brother Hussey was a native of Massachusetts, he leaving there about 1826. . . . he was in Natchitoches, Louisiana, in 1841 and 1842. . . . Upon the discovery of gold in California in 1849, he was one of a company of men who left Jasper in search for the precious metal . . . about January, 1850. . . ."

"Wyatt Hanks - Wyatt Hanks, a pioneer farmer and miller, came to Texas from Indiana county, Kentucky, through Arkansas, on March 20, 1826. Wyatt Hanks first settled in the Ayish Bayou settlement, now San Augustine. . . . He later moved to Tyler county, where he died."

*(Continued on page 9.)*

# Internet Basics and the World Wide Web

*Don Pusch*

*If you are one of those people who bought your first Apple, Tandy, Commodore, or Ohio Scientific computer back in the late '70s and have climbed the IBM PC or Macintosh technology ladders, you are probably already out there in cyberspace surfing the Internet in your pursuit of family history. For those of you who have no idea what any of that means, this article is for you!*

## *What is the Internet?*

The idea for a nation-wide computer-to-computer communications network originated with the U.S. Department of Defense, which, in 1969, began a project to build a system linking defense-related scientific research centers in such a manner that a partial destruction of the system (as in a nuclear attack) would not bring down the entire network. The technology that evolved from that project (referred to as ARPA-Net) was applied in the late 1980s to the building of five, interconnected, supercomputer centers funded by the National Science Foundation. Gradually, other "local area" networks—operated by universities, corporations, government entities, and private organizations—were tied into these centers. Today, it is estimated that more than 40 thousand local area networks have been so combined to form what is referred to as the "Internet." Closely associated with the Internet is the "World Wide Web" (WWW), a fascinating service

that uses the Internet as its transport media and provides a user-friendly graphical interface that even novice computer users can master.

## *What is it used for?*

Simply put, the Internet is used to exchange information. At the most basic level, it is used to send and receive electronic mail (e-mail), text messages that you compose on your computer and send, through the Internet, to other individuals. But the Internet is a lot more than e-mail. Virtually the entire world of information is open to Internet users, even those with modest computer systems. It is possible today to search thousands of on-line databases, to find and retrieve text, audio, video, and data files from around the world, and even to publish your own material and "put it out" on the Internet for the world to view. The development of user-friendly software—especially "Web Browsers"—and the extension of Internet service into the home have caused Internet interest to soar in just the past year.

## *How do I get access to the Internet?*

Until recently, access to the Internet was only available through institutions—universities, companies, government entities. Within the past two years, however, Internet access service providers have made it possible for just about anyone to tie their personal computer into the Internet. Setting up your computer to access the Internet is not a trivial matter, but anyone can do it if they have a basic understanding (make that, lack of fear!) of personal computers, the right computer equipment, and a phone line. Basic components include the following:

✓ **Personal Computer (PC).** For satisfactory performance, you should plan on a medium to high-end personal computer (386 or better microprocessor running

the latest version of Microsoft Windows) or an equivalent Macintosh system. Just about any of the new "multi-media" computers is a good choice.

✓ **Phone line and modem.** This is what actually connects your computer to the Internet provider. Since speed is important, a modem capable of operating at 9600 bits per second (bps) is about the minimum acceptable. If you want really high quality performance, call your local phone company and ask about the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), a high-speed alternative to the combination of modem and Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS). ISDN is a little on the expensive side, but it offers significantly better performance.

✓ **An access provider.** There are a lot of these from which to choose. In general, the no-frills providers are less expensive but offer less support. If you want to play it safe, pick one of the leading on-line services like Prodigy, America On-Line, or CompuServe; each offers free technical support and furnishes its own Web browser software, which will allow you to connect to "Web Servers" on the Internet and to view "Home Pages," the text and graphics display formats that help you navigate the various Web sites.

## *What will I see on the "Web"?*

Once you are connected to the Internet and launch your Web browser application, you can link to thousands of Web servers around the world. Each file on each Web server is identified by a Uniform Resource Locator, or URL. This is simply an electronic address that the Internet's

*(Continued on page 9.)*



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## CLF's Beginners Seminar: A Great Beginning!

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*Gay E. Carter, Seminar Chairman*

On Saturday, May 20, 1995, the Clayton Library Friends held its first Beginners Seminar, and judging from the response and the turnout, it will definitely become a regular event. Plans are already underway for the next one.

The program consisted of three presentations aimed at researchers who are just beginning their ancestor hunt. Emily Croom opened the program with an effective outline for getting started. Using numerous examples and humor, Ms. Croom showed beginners how to focus their research, recognize common pitfalls, and start organizing their data. Next was Bill Swearingen, who introduced the Clayton Library through slides. The many photos taken inside the library gave an in-depth look at its layout and a good orientation for finding one's way around the stacks.

The uncontested highlight of the day was Maxine Alcorn, Manager of the Clayton Library. Her overview of Clayton's holdings and her inside tips on how best to use the library gave those who attended the seminar a solid foundation for pursuing their research and left everyone wanting to hear more. Ms. Alcorn's talk hit just the right note for beginner and experi-

enced researcher alike.

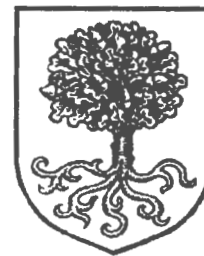
The seminar was held at the Boy Scouts of America headquarters at 1911 Bagby. This was the first time a CLF event has been held there, and the facility worked very well. Special thanks go to Robin Bashaw for the facility arrangements. Not including the speakers or CLF officers, 97 persons attended the seminar. As we had to limit the registration to 100, this was a wonderful turnout! We appreciate the many helpful sugges-

# Announcing the CLF Intermediate Seminar

Mark your calendars for the next Clayton Library Friends Seminar! The CLF Intermediate Seminar will be held on Saturday, September 23, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Targeting intermediate to advanced researchers, the program will focus on military records and on organizing your genealogy. As before, you must be a member of Clayton Library Friends (we always welcome new members!) and need to pre-register to attend. The deadline for registration is September 20, 1995. For more information contact Gay E. Carter, Seminar Chairman, at (713) 480-4255 (after 5 p.m.). ■

tions given in the evaluations and will be incorporating as many as we can into future programs.

Thanks are due to our three talented speakers as well as John Dorroh, Elizabeth Hicks, Margaret Mottley, Katherine Strack Swearingen, and Odile Roberts. Thanks also to all our attendees, whose interest and enthusiasm made the event not only possible but also a success. ■



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## CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS INTERMEDIATE SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, September 23, 1995  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p. m.  
Place: Boy Scouts of America Headquarters, 1911 Bagby  
(Parking available next to building and across the street.)

*"Using Military Records"*  
*Where to Look for Your Soldier Ancestor*  
Maxine Alcorn, Manager, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

*"Getting Organized, or, Now that I Have It, Can I Find It?"*  
*Ideas for Organizing Your Genealogy*  
Gay E. Carter, Reference / Documents Librarian, UH-Clear Lake

You must be a member of Clayton Library Friends, and you must pre-register in order to attend.

⇔⇔⇔ **Seating is limited to 100** ⇔⇔⇔

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 20, 1995

(Registrations received after September 20th will be placed on a waiting list.)

For more information contact Gay E. Carter at 480-4255 (after 5 p.m.)

### DIRECTIONS TO MEETING PLACE:

#### From south I-59 (going north):

Take Louisiana/Richmond/Brazos exit; stay on Brazos; turn left on Gray; turn right on Baldwin; stay on Baldwin to Bagby.

#### From I-10 to I-45; north I-59 to I-45; or north I-45 (going south):

Take the Dallas/Pierce exit; stay to the right and then take the Pierce/Bagby exit; Bagby, and the parking lot, are at the end of the exit ramp.

#### From south I-45 (going north):

Take Allen Parkway exit and make a U-turn, then follow directions from the north (above) or take Downtown exit to Calhoun; turn left on Smith; turn right on Gray; turn right on Baldwin; stay on Baldwin to Bagby.



### REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Member (dues enclosed)

Telephone: (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : Clayton Library Friends  
Intermediate Seminar  
Attention: Gay E. Carter  
P.O. Box 271078  
Houston, TX 77277-1078



**Internet** (Continued from page 6.)

digital routers will use to retrieve the file you want to view. There is no easy way to describe all that you will find on the Web. Here is a very short list of Web sites of interest to genealogists:

Family History Glossary  
 Genealogy and the Civil War  
 Genealogy Events Calendar  
 Passenger Arrival Information  
 National Library of Australia  
 New York Public Library  
 Allen County Public Library  
 Cleveland Public Library  
 U.S. Library of Congress  
 U.S. National Archives  
 Genealogical Research in Ireland  
 LDS Family History Resources  
 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Once you've linked to a Web home page, chances are it will direct you to other related home pages or data files using what are called "hypertext" links; these are URLs embedded in the home page text (color high-lighted). You just put the mouse pointer over the hypertext, click the mouse button, and the browser software reads the URL and retrieves and displays the other home page or file. Such hypertext paths can lead almost anywhere, and it is easy to appreciate the significance of the term "Web."

**Is the Clayton Library on the Internet?**

Yes, but we're just getting started. Right now, the Clayton Library's Web

server home page describes the library and gives a brief overview of the collection. Physically, the home page is hosted on a Houston Public Library Sun Sparc computer (along with home pages for other branch libraries). The URL for Clayton Library is

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/clayton.html>

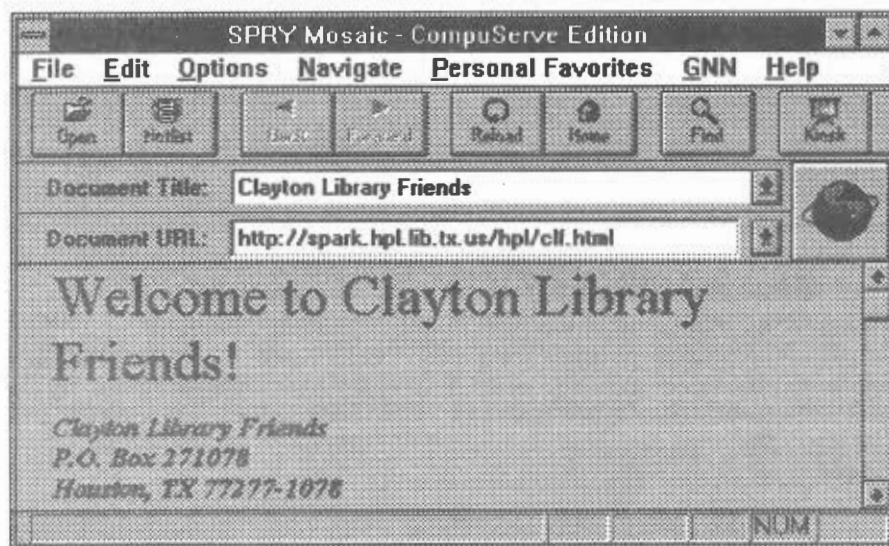
We also now have a CLF home page that resides on the same computer; the URL is

<http://sparc.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/clf.html>

Eventually, we would like to see Clayton Library and the Clayton Library Friends take full advantage of Internet technology. There is more to this than just home pages, and we have a lot of great ideas to pursue.

**What's next?**

Clayton Library Friends is forming a computer technology committee to focus on use of the Internet to forward the interests of Clayton Library and its patrons. If you would like to be a part of this effort and have the time and talent to work on the project, please contact Don Pusch, (713) 326-3278 (home) or (713) 282-2537 (office). We especially need individuals with detailed knowledge of the various Internet functions, including telnet, gopher, ftp, and http. ■

**Blake Collection** (Continued from page 5.)

For many, the major problem with using this massive set of books will be the lack of a comprehensive index. However, that is certainly not a reason to avoid this valuable tool. Be prepared to spend the time it will take to study its contents. You may be rewarded by the discovery of a record pertaining to your early Texas ancestor during a period when records are sketchy at best. This source may thus lead you to an actual original document or series

of documents and may identify other family members, friends, relatives, and associates of your ancestor. During this early period of Texas history, one cannot afford to neglect any source, particularly one such as the *Blake Collection*, which brings together thousands of documents in its pages. The Clayton Library is fortunate to house this important source of early Texana. ■

## Society of Friends

W. Arthur Allee, Ph.D.

George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, was born in the village of Fermy Dryton, Leicester, England, in July 1624 and died in London on 13 January 1690. He was a child of pious parents, Christopher Fox and Mary Lago; he was christened in the parish church; he was an avid reader of the Bible. He became a seeker for quality of life found in the Bible but not found in the church members and people about him.

He sat patiently through the church services, but at the age of 11 began thinking things out for himself. At the age of 20 he started wandering throughout the country seeking answers to spiritual questions from professors and parish priest after parish priest. Finally an inward light of understanding shown through his whole being, and he then started his public ministry. He acquired many followers who lived by his teachings and called themselves "Children of Light," "Friends of Truth," and finally "Society of Friends."<sup>1</sup>

"The Society of Friends is a Christian denomination or Church founded in England about 1650. Each member of this Church is a 'Friend.' A local congregation of Friends is a 'Meeting,' but this term also describes any group of Friends regularly gathering for worship or church business. Friends call a church building a 'Meeting House' (MH). Friends are often called 'Quakers,' a name put on them by an English judge after he was told to 'tremble at the word of the Lord.' For many years 'Quaker' was an insulting word, but Friends eventually came to use it themselves, and 'Quaker' and 'Friend' became synonymous."<sup>2</sup>

Civil War shook England in 1644, as a revolutionary struggle took place between King Charles I (1600-1649) and the forces of Parliament led by Protestant and Puritan Oliver Cromwell. These forces thoroughly defeated the king and executed him by guillotine in 1649. Thus, the prestige and power of the middle classes were established. These people were to become the great industrial and commercial groups, consisting mainly of Protestants.

During those troublesome years, in part due to enforcement of all though closely allied manor courts and the church organization, religious dissension, hardship and discontent gave rise to various sects that grew out of Protestantism. All of them were simply seeking a truer way of life.

Hence, George Fox, about 1650, was able to attract the attention of great numbers from all classes in the social scale with his philosophic views of Christianity. He eventually formed the Society of Friends as a religious

organization upholding Christian principles.<sup>3</sup>

William Penn became an avid follower of Fox and accompanied him on tours of Holland, Germany, Barbados, and Jamaica. William Penn extended an invitation to Europe's religiously persecuted people to come to Pennsylvania, which he called the Holy Experiment. In response to his advertisement, the Society of Friends came from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. They occupied the area within 25 miles surrounding Philadelphia.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) are well known for the excellent records they kept for their families and, unbeknown to them, for genealogists especially. The records tracing the families from meeting house to meeting house are easily found in William Wade Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (6 volumes) as well as other sources of information on Quakers. Many of these sources were obtained for Clayton Library by Maxine Alcorn, whose efforts we appreciate.

### End Notes

1. Pauline Christy, "Some Early Quaker History," *The Quaker Yeoman*, vol. 16, no. 2 (July 1989).

2. Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Early Quakers, The Society of Friends in Colonial Perquimans," in *Perquimans County History* (Hertford, NC: Perquimans County Restoration Association, 1984).

3. Jane W. T. Brey, "Influences of Early Quakerism 1650-1701," in *A Quaker Saga* (Pittsburgh: Dorrance & Co.), p. 77.

Following is a listing (by no means exhaustive) of Quaker-related material. Those items shown with a call number are available at the Clayton Library:

### Quaker-Related Records

Beard, Alice L., comp. *Births, Deaths, and Marriages of the Nottingham, 1680-1889*, Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1989. (GEN 974.8 B368 PA)

Bjorkman, Gwen Boyer. *Quaker Marriage Certificates...Monthly Meetings, North Carolina, 1677-1800*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1988. (GEN 975.6 B626 NC)

Brien, Lindsay Metcalfe, comp. *Miami Valley [Ohio] Records: Quaker Records*. N.p., n.d. (GEN 977.1 B853 OHIOv.6)

Browning, Charles H. *Welsh Tract of Pennsylvania: The Early Settlers....* Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990 (GEN 974.8 B885 PA)

(Continued on page 11.)



**Society of Friends** (Continued from page 10.)

- Burton, Ann, and Conrad Burton, comp. *Michigan Quakers: Abstracts of Fifteen Meetings of the Society of Friends, 1831-1960*. Decatur, MI: Glyndwr [sic] Resources, 1989. (GEN 977.4 B974 MICH)
- Delaware Quaker Records: Duck Creek Monthly Meeting, Kent County. Photocopy of typescript. (GEN 975.1 D343 DEL)
- Elliott, Wendy Lavelle. *Quaker Records*, Revised edition, Bountiful UT: American Genealogical Lending Library, c1987. (GEN 929.1072 E46 USA)
- Hallowell, Richard P. *The Quaker Invasion of Massachusetts*. c1883. Reprint, Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1987. (GEN 974.4 H193 MASS)
- Heiss, Willard C., comp. *Abstracts of Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana*, vol. 7 of *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (7 vols.), Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1977. (GEN 977.2 H473 IND)
- Hinchman, Lydia Swain Mitchell, comp., *Early Settlers of Nantucket, Their Associates and Descendants*. 1934. Reprint, Rutland VT: C. E. Tuttle Co., 1980. (GEN 974.4 H659 MASS)
- Hinshaw, William Wade, ed. *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (6 vols.), 1936. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogy Publishing Company, 1969. (GEN 289.6 H665 USA)
- . *Quaker Records: Iowa Monthly Meetings* (4 vols.). N.p., n.d. This work is known generally as the "Hinshaw Index to Quaker Meeting Records." (GEN 977.7 H665 IOWA)
- Hopewell Friends History, 1734-1934, *Frederick County Virginia, Records of Hopewell Monthly Meetings...Compiled from Official Records...* Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, c1936. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1993. (GEN 975.5 J74 VA)
- Levy, Barry. *Quakers and the American Family....* New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. (GEN 974.8 L668 PA)
- Medlin, William F. *Quaker Families of South Carolina and Georgia*. [Columbia?, SC]: Ben Franklin Press, c1982. (GEN 975.7 M491)
- Myers, Albert Cook. *The Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania, 1682-1750....* Swarthmore, PA: n.p., 1902. (GEN 974.8 M996 PA)
- Pennsylvania Quaker Records...*[various counties]. Fort Wayne: Fort Wayne Public Library, 19--. (GEN 974.8 P415 PA)
- Quaker Records: Illinois Monthly Meetings. Photocopy of typescript. (GEN 977.3 Q1 ILL)
- Quaker Records: Kansas Monthly Meetings. Photocopy of typescripts (GEN 978.1 Q1 KANv.V1A-E)
- Quaker Records: Missouri Monthly Meetings. Photocopy of typescript. (GEN 977.8 Q1 MOv.1892-1933)
- Quaker Records: Monthly Meetings, [multiple counties], New Jersey. Photocopies of typescripts. (GEN 974.9 Q1 NJ) [three items]
- Quaker Records: Monthly Meetings, [multiple counties], New York. Photocopies of typescripts. (GEN 974.7 Q1 NY) [eleven items]
- Quaker Records: Oklahoma Monthly Meetings. Photocopies of typescripts. (GEN 976.6 Q1 OKLA)
- Quaker Records: Wisconsin, Minnesota, and South Dakota Monthly Meetings. Photocopies of typescripts. (GEN 977.6 Q1 MINN)
- The Quaker Yeoman*. A periodical published by James E. Bellarts, 17091 S. W. Barcelona Way, Aloha, OR 97007.
- Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Early Quakers, The Society of Friends in Colonial Perquimans," in *Perquimans County History*. Hertford, NC: Perquimans County Restoration Association, 1984.
- Roberts, Clarence Vernon, comp. *Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks...*[County (Quakertown)] *Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: the compiler, 1925. (GEN 974.8 R643 PA)
- Samuelson, W. David. *Society of Friends (Quaker) Records of Fairfield Monthly Meeting, 1786-1879, Hendricks and Marion Counties, Indiana*. Salt Lake City: Kokaubeam Co., 1988. (GEN 977.S193 IND)
- Society of Friends. Maryland Quaker Records: Nottingham Monthly Meeting, Cecil County. Photocopy of typescript. (GEN 975.2 S678 MD)
- Standing, Herbert, comp. *Delaware Quaker Records: Early Members of Northern New Castle County*. [Wilmington?]: n.p., 197-. (GEN 975.1 S785 DEL)

**Quaker-Related Family Histories**

- Johnson, William Perry, comp. and ed. *Hiatt-Hiett Genealogy and Family History, 1699-1949....* Payson, UT: Jesse Hiatt Family Association, c1951. Reprint, Carter Lake, IA: L. and T. Anderson, 1989. (GEN 929.2 J71 HIATTv.1)
- Kendall, Hazel May Middleton. *This Book Records the Descendants of William Gregg, the Friend Immigrant to Delaware....* Anderson, IN: H. M. M. Kendall, 1944. (GEN 929.2 K33 GREGG)
- Ladd, Ruth Kline. *One Ladd's Family*. [Naperville, IL]: Ladd, 1974. (GEN 929.2 L154)
- Macy, Silvanus Jenkins, comp. *Genealogy of the Macy Family from 1635-1868*. Albany: J. Munsel, 1868. Reprint, [New York]: Architectural Book Publishers,

(Continued on page 13.)

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1.)

donating it after you have used it. Or if you see a book elsewhere that Clayton Library does not own, buy it and donate it to the library. Whenever you donate an item at the information desk, please indicate on the gift card that the book is being donated through Clayton Library Friends. If you have any questions, please contact our gifts-in-kind chairperson, Margaret Mottley, at (713) 789-5766.

Barbara Gubbin, Director of Houston Public Library System, and Lou Caldwell, Chief of Central Services, spoke to our membership at the April general meeting. We are one of the first groups that Ms. Gubbin has spoken to in her new position. She outlined her plans for further development and improvement of all Houston Public Libraries. Ms. Caldwell then gave us a preview of CARL, the new card catalog system that is to be installed in all libraries, and then gave

us a quick ride on the Internet. Yes, Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends are already on the information superhighway. We plan to broaden the base of information on Clayton and showcase our library even further around the world to all users of the Internet.

The Beginners' Seminar on May 20 was a great success. The event was filled up shortly after its announcement in our last newsletter. The evaluations returned by the registrants all indicated great satisfaction with the program and the speakers. The main request was for many more programs such as this. So we are scheduling another seminar more oriented to the intermediate level researcher for this fall. I hope that this will become a permanent part of the Clayton Library Friends agenda every year. In fact, I dream of our establishing a Clayton Library Institute that offers a schedule of all levels of instruction.

Last week I used the Virginia tax records microfilm at Clayton Library.

An archivist at the Virginia State Library advised me that Clayton was the first library in the country to acquire a set of these outside of the Virginia library itself. At this time, only one other library (Allen County in Fort Wayne, Indiana) owns these records. So I am reminded that Clayton has many unique resources in the collection as well as having great depth of research materials for the universal scope of genealogical research.

As many of you remember, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, called Clayton Library "one of the top six on anybody's list." As I discover so many more of the resources that are at Clayton Library, I believe that the time is not far off that we will be a lot more well-known and respected than just the top six.

Move over, Salt Lake!

John Dorroh

## □ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

### New African-American Material Available

A new book by Thomas Moebs, *Black Soldiers - Black Sailors - Black Ink*, is now available at Clayton Library. This is a research guide to military records of African-Americans.

The work consists of 1,654 pages and is divided into roughly four sections. The first contains writings of African-American veterans and military writings of African-American citizens. The second is a chronology of Black soldiers and sailors and a collection of data on individual service. The third and largest section is a subject bibliography of books and

periodicals to be consulted for more detailed information and a listing of archives holding Black military collections. The fourth section consists of unit histories arranged chronologically from the colonial period to the Spanish-American War.

Several appendices include records of Black soldiers from the U.S. Military Academy, Black recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and a listing of portraits of veterans.

This book is a must for anyone researching military records of an African-American ancestor. It is certainly a valuable addition to our collection of military reference. Bibliography: Moebs, Thomas Truxton. *Black Soldiers - Black Sailors - Black Ink. Research Guide on African Americans in U.S. Military History, 1526-1900*. Chesapeake Bay: Moebs Publishing Company, 1994. (GEN 355.00899 M693 USA). ■



## Salt Lake City and Washington trips big hits

### Plans being made for October

Thanks to our trip organizing committee, we had the largest number of genealogists ever (47) from Houston participate in the January 1995 Salt Lake City trip. For 25 of the individuals attending, this was their first trip to the LDS library, and they had a great time exploring this remarkable resource.

We again traveled from Tuesday to Tuesday, had dinner Saturday evening at the Brigham Young Lion House, and spent Monday evening researching in the new addition (the old Hotel Utah) when the main library was closed. On Sunday, after the Tabernacle Choir broadcast, we went by bus, enjoying the snow-clad mountains, to Robert Redford's "Sundance" for a delicious dinner. After the dinner

we drove to Park City (ski resort) where we shopped for a couple of hours. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and is looking forward to the January 1996 trip. Perhaps we can make it earlier so that we can see the Christmas decorations still up on the Square; these are outstanding!

Our April trip to Washington, DC, had only 20 genealogists, including 7 first-timers. For safety reasons we stayed in Alexandria and had breakfast there together every morning, after which a bus took us to the library of our choice. The bus picked us up in the evening for the return trip. We had the DAR, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress in which to research. On the last morning, 12 of us went to the Glebe House, headquarters of the National Genealogical Society in Arlington, where there is an excellent library. The DAR was very helpful to many, except that they closed for the National Convention the last two weeks of April, so that we had only a few days to research there. The National Archives had excellent census, land, and probate records. The Library of Congress was a "hog's heaven," and we enjoyed that thoroughly.

In addition to a trip to Mt. Vernon, we had a night tour of the city—absolutely beautiful—saw most of the

monuments and Smithsonian Institution, had dinner in the Senate Dining Room after the senators had had their lunches (had famous bean soup and corn bread), saw the Viet Nam War Memorial, George Washington University, and many other points of interest. This was a good experience; as we learned a lot and will know what changes to make on the next visit.

And now we are planning, for the first time, an *October* trip to LDS Library in Salt Lake. They say that the weather should be very pleasant and the number of visitors during the summer and spring will be diminishing. Details have not been finalized, but we plan to fly out on October 10th and stay through the 17th (Tuesday through Tuesday) at the Howard Johnson Hotel (next door to the library). *Those of you who are seriously interested in going to Salt Lake City October 10-17, please call Art Allee at (713) 748-3473 and get your name on the list.* We will let you know when the details are complete so that definite plans can be made. Also, our January trip will soon be in the making! Hope to hear from you soon!

W. Arthur Allee

### Society of Friends (Continued from page 11.)

19--. (GEN 929.2 M177)

Marshall, Roy T., comp. *Descendants of Nichodemus Keith and Margaret Borden....* Decorah, IA: Amundsen Publishing Company, 1989. (GEN 929.2 D445 1989)

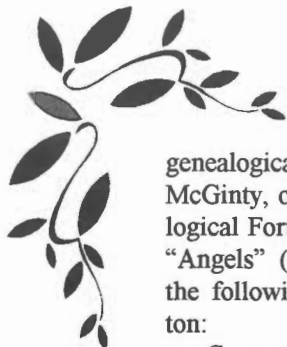
Stoleson, Judith. *Through the Generation: A Genealogy of the Coffin Family.* [Renton? Washington]: J. Stoleson, 19--. (GEN 929.2 S875 COFFIN)

### Quaker-Related Collections

Hicksite Records. Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA.

Magill Historical Library, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Quaker Collection. Guilford College Library, Guilford, NC.



## Angels Project Report

The donation of 70 sets of genealogical periodicals by Pat Bennett McGinty, on behalf of The Houston Genealogical Forum, has given a real boost to the "Angels" (periodical) Project. In addition, the following have been donated to Clayton:

- *Cypress Basin (Texas) Genealogical & Historical Society Reporter*, vols. 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, and 15. Donated by the society, Ardelia Gauntt, editor. Vols. 1, 6, 9, and 14 are still needed to complete the holdings of this fine East Texas periodical.
- *Rusk County (Texas) Echoes*, a publication of the Rusk County Genealogical Society, back issues through 1994. Donated by the society, John Dulin, president.
- *Northeast Alabama Settlers*, 1991. Donated by Jo Ann

Adams Corbell in memory of her Daniell and Wade families.

- *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vols. 22 and 23. Donated by Nathan and Kaydee Mathews and Liz Hicks.
- *Tap Roots* (Alabama), subscription renewal. Anonymous donation.
- Donations by CLF members resulted in several other acquisitions including *The Deep South Quarterly* (Alabama), vols. 16-18 and 20-22; two roles of microfilm of the *Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 1960-1990; and the 524-page, hard-bound volume of the full-name index (1971-1987) to the *Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Thanks to all for their support! If you would like to donate funds or periodicals to the "Angels" Project, please contact Elizabeth Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030, (713) 944-1118. ☺

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